



A perennial favourite; the Yellow-faced Parrotlet (Eustace Barnes).

NORTHERN PERU 2017

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LEADER: EUSTACE BARNES

FIRST IN THE FIELD! Obviously, and certainly first in the mud, but maybe we could now say first and only to predict where to be First in the Field and to score!! That takes some doing. All the targets and two recently discovered and as yet undescribed species: *Myrmeciza* sp nov and *Xiphocolaptes* sp nov. WHAT A TRIP! How can we even equal this year, anywhere, ever again? We had problems, of course. You cannot travel to the end of a great many roads in search of rare endemics without a few logistical challenges. The ongoing habitat destruction and degradation is par for the course, but it was not the tour I had hoped for. It ran far too late in the year this year, with a powerful El Nino having disrupted the breeding patterns of many species. The weather was either dry or wet, the birds were not singing, the sea was warm, and the roads were bad, but we did see most of what one might reasonably expect to see and more. We missed getting caught the wrong side of a land slide by a few hours and narrowly avoided some mega-storms, creating a sense of untouchability, assisted in no small part by having a hard working, patient and indeed long suffering (muddy) group; essential ingredients for a great trip. I love it, a case of 'Addicted to pain', it must be Northern Peru again.



Neat! An uncropped Stygian Owl on its roost (Eustace Barnes)

Check this out. A superb Stygian Owl just waiting for us in a car park at the end of a great afternoon's birding. Otherwise, it was mud, mud, land-slides, bugs and mud but we did have a spectacular time yet again with a decidedly eager group.

It was not the outstanding tour I enjoyed last time I ran it, but it far exceeded the usual returns. There is a lot more to look for now and the tour is overburdened with feeders, target species sites and now new species to science! I don't like excuses but there was literally no bird vocalization at many sites where normally bird activity is frenetic, and most species had bred and were resting up before the rains.



The sculpturesque Great Grebe (Eustace Barnes).

These are the highlights. The dry forests from Chiclayo and Olmos across the Andes to Morro Calzada and Quebrada Upaquiuhua were dead and it was clear that most species had bred or had young. November can be a risky month to do the trip in any event but being an El Niño year, we were presented with a much more demanding set of circumstances. So, we did manage to find Peruvian Plantcutter, but even that was hard work! Rufous Flycatcher, Sulphur-throated Finch, the coastal form of Buff-necked Ibis, West Peruvian screech Owl all fell in the coastal deserts. White-winged Guan, Henna-hooded and Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaner and Black-cowled Saltator were straightforward at Chaparri. Abra Porculla was quite productive and we easily managed Piura Chat Tyrant, Chapman's Antshrike and more Black-cowled Saltators. The dry forests in the upper Chinchipe drainage were very quiet – it was like pulling teeth. Nevertheless, we found West Peruvian Screech-Owl, Little Inca Finch, Shumba Antshrike, Marañon Spinetail, Buff-bellied Tanager, Chinchipe Spinetail, Northern Slaty Antshrike and after a bit of a search good views of Marañon Crescentchest and 'Marañon' Sparrow.

Leymebamba (or eyebombed in the spell checker!) was better. The forest scraps on Abra Barro Negro were fairly active and we quickly extracted Coppery Metaltail, White-chinned Thistletail, Russet-mantled Softtail, the *intermedius* form of Blackish Tapaculo and a superb pair of Yellow-scarfed Tanagers. All the targets but little else. Nearby we had a spectacular morning with a very cooperative Peruvian Treehunter (**BQ lifer 1**), a pair of Rufous-winged Tyrannulets, Grey-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Golden-headed Quetzal, White-collared Jay and Northern Mountain Caciques while eating breakfast. Oh, and a pair of Andean Condors in the scope from the same breakfast table as well. Oar-some (eybombed maybe), as the kids say.



Rural tranquillity; the western side of the Maranon Canyon (Eustace Barnes).

The Maranon Canyon gave us all the targets but again no extras. The Yellow-faced Parrotlets were great and we saw more Maranon Pigeons than on my last tour but no Piura Hemispingus this time. Around Cajamarca we found a superb Grey-bellied Comet that gave extended views on its favoured flowering shrubs. The Great Spinetail site is all but destroyed and now only occupied by one bird! It followed us around calling continuously. Very sad to see. We need a new site.

Abra Patricia was cold and wet. We had several days of continuous heavy rain making birding hard going. We did see Long-whiskered Owlet, but not everyone made the long walk to the favoured site. One evening a Cinnamon Screech Owl came in but lodged itself in a thicket and would not budge; it was probably only three meters away from us. We saw Jon the Rusty-tinged Antpitta being fed which saved us time but then the Ochre-fronted Antpitta did not cooperate in the same way. This meant we had to spend an early morning searching this one out, so losing a morning in the sub-tropics. We were then playing catch up the rest of the trip. The ridge-top species at Alta Nieva all put in an appearance and we had good views of Royal Sunangel, Bar-winged Wood-Wren and Cinnamon-breasted Tody-Tyrant.

The sub-tropical elevations were very quiet and there were no tanagers or barbets or any of my nice little extras hanging around, like Chestnut-crowned Gnateater. Lanceolated Monklet called but did not come to see us. Ash-throated Antwren, which used to be here, has moved away from the road (bird-tour playback zone). We did see most of the tyrannids and furnarids I would expect, and, of these, we had great views of a pair of Equatorial Greytails and a pair of White-fronted Tyrannulets. The latter is a very rare Tyrannid that is not seen in Peru very often. I was trawling for it at a known site for over an hour but even, so we were pleased to find it. It was odd working though some large flocks with few if any tanagers.

In the foothills, Wakanki was very hard work. It seemed that a lot of birds had shifted uphill, with Black and white Tody-Tyrant only found some way up the valley trail. Despite a lengthy search we found no Fiery-throated Fruiteaters, which are normally quite easy here. The hummers were spectacular, as usual. We had spectacular views of a two Stygian Owls at their day roost. They were just above our heads and just sat looking at us with humbling disinterest. Our foray in to the rice fields was productive with sightings of Pale-eyed Blackbird, Black-billed Seed Finch and Spotted Rail. These are additional second tier targets to search out on a trip already packed with such species with very limited time available to us.



Golden-tailed Sapphire (Eustace Barnes).

Once we got to Flor de Café, AKA Plataforma, we were presented with trails reminding me of pictures of WW1 battlefields. The promise of great birding kept us going but an initial foray into the hills proved fruitless and left me with the fear we were not going to see much in this muddy hell hole. Anyway, not to be discouraged, we headed off in search of a new species of *Myrmeciza*. The trail was much like an assault course the SAS might devise for recruits. Anyway, we found the Antbird and all had good views of the bird in a scrap of forest scheduled for clearance (BQ lifer 2). We also saw Yellow-throated Spadebill, Grey-tailed Piha, 'Yungas' Manakin, Chestnut-tipped Toucanet and Versicoloured Barbets in the same wood.



Birding Hell-rider ridge, Flor de Café (Eustace Barnes).

In the afternoon, some of us again climbed the upper Hell-rider ridge-trail to see Scarlet-banded Barbet and Blue-browed Tanagers making for a mega-day. In fact, an unimaginable day a few months ago.

On the morning of our departure we recorded and saw the new species of *Xiphocolaptes* Woodcreeper near our lodgings (BQ lifer 3). A species, until recently considered to be a new form of Long-tailed Woodcreeper which clearly it is not. However, what it clearly is, is a close relative of Strong-billed Woodcreeper. Anyway, we had great views of a pair of them before we packed out. Winners all of us!



Scarlet-banded Barbet – watching its forests vanish in short order, to ensure supplies of organic coffee for Waitrose (Eustace Barnes).

Organic coffee anyone? Maybe shade grown organic coffee. I am sure none of us are so deluded as to imagine that this is some sort of eco-paradise where the birds sing overhead while the happy natives provide for our burgeoning addiction. It is, as we all know, environmental devastation produced with indentured labour controlled by gang masters and organized crime syndicates. Life is short, brutal and unpleasant in every respect and leaves a trail of deforestation.

The 'Escalera' foothill forests near Tarapoto were absolutely dead! Every tour leader's nightmare. We did see Gould's Jewelfront and Koepcke's Hermit on the feeders along with large numbers of commoner species. On a decidedly brighter note, working the roadside forests we found a pair of Ashy Antwrens, a rare species at best. This species has recently been found in central Peru, having been thought to be a Bolivian endemic and so this seems reasonable to report it here (BQ lifer 4!). It had not occurred to me that this was what we were seeing but it is the only fit. No army ants on the trails and it took some time to find Orange-billed Sparrow, White-breasted Wood-Wren and Collared Gnatwren but little else. Once we had visited the huge Golden-headed Manakin lek and descended to the feeders it was time to wrap things up. The end of our epic adventure, except we had an extension.

The pelagic, tacked on to the end of the tour, just about finished me off. The seas were three degrees warmer than usual which meant that, despite spending more time than usual on the chumming run, there were no Albatrosses or Markham's Storm-petrels. There were a lot of Black Storm Petrels but only a single Hornby's Storm Petrel along with the rest of the usual suspects making for a spectacular pelagic but not what it should have been. No evidence of anthropogenic climate-change but changing the climate is.



Humboldt Penguins and a Peruvian Seaside Cinclodes (Eustace Barnes).

Once again, the trip began with Day 1. Arriving in Chiclayo we were glad to see the indigenous representatives of Chaos enterprises cleaning the tour rattletrap. I do them a disservice, although at first, I thought one of the group might have packed a Corncrake. After gearing up in the airport car-park we headed to the beach, where we enjoyed our only coastal birding. It was well worthwhile, although we found no Peruvian Terns. This species is in trouble as this used to be a prime site for them – they have more than their fair share of hassles from the upright monkey to contend with here; continuous beach traffic, a swirling sea of trash, packs of feral dogs picking through the waste and so on. It was a delight to behold.

In a quiet corner, working a marshy pool we found Wren-like Rushbird, Many-coloured Rush-Tyrant, Plumbeous Rail and a good many Little-blue Herons. At the beach the sea gave us a Grey Gull, numerous Peruvian Boobies and Peruvian Pelicans and huge numbers of Franklin's Gull. A beach that seems to have become the route of choice for the moto-taxis from Puerto Eten to Sant Rosa turning the 'nature reserve' into a highway! Marvelous. Further along the beach we walked more dunes where we found Least Seedsnipe, Coastal Miner and Yellowish Pipits while motor taxis roared up and down the beach. The Pipits displayed overhead while we watched the sea which gave us small numbers of Elliott's Storm Petrels. Quite what they were doing in such numbers inshore I do not know.

There were also large numbers of Peruvian Pelicans and Peruvian Boobies but no Inca Terns. On the beach another pack of feral dogs picked at a carcass of a Peruvian Sealion, indicating the passage of the Southern Oscillation since my last visit. This is more commonly known as El Nino; a phenomenon which reverses the ocean current along the Pacific coast of South America bringing warm waters and therefore torrential rain to the coast and unimaginable chaos for the less adaptable 'primate' invaders living thereon. The consequence for wildlife is that food availability in the sea collapses and large numbers of birds and mammals die of starvation. Perhaps because of this, the time of year, the disturbance on the beach and the current warming of the seas there were no Peruvian Terns fishing the lagoons. We also found Franklin's Gull and large numbers of Elegant Terns nervously resting on the beach. So, we saw most of what we needed to see but not all. It was time to head inland.



Buff-necked Ibis (Eustace Barnes).

Away from the sea and on our way to Chaparri, a truly delightful community reserve set in the forested hills, we stopped at the Embalse Tinajones; a large reservoir constructed to provide irrigation waters for the newly developed vine-yards. Of course, we eagerly await new choices on the wine racks at Majestic Wines. It was time to go birding while a late lunch was prepared by Manuel, our new driver, mechanic, cook, fixer and all round nice guy. We walked the lake edge and found Pacific Parrotlets, Necklaced Spinetail, Superciliated Wren, Tropical Gnatcatcher, Tumbesian Tyrannulet, Short-tailed and Purple-collared Woodstars, Amazilia Hummingbird and a whole lot more besides – Mockingbirds, Meadowlarks and a Peruvian Pygmy-Owl. At a nearby site we found Lesser Nighthawks roosting in stunted trees. The lake held large numbers of Little-blue Herons, Cattle, Snowy and Great Egrets along with Neotropic Cormorants, Black-crowned Night Herons, Puna ibis and other assorted wetland 'padders'. A determined scan of the shore was rewarded with the critically endangered *melanopsis* form of Buff-necked Ibis. We watched as they picked about in the weedy expanses. This is their last stand in the north. I did recently find a good-sized population in the south of several hundred birds, so things look a little brighter. There has been some suggestion that this form is sufficiently distinctive to warrant species status; maybe not the 'Tumbes Ibis' but possibly the Loma or Black-wattled Ibis? We also found a flock of Sulphur-throated Finches; in no time we had seen hundreds as they moved through the grasslands in a wave-like flock much as Red-billed Quelea in Africa, an interesting convergent behaviour. It was time to head to the lodge tucked away in the hills to celebrate the day's findings.

On arrival we were treated to great views of the endemic Tumbes Tyrant and White-winged Guan which, at this site are derived from the reintroduced birds in what must be the fourth generation by now. We saw both species again at Quebrada Frejolillo. Also in the area, we found Sooty-crested Flycatcher, Baird's Flycatcher and Tumbes Sparrow. Retreating to our lodgings we enjoyed a brief rest in this tranquil setting blissfully cut off from the outside world with no Wi-Fi or mobile reception. That IS a holiday. Quietly walking the trails around the lodge after dinner we soon found a very cooperative West Peruvian Screech Owl (no playback). A good first day was therefore concluded and we headed back to base to celebrate the end of proceedings in the usual fashion. Was that all just day 1?



Cinereous Finch (left) and Eared Dove (right) (Eustace Barnes).

Day two was next, with no shopping time either planned or indeed possible, as we headed pre-dawn to a distant ridge with several intact scraps of relictual pacific forest. Our aim being to extract a couple of skulkers and other more forthcoming denizens of the once great forests above Casupe.



A White-winged Guan at Quebrada Frejolillo (Eustace Barnes).

A combination of those medium sized brown birds and more colourful species took up most of the day as we first drew in a very responsive pair of Ecuadorian Piculets and an Ecuadorian Trogon followed by a Streaked Xenops. What a stunning looking bird the Trogon is! Next, a rather beautifully marked Furnarid; the Rufous-necked Foliage Gleaner. Other highlights of the morning included Three-banded and Grey and Gold Warblers, Speckle-breasted Wren, Black-cowled Saltator and several good views of Grey-chinned Hermits of the form *porcullae*. This most likely represents a separate species. The forest here is very extensive and in good condition, but although there is a population of wild White-winged Guans here, we failed to find them. As previously observed, one suspects they find their way to the dinner table as without hunting pressure this species is common and easily seen in such forests.



The view from Casupe looking towards Chaparri (Eustace Barnes).

After a productive morning we had to rush to the coast to visit Rafaan; a madness forced upon us because the Peruvian Plantcutters at Bosque Pomac were not performing and our best chance of seeing this key species lay in getting to Rafaan. As spotted by Jeremy, this was not something we usually do as I did not know how long it might take to get to Rafaan from Casupe. However, we arrived in time for a late lunch and productive session wandering about in the dunes.



The increasingly rare and localized Peruvian Plantcutter (EB)



The dapper Rufous Flycatcher. Now seriously threatened (Eustace Barnes).

As it happens Rafaan was deadly with little or no activity. It took a good long time to dig out Rufous Flycatcher, which was the only individual we saw of this species. It did give us great views along with Necklaced Spinetail, Superciliated Wren, Tumbesian Tyrannulet, Tawny-crowned Pygmy Tyrant and a few Grey and white Tyrannulets. We had been told that Tumbes Swallows were being regularly seen at Rafaan but search as we might we could not find them. This was the cost of not going to Bosque Pomac where they breed in the relictual dunes. However, we had not yet found the Plantcutter which I considered the more important of our targets to find here. After a quick lunch we almost immediately found a male Peruvian Plantcutter which was a huge relief. So, it was well worth it for the Rufous Flycatcher and Peruvian Plantcutter, but we were now going to be late getting to Olmos. That was day 2, which ended with some boy racer piling in to the back of the bus.

Day three, and 'Guan Canyon' outward bound exploration was in order. I always enjoy this day. A day spent with Lino and the group walking trails in a stunning canyon. Leaving some time before dawn we headed out across the desert and, crossing a dry river bed, stopped to search for a small group of Peruvian Thick-knees lurking at one of their favourite spots. They were the only Thick-knees we saw and were much appreciated by all. It had rained, and the canyon was green and fairly active after four rainless years in the region. It had been suggested by the media and the campesinos that this would be an El Nino year and, so it had proved to be. It had been devastating with floods of biblical proportions and many roads destroyed on the coast. Chiclayo even featured on the BBC news! Peru, on the BBC! I guess they thought they had discovered a new country. Anyway, our roads were clear and stopping en route at another great birding spot we picked up Tumbes Hummingbird, Elegant Crescentchest and a pair of Tumbes Tyrants.



A well camouflaged West Peruvian Screech Owl (Eustace Barnes).

The area also holds small numbers of Siskins, which strongly resemble Saffron Siskin from further north. I have seen them many times here but there seems no consensus as to what they are. I suspect that Saffron Siskin may not be a good species but, that if it is, that these birds are best placed with Saffron Siskin. Walking the canyon trails, we found good numbers of Scarlet-fronted (Cordilleran on the list) and Red-masked Parakeets. Interesting to find these species together. As far as I can tell the relative proportion of Scarlet-fronted Parakeets has increased over the years. We also found White-tailed Jays, Streak-headed Woodcreeper, Golden-olive Woodpeckers, White-sided Oriole and Baird's Flycatchers in profusion. After a great walk we connected with a few adult White-winged Guans. We also ran in to more Grey-breasted Flycatchers, Sooty-crowned Flycatcher, White-headed and White-winged Brush-finch, Grey and gold Warbler, more Ecuadorian Trogons a Whooping Motmot and a Lineated Woodpecker. Scouring the woodlands, we found a roosting West Peruvian Screech Owl, a pair of Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaners and a couple of Tumbes Swifts. The small mixed flocks held Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Thick-billed Euphonia, Tropical Parula and a single immature male Slaty Becard; a very uncommon species. A superb day all in all. We began to retrace our steps to Olmos stopping at a nearby ridge to enjoy the spectacle of numerous Scrub Nightjars circling around our heads. Then back to Olmos for a few drinks and a much-needed meal to celebrate a great day.



Peruvian Thick-knee (Eustace Barnes).

Departing the following morning at 4.30am we climbed up to Abra Porculla for yet another splendid field breakfast. Not, however, before we had found our target species and we were all hungry, hungry, hungry.



Piura Chat-Tyrant (Eustace Barnes).



The variable White-winged brush-finch (left) and Chapman's Antshrike (right) (Eustace Barnes)

On arrival we set about unpicking the avian riches of this interesting site and quickly found our primary target in a dense thicket; the pretty Piura Chat Tyrant. The same thicket as always. The same site produced Northern Line-cheeked Spinetails and Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaner. After breakfast we found several more Black-cowled Saltators, Chapman's Antshrike, Northern Line-cheeked Spinetail and Three-banded Warbler. Then another Piura Chat Tyrant appeared before we had to leave, but no Peruvian Sheartails! Where do they go at this time of year? There were a few on the coast but not large numbers. Definitely time to go.



Vermilion (Scarlet) Flycatcher (Eustace Barnes).



Lesser Nighthawk on its day roost (Eustace Barnes).

NEXT! That woke me up alright, as we headed into the Amazon basin down the endless sinuous route to the Rio Maranon. That familiar refrain on birding tours does keep leaders on their toes and cuts through any self-congratulatory complacency. Descending into the desert in search of our first true Maranon endemics we found the sombre Spot-throated Hummingbird, somewhat distinctive Maranon Gnatcatcher and numerous Scrub Blackbirds. We headed to a nice little reserve on the edge of town to find the now very local Little Inca-Finch. The area also produced a pair of Northern Slaty Antshrikes and several Shumba Antshrikes; the latter is a slightly paler version of the Collared Antshrike with a slightly faster song. At dusk we called in a Common Potoo, but the West Peruvian Screech Owl called distantly, but did not budge. Activities were then concluded, and we headed to the hotel in Jaen for much needed refreshment.



Southern Yellow Grosbeak (Eustace Barnes).

Departing from Jaen at 4am, we headed north to explore the mid-Chinchiipe drainage. The dry woodlands are surprisingly rich in endemics and range restricted birds. We stopped, as usual, pre-dawn to find the *roboratus* form of West Peruvian Screech, possibly best thought of as a semi-species; the 'Maranon' Screech Owl. Stopping, at our favoured breakfast spot at dawn we quickly found Chinchiipe Spinetail and Northern Slaty Antshrike of the form *leucogaster* often considered a separate species; the Maranon Slaty Antshrike. It then became apparent that there was no bird song. It took quite some time to find the distinctive Maranon forms of Speckle-breasted Wren and Maranon Spinetail in woodlands ringing with the painful whine of cicadas. We had to leave and head uphill to get away from that horrendous noise and the biting insects. Walking the road, we found Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Red Pileated Finch and more Maranon Spinetails. There were good numbers of Buff-bellied Tanagers in roadside scrub and our first Roadside Hawk. Our principal target was the Maranon Crescentchest which we found, and of which enjoyed great views. It was time to go and, so we then returned to Jaen. A good morning, producing all our targeted semi-species/species.



Spot-throated Hummingbird at Gotas de Agua (Eustace Barnes).

Crossing the Maranon, following the spectacular Rio Utcubamba we stopped at Hacienda Chillo to see a splendid Koepcke's Screech Owl. This was our last bird of the day, having started with West Peruvian Screech Owl. It is a great trip for owls. We then headed to Leymebamba and our superb hotel at the town's famous museum. Needless to say, we celebrated the day's findings in the usual fashion.

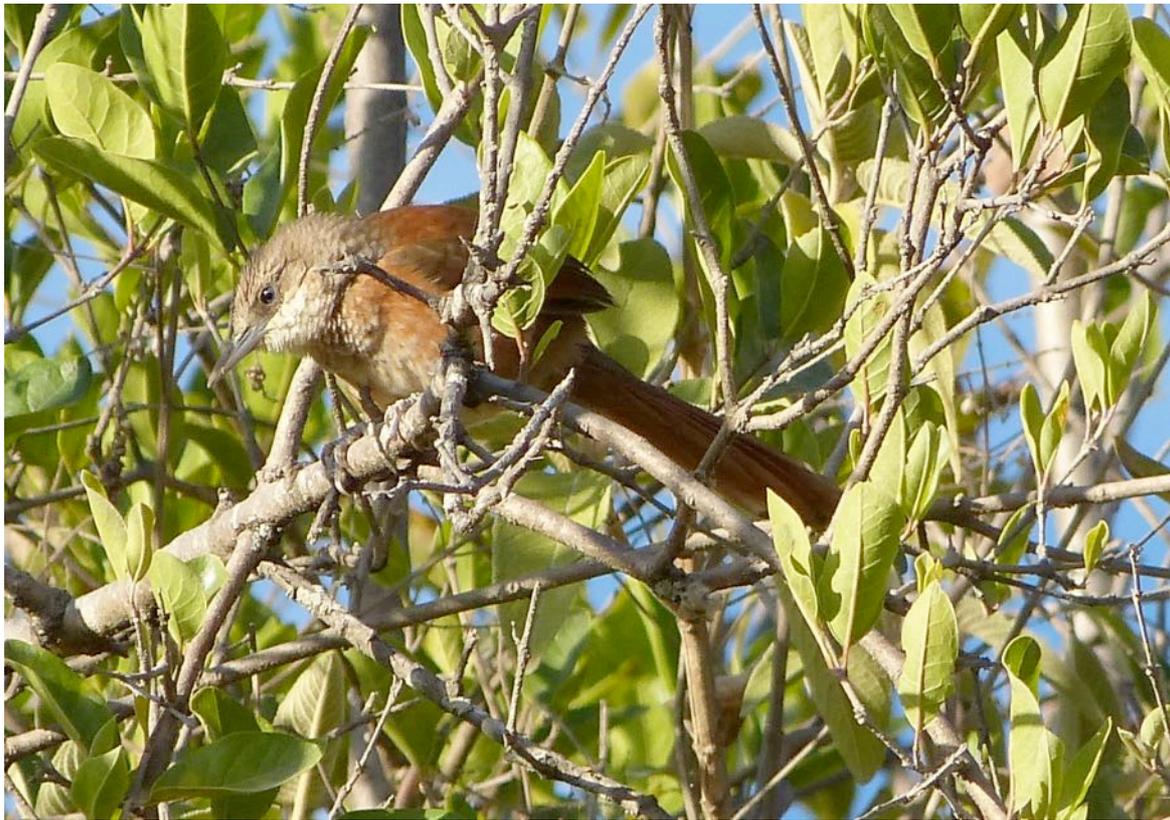
The following morning was no different to any other on a Birdquest tour as we left in darkness to get to our first site for dawn. The Swallow-tailed Nightjars were calling, but did not show. Likewise, a pair of Rufous-banded Owls. We then headed on to our next site as dawn was breaking, stopping briefly to work an old site in search of Russet-mantled Softtail.



Russet-mantled Softtail (Eustace Barnes).

The Softtail, at this site, knew the bird tour drill but nevertheless put in an appearance for a couple of minutes before clearly realizing their mistake and slouching off. Still we found it and had good views before climbing up to some productive fragments of Elfin forest. Once on site we quickly found several Coppery Metaltails and, eventually, a very cooperative White-chinned Thistletail of the form *plengei* best considered a separate species; the Peruvian Thistletail. We also found Many-striped Canastero and a number of Black-throated and Moustached Flowerpiercers.

After a sumptuous breakfast it was time to move and we headed over Abra Barro Negro and in to the Marañon canyon. We quickly found Chestnut-backed Thornbird and the delightful Buff-bridled Inca-finch before we reached the Rio Marañon, the latter spotted by Lindsay. On the banks of the Rio Marañon we found a large group of Peruvian Pigeons but only managed to see a pair of Yellow-faced Parrotlets flying high overhead. The pigeons were on the gravel road picking up their grit needs. I guess there were about twenty or so. They normally hide so well in the Mango orchards that line the road. A Marañon Thrush perched up on the wires and numerous Marañon Gnatcatchers flitted about. However, no amount of searching produced any more Yellow-faced Parrotlets, we would have to wait for that. It does seem that this species has progressively declined at Balsas. We then climbed up to Hacienda Limon, where we found the localized and increasingly rare Grey-backed Inca-finch in short order. We then climbed to the western rim of the canyon before we descended to Celendin for the night in the somewhat prosaically named Hotel Madrid.



Chestnut-backed Thornbird above Balsas (Eustace Barnes).

Crossing some interesting paramos on the journey from Celendin to Cajamarca, we were searching for some species not found elsewhere on this tour. Our breakfast stop gave us a smart pair of the rare and very local White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant. During the morning we had a couple of nice stops; the first gave us Black-crested Tit-Tyrant, a pair of Jelski's Chat-Tyrant, Spectacled Whitestart and a noisy pair of Striated Earthcreepers. The next site gave us Tit-like Dacnis and a pair of Rusty-crowned Tit-Spinetail of the form *cajabambae*, which has a streaked crown and is certainly a separate species; the Cajamarca Tit-spinetail.



Black-throated Flowerpiercer (Jan Hillman).

Working a dense copse on the paramos we lured out a Rufous Antpitta for a very brief view. The form here *cajamarcae* is clearly a separate species, the Cajamarca Antpitta. Current research proposes that there are seven species within what is currently called 'Rufous' Antpitta. The bird did not appear very quickly and only did so for a very brief view. A Chestnut-crowned Antpitta peered through the foliage to check out what all the furore was about.



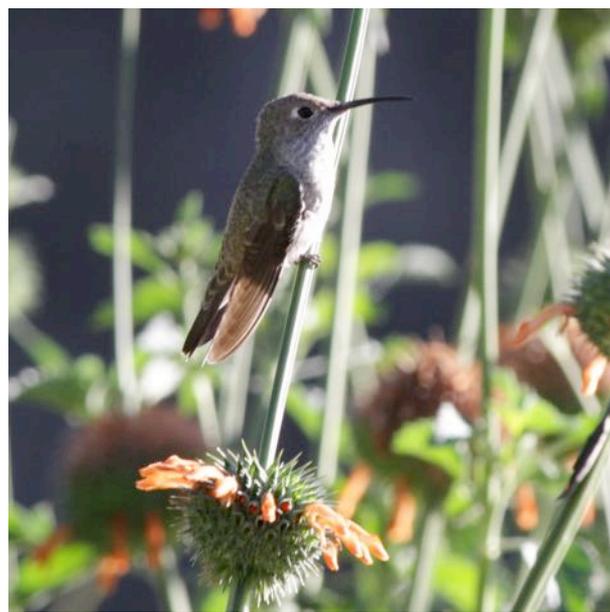
White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant (Eustace Barnes).

It began to rain, and we had to move, searching for a dry place for lunch. A dry place where Manuel could prepare lunch that is. The rain eventually killed off further birding and we headed to Cajamarca and our final site of the day; the Rio Chonta, where we waited for the critically endangered Grey-bellied Comet to show up, which it did not and, so we headed up the valley to a second site where it did. We enjoyed spectacular scope views of this large hummer for half an hour or so as the bird fed on a slope where its favoured shrubs were flowering. This species must be critically endangered, as I know of no other site where this bird is seen. The Rio Chonta canyon is small and habitat very limited and we never see more than a pair or so. Also, you need to know, it seems, to within a few meters where to look or you miss it. Despite this, well-practiced, process, apart from Torrent Tyrannulet and a few White-winged Cinclodes along the river's edge, we saw little else. The target was found and, so we did really mind, although the lack of Black Metaltail was odd.



So, it's not all rustic shacks on precipitous slopes. No, this is a nice place to stay (Eustace Barnes).

It was late afternoon and time to head for our splendid hotel built upon the ancient Inca baths at Banos del Inca. In the UK it would be a bit like building a concrete bunker on the south bank of the Thames facing the Houses of Parliament. Oh, I think we have done that. Anyway, it was good to arrive and even better to enjoy an excellent meal and a quiet night's sleep.



Spot-throated Hummingbird near San Marcos (EB).



Great Spinetail at dawn (EB).

On target, the following morning at dawn we found a single Great Spinetail desperately searching for a possible partner (sadly only a digital version of its song). The site is all but destroyed now and for sale with only a single bird present. It did put on a splendid performance and we were all quite happy to leave the bird and get down to breakfast. It is all so easy in these habitats, but you still need to know exactly where to stop otherwise you might spend a whole day here and not see the bird, as happens quite frequently. No headless chicken birding going on today. We also found Spot-throated and Amazilia Hummingbirds along with Black-lored Yellowthroat and a single Andean Tinamou that sauntered across the road for all too see.

After a brief breakfast we retraced our steps to Cajamarca before heading, once again to Celendin. We did stop at a couple of places but did not actually see much of note, except Streak-throated Canastero, Cream-winged Cinclodes, Peruvian Sierra-Finch and a few Andean Lapwings, Puna Ibis and a couple of Mountain Caracaras. We made a final stop to see Grey-browed Brush-Finch and a few Blue-backed Conebills and the yellow-bellied form of Superciliaried Hemispingus. The latter not often seen on this trip and was to provide a nice contrast with the grey forms seen on the south or east side of the Marañon below Abra Barro Negro.



Grey-winged Inca-Finch (EB).

So, re-crossing the 'mighty' Maranon canyon was a repeat of Maranon Canyon part 1.



Yellow-faced Parrotlet seen superbly again (Eustace Barnes)

We kicked off with several Rainbow Starfrontlets. After breakfast we then drove directly to the cactus clad canyons above Balsas where we connected with a few Black-necked Woodpeckers and a small flock of Yellow-faced Parrotlets. They gave us spectacular views before we had to make haste, climbing up to Abra Barro Negro where we found another Russet-mantled Softtail and several Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanagers.



Black-necked Woodpecker (Eustace Barnes)



Yellow-scarfed Tanager; a real beauty and a clear favourite (Eustace Barnes).

Yet another great afternoon session at a site choked with bamboo and bromeliad festooned emergents produced a pair of the stunning Yellow-scarfed Tanagers, a pair of Grass-green Tanagers, a stunning White-collared Jay and several Pearled Treerunners. Hummers were not much in evidence, but we did again see Coppery Metaltail and a Glowing Puffleg and a beautiful Great Sapphirewing with its petrol blue underwings. Not many birds have brightly coloured underwings. We descended a little further to explore another small wooded trail where we found a nice mixed flock, adding Black-throated Tody-Tyrant to the list and hearing our first Mountain-Toucans. Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Drab Hemispingus, Moustached and Masked Flowerpiercers, Grey-hooded Bush-Tanager, Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager, Blue and black and Beryl-spangled Tanagers, Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, Montane Woodcreeper and so on all put in an appearance. The Rufous-capped Antshrike only ever called back rather too distantly and so we ended up only hearing this species. Such species have to turn up somewhat quickly as there is little or time to actually look for them on this packed trip. I think of these tours as being a little like the stretched health and education services, in which ever more is expected for the same amount of time and money. Actually, compromises have to be made – none of which are good. At dusk we did stop again for Swallow-tailed Nightjar, but it only called once, rather distantly and, so we headed off to Leymebamba for the night.



An immaculate White-collared Jay nosing about (Eustace Barnes).

The road was much improved from my last visit and, so we arrived a little early to our first site.



The majestic Grey-breasted Mountain-Toucan (Eustace Barnes)

Always a good morning's birding in great temperate forest this morning is worth the whole tour. Working the rather spectacular canyon we found good numbers of White-tailed, White-banded and Black-capped Tyrannulets in the various flocks. We enjoyed seeing the usual haul of Grey-breasted Mountain Toucans, Golden-headed Quetzals, Crimson-mantled Woodpeckers, White-collared Jays and Northern Mountain Caciques roving through the forest. The appearance of several groups of White-capped Parrots also added to the excitement. However, it was to be our lucky day as we first heard and then' after a brief wait saw Peruvian Treehunter! A spectacular find and our first Birdquest bird of the tour (**BQ lifer 1**). I should also mention that while drinking coffee, eating breakfast and enjoying the spectacular vistas all around us we were able to get up and watch a pair of Andean condors high on a ledge above us through the scope. Stretching, periodically sallying out for a brief glide and eventually heading off in search of their breakfast. Beat that!



Another stunning tanager, the Flame-faced Tanager (Jan Hillman).

After leaving Leymebamba we were again driving along the magnificent Utcubamba valley. We stopped to admire a pair of Fasciated Tiger Herons I had spotted frozen-still, fishing from a rock. Always good to see this fast-declining species. A little further on we stopped to search for and find Speckle-chested Piculet before reaching Pedro Ruiz. We then quickly climbed up to Huembo to meet up with Santos and have a brief look for Marvelous Spatuletail. We did see a single male, although it put on a better performance the following day.

Moving on to our bizarre hotel in Pomacochas; an establishment that seems to be manned by illegally obtained Chachapoyan mummies and the eccentric Oscar, who could be a straight out of the Adams Family sitcom. He is, of course, a very pleasant person and has an extraordinary interest in and knowledge of plants, which he tends for the hummingbirds. The hotel interior leaves a lot to be desired as the walls are adorned with some truly appalling Picasso-styled paintings. The huge hotel never has any visitors and is clearly a money laundering venture. Still it makes a good base for us.



The Marvelous Spatuletail. What a bird! Never fails to impress (Eustace Barnes).

What a bird and indeed worthy of all the adulation heaped upon it. It is a stunning creature but one lacking the mystery it had when we had to look for it in the recent past. It used to be hard to find the males until the leks were found and then it was quite a thrill to sit and wait for the males to display. At that time, we used to sit and wait on a hillside covered in flowering shrubs waiting for the males to appear and begin displaying. Sat at the feeders is just is not the same but you do see the bird, of course. The feeders here also attract White-bellied Woodstar, Chestnut-breasted Coronet and good numbers of both Green and Sparkling Violetears.



Bronzy Inca (Eustace Barnes).

Dawn and we were starting out on our 'optional hike' up a near vertical slope to slip about in some bamboo thickets high above the Lago Pomacochas. It was indeed a fantastic day and well worth the hike as we found our target species and other less frequently seen species. These included Smoky Bush Tyrant, Sword-billed hummingbird and several Violet-throated Starfrontlets. A truly incredible performance was given by a family group of Plain-tailed Wrens of the form *schulenbergi*, best considered a separate species; Schulenberg's Wren. It has a spectacularly distinctive song and is morphologically distinct. The group delivered a phenomenal syncopated song that went on for several minutes. Anyway, it was for the stunning Pale-billed Antpitta that we had jogged up the rocky steps to see. We had to bury ourselves in a dense bamboo thicket a couple of times before the star of the show put in an appearance. We had a pair calling around us and soon enough a single bird walking right in front of us – what a bird! At least as good as the Jocotoco Antpitta. We were lucky to see the birds as several groups had recently failed to find it. A shame as it must be one of the major highlights of any North Peru tour. Its size and behaviour seems to me to make it a sister species to the Jocotoco Antpitta and would be better named the Ivory-billed Antpitta. 'Pale' makes it sound as if it's sickening for something. The bill is not pale it is a gleaming Ivory-white.



Rufous-winged Tyrannulet (Eustace Barnes).

Abra Patricia was strikingly cold and wet. We arrived late in the day, to be greeted with heavy rain. It rained the following day from 10am until late afternoon and continued in the same vein for our entire stay. As it happened, we still found most of what we needed in that time. Trail bashing was the first order of the day and we walked the excellent trails through the mossy interior of some of Peru's most beautiful forests. We worked our way through some of the commoner species, including Rufous Spinetail, Johnson's Tody Tyrant, Grass-green Tanager, Green and black Fruiteater, Barred Becard, Sulphur-bellied Tyrannulet, Peruvian Tyrannulet and Streak-headed Antbird. However, the rain began to rain, as it does, cutting things short and we headed back to base.

We watched the feeders around the lodge and the various species that sat out having a bath or huddled under the lobate leaves of cercropias lining the clearing. We all needed a strong black coffee and some biscuits, so it provided a welcome morning break.



Pale-edged Flycatcher (Eustace Barnes)

Bamboo patches in the area hold pairs of the pretty Lulu's Tody Flycatcher.



Lulu's Tody Flycatcher (Eustace Barnes).

An extraordinary species, now very much part of this tour is the once near mythical Long-whiskered Owlet. No effort is spared in the search for this tiny little owl and, so it was that we headed off to a well-known site in the gully beneath the lodge. Our first attempt produced a calling bird which came in and sat on a mossy branch. Subsequent attempts to look for this species came to nothing as it was raining or drizzling and our local man thought it a waste of time. Until a few years ago we had been using a call obtained from a bird trapped on an LSU expedition which was kept in a tent until it called at which point it was promptly dispatched for inclusion in the museum's collection. No wonder, perhaps, that we never saw the bird using that recording. I guess the tone or frequency may not have said 'Here I sit, fat and well fed in a superb territory, ideal for raising young' to prospective mates or competitors. Something more akin to 'they're going to kill me, steer clear'. We also enjoyed seeing Swallow-tailed nightjar coming to the lodge to eat moths attracted to the lodge lights. On our excursion to see Cinnamon Screech Owl we very quickly located a bird at its best-known territory but try as we might it would not budge from its thicket. It was probably no more than three meters from us. Cest la vie.



Bar-winged Wood Wren peering at us (Eustace Barnes).

The ridge top elfin-forests at Alta Nieva gave us great views of Royal Sunangel while a pair of Bar-winged Wood Wrens crept around our feet. After something of a search at several known territories we found Cinnamon-breasted Tody-Tyrant, which gave great views. In the same area we also went to see Jon; a recently habituated Rusty-tinged Antpitta. Great views of a species that is a fully paid up member of the awkward squad. On another occasion we tried to see the eponymous Ochre-fronted Antpitta, which failed to show. It did approach very close to our watch point but melted away unseen. On our last morning I was therefore forced to find one before we departed, which I did. I heard a bird in a well-known territory and in it came. Perhaps not now troubled by those pesky birders with their Xenocanto sound libraries.



Jon the Rusty-tinged Antpitta; traditionally a difficult customer (EB).

Pressure off and time to go birding! Departing in good time we headed to the sub-tropics to work on the mega-mixed flocks found there. The flocks here contain a good mix of Tyrannids, Furnarids and Tanagers including Ash-browed Spinetail, Buff-fronted and Montane foliage-gleaners, Montane Woodcreeper, Yellow-breasted Antwrens, Foothill Blackish Antbird, Lined Antshrike, Ecuadorian and Plumbeous-crowned Tyrannulets, Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant and Slaty-capped Flycatchers, Saffron-crowned, Golden, Orange-eared, Paradise, Beryl-spangled, Bay-headed and Blue-necked Tanagers, Three-striped Warbler and Slate-throated Whitestart and probably others I forget. We searched out and found a pair of Equatorial Greytails. A rare species somewhat more easily found here than elsewhere. We also found Andean Cock-of-the-rock but little else in the gaudy department. In the drab, cryptic department we found a pair of White-fronted Tyrannulets! A superb find and not one to be expected. Certainly, the first time it has been seen on this tour.

It was time to leave and we headed to Myobamba for some foothill birding. We did stop on the way to see some hummingbird feeders near Aguas Verdes. At these stunning feeders we saw numerous Blue-fronted Lancebills, Rufous-crested Coquette, Grey-breasted Sabrewing, Reddish, Grey-chinned and Great-billed Hermits, Black-breasted Mango, Violet-fronted brilliant, Blue-tailed and Sapphire-spangled Emeralds, White-necked Jacobin, Fork-tailed Woodnymph, Golden-tailed Sapphires, White-bellied Woodstar and several Sparkling Violetears. We then headed to Myobamba, stopping to see Masked Ducks on a tiny pond and enjoyed first rate views of this localized species. Also present were Blue-black Grassquits, Short-crested Flycatcher and several Black-faced Tanagers. The pond also held Common Gallinule, numerous Purple Gallinules and a couple of Wattled Jacanas. Ruddy Ground Doves searched for grit and Yellow-browed sparrows called from roadside grasses. The melodious song of Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch led us to this pretty passerine, the numbers of which continue to decline as trappers now focus on this widespread species.



Everyone's looking! The gang chilling at Wakanki (Eustace Barnes).

At the lodge we chilled with a few beers – as it turned out we consumed a record breaking 31 beers during our stay. Although, the diversity was low, with only Cristal and a few Cusquenas reported.

The forests around and above the lodge were less than productive. Nothing sang and little moved, making birding something of a struggle. We started out well enough with a very cooperative Cinereous-breasted Spinetail followed by Mishana Tyrannulet. We also had good views of Foothill Antwren, Yellow-throated and Red-stained Woodpecker, Tschudi's Woodcreeper, Peruvian Warbling Antbird, Wing-barred Piprites, White-bellied Pygmy Tyrant and numerous Black-faced Antbirds with young.



Sparkling Violetear at Aguas Verdes (Eustace Barnes)



The enigmatic Pale-eyed Blackbird; denizen of the sodden marsh (Eustace Barnes).

We had a superb session in the arozales (rice paddies as they are called elsewhere). We saw Spotted Rails running back and forth across the road. At a tiny marshy pond, we picked up Black-billed Seed Finch and Pale-eyed Blackbird. Now, these are not common species and to find both at some scrappy little roadside marsh was great. We usually see these around Amazonian Cochas, not rice fields. There were also surprising numbers of Oriole Blackbirds, Shiny Cowbirds and Orange-backed Troupials. We saw a Snail Kite and a Yellow-headed Caracaras plying the paddies. The evening beckoned, and we headed for Morro Calzada in search of Stygian Owl, which turned out to a success. The woodlands at the Morro were very quiet as elsewhere on the tour and little sung until dusk when a few Broad-billed Motmots and Band-bellied Owls called somewhat distantly.

Our night birding sessions here produced a superb Band-bellied Owl that came to have a close look at us. We then visited an area where a pair of Stygian Owls were roosting and enjoyed unbeatable views of this often-tricky species. A spectacular tour highlight.



Oilbird on its ledge waiting for the sun to go down; a great place to see them (Eustace Barnes)

So, we reluctantly packed and headed east to our next port of call, stopping to see the Oilbirds deep within a roadside chasm at what must be the easiest place to see them. Great views in daylight right by the road. Can't be beaten. We then drove to a dry deciduous woodland along the banks of the Rio Huallaga in the late afternoon. On arrival, I thought the vehicle had developed a serious mechanical problem, although when the engine stopped the sound continued. It turned out to be 100 million mosquitoes intent on feeding. On us! We did see Chestnut-eared Aracaris, Blue-winged Parrotlets and a Squirrel Cuckoo before we found Black-fronted Nunbird and Bluish-fronted Jacamar. Huallaga Slaty Antshrike was our primary target which we eventually lured in to view. We saw little else and only heard mosquitoes. (Message to self; don't come in November ever again). The site is up for sale, which does not augur well for its future. So, we may not be coming here at all. We gave up, and headed to Bellavista in preparation for our drive up to Flor de Cafe the following day.

As it had been raining hard for several weeks we were in for some 4X4 fun and SAS style outward bound trail exercises. The journey is always an adventure and one Top Gear would have shown as an extreme 4X4 adventure no doubt. Actually, the road, the driving and general experience left the Top Gear antics looking decidedly weak. It comes at no extra charge on the Birdquest tour to northern Peru! I think we are missing a trick here. Our specially modified 4x4 with jacked up suspension did a wonderful job and we arrived after an exhilarating drive in time for an early lunch. The lower sections of the road had been improved and, so we got to Quarenta in no time. It then got more entertaining for the final ascent, with deep mud and switchbacks.

The area is certainly worthy of a good deal of time as there are so many foothill specialities found in the area and two new species since my last visit. **WHAT!** Yes, that's right, two new species to science. We are not talking about taxonomic revisions, dodgy splits (white-eyes on adjacent islands for example) or somewhat similar looking cryptically-coloured sub-oscines with marginally different vocalisations, no, we are talking very different looking creatures with very different vocalisations. Where else could this happen? Answer – nowhere except **PERU!** Expect more from this area and others shortly to be explored along the base of the Andes. If you want birding at its very best come to Peru. We are usually focused on finding the recently described Scarlet-banded Barbet and other frugivorous species but that was all about to change with these recent discoveries.



Female Scarlet-breasted Fruiteater (Eustace Barnes)

After a very brief lunch we began our exploration. Nearby forests were ominously still, with little or no activity. We climbed 'Hell-rider' ridge in search of flocks and Barbets but found almost nothing. In fact, we saw very little at all and had endured a hike along some of the worst trails I know with little return. At least there were no chiggers, but we had to endure mud to the knees for four hours and for absolutely no return. We (I) had a problem, I had thought a 'morale booster' to fire the troops on our first afternoon would set things up for the full day searching for new species and it had back-fired badly. I was *persona non-grata*. It is always the guides fault in these circumstances and indeed I had made the call. However, it was to be an exceptional visit and an unbeatable one, perhaps made more memorable by this first afternoon of mud, rain and slog.

Our walk had produced Long-tailed Tyrant, Social Flycatcher, Great Kiskadee, Slaty-capped Flycatcher, Plumbeous-crowned Tyrannulet, Buff-fronted Foliage-Gleaner, Blue-browed and Saffron-crowned Tanager and assorted trashy odds and sods. So back to base for a quiet few beers and the prospect of another day wandering through the muddy scraps of forest.

The Cock crowed at 2.30am, the troops were up for it. Manuel prepared a solid breakfast and we were marching, fully tech'd up. The trail was pure hell. Billed as better than the previous days 'assault course' we were treated to muddy gullies, log tracks, near vertical mud slides and recently cut trees to climb over and through. Still, this was a Birdquest tour and not some *noncy* reality show with Ross Kemp. On-trail and down we went to arrive at the last scrap of forest on the slope. There was a reason these few trees had not been cleared for our Waitrose shade-grown coffee; its verticality. An early stop, for a rest as much as anything, and we picked up Versicoloured Barbet, Yungas Manakin (another new species about to be named but not one of our targets) and a variety of tanagers and tyrannids. Time to move and off to our final destination. Then, suddenly amidst the mud, the fallen trees and devastation Eugenio announced we had arrived. We slid down the trail, past once great trees lying prone. A pair of homeless Chestnut-tipped Toucanets sat looking lost in a fruiting tree and on we went.



Chestnut-tipped Toucanet at Flor de Café (Eustace Barnes).

Walking slowly through the patchy forest, first finding Yellow-throated Spadebill while Grey-tailed Piha called intermittently and a Lined Forest Falcon barked away. Distantly a distinctive *Myrmeciza* song ran out through the forest patch and we began to track it to its source. Despite having only been discovered very recently so many groups have visited the area that the bird/s is/are now tape shy. So, we are forced to line up in front of a more open area of forest and wait for our local man to 'drive' the bird towards us. I had never heard of anything like it, but it worked. The bird, there was only one, called constantly (presumably to attract a mate) and was therefore workable in this way. It was driven towards us and we repeatedly saw it. In order all of us saw it we had to do it three times! It is getting accustomed to this treatment as well and getting a little shy. Extremely sad to see but it was a new species to science and a new species for your leader. We were elated at seeing this very smart Antbird so very well as it ran about on the forest floor. (**BQ lifer 2**). It reminds me of a cross between Grey-bellied Antbird and Ferruginous-backed Antbird. Success, and so we began our return to base, seeing very little on the way as we had to concentrate on not doing ourselves a mischief in the mud.

We still needed to find the Barbet. To little or no enthusiasm, I had proposed we climb the ridge again as that was where the Barbet was being seen. As such, in the afternoon we therefore climbed the mud-slide to wait out the flocks. About halfway up the mud-slide we found a pair of Scarlet-breasted Fruiteaters which gave great views in a small *Miconia* by the trail. A good start but no cigar. We got to our key site and worked through a few Saffron-crowned Tanagers and a couple of Blue-browed Tanagers. Suddenly Eugenio spotted the Barbets and shortly we were all on the birds. They were not moving toward the playback but were calling back very quietly. So, that was that and we began to retrace our steps through the mud.



Scarlet-banded Barbet (Eustace Barnes)

I had seen the Barbet on numerous occasions and did not mind taking pictures. As is usual in all groups, if they want to see the bird then the bins are up first and if the creature hangs about the camera goes in to action. As a leader the camera only goes in to action once everyone has seen the bird.

Night birding anyone? Genuinely not far away and not too muddy either, we wandered to the edge of town to call in a pair of Napo Screech Owls. They came in and gave superb views. I did get some photos but not sharp enough to allow inclusion here. We had the quite unexpected luxury of walkaway views! So, it was beers all round to celebrate a mega-day.

Dawn on our day of departure and yours truly was buried in the undergrowth beneath town recording a Woodcreeper. There were a pair of large woodcreepers calling and feeding above me. Said to be a 'type' of Long-tailed Woodcreeper my first thought was NO. No, definitely not. The appearance of the bird placed it close to Strong-billed Woodcreeper, but the song was admittedly very different. **(BQ Lifer 3)**. Another new species and one that had been collected by LSU in the last couple of months along with the Antbird. That was a bonus for them as well. So, if two new species can be collected from a regularly visited site what else is there in these mountains? It was a heady time and what makes for a great birding trip in Peru. Where else would you get such an experience? Basically, nowhere else is even remotely as exciting to go birding.



Eugenio forging ahead through the remaining forest (Eustace Barnes).

Packing out of Flor de Café. We walked a way through coffee plantations and farmlands until the Johnny caught up with us and we headed back to Bellavista.



Heading out of Flor de Café (Eustace Barnes.)

Time to go. Heading back to Tarapoto we made a few stops, seeing Hoatzin and a Yellow-billed Tern as well as a few Comb Ducks. Great, but we had seen what we came to see and the 'padders' could not compete. We did stop a few times, but the dry forests were dead, as before and we were exhausted from slogging through the mud over the last few days. Black-necked Stilts, Wattled Jacanas, Snowy, Western Cattle and Great Egrets along with several Striated herons and numerous Little blue Heron made for some pleasant open country birding before we reached Tarapoto.



The Cordillera Azul after which the Antbird will be named (Eustace Barnes).

The final morning, and we headed to the Escalera near Tarapoto, a low ridge with excellent foothill forest. Dawn was silent. There was little movement in the forest and we picked up very little along the roadside. We taped in a Yellow-browed Antbird (a write-in), a Rufous-winged Antwren and an Olive Tanager (previously the more interesting sounding Carmiol's Tanager). There was not much doing, except that in the scrubby edge habitat a couple of Antwrens were spotted. I could not make out what they were but something interesting. Jules described a pale uniformly Grey Antwren and began to search through the field guide as I had given him the option of Slaty Antwren. The female had no markings and was notably pale. They were Ashy Antwrens, a species only recently found in Central Peru and not looked for this far north. I feel quite confident that this is what we were looking at and that further searches in the areas will reveal them to be uncommon residents (**BQ Lifer 4**).

We headed to the reserve a little further downhill. The feeders were busy with a lot of hummers but only Koepcke's Hermit and Gould's Jewelfront were new. We headed off up the trail in search of army ants. We were out of luck and only managed to find Orange-billed Sparrow, Collared Gnatwren, Foothill Antwren and White-breasted Wood-Wren. After watching the Golden-headed Manakins at their lek we descended to the feeders again to look for Fiery-capped Manakin which would not show themselves. Time was up and, so we headed back to town to pick up our stuff, have some lunch and get to the airport for our flight to Lima.



Out at sea with the Sea Lions and fishermen (Eustace Barnes).

It was time for a pelagic. These run out of Callao and are always a spectacle. Data from these trips over the last ten years or so record a progressive change in the quality of the waters off the coast of Peru. This year was to be exceptional. On departure Gunnar told us the waters were 3 degrees warmer than usual. That was indeed exceptional and so was our pelagic.



Elliott's Storm Petrel dancing on the sea (Eustace Barnes)

We started with the usual Grey Gulls, Surfbirds, Red-legged Cormorants and a few Humboldt Penguins. Peruvian Boobies and Peruvian Pelicans fished around our boat and it was not long before we saw our first Peruvian Diving Petrel and a few Sooty Shearwaters. Then it was the slog out to the chumming run, 30 plus nautical miles off shore. There were no Grey Phalaropes or Sabine's gulls and few terns. The seas were alive with Dolphins and attendant Boobies and Pelicans but no truly pelagic species. Once we had begun to work the chumming run Elliott's Storm-Petrels began to move in along with a few White-chinned petrels, a single Pink-footed Shearwater, several Black Storm-Petrels and a single Hornby's Storm Petrel. Large numbers of stormies danced about on the sea for us giving great views. We stayed longer than usual but no Albatrosses or Markham's Storm-Petrels turned up, which was a disappointment, but I don't think there were any within 50miles of us, the seas were just too warm.



The immaculate Inca Tern (Eustace Barnes).

We headed to the islands. Thousands of Sea lions, Guanay Cormorants, Ica terns, Boobies and Pelicans were loafing about on the rocks and, very tellingly, quite a number of Blue-footed Boobies; a bird of warmer waters. We picked up a few Peruvian Seaside Cinclodes before it was time to get back to shore after a long and interesting day packed with birds and wildlife spectacles.

Peru never ceases to surprise and this tour as much as any is one I always enjoy. Four Birdquest lifers! When was the last Birdquest tour that got four company lifers on a standard tour? One suspects some time ago. On this tour we did run out of time but not birds. Any which way you turn there is something else to look for. Where else can one say that? I look forward to returning in the very near future, actually next month.



The rare Black-billed Seed Finch; a birders bird (Eustace Barnes)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **IOC World Bird Names**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>.

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Hooded Tinamou *Nothocercus nigrocapillus* (H) One heard at Leymebamba
Cinereous Tinamou *Crypturellus cinereus* (H) Heard at Quebrada Upaquihoa and near Tarapoto.
Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui* (H) Heard at several sites.
Pale-browed Tinamou *Crypturellus transfasciatus* (H) Heard at Quebrada Frejolillo.
Tataupa Tinamou *Crypturellus tataupa* (H) Several heard at Tamborapa and others at Quebrada Upaquihoa.
Andean Tinamou *Nothoprocta pentlandii* One seen on the road near San Marcos.
Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis sylvicola* Seen in the 'arozales' near Buenos Aires.
Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera* A few at Monsefu and Ventanilla.
White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis* Seen on the coast and at Laguna Tinajones.
Masked Duck *Nomonyx dominicus* A pair seen on a tiny pond near Rioja.
Speckled Chachalaca *Ortalis guttata* Seen at numerous sites.



Andean Guan drying off after heavy rains (Eustace Barnes).

Andean Guan *Penelope montagnii* Seen at Owllet lodge.
White-winged Guan ◊ *Penelope albipennis* Seen at Chaparri, where reintroduced, and at Quebrada Frejolillo.
Wattled Guan *Aburria aburri* (H) Heard on the Escalera.
Marbled Wood Quail *Odontophorus gujanensis* (H) Heard in the foothills at Flor de Cafe.
Elliott's Storm Petrel *Oceanites gracilis* A group of twenty or so seen close inshore at Puerto Eten? Also on Pelagic.
Wilson's Storm Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* A few noted.
Wedge-rumped Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma tethys* A few at sea.
Hornby's Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma hornbyi* One seen by a few of us.
Black Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma melania* Quite numerous at sera.
White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis* Several noted on the chumming run.
Pink-footed Shearwater *Puffinus creatopus* Probably two seen at sea.
Peruvian Diving Petrel *Pelecanoides garnotii* Several noted on our way out to the continental shelf.
Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* Seen on suitable bodies of water throughout.
Great Grebe *Podiceps major* Seen on the coast at Santa Rosa.
Black-faced Ibis ◊ *Theristicus melanopis* Coastal form seen Laguna Tinajones. If split, is Critically Endangered.
Puna Ibis *Plegadis ridgwayi* Seen on the coast and in the high Andes.

Fasciated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum* Two along the Rio Utcubamba.
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Common on the coast.
Striated Heron *Butorides striata* Common in the lowlands.
Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi* Seen near Bellavista.
Great Egret *Ardea alba* Commonly seen.
Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* Commonly seen in the coastal lowlands and Arozales.
Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* Commonly seen, especially in the recently expanded rice producing areas.
Peruvian Pelican *Pelecanus thagus* Commonly seen on the coast.
Humboldt Penguin *Spheniscus humboldtii* Up to 50 seen on the pelagic, maybe more.
Blue-footed Booby *Sula nebouxii* Several seen on Isla Palomina.
Peruvian Booby *Sula variegata* Common at sea.
Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* Commonly seen on the coast.
Guanay Cormorant \diamond *Leucocarbo bougainvillii* Seen at sea.



Red-legged Cormorant; the prettiest cormorant (Eustace Barnes)

Red-legged Cormorant \diamond *Phalacrocorax gaimardii* A few seen at sea.
Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Greater Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes melambrotus* Seen below Flor de Café.
Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa* One seen above Casupe.
Andean Condor *Vultur gryphus* A pair seen near Leymebamba.
Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Seen on the coast and along the Huallaga river.
Pearl Kite *Gampsonyx swainsonii* An uncommon, if widely distributed species.
Grey-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis* A single adult bird seen near Flor de Café.
Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* Seen at numerous foothill locations; always a pleasure to see.
Black Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus* A single bird seen at Flor de Cafe.

Plain-breasted Hawk *Accipiter ventralis* A couple seen during the tour.
Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis* Seen near Moyobamba.
Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis* One seen at Laguna Tinajones.
Solitary Eagle ◊ *Buteogallus solitarius* A single bird seen near Aguas Verdes.
Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus* A common species in the arid lowlands.
Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Variable Hawk *Buteo polyosoma* A few seen.
Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* A single bird seen at Flor de Café.



Andean Condor soaring over us at breakfast (Eustace Barnes)

Russet-crowned Crane *Laterallus viridis* (H) One heard near Moyobamba.
Grey-necked Wood Rail *Aramides cajaneus* Two crossing the roads near Bellavista.
Spotted Rail ◊ *Pardirallus maculatus* Two seen near Moyobamba.
Plumbeous Rail *Pardirallus sanguinolentus* (H) Heard at a couple of locations.
Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica* Common in the Huallaga valley in the Arozales.
Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Andean Coot *Fulica ardesiaca* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Limpkin *Aramus guarauna* Now common in the Arozales in the Austral summer.
Peruvian Thick-Knee ◊ *Burhinus superciliaris* A group of 4 seen at Quebrada Frejolillo.
American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* A couple of pairs at Callao.
Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* Commonly seen in the lowlands and rice paddies.
Andean Lapwing *Vanellus resplendens* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* Common at Monsefu beach.
Semi-palmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* Seen at Monsefu beach.
Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* Commonly seen on the coastal plain.
Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana* Commonly seen in the rice paddies.
Least Seedsnipe *Thinocorus rumicivorus* Always good to see this pretty little wader.
Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus* A few seen at Monsefu beach.
Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* A few noted at Bellavista.
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* A couple seen on the coast.
Surfbird *Calidris virgate* A few seen in Callao harbour.
Sanderling *Calidris alba* Good numbers at Santa Rosa.
Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* Seen Santa Rosa beach.
Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* Commonly seen.
Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* A few seen at sea.
Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini* One seen at sea.
Andean Gull *Chroicocephalus serranus* A few seen near Namora.
Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* Common on the coast and Tinajones reservoir.
Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla* A couple on the coast.
Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan* Thousands on the coast.
Grey Gull *Leucophaeus modestus* Small numbers seen from the beach at Puerto Eten.
Belcher's Gull *Larus belcheri* A couple of birds at Monsefu beach.
Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* Common on the coast.
Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* A couple noted at sea.
Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans* Several seen at Santa Rosa.
Yellow-billed Tern *Sternula superciliaris* A couple along the Rio Huallaga.
Inca Tern ◊ *Larosterna inca* Thousands on the pelagic.
Rock Dove *Columba livia* Least said about this domesticate the better.
Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa* An increasingly common species at Flor de Café.
Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis* A few seen in the open lowlands.
Maranon Pigeon ◊ (Peruvian Pigeon) *Patagioenas oenops* A very localized endemic seen at Balsas.
Plumbeous Pigeon *Patagioenas plumbea* Seen at Flor de Café and heard elsewhere.
Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea* A couple noted.



Eared Dove (Eustace Barnes)

Plain-breasted Ground Dove *Columbina minuta* A few noted along the Huallaga valley.
Ecuadorian Ground Dove ◊ *Columbina buckleyi* Seen in the Chinchipe drainage.
Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Croaking Ground Dove *Columbina cruziana* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Blue Ground Dove *Claravis pretiosa* Rather numerous in the dry deciduous woodlands of the upper Chinchipe.
Bare-faced Ground Dove *Metriopelia ceciliae* Common in the Maranon canyon.
White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
White-throated Quail Dove *Geotrygon frenata* A single bird shot across the road below Flor de Café.

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
West Peruvian Dove *Zenaida meloda* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Hoatzin *Opisthocomus hoazin* Common on our way up to La Plataforma.
Greater Ani *Crotophaga major* A few near Bellavista. Like a Coucal flopping about.
Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* Common to abundant in the eastern lowlands.
Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia* (H) Heard more or less throughout the tour.
Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.



Our splendid Stygian Owl (Eustace Barnes)

West Peruvian Screech Owl ◊ *Megascops [roboratus] pacificus* Seen at Chaparri and Quebrada Frejolillo.
West Peruvian ('Maranon') Screech Owl ◊ *Megascops [roboratus] roboratus* A pair found near Jaen.
Koepcke's Screech Owl ◊ *Megascops koepckeae* A bird taped in after dark along the Utcubamba valley.
Cinnamon Screech Owl ◊ *Megascops petersoni* (H) Heard only in spite of giving it two tries.
Napo Screech Owl ◊ *Megascops napensis* Point blank views of a pair a Flor de Café.
Rufous-banded Owl *Strix albitarsis* (H) An uncommon, if widely distributed species.

Band-bellied Owl ◊ *Pulsatrix melanota* One seen superbly well at Wakanki.

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum* Seen near Tarapoto.

Andean Pygmy Owl ◊ *Glaucidium jardiinii* (H) We only heard a couple.

Pacific Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium peruanum* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Long-whiskered Owlet ◊ *Xenoglaux loweryi* One at Owlet lodge.

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia* Several pairs noted on the coast and near Quebrada Frejolillo.

Stygian Owl *Asio stygius* A superb pair seen roosting near Myobamba. A real treat and a great trip highlight.

Oilbird *Steatornis caripensis* A roadside chasm held a small colony near Myobamba.

Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus* One taped in near Jaen was good to see.

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis* Seen at Chaparri.

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Anthony's (Scrub) Nightjar ◊ *Nyctidromus anthonyi* Common en route to Quebrada Frejolillo where displaying.

Swallow-tailed Nightjar *Uropsalis segmentata* A single female at Owlet lodge.

Rufous Nightjar *Antrostomus rufus* (H) Heard at Tabaconas.

White-chested Swift ◊ *Cypseloides lemosi* Very good views of a several below Floe de Café. Outstanding.

Chestnut-collared Swift *Streptoprocne rutila* A few seen at widely scattered sites.

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyura* Seen around Myobamba.

Short-tailed (Tumbes) Swift ◊ *Chaetura brachyura ocypetes* A couple seen in Quebrada Frejolillo.

White-tipped Swift *Aeronautes montivagus* Seen at numerous sites.

Andean Swift *Aeronautes andecolus* A few noted along the Rio Chonta.

Neotropical Palm Swift *Tachornis squamata* Common around Myobamba.

Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy* A few seen.

Great-billed Hermit *Phaethornis malaris* A couple on the feeders at Wakanki and near Tarapoto.

Tawny-bellied Hermit *Phaethornis syrmatophorus* A few noted at Owlet lodge.

Koepcke's Hermit ◊ *Phaethornis koepckeae* Great views of a couple near Tarapoto.

Grey-chinned Hermit *Phaethornis griseogularis porcellae* A couple noted at Casupe.

Grey-chinned Hermit *Phaethornis griseogularis amazonas* Noted on feeders cat Aguas Verdes.

Reddish Hermit *Phaethornis ruber* Seen on feeders at Aguas Verdes.



Chestnut-breasted Coronet (Eustace Barnes).

Grey-breasted Sabrewing *Campylopterus largipennis* A common species in the foothills on this tour.

Napo Sabrewing *Campylopterus villaviscensio* Seen near Flor de Café.

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora* A common species on the feeders at Wakanki



Peruvian Racket-tail; what we used to know as Booted Racket-tail (Eustace Barnes)

Brown Violetear *Colibri delphinae* Single birds on the feeders

Lesser Violetear *Colibri cyanotus* A single bird seen on the feeders at Huembo

Sparkling Violetear *Colibri coruscans* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Black-throated Mango *Anthracothorax nigricollis* Seen at several sets of feeders

Violet-headed Hummingbird *Klais guimeti* Seen at Aguas Verdes and Wakanki.

Rufous-crested Coquette *Lophornis delattrei* A good number at Aguas Verdes and Wakanki

Wire-crested Thorntail *Discosura popelairii* Aguas Verdes and Wakanki.

Blue-tailed Emerald *Chlorostilbon mellisugus* A couple found at Wakanki

Fork-tailed Woodnymph *Thalurania furcata* A common bird on the feeders at Wakanki

Golden-tailed Sapphire *Chrysuronia oenone* Very common at Wakanki.

Tumbes Hummingbird ♦ *Leucippus baeri* Seen at Chaparri and Quebrada Frejolillo.

Spot-throated Hummingbird ♦ *Leucippus taczanowskii* A common endemic seen at widely scattered sites.

Many-spotted Hummingbird *Taphrospilus hypostictus* One seen at Wakanki on the feeders.

White-bellied Hummingbird *Amazilia chionogaster* A common species.

Amazilia Hummingbird *Amazilia amazilia* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Andean Emerald *Amazilia franciae* Fairly common at Huembo.

Sapphire-spangled Emerald *Amazilia lactea* Surprising numbers at Wakanki.

Speckled Hummingbird *Adelomyia melanogenys* Small numbers noted throughout the highlands.

Gould's Jewelfront *Heliodoxa aurescens* Great views of a few near Tarapoto.

Fawn-breasted Brilliant *Heliodoxa rubinoides* A regularly recorded denizen of the cloud forests.

Violet-fronted Brilliant *Heliodoxa leadbeateri* Small numbers recorded in the humid sub-tropics.

Chestnut-breasted Coronet *Boissonneaua matthewsii* Small numbers recorded at Leymebamba and Abra Patricia..

Shining Sunbeam *Aglaeactis cupripennis* Small numbers recorded on the arid puna.

Bronzy Inca *Coeligena coeligena* Small numbers recorded in the humid sub-tropics.

Collared Inca *Coeligena torquata* A regularly recorded denizen of the cloud forests.

Violet-throated Starfrontlet *Coeligena violifer* A few recorded above San Lorenzo in the humid cloud forests.

Rainbow Starfrontlet *Coeligena iris* An uncommon, if widely distributed species.



Collared Trogon (Eustace Barnes)

Sword-billed Hummingbird *Ensifera ensifera* Seen near Leymebamba.

Great Sapphirewing *Pterophanes cyanopterus* Several seen in montane scrub throughout the highlands.

Amethyst-throated Sunangel *Heliangelus amethysticollis* Several noted this year. We missed it last year.

Royal Sunangel ◊ *Heliangelus regalis* A very localized endemic seen at Alta Nieva.

Glowing Puffleg *Eriocnemis vestita* A single bird found on Abra Barro Negro.

Emerald-bellied Puffleg *Eriocnemis aline* An uncommon, if widely distributed species.

Buff-thighed Puffleg ◊ *Haplophaedia assimilis* A few noted below Abra Patricia.

Peruvian Racket-tail *Ocreatus peruanus* Only one or two seen at Alta Nieva.

Green-tailed Trainbearer *Lesbia nuna* One seen near Cajamarca.

Tyrian Metaltail *Metallura tyrianthina* Common at a number of sites.

Coppery Metaltail ◊ *Metallura theresiae* A localized endemic seen on Abra Barro Negro and in the Marañon canyon.

Grey-bellied Comet ◊ *Taphrolesia griseiventris* A very rare endemic seen superbly well at Rio Chonta.

Long-tailed Sylph *Aglaiocercus kingii* Small numbers recorded in the humid sub-tropics.

Marvelous Spatuletail ◊ *Loddigesia mirabilis* A rare endemic found only on the west bank of the Rio Utcubamba.

Long-billed Starthroat *Heliomaster longirostris* Several.

Peruvian Sheartail ◊ *Thaumastura cora* Several seen at Razaan. Few seen this year.



Crimson-mantled Woodpecker (Eustace Barnes)

Purple-collared Woodstar *Myrtis fanny* A common species at Chaparri.

Short-tailed Woodstar ◊ *Myrmia micrura* Not uncommon in the open desert at Chaparri.

White-bellied Woodstar *Chaetocercus mulsant* A regularly recorded denizen of the cloud forests.

Little Woodstar ◊ *Chaetocercus bombus* Seen on the feeders at the Leymebamba.
Golden-headed Quetzal *Pharomachrus auriceps* Three males seen near Leymebamba.
Crested Quetzal *Pharomachrus antisimensis* (H) Heard Alta Nieva.
Ecuadorian Trogon *Trogon mesurus* Seen Casupe and Quebrada Frejolillo.
Blue-crowned Trogon *Trogon curucui* A common species seen at Quebrada Upaquihoa.
Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris* Not sure where we saw this? Somewhere in the Flor de Café area.
Masked Trogon *Trogon personatus* A few at Abra Patricia and Leymebamba.
Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* A single bird seen at Chaparri.
Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata* A few seen on larger water bodies.
Whooping Motmot *Momotus subrufescens* One seen at Quebrada Frejolillo.
Broad-billed Motmot *Electron platyrhynchum* (H) Heard at Wakanki.
Bluish-fronted Jacamar *Galbula cyanescens* Seen at several lowland sites.
Lanceolated Monklet *Micromonacha lanceolata* (H) Heard at Aguas Verdes.
Black-fronted Nunbird *Monasa nigrifrons* Common at Quebrada Upaquihoa.
Swallow-winged Puffbird *Chelidoptera tenebrosa* Seen along the Huallaga valley.
Scarlet-banded Barbet ◊ *Capito wallacei* Three at Flor de Café; totally superb!
Gilded Barbet *Capito auratus* A couple at Flor de Café.
Versicoloured Barbet *Eubucco versicolor* A common species at Flor de Café.
Black-throated Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus atrogularis* Noted at Huembo below Pomacochas.
Chestnut-tipped Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus derbianus* A pair seen near Flor de Café.
Chestnut-eared Aracari *Pteroglossus castanotis* A few noted at Quebrada Upaquihoa.
Golden-collared Toucanet *Selenidera reinwardtii* (H) Heard at Flor de Café.
Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan *Andigena hypoglauca* A regularly recorded denizen of the cloud forests.
Channel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos vitellinus* (H) Heard Wakanki and Flor de Café.
Lafresnaye's Piculet *Picumnus lafresnayi* Seen at Wakanki.
Ecuadorian Piculet ◊ *Picumnus sclateri* A pair found at Casupe where seemingly quite common.
Speckle-chested Piculet ◊ *Picumnus steindachneri* A localized endemic seen at Hacienda Chillo.
Yellow-tufted Woodpecker *Melanerpes cruentatus* (H) Distant bird at Flor de Café.
Smoky-brown Woodpecker *Leuconotopicus fumigatus* (H)
Scarlet-backed Woodpecker *Veniliornis callonotus* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Little Woodpecker *Veniliornis passerinus*
Red-stained Woodpecker *Veniliornis affinis* An uncommon, if widely distributed species.
Yellow-throated woodpecker *Picoides flavigula* An unexpected find at Wakanki.
Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus* Small numbers recorded in the humid sub-tropics.
Crimson-mantled Woodpecker *Colaptes rivolii* A couple seen in the canyon near Leymebamba.
Black-necked Woodpecker ◊ *Colaptes atricollis* A fairly localized endemic seen in the Marañon canyon.
Andean Flicker *Colaptes rupicola* A regularly recorded species of the high paramos
Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus* Fairly common at Bosque Pomac.
Crimson-crested Woodpecker *Campephilus melanoleucos* Seen at Flor de Café.
Mountain Caracara *Phalacrocorax megalopterus* Commonly seen in the High Andes.
Northern Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway* A few seen on the coastal lowlands.
Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima* A few in the arozales.
Black Caracara *Daptrius ater* Seen near Bellavista.
Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans* One found near Jaen.
Lined Forest Falcon *Micrastur ruficollis* (H) Heard at Flor de Café.
American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* Seen in Callao harbour.
Cobalt-winged Parakeet *Brotogeris cyanoptera* Fairly numerous around Myobamba.
Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus* Also numerous around Myobamba, Tarapoto and Flor de Café..
Red-billed Parrot *Pionus sordidus* Seen near Flor de Café.
White-capped Parrot *Pionus seniloides* A few birds at Abra Patricia.
Scaly-naped Amazon *Amazona mercenarias* Small flocks flying over at Abra Patricia.
Blue-winged Parrotlet *Forpus xanthopterygius* A few seen around Tarapoto and Bellavista.
Pacific Parrotlet ◊ *Forpus coelestis* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Yellow-faced Parrotlet ◊ *Forpus xanthops* A very localized endemic seen above Balsas feeding in cacti.
Rose-fronted Parakeet *Pyrrhura roseifrons* (H) Remarkably uncommon at Flor de Café.
Scarlet-fronted (Cordilleran) Parakeet *Psittacara wagleri* A common and widely spread species.
Mitred Parakeet *Psittacara mitrata* Seen above Leymebamba where common.
Red-masked Parakeet ◊ *Psittacara erythrogenys* Seen at Chaparri and Quebrada Frejolillo.
White-eyed Parakeet *Psittacara leucophthalma* A common species in the eastern lowlands
Coastal Miner ◊ *Geositta peruviana* Fairly common on the coast.
Striated Earthcreeper ◊ *Geocerthis serrana* A few noted between Celendin and Cajamarca.
Cream-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes albiventris* A regularly recorded species of the high paramos
White-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes atacamensis* Common along the Rio Chonta.
Peruvian Seaside Cinclodes ◊ *Cinclodes taczanowskii* A few pairs seen on Las Islas Palomina.
Pacific Hornero *Furnarius cinnamomeus* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Rusty-crowned Tit-spinetail ◊ *Leptasthenura pileata cajamarcae* A localized endemic found on the arid west flank.



White-chinned Thistletail (Eustace Barnes)

White-chinned Thistletail ◊ *Asthenes fuliginosa plengei* A very localized endemic form seen on Abra Barro Negro.
Streak-throated Canastero *Asthenes humilis* A regularly recorded species of the high paramos
Many-striped Canastero *Asthenes flammulata* Common on the paramos near Celendin.
Rufous Spinetail *Synallaxis unirufa* Common at Abra Patricia.
Azara's Spinetail *Synallaxis azarae* Regularly recorded denizen of the cloud forests.
Dark-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albigularis* (H) Recorded above Affluente.
Cinereous-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis hypospodia* One seen at Wakanki.
Chestnut-throated Spinetail *Synallaxis cherriei* (H) Heard only at Wakanki.
Maranon Spinetail ◊ *Synallaxis maranonica* A very localized endemic seen at Tamborapa, now considered at risk.
Necklaced Spinetail ◊ *Synallaxis stictothorax* Numerous in the western lowlands.
Necklaced (Chinchipe) Spinetail ◊ *Synallaxis stictothorax chincipiensis* Seen near Tamborapa.
Great Spinetail ◊ *Siptornopsis hypochondriaca* A very rare and localized endemic seen at San Marcos.

Ash-browed Spinetail *Cranioleuca curtata* An uncommon, if widely distributed species.
Line-cheeked Spinetail *Cranioleuca antisiensis* Several pairs at Abra Porculla.
Baron's Spinetail ◊ *Cranioleuca baroni* A widespread endemic seen from Leymebamba to Cajamarca.
Russet-mantled Softtail ◊ *Thripophaga berlepschi* A very localized endemic seen above Leymebamba.
Rufous-fronted Thornbird *Phacellodomus rufifrons* Common in the Marañon and Huallaga drainages.
Chestnut-backed Thornbird ◊ *Phacellodomus dorsalis* An uncommon endemic seen in the Marañon Canyon.
Wren-like Rushbird *Phleocryptes melanops* Seen at Puerto Eten.



Equatorial Greytail (Eustace Barnes).

Equatorial Greytail ◊ *Xenerpestes singularis* A pair at Affluente.
Pearled Treerunner *Margarornis squamiger* A regularly recorded denizen of the cloud forests.
Streaked Tuftedcheek *Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii* Seen at Abra Barro Negro.
Montane Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia striaticollis* Common at Affluente.
Lineated Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla subalaris* (H) Recorded at Flor de Café.
Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla rufosuperciliata* (H) Thinly spread species in northern Peru.
Rufous-necked Foliage-Gleaner ◊ *Syndactyla ruficollis* A superb adult at Casupe and others heard at Abra Porculla.
Rufous-rumped (Ochre-breasted) Foliage-gleaner *Phylidor erythrocerum ochrogaster* Seen at Flor de Café.
Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner *Phylidor rufum* Recorded at Aguas Verdes.
Peruvian Treehunter ◊ *Thripadectes scrutator* An uncommon near endemic seen Leymebamba.
Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner *Automolus ochrolaemus* (H) Commonly heard at Flor de Cafe and Wakanki.
Ruddy Foliage-gleaner *Automolus rubiginosus* (H) Heard at Flor de Café.
Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner *Hylocyptus erythrocephalus* A pair seen at Quebrada Frejolillo.
Streaked Xenops *Xenops rutilans* Seen at many sites.
Tyrannine Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla tyrannina* A single bird seen at Owllet lodge.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus* Seen at a couple of sites.

'Plataforma' Woodcreeper *Xiphocolaptes sp nov.* This new species seen at Flor de Café. Being described as I write.

Strong-billed Woodcreeper *Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus* One recorded Alta Nieva.

Tschudi's Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus chunchotambo* Several seen at Flor de Café and Wakanki.

Buff-throated Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus guttatus* Common at Upaquihoa.

Olive-backed Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus triangularis* Seen near Leymebamba.

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Montane Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger* A regularly recorded denizen of the cloud forests.

Fasciated Antshrike *Cymbilaimus lineatus* (H) Heard at Wakanki.

Collared Antshrike ◊ *Thamnophilus bernardi* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Collared (Shumba) Antshrike ◊ *Thamnophilus bernardi shumbae* A common endemic seen near Bagua Grande.

Chapman's Antshrike *Thamnophilus zarumae* A pair seen at Abra Porculla.

Lined Antshrike *Thamnophilus tenuipunctatus* A commonly recorded species at Affluente.

Uniform Antshrike *Thamnophilus unicolor* A pair near Aguas Verdes.

Plain-winged Antshrike *Thamnophilus schistaceus* A commonly recorded species in the foothills.

Northern (Maranon) Slaty Antshrike ◊ *Thamnophilus punctatus leucogaster* An endemic seen at Tamborapa.

Northern (Huellaga)Slaty Antshrike ◊ *Thamnophilus punctatus huallagae* Recorded at Quebrada Upaquihoa.

Variable Antshrike *Thamnophilus caerulescens* (H) Recorded at Abra Patricia.

Rufous-capped Antshrike *Thamnophilus ruficapillus* (H) Only heard!.

Plain Antwren *Dysithamnus mentalis* Noted in the foothills.

Foothill Antwren *Epinecrophylla spodionota* A couple seen at Wakanki.

Ashy (Yungas) Antwren ◊ *Myrmotherula grisea* A great find at Tarapoto. A big range extension.

Stripe-chested Antwren *Myrmotherula longicauda* Commonly recorded at Quebrada Upaquihoa.

Yellow-breasted Antwren *Herpsilochmus axillaris* A commonly recorded species at Affluente.

Rufous-winged Antwren *Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus* Seen near Tarapoto.

Streak-headed Antbird *Drymophila caudata* A commonly recorded species at Abra Patricia.

Blackish (Sub-tropical) Antbird *Cercomacra nigrescens aequatorialis* Commonly recorded at Aguas Verdes.

Black Antbird *Cercomacra serva* (H) Heard at Tarapoto.

White-browed Antbird *Myrmoborus leucophrys* A commonly recorded species at Quebrada Upaquihoa.

Black-faced Antbird *Myrmoborus myotherinus* Found near Tarapoto.

Peruvian Warbling Antbird *Hypocnemis peruviana* Several pairs found at Wakanki.

Yellow-browed Antbird *Hypocnemis hypoxantha* A single bird seen at Tarapoto. A write in!

'Cordillera Azul' Antbird ◊ *Myrmeciza sp nov* Seen at Flor de Café. A species only discovered very recently.

Spot-backed Antbird *Hylophylax naevioides* (H) Heard at Wakanki.

Black-faced Antthrush *Formicarius analis* (H) Heard Tarapoto.

Rufous-breasted Antthrush *Formicarius rufipectus* (H) Heard commonly at Flor de Café.

Short-tailed Antthrush *Chamaeza campanisona* (H) Heard at Flor de Café.

Undulated Antpitta *Grallaria undulata* (H) We just did not have the time to look for this en route to the Maranon.

Scaled Antpitta *Grallaria guatemalensis* (H) Heard at Flor de Café.

Chestnut-crowned Antpitta *Grallaria ruficapilla* (L) A regularly recorded denizen of the cloud forests.

Pale-billed Antpitta ◊ *Grallaria carrikeri* A very localized endemic seen above San Lorenzo.

Rusty-tinged Antpitta ◊ *Grallaria przewalskii* Jon was seen at his feeding station at Alta Nieva.

Rufous (Cajamarca) Antpitta ◊ *Grallaria rufula cajamarcae* Seen at Cruz Conga.

Rufous (Fulvous) Antpitta ◊ *Grallaria rufula obscura* (H) Heard at Abra Barro Negro.

Chestnut Antpitta ◊ *Grallaria blakei* (H) Heard only this year.

Ochre-fronted Antpitta ◊ *Grallaricula ochraceifrons* A very uncommon and localized endemic seen at Owlet lodge.

Rusty-breasted (Leymebamba) Antpitta *Grallaricula leymebambae* (H) Heard only at Leymebamba.

Thrush-like Antpitta *Myrmothera campanisona* (H) Heard near Tarapoto.

Ash-coloured Tapaculo *Myiornis senilis* Seen above San Lorenzo. The only site for this species on the tour.

Northern White-crowned Tapaculo *Scytalopus atratus* (H) Heard at Affluente.

Trilling Tapaculo *Scytalopus parvirostris* (H) Heard at San Lorenzo.

Blackish Tapaculo *Scytalopus latrans intermedius* Seen at Abra Barro Negro.

Maranon Crescentchest ◊ *Melanopareia maranonica* A very localized near-endemic seen at Tamborapa.

Elegant Crescentchest *Melanopareia elegans* Seen at Quebrada Frejolillo.

Wing-barred Piprites *Piprites chloris* Found at Wakanki.

White-fronted Tyrannulet ◊ *Phyllomyias zeledoni* A pair seen below Alta Nieva. A very rarely seen tyrannid.

Plumbeous-crowned Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias plumbeiceps* An uncommon, if widely distributed species.

Black-capped Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias nigrocapillus* A few seen at Abra Patricia.

Tawny-rumped Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias uropygialis* Seen near Leymebamba.,

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet *Tyrannulus elatus* Recorded in the lowlands.

Forest Elaenia *Myiopagis gaimardii* (H) Not uncommon in the lowlands.

Pacific Elaenia ◊ *Myiopagis subplacens* Several seen at Quebrada Frejolillo.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

White-crested Elaenia (Peruvian) *Elaenia albiceps modesta* (H) One heard near Cajamarca.

Highland Elaenia *Elaenia obscura* (H) One heard in the Maranon canyon.

Lesser Elaenia *Elaenia chiriquensis* Several found at Wakanki.

Sierran Elaenia *Elaenia pallatangae* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

White-lored Tyrannulet *Ornithion inerme* Found at Wakanki.



Rufous-tailed Tyrant (Eustace Barnes)

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

White-throated Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus leucophrys* A regularly recorded denizen of the cloud forests.

White-tailed Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus poecilocercus* A commonly recorded species near Leymebamba..

Rufous-winged Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus calopterus* A pair seen near Leymebamba.

Sulphur-bellied Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus minor* Several seen at Abra Patricia.

White-banded Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus stictopterus* Commonly recorded at Leymebamba.

Black-crested Tit-Tyrant ◊ *Anairetes nigrocristatus* A localized but widespread endemic seen around Celendin.

Tufted Tit-tyrant *Anairetes parvulus* Common between Celendin and Cajamarca.

Yellow-billed Tit-tyrant *Anairetes flavirostris* A pair near Cajamarca.

Torrent Tyrannulet *Serpophaga cinerea* Seen on many rivers and streams during the tour.

Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet *Phaeomyias murina* (H) Heard near Quebrada Upaquiuhua.

Tumbesian Tyrannulet ◊ *Phaeomyias tumbezana* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant *Pseudotriccus ruficeps* (H) Heard and glimpsed by some at Abra Patricia.

Ringed Antpipit *Corythopis torquata* Seen Flor de Café.

Tawny-crowned Pygmy Tyrant *Euscarthmus meloryphus ruficeps* Common on the coast.

Grey-and-white Tyrannulet *Pseudelaenia leucospodia* Common to abundant in the west.

Mishana Tyrannulet ◊ *Zimmerius villarejoi* One seen at Wakanki.

Peruvian Tyrannulet ◊ *Zimmerius viridiflavus* A very common species in the Andes and at Flor de Cafe.

Marble-faced Bristle Tyrant *Pogonotriccus ophthalmicus* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Ecuadorian Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes gualaquizae* Several pairs above Affluente.

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus* Seen at Wakanki.

Slaty-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon superciliaris* Commonly seen in the subtropics.



Black-crested Tit-Tyrant (Jan Hillman)

Flavescent Flycatcher *Myiophobus flavicans* A pair seen below Abra Patricia.

Bran-coloured Flycatcher *Myiophobus fasciatus* Seen at Flor de Café.

Ornate Flycatcher *Myiotriccus ornatus* A pair seen at Affluente.

Many-coloured Rush Tyrant *Tachuris rubrigastra* A pair found near Puerto Eten.

Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer* Found near Quebrada Upaquiuhua.

Black-throated Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus granadensis* Several seen in the Abra Patricia area.

Cinnamon-breasted Tody-Tyrant ◊ *Hemitriccus cinnamomeipectus* Seen near Abra Patricia after a search.

White-bellied Pygmy Tyrant *Myiornis albiventris* (H) This tiny bird was found at Quebrada Upaquiuhua.

Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant *Lophotriccus pileatus* A regularly recorded denizen of the cloud forests.

Lulu's Tody-Flycatcher ◊ *Poecilatriccus luluae* Several seen at Abra Patricia.
Black-and-white Tody-Flycatcher ◊ *Poecilatriccus capitalis* Found at Wakanki.
Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum* Common.
Olivaceous Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus olivaceus* Seen at Wakanki, where nest building.
Yellow-olive Flatbill *Tolmomyias sulphurescens* A commonly recorded species at Quebrada Upaquihua.
Grey-crowned Flatbill *Tolmomyias poliocephalus* Recorded at Flor de Café.
Olive-faced Flatbill *Tolmomyias viridiceps* Commonly recorded at Quebrada Upaquihua.
White-throated Spadebill *Platyrinchus mystaceus* (H) Heard at Flor de Café.
Yellow-throated Spadebill ◊ *Platyrinchus flavigularis* A single bird found after some time.
Cinnamon Flycatcher *Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus* A very common species in the Andes.
Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea* Seen and heard at numerous sites throughout.
Euler's Flycatcher *Lathrotriccus euleri* A few at Flor de Café.
Grey-breasted Flycatcher ◊ *Lathrotriccus griseipectus* A pair at Casupe and another bird at Quebrada Frejolillo.
Fuscous Flycatcher *Cnemotriccus fuscatus* Seen in the lowlands.
Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi* Quite numerous in the foothills.
Eastern Wood-peewee *Contopus virens* Common in the eastern foothills.
Smoke-coloured Pewee *Contopus fumigatus* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Tumbes Pewee *Contopus punensis* Commonly recorded at a number of sites in the west.
 (Blackish Pewee *Contopus nigrescens* Site now cleared at Flor de Café).
Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* Common to abundant in the west.
Rufous-tailed Tyrant ◊ *Knipolegus poecilurus* An uncommon, if widely distributed species.
White-winged Black-Tyrant *Knipolegus aterrimus* Seen in the Maranon canyon.



Jelski's Chat-tyrant (Eustace Barnes).

White-browed Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola albilora* A single bird recorded on the high paramos
Black-billed Shrike-tyrant *Agriornis montanus* A pair recorded species of the high paramos
White-tailed Shrike-tyrant ◊ *Agriornis albicauda* A fairly common species of the high paramos near Celendin.
Streak-throated Bush Tyrant *Myiotheretes striaticollis* Seen at Encanada.

Smoky Bush Tyrant *Myiotheretes fumigatus* A pair seen above San Lorenzo.
Rufous-webbed Bush Tyrant *Polioxolmis rufipennis* A regularly recorded species of the high paramos
Tumbes Tyrant ◊ *Tumbezia salvini* An uncommon and localized endemic seen at Chaparri and Bosque Pomac.
Jelski's Chat-tyrant ◊ *Silvicultrix jelskii* A pair seen at Cruz Conga.
Maroon-belted Chat-tyrant ◊ *Ochthoeca thoracica* A regularly recorded denizen of the cloud forests.
Rufous-breasted Chat-tyrant *Ochthoeca rufipectoralis* Common in the temperate zone.
Brown-backed Chat-tyrant *Ochthoeca fumicolor* Seen at a couple of sites.
Piura Chat-Tyrant ◊ *Ochthoeca piurae* A very localized endemic seen at Abra Porculla.
Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus* Common at Flor de Café.
Short-tailed Field Tyrant *Muscigralla brevicauda* Commonly recorded at a number of sites in the west.
Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus* Commonly recorded in the lowlands.
Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Grey-capped Flycatcher *Myiozetetes granadensis* Seen at Wakanki.
Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Baird's Flycatcher ◊ *Myiodynastes bairdii* Common at Quebrada Frejolillo and Chaparri.
Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus* A species common in the tropical lowlands
Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua* A common sound in the tropical lowlands.
Sulphury Flycatcher *Tyrannopsis sulphurea* A pair near Tarapoto.
Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Rufous Flycatcher ◊ *Myiarchus semirufus* A very localized and rare endemic seen at Rahaan.
Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer* Seen at widely scattered sites.
Short-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus ferox* A species common in the tropical lowlands
Pale-edged Flycatcher *Myiarchus cephalotes* An uncommon, if widely distributed species.
Sooty-crowned Flycatcher ◊ *Myiarchus phaeocephalus* Seen both east and west of Abra Porculla
Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus* A species common in the dry wooded areas.
Red-crested Cotinga *Ampelion rubrocristatus* Seen above San Lorenzo.
Peruvian Plantcutter ◊ *Phytotoma raimondii* A very rare endemic seen at Rahaan, by the skin of our teeth.
Green-and-black Fruiteater *Pipreola riefferii* A regularly recorded denizen of the cloud forests.
Barred Fruiteater *Pipreola arcuata* Seen near Leymebamba.
Scarlet-breasted Fruiteater ◊ *Pipreola frontalis* A pair noted near Flor de Café.
Andean Cock-of-the-rock *Rupicola peruvianus* Seen above Affluente.
Grey-tailed Piha ◊ *Snowornis subalaris* One seen and several heard at Flor de Café.
Sulphur-bellied Tyrant-Manakin ◊ *Neopelma sulphureiventer* (H) Heard at Quebrada Upaquihua.
Jet Manakin *Chloropipo unicolor* (H) Heard at Flor de Café.
Fiery-capped Manakin *Machaeropterus Pyrocephalus* (H) None showed despite several searches.
Golden-headed Manakin *Ceratopipra erythrocephala* Several seen at Wakanki.
Yungas Manakin *Chiroxiphia boliviana* Found at Flor de Café. Now being described as a new species.
Whiskered Myiobius *Myiobius barbartus* An uncommon, if widely distributed species.
Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata* A couple noted at Flor de Café.
Yellow-cheeked Becard *Pachyramphus xanthogenys* Seen at Flor de Café.
Barred Becard *Pachyramphus versicolor* A few found in the highlands.
Slaty Becard *Pachyramphus spodiurus* A single male seen at Quebrada Frejolillo.



Baird's Flycatcher (Eustace Barnes).

- White-winged Becard** *Pachyramphus polychopterus* A few at Wakanki.
Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis* Widespread and numerous species.
Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanius leucotis* (H) An uncommon, if widely distributed species.
Brown-capped Vireo *Vireo leucophrys* A few noted at Flor de Café.
Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Olivaceous Greenlet *Hylophilus olivaceus* A few noted above Affluente.
Tawny-crowned Greenlet *Hylophilus ochraceiceps* Seen at Wakanki.
White-collared Jay *Cyanolyca viridicyanus* Common near Leymebamba.
Violaceous Jay *Cyanocorax violaceus* (H) A few heard around Bellavista and Buenos Aires..
White-tailed Jay ♦ *Cyanocorax mystacalis* Commonly recorded at a number of sites in the west.



Inca Jay (Eustace Barnes)

Inca Jay *Cyanocorax yncas* A regularly recorded denizen of the cloud forests.

Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea* Common.

Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Brown-bellied Swallow *Notiochelidon murina* A regularly recorded species of the high paramos

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* One seen at Ventanilla.

Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapillus* Seen above Affluente in clearings in the cloud forest!

Fasciated Wren *Campylorhynchus fasciatus* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Thrush-like Wren *Campylorhynchus turdinus* A species common in the tropical lowlands

Grey-mantled Wren *Odontorchilus branickii* An uncommon, if widely distributed species.

Sepia-brown Wren ◊ *Cinnycerthia olivascens* A couple of family groups noted at Abra Patricia.

Peruvian Wren ◊ *Cinnycerthis peruana* A family group at San Lorenzo.

Grass (Sedge) Wren *Cistothorus platensis* Small numbers seen on the paramos near Celendin.

Plain-tailed Wren ◊ *Pheugopedius euophrys schulenbergi* Another endemic taxon to be described a new species.

Speckle-breasted Wren ◊ *Pheugopedius sclateri sclateri* A common if localized near-endemic taxon.

Speckle-breasted Wren ◊ *Pheugopedius sclateri paucimaculatus* Seen in the western lowlands.

Superciliated Wren ◊ *Cantorchilus superciliaris* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Mountain Wren *Troglodytes solstitialis* A few noted at Abra Patricia.

White-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucosticta* A pair seen near Tarapoto.

Grey-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys* A regularly recorded denizen of the cloud forests.

Bar-winged Wood Wren ◊ *Henicorhina leucoptera* A very localized endemic seen at Alta Nieva.

Southern Nightingale Wren *Microcerculus marginatus* (H) Heard at Wakanki.

Chestnut-breasted Wren *Cyphorhinus thoracicus* An uncommon, if widely distributed species.

Collared Gnatwren *Microbates cinereiventris* Seen near Tarapoto.

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Polioptila plumbea albifacies* A species common in the tropical lowlands

Tropical (Maranon) Gnatcatcher ◊ *Polioptila maior* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Long-tailed Mockingbird *Mimus longicaudatus* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Andean Solitaire *Myadestes ralloides* Several seen in the cloud forests.

Slaty-backed nightingale Thrush *Catharus fuscater* Two seen near Leymebamba.

Swainson's Thrush *Cathartes ustulatus* Common.

Pale-eyed Thrush *Turdus leucops* (L) Seen near Flor de Café.

Great Thrush *Turdus fuscater* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Chiguanco Thrush *Turdus chiguanco* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Glossy-black Thrush *Turdus serranus* (H) A few heard near Leymebamba.

Plumbeous-backed Thrush ◊ *Turdus reevei* Seen at Quebrada Frejolillo and Chaparri.



Marañón Thrush (Eustace Barnes)

Marañón Thrush ◊ *Turdus maranonicus* A very localized endemic seen at Balsas and Hacienda Limón.

Black-billed Thrush *Turdus ignobilis* A species common in the tropical lowlands.

Varzea Thrush ◊ *Turdus sanchezorum* Seen at Wakanki by a couple of the more persistent members of the team..

White-capped Dipper *Cinclus leucocephalus* One seen near Leymebamba.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Now common in most towns.

Yellowish Pipit *Anthus lutescens* Common near Monsefu.

Paramo Pipit *Anthus bogotensis* Seen on the paramos.

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria* A couple noted. A widespread species.

Hooded Siskin *Carduelis magellanica* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

'Saffron' Siskin *Carduelis siemiradzkii* Siskins resembling Saffron Siskins near Quebrada Frejolillo. If not, what?

Purple-throated Euphonia *Euphonia chlorotica* Commonly recorded at a number of sites in the west.

Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia laniirostris* A species common in the tropical lowlands

Golden-rumped Euphonia *Euphonia cyanocephala* Common at Flor de Café.

Bronze-green Euphonia *Euphonia mesochrysa* An uncommon, if widely distributed species.

Orange-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia xanthogaster* A regularly recorded denizen of the cloud forests.

Blue-naped Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia cyanea* Seen and heard at Flor de Café.

Black-lored Yellowthroat *Geothlypis auricularis* Seen at San Marcos. Note that this form often considered distinct.

Cerulean Warbler *Setophaga cerulea* Several seen. Many more than usual.

Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca* Common at this time of year.



Tropical Parula (Eustace Barnes)

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitayumi* Commonly recorded in dry and open country. .

Citrine Warbler *Myiothlypis luteoviridis* A few seen near Leymebamba.

Black-crested Warbler *Myiothlypis nigrocristata* A regularly recorded denizen of the cloud forests.

Buff-rumped Warbler *Myiothlypis fulvicauda* Seen and heard at Wakanki.

Grey-and-gold Warbler ◊ *Myiothlypis fraseri* Several noted at Casupe and Quebrada Frejolillo.

Russet-crowned Warbler *Myiothlypis coronata* Common by voice at Abra Patricia where a few seen.

Three-banded Warbler ◊ *Basileuterus trifasciatus* A very localized near- endemic seen at Abra Porculla.

Three-striped Warbler *Basileuterus tristriatus* Seen at Flor de Café.

Canada Warbler *Cardellina canadensis* Very common at this time of year.

Slate-throated Whitestart *Myioborus miniatus* Commonly recorded in sub-tropics.

Spectacled Whitestart *Myioborus melanocephalus* Common in temperate forests.

Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus* A species common in the tropical lowlands

Russet-backed Oropendola *Psarocolius angustifrons* A few noted at Wakanki.

Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cacicus cela* A regularly recorded denizen of the cloud forests.

Subtropical Cacique *Cacicus uropygialis* A few noted at Abra Patricia.

Northern Mountain Cacique *Cacicus leucoramphus* A large group seen near Leymebamba.

White-edged Oriole ◊ *Icterus graceannae* A common species.

Yellow-tailed Oriole *Icterus mesomelas* Another common icterid.

Orange-backed Troupial *Icterus croconotus* Seen near Myobamba.

Moriche (Epaulet) Oriole *Icterus chryscephalus* Several noted at Flor de Café.

Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus* Seen along the highway from Myobamba to Tarapoto.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis* A species common in the tropical lowlands

Scrub Blackbird ◊ *Dives waczewiczi* Commonly recorded at a number of sites in the west.

Peruvian Meadowlark *Sturnella bellicose* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Oriole Blackbird *Gymnomystax mexicanus* Common around Myobamba now.



Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager (*Eustace Barnes*).

- Pale-eyed Blackbird** ◇ *Agelasticus xanthophthalmus* A pair seen near Myobamba.
- Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola* Very common.
- Rufous-collared Sparrow** *Zonotrichia capensis* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
- Yellow-browed Sparrow** *Ammodramus aurifrons* A species common in the tropical lowlands
- Tumbes Sparrow** ◇ *Rhynchospiza stolzmanni* Small numbers recorded at a number of sites.
- Orange-billed Sparrow** *Arremon aurantirostris* An uncommon, if widely distributed species found at Flor de Café..
- Black-capped Sparrow** *Arremon abeillei* Commonly recorded at Quebrada Frejolillo.
- Black-capped (Maranon) Sparrow** ◇ *Arremon abeillei nigriceps* A localized near-endemic seen at Tamborapa.
- Chestnut-capped Brush Finch** *Arremon brunneinucha* A single bird seen by some near Leymebamba.
- Grey-browed Brush Finch** *Arremon assimilis* Seen at several sites throughout the Andes.
- Yellow-breasted Brush Finch (Northern Rufous-naped B-F)** *Atlapetes latinuchus* Very common.
- Yellow-breasted (Baron's) Brush-finch** ◇ *Atlapetes baroni* Seen from Celendin to Cajamarca.
- White-winged Brush Finch** *Atlapetes leucopterus* Good numbers at Abra Porculla.
- White-headed Brush Finch** ◇ *Atlapetes albiceps* Common at Quebrada Frejolillo.
- Bay-crowned Brush Finch** ◇ *Atlapetes seebohmi* One seen at Abra Porculla.
- Common Bush Tanager** *Chlorospingus flavopectus* A regularly recorded denizen of the cloud forests.
- Yellow-whiskered Bush Tanager** *Chlorospingus parvirostris* Several groups found near Alta Nieva.
- Red-capped Cardinal** *Paroaria gularis* Seen near Bellavista.
- Black-faced Tanager** *Schistochlamys melanopsis* seen in the upper subtropics above Affluente.
- Magpie Tanager** *Cissopis leverianus* A species common in the tropical lowlands
- Rufous-crested Tanager** *Creurgops verticalis* An uncommon, if widely distributed species.
- Superciliaried Hemispingus** *Hemispingus superciliaris* Grey form south, yellow form south. Both noted.
- Oleaginous Hemispingus** *Hemispingus frontalis* Seen Flor de Café.
- Drab Hemispingus** *Hemispingus xanthophthalmus* Several seen at San Lorenzo and Alta Nieva.
- Grey-hooded Bush Tanager** *Cnemoscopus rubrirostris* Seen in the same flocks as the above species.



Yellow-scarfed Tanager (Eustace Barnes)

- Rufous-chested Tanager** *Thlypopsis ornata* An uncommon, if widely distributed species.
- Buff-bellied Tanager** ◊ *Thlypopsis inornata* Seen at Tamborapa.
- Yellow-crested Tanager** *Tachyphonus rufiventer* Seen at Wakanki.
- White-shouldered Tanager** *Tachyphonus luctuosus* A few seen at Flor de Café.
- White-lined Tanager** *Tachyphonus rufus* Seen in the drier woodlands of the mid-Huallaga.
- Huallaga Tanager** ◊ *Ramphocelus melanogaster* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
- Silver-beaked Tanager** *Ramphocelus carbo* Common in the eastern lowlands.
- Blue-grey Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
- Palm Tanager** *Thraupis palmarum* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
- Blue-capped Tanager** *Thraupis cyanocephala* A common and widely distributed species throughout the Andes.
- Blue-and-yellow Tanager** *Thraupis bonariensis* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
- Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager** *Anisognathus igniventris* Seen at Abra Barro Negro.
- Blue-winged Mountain Tanager** *Anisognathus somptuosus* Seen at Leymebamba.
- Yellow-throated Tanager** *Iridosornis analis* Seen below Alta Nieva.
- Yellow-scarfed Tanager** ◊ *Iridosornis reinhardti* A few seen in mixed flocks near Leymebamba.
- Grass-green Tanager** *Chlorornis riefferii* Seen above Leymebamba.
- Orange-eared Tanager** *Chlorochrysa calliparaea* Small numbers seen in mixed flocks at Flor de Café
- Turquoise Tanager** *Tangara mexicana* Recorded in the foothills.
- Paradise Tanager** *Tangara chilensis* Common in mixed flocks at Affluente and Flor de café
- Green-and-gold Tanager** *Tangara schrankii* Small numbers seen in mixed flocks at Flor de Café.
- Golden Tanager** *Tangara arthus* Small numbers seen in mixed flocks at Abra Patricia and Flor de Café.
- Saffron-crowned Tanager** *Tangara xanthocephala* A few seen in mixed flocks at Abra Patricia and Flor de Café.
- Golden-eared Tanager** *Tangara chrysotis* Small numbers found in mixed flocks at Flor de Café
- Flame-faced Tanager** *Tangara parzudakii* Several seen in mixed flocks at Alta Nieva.
- Spotted Tanager** *Tangara punctata* Small numbers seen in mixed flocks at Affluente and Flor de Café.
- Bay-headed Tanager** *Tangara gyrola* Common in mixed flocks at Affluente and Flor de Café.
- Blue-browed Tanager** ◊ *Tangara cyanotis* An uncommon species found in mixed flocks at Flor de Café.
- Blue-necked Tanager** *Tangara cyanicollis* Small numbers seen in mixed flocks at Affluente.
- Beryl-spangled Tanager** *Tangara nigroviridis* Small numbers seen in mixed flocks at Abra Patricia.
- Blue-and-black Tanager** *Tangara vassorii* Small numbers seen in mixed flocks at higher elevations.
- Silver-backed Tanager** *Tangara viridicollis* A few seen in mixed flocks at Abra Patricia.



Buff-bridled Inca-Finch (Eustace Barnes)

- Swallow Tanager** *Tersina viridis* A few seen at Wakanki and Flor de Café.
- Black-faced Dacnis** *Dacnis lineata* In mixed flocks at Flor de Café.
- Blue Dacnis** *Dacnis cayana* A few noted in the lowlands.
- Purple Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes caeruleus* A few seen at Flor de Café.
- Green Honeycreeper** *Chlorophanes spiza* Seen at Flor de Café.
- Guira Tanager** *Hemithraupis guira* Seen at Wakanki.
- Tit-like Dacnis** *Xenodacnis parina* A few noted between Celendin and Cajamarca.
- Cinereous Conebill** *Conirostrum cinereum* Numerous in the drier habitats near Cajamarca.
- Blue-backed Conebill** *Conirostrum sitticolor* Seen at suitable locations in the temperate forests.
- Capped Conebill** *Conirostrum albifrons* A few seen at widely scattered locations.
- Rusty Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa sittoides* First seen at Abra Porculla. Generally uncommon.
- Moustached Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa mystacalis* A few seen at Abra Patricia.
- Black-throated Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa brunneiventris* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
- White-sided Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa albilatera* Not uncommon in the temperate zone.
- Masked Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa cyanea* A numerous component in mixed flocks at Abra Patricia.
- Golden-eyed Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa glauca* Seen at Alta Nieva.
- Red Pileated Finch** *Coryphospingus cucullatus* Common near Jaen and Bagua Grande.
- Peruvian Sierra Finch** *Phrygilus punensis* a few seen around Celendin and Cajamarca.
- Ash-breasted Sierra Finch** *Phrygilus plebejus* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
- Slaty Finch** *Haplospiza rustica* Several seen at Owllet lodge.
- Cinereous Finch** ◊ *Piezorhina cinerea* A common species seen at Chaparri and Bosque Pomac.
- Grey-winged Inca Finch** ◊ *Incaspiza ortizi* A very localized endemic seen at Hacienda Limon.
- Buff-bridled Inca Finch** ◊ *Incaspiza laeta* A very localized if common endemic seen above Balsas.
- Little Inca Finch** ◊ *Incaspiza watkinsii* A family group found near Jaen.
- Saffron Finch** *Sicalis flaveola* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.



Sulphur-throated Finch (Eustace Barnes)

- Sulphur-throated Finch** ♦ *Sicalis taczanowskii* A very localized near-endemic seen at Chaparri.
- Slate-coloured Grosbeak** *Saltator grossus* Seen Wakanki.
- Buff-throated Saltator** *Saltator maximus* A few recorded at a number of sites in the east.
- Greyish Saltator** *Saltator coerulescens* Commonly recorded at a number of sites in the east.
- Black-cowled Saltator** *Saltator nigriceps* Seen Casupe and Abra Porculla.
- Golden-billed Saltator** *Saltator aurantirostris* A few recorded at a number of sites.
- Streaked Saltator** ♦ *Saltator striatipectus* Common. Streaked and un-streaked varieties recorded
- Blue-black Grassquit** *Volatinia jacarina* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
- Yellow-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila nirgricollis* Seen a couple of places.
- Parrot-billed Seedeater** *Sporophila peruviana* Common to abundant at Chaparri.
- Drab Seedeater** *Sporophila simplex* A few recorded in the Maranon canyon at Hacienda Limon.
- Chestnut-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila castaneiventris* A few recorded.
- Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch** *Oryzoborus angolensis* found in the lowlands.
- Black-billed Seed Finch** ♦ *Oryzoborus atrirostris* A few near Myobamba. A rare species.
- Band-tailed Seedeater** *Catamenia analis* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
- Plain-coloured Seedeater** *Catamenia inornata* Quite numerous around Cajamarca.
- Dull-coloured Grassquit** *Tiaris obscurus* Seen at a number of sites.
- Tooth-billed Hepatic Tanager (Highland)** *Piranga lutea* Small numbers recorded.
- Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra* Seen Wakanki.
- Scarlet Tanager** *Piranga olivacea* Seen Wakanki
- White-winged Tanager** *Piranga leucoptera* An uncommon, if widely distributed species.
- Olive Tanager** *Chlorothraupis frenata* Commonly heard near Tarapoto where glimpsed by a few of us.
- Southern Yellow Grosbeak** *Pheucticus chrysogaster* Commonly recorded at a number of sites in the Andes.

MAMMALS

- Sechura Fox** *Pseudalopex sechurae* Several seen at Chaparri lodge.
- Tayra** *Eira barbara* (L) Seen at Owllet lodge.
- San Martin (Rio Mayo) Titi** *Callicebus oenanthe* At least three seen at Quebrada Upaquiua. Critically endangered species and a mega-mammal to see.
- Andean Saddle-back Tamarin** *Saguinus leucogenys* A large group seen at Wakanki.
- Guayaquil Squirrel** *Sciurus stramineus* One seen near Casupe.



The highly photogenic Humboldt Penguin (Eustace Barnes).

TOP 10.

- 1 - Pale-billed Antpitta – for outstanding service.**
- 2 - Long-whiskered Owlet – for showing at all.**
- 3 - Marvelous Spatuletail - for being.**
- 4 - Cordillera Azul Antbird – for being new. A fancy antbird in any event.**
- 5 - Stygian Owl – for sheer class.**
- 6 - Scarlet-banded Barbet – slipping but still a class act.**
- 7 – Ochre-fronted Antpitta – for giving us a thrill at the last minute.**
- 8 – Scarlet-breasted Fruiteater – for sitting still.**
- 9 – Grey-bellied Comet – for doing what it was supposed to.**
- 10 – Yellow-scarfed Tanager – for searing coloration.**



Top breakfast spot of the trip (Eustace Barnes)



Top Moth of the trip; a huge hawk moth, probably sp nov (Eustace Barnes)