

Birding Ecotours



CENTRAL PERU SET DEPARTURE TRIP REPORT

14-28 September 2019

By Eduardo Ormaeche



The endemic and Vulnerable (IUCN) White-cheeked Cotinga was one of our special targets on this tour (photo Alejandro Tello).

Overview

Our group for this tour had done a Comprehensive Northern Peru tour with us some years ago, which included the beautiful Cordillera Blanca and the *Polylepis* forest at the base of the Huascarán mountain, so they asked us to do a shorter version of our 21-day trip, deleting the third week.

Nevertheless our Central Peru tour 2019 was one of the most enjoyable trips I have ever led along this great birding route. Perhaps this would not be the ideal destination for the less adventurous birder, as the trip is a fabulous, long drive across four Peruvian states, providing the opportunity to explore the most mega-diverse habitats in the country, such as the Pacific shores along the coast of Lima, the dry inter-Andean valleys, the high Andes with their respective ecosystems including bog cushion habitats at the base of the snow-capped mountains, *Polylepis* forest, high plateaus covered by tussocks like the Junín Altiplano, elfin Andean forest, cloudforest mountains, and upper-tropical mountains where the Andes meet the Amazon. We can translate this description of habitats into a great set of endemics and range-restricted species.

On this trip we saw some classic South American and most-wanted species such as **Torrent Duck, Andean Condor, Andean Cock-of-the rock, Hoatzin, Giant Hummingbird, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Sunbittern, and Golden-headed Quetzal** as well as a large number of exquisite endemic and range-restricted species such as **Great Inca Finch, Rufous-breasted Warbling Finch, White-bellied Cinclodes, Diademed Sandpiper-Plover, Junin Grebe, White-cheeked Cotinga, Chestnut-crested Cotinga, Bay-vented Cotinga, Black-spectacled Brushfinch, White-eared Solitaire, Fiery-throated and Black Metaltails, Eye-ringed Thistletail, Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe, Raimondi Yellow Finch, Slender-billed Finch, and Cloudforest Screech Owl**. We also managed to see a species described just six years ago, the **Junin Tapaculo**, and some yet undescribed taxa like the Mantaro Valley specialists.

Central Peru used to be one of the most popular birding destinations in Peru back in the 1970s, when several species were described to science for the first time. But those days seems to be out of fashion, perhaps because the northern Peru route has become more accessible to travelers during the last years. But central Peru still not only offers a great introduction to the tropics but also is obligatory for world listers due to its large range of endemic birds. However, the inconvenience of the horrid traffic along the first 100 kilometers (62 miles) of the Central Highway, the fact that the trip takes you to high elevations in the Andes close to 4800 meters (15748 feet) above sea level, and the lack of top birding resorts and lodges might discourage some birders, but on the other hand there are fewer crowds on this tour and it is less busy at the birding hot spots. To me it is a great pleasure to lead this tour. Without many birding facilities such as hummingbird feeders and antpitta stations it is an enjoyable old-school birding tour and very much an overland vehicle trip over the Andes.

We encourage you to take this trip for a great experience in the Andes of South America. We managed to record 344 species, including, 34 Peruvian endemics, 17 near-endemics found in Peru and in one adjacent country only, three undescribed taxa, and 30 species of hummingbirds despite the absence of hummingbird feeders.

Detailed Report

Day 1, September 14th 2019. Lomas de Asia, Cañete River, and transfer to Santa Eulalia

We had an early start, meeting in our nice hotel in Miraflores and then heading south of Lima to the Lomas de Asia reserve. During the last few years this reserve provided excellent opportunities for some of the harder species in the classic Lomas de Lachay reserve north of Lima. Therefore this time we tried for two endemic species that were missing on our list of endemics species of the state of Lima and which we had missed in our Lomas de Lachay visit in 2012. During the drive south of Lima we passed the shores of the Pacific Ocean (Costa Verde), getting glimpses of **Kelp** and **Belcher's Gulls**, **Neotropic Cormorant**, **Inca Tern**, and **West Peruvian Dove**. We arrived at Lomas de Asia and immediately, as soon as we got out of the vehicle, we saw our first **Oasis Hummingbird** male together with some nice **Amazilia Hummingbirds** feeding in the flowers not far from the entrance. Other birds included **Collared Warbling Finch**, **Cinereous Conebill**, **Band-tailed Sierra Finch**, **Peruvian Meadowlark**, **Blue-black Grassquit** and **Short-tailed Field Tyrant**. We did not have to wait too long until we saw our first target of the day, **Raimondi Yellow Finch**; we had nice views of two pairs along the main trail. We arrived at the benches area, when suddenly we saw our second target, the endemic **Thick-billed Miner**. We had superb, close-up views of two birds two meters from us. Amazing! The weather was perfect, and we found our birds so quickly that we decided to add to our itinerary an unexpected visit to the Cañete River to look for the most-wanted Slender-billed Finch. Even though this would include a long drive and getting to our hotel at dusk it was a good try after that first shock of good luck. I am glad that we made that decision, because as soon as we arrived at the Cañete River we found an unexpected lifer, **Black-lored Yellowthroat**, and had great views of **Bran-colored Flycatcher**, which is a potential split, "Rufescens Flycatcher", another potential lifer for the group. It took us a while, but we managed to have good but quick views of **Slender-billed Finch**. We had a nice lunch served by Julio, our driver and master chef. Continuing birding, we added **American Kestrel**, **Scrub Blackbird**, **Long-tailed Mockingbird**, and **Chestnut-throated Seedeater** and heard **Plumbeous Rail** and **Black-necked Woodpecker**, but we did not pursue them as we had seen both previously during our Northern Peru tour in 2012. We started the long drive on the connection of southern Lima with the eastern part of Lima, the Central Highway. Driving directly to Santa Eulalia we had to deal with the Central "Nightmare" Highway, as it was at the peak of rush hour. After some road complications we managed to arrive at our lodge and enjoyed a tasty dinner with a cold beer. A good start!

Day 2, September 15th 2019. Santa Eulalia road

We left our lodge at predawn, started to drive the entire Santa Eulalia road above the Santa Eulalia Valley, from 1000-3500 meters (3280-11482 feet) above sea level along one of the roads with the most dramatic views in Peru, and spent the morning targeting Peruvian endemics and west-slope specialists. Our first stop produced good views of **Oasis Hummingbird**, **Andean Swift**, **American Kestrel**, the endemic **Great Inca Finch**, **White-browed Chat-Tyrant**, and **Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant**. Unfortunately the Streaked Tit-Spinetail did not want to play at all. We climbed higher along the road and went directly to the village of Huachupampa, and not far from the entrance we had tremendous views of the endemic and elusive **Rufous-breasted**

Warbling Finch. This having been the big target of the day we now could rest more easily. The sky was open and bright, perfect conditions for Andean Condor, but we did not find it. However, **Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle** and **Variable Hawks** were seen on more than one occasion. We also enjoyed the impressive **Giant Hummingbird**, several male **Peruvian Sheartails**, **Sparkling Violetear**, **Blue-and-yellow Tanager**, **Mourning Sierra Finch**, **Band-tailed Seedeater**, the endemic **Black-necked Woodpecker**, **Pied-crested Tit-Tyrant**, **Greenish Yellow Finch**, **Pacific Pygmy Owl**, **Ash-breasted Sierra Finch**, **Canyon Canastero**, **Hooded Siskin**, **Cinereous Conebill**, **Bare-faced** and **Black-winged Ground Doves**, **Spot-winged Pigeon**, **Andean Tinamou**, **Rusty-crowned Tit-Spinetail**, and remarkable views of the endemic **Bronze-tailed Comet**. By lunchtime the activity had slowed down; however, we still found the endemic **Rusty-bellied Brush Finch**, **Golden Grosbeak**, **Chiguanco Thrush**, **Rufous-collared Sparrow**, **Purple-collared Woodstar**, and **House Wren** while enjoying some snacks made by our master chef. We drove back to the Puente Autisha area, making several stops to look for Streaked Tit-Spinetail, but unfortunately to no avail.



Rufous-breasted Warbling Finch (photo Alejandro Tello)



Peruvian Sheartail (photo Alejandro Tello)

We drove back to our lodge after spending some time birding at lower elevations in the Santa Eulalia Valley. It was a great day indeed, even though the Streaked Tit-Spintail managed to elude us. A good dinner was followed by an early bedtime to rest and get ready for the next day.

Day 3, September 16th 2019. Marcapomacocha and transfer to Concepción

Marcapomacocha and the road to Milloc area, at 4700 meters (15419 feet) above sea level between the borders of the states of Lima and Junín at the base of snow-capped mountains, is a habitat of a great set of high-elevation birds that have made the name Marcapomacocha almost legendary among birders. We had a whole morning to look for several targets, and we knew that we had to take it easy because of the high elevation. Fortunately we had good weather on our side, and the birds were very active. We started the day with views of **Creamy-winged Cinclodes** as well as of several **Bright-rumped Yellow Finches**, **Black Siskin**, **White-winged Diuca Finch**, and **Plumbeous Sierra Finch**.

We passed the mining sector and went directly to the habitat of one of the most-wanted species in the world, Diademed Sandpiper-Plover. We explored the bog cushions of Marcapomacocha, and there it was, our **Diademed Sandpiper-Plover** in the scope! We also had excellent views of **Olivaceous Thornbill**, **Ochre-naped**, **Cinereous**, and **Taczanowski's Ground Tyrants**, and a magnificent **Andean Condor** with two **Mountain Caracaras** soaring above us.



Diademed Sandpiper-Plover (photo Alejandro Tello)



Andean Condor (photo Alejandro Tello)

We left Marcapomacocha toward the Ticlio Pass, the highest mountain pass in the Peruvian Andes 4818 meters (15807 feet) above sea level. Before the pass we had scope views of **Giant Coot** and the endemic and Critically Endangered (IUCN) **White-bellied Cinclodes**, which performed amazingly for us. We also had a nice view of **Culpeo** (Andean Fox), which is the second-largest canid in South America. Birding the high pass proper we saw the endemic **Dark-**

winged Miner, Slender-billed Miner, Buff-breasted Earthcreeper, Mountain Caracara, Andean Flicker, Andean Goose, Andean Gull, Streak-backed Canastero, and the most-wanted Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe. Then we headed toward Concepción in Junín state for an overnight.



White-bellied Cinclodes



Andean Fox (photo Alejandro Tello)



Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe (photo Alejandro Tello)

Day 4, September 18th 2019. Satipo Road (upper parts)

On this, perhaps one of the longest days of the trip, we left Concepción to bird the upper parts of the famous Satipo Road. Due to the lack of accommodation and facilities we strategically focus on the high and mid elevations of the Satipo Road on our first day here, drive all the way down to Satipo, and later focus only on the mid to low elevations of this so productive road. The upper parts of the road did not add any new species as we climbed high to 4000 meters (13123 feet) near Lake Pomacochas. We did see **Andean Goose** and **Andean Gull**, but the best was a pair of **Aplomado Falcons** on a rock near the road. We drove directly to Puente Carrizales, but not before we had great views of the still-undescribed “**Millpo Tapaculo**”. This part of the Mantaro Valley still holding at least three different taxa that still wait for scientific description, and a new species of *Scytalopus*, Junin Tapaculo, has been described to science recently. It took a time, but we finally found our first target, the endemic **Fiery-throated Metaltail**, and minutes later we had super views of the range-restricted and endemic **Eye-ringed Thistletail**.



Aplomado Falcon

We arrived in the cloudforest and managed to find **Crimson-mantled Woodpecker**, **Smoke-colored Pewee**, **Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager**, **Slaty Brushfinch**, **Barred Fruiteater**, and the endemic **Peruvian Wren**. Then we started the long drive to Satipo, knowing that we would return for more

Day 5, September 19th 2019. Apalla-Andamarca Road

Again we had a predawn start to get back to the road. Today we planned to explore the Apalla-Andamarca Road on the Mantaro Valley slope and focus on a handful of endemics and undescribed species in this remote area of Peru. We had an excellent start with birds such as the endemic **Creamy-crested Spinetail**, **Citrine Warbler**, **White-winged Black Tyrant**, **Golden-billed Saltator**, and in the same area “**Mantaro Wren**” and the endemic **Black-spectacled Brushfinch**. What a start! We continued birding the drier parts of the road until we arrived in the habitat of “**Mantaro Thornbird**”, which did not prove too difficult for us.

With the three top birds for this section of the valley in the bag we went back to the humid cloudforest area to add three more endemics, namely **Tschudi’s Tapaculo**, **Junin Tapaculo**, and **Marcapata Spinetail**. Sadly Chestnut Antpitta did not play for us. However, we found other excellent birds such as **Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan**, **Northern Mountain Cacique**, **Hooded Mountain Tanager**, **White-banded Tyrannulet**, **White-throated Tyrannulet**, **Pearled Treerunner**, **Barred Fruiteater**, **Streaked Tuftedcheek**, **Mountain Wren**, and **Inca Jay**.

Then we birded the Satipo Road again on the way back to Satipo, and we enjoyed the hoped-for **Andean Cock-of-the-rock**. We could have found more birds, but we had to cover some distance before getting back to Satipo. We left in good time and descended to the tropical weather of Satipo and back to our favorite restaurant, La Vaquita Loca, for a great dinner, a cold beer, and a toast to another long, great day.



Andean Cock-of-the rock

Day 6, September 20th 2019. Satipo Road (lower parts) and transfer to Oxapampa

We had another predawn start to explore the lower parts of the Satipo Road. We had a tasty breakfast made by our master chef and were ready at dawn for the birds. On the way we flushed a **Pauraque** off the road and then had nice views of **Andean Motmot**, **Bluish-fronted Jacamar**, **Dusky-green Oropendola**, a pair of **Rufous-capped Nunlets**, **Long-tailed Tyrant**, **Great Kiskadee**, **Social Flycatcher**, **White-browed Antbird**, **Blackish Antbird** (heard only), and **Bay-headed, Spotted, Paradise, and Magpie Tanagers**. We were searching for Amazonian Umbrellabird, but without success. Then we saw **Fasciated Tiger Heron** along the river. Farther up we found **Blue-banded Toucanet** and **Versicolored Barbet**, and as the morning ended we continued our journey toward Ulcumano Lodge in Oxapampa in the Pasco state.



Cloud-forest Screech Owl (photo Eduardo Ormaeche)

We were welcomed by our host, who after checking us into our rooms and providing us with a great dinner took us to a new site for the most-wanted species on his property, the little-known **Cloud-forest Screech Owl**. We scored with this owl on our first night at Ulcumano Lodge, and the next day was full of promises.

Day 7, September 21st 2019. Ulcumano Lodge

We spent the whole morning birding the lodge surroundings after enjoying an amazing breakfast. We found **Tricolored Brushfinch**, **Striped Treehunter**, **Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner** (heard only), and the striking **White-eared Solitaire**. In addition **Flavescent Flycatcher**, **Yellow-throated Tanager** were found, and our main targets were about to come. First we had great views of the endemic **Rufous-vented Tapaculo** followed by good views of the endemic **Masked Fruiteater**, **Andean Motmot**, **Rufous-booted Racket-tail**, **Long-tailed Sylph**, **Bronzy Inca**, and **Chestnut-breasted Coronet**. We tried hard for the endemic Bay Antpitta but had no success in the morning, as the bird was quiet. Then we had the first rain on the trip and went back to the lodge, but not before watching the splendid **Chestnut-crested Cotinga** in the scope. The afternoon was quiet, and we decided to give Bay Antpitta another try, but it seemed that the bird was not vocal at this time of the year around Ulcumano Lodge. We saw **Red-throated Caracara**, unusual at the lodge's elevation, and then hit a flock with species such as **Beryl-spangled Tanager**, **Yellow-throated Tanager**, **Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet**, **Streaked Xenops**, **Variable Antshrike**, **Common Bush Tanager**, and **Sickle-winged Guan**.

Day 8, September 22nd 2019. Bosque Fundo Armorique

We left Ulcumano and drove toward La Merced, where we met our local contact who took us to the recently opened Fundo Armorique, a local coffee plantation with a huge undisturbed forest (Bosque Fundo Armorique) above on the mountains. The drive from the main road to the forest can be tricky and is possibly impassable without a 4x4 during the rainy season, when it can get very muddy. Fortunately we did not have that problem and arrived rather quickly at the plantation. Our first bird was **Round-tailed Manakin**; we had good views of at least three males at the lek. Then we returned to the vehicle and drove near the top of the forest on the mountain. The birding was outstanding. not only did we find our main target, the endemic **Creamy-bellied Antwren**, which proved a bit tricky this time, but also saw unexpected species like the endemic **Cerulean-capped Manakin**, **Rufous-breasted Wood Quail**, **Ocellated Piculet**, **Chestnut-backed Antshrike**, **Blue-headed Parrot**, **White-backed Fire-eye**, **Plain-winged Antshrike**, **Stripe-chested Antwren**, **White-crowned Manakin**, **Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant**, **Streaked Xenops**, and **Montane Foliage-gleaner**. We heard **Northern White-crowned Tapaculo** but did not try for it, as we were trying to catch a bigger fish, **Brown Tinamou**, which came closer but not close enough.



White-crowned Manakin

After a great session in the morning we drove back to the plantation, where there was open country and we saw common species such as **Common Tody-Flycatcher**, **Swallow Tanager**, **Speckled Chachalaca**, **Blue-grey Tanager**, **Palm Tanager**, **White-necked Jacobin**, and **Black-breasted Mango**.

We then left the Chanchamayo Valley and drove to Tarma, where we found ourselves trapped in a local parade with hundreds of people and a nightmare traffic jam – the worst thing you can expect after a long birding day. The noise took some time to vanish, but fortunately a nice beer helped us to get some deserved rest at the end of the day.

Day 9, September 23rd 2019. Lake Junín and drive to Huánuco

We left Tarma and drove to the shores of Lake Junín. This largest lake entirely within Peruvian territory is part of the Junín National Reserve, which is of great natural, environmental, and historical importance. To see the flightless, Critically endangered (IUCN), and endemic Junin Grebe we had to drive to Ondores and from there take a small boat across the lake to the Cazapatos sector, where a big population of the grebe still occurs. We arrived at Ondores in time to have breakfast and look for our first target, the local subspecies of **Black Rail**, which is considered by some authorities to be as a different species, Junin Rail. With the help of Cesar, the local boatman and bird guide in the Junín Lake area, we managed to track down this once mythical and almost impossible-to-see species. We had great looks of one individual on the tall grass at the lake edge. Another outstanding bird was a male **Black-breasted Hillstar** perched on a huge bolder, giving us great views. The lake was full of the classic Andean waterfowl, with species including **Cinnamon Teal**, **Puna Teal**, **Yellow-billed Teal**, **Yellow-billed Pintail**, **Crested Duck**, and **Andean Duck**. Several **Andean Coots**, **Wilson's Phalarope**, **Baird's Sandpiper**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, and hundreds of **Chilean Flamingos** provided a beautiful natural backdrop. We also managed to find a fabulous couple of **Junin Grebes**. Perfect! Other birds on the lake included **Silvery Grebe**, **Andean Negrito**, **Andean Goose**, **Puna Ibis**, **Andean Lapwing**, **Andean Flicker**, **Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant**, and **Cinereous Harrier**. Later we drove along the Ondores road and found at least three **Puna Snipes** and a **Lesser Horned Owl** roosting at daytime.



Junin Grebe (photo Alejandro Tello)

We continued our drive across the Andes until we arrived in Huánuco, the capital city of the Huánuco state, for a three-night stay. We checked into our comfortable hotel, ready for dinner and a cold beer.

Day 10, September 24th 2019. Bosque Unchog

So far, after 10 days of fun and adventure, we could boast not only about the success with our targets but also about the great weather we had during the tour. Sadly today was an exception. We left Huánuco before dawn in order to be on time at the famous Bosque Unchog elfin forest. After a couple of hours we arrived on time at Bosque Unchog for breakfast, and as soon as we had finished and were ready for our birding hike the clouds covered the sky and it really looked like rain. We had to play it by instinct and continued walking, as the rain might take some time to fall. We soon found the endemic **Coppery Metaltail**, **Line-fronted Canastero**, **Red-crested Cotinga**, and **Moustached Flowerpiercer**. Later we saw **White-chinned Thistletail**, and right there the rain came and did not stop except for a few minutes during the entire morning. It spoiled the birding day and the chances to score our targets. But despite the fact that we had to be careful while walking down a narrow, steep trail we did well and managed to get to our usual site for the endemic Golden-backed Mountain Tanager, which, however, couldn't be found. We waited for a while until the rain stopped for a few minutes, which gave us some bird activity. We found a flock with **White-banded Tyrannulet**, **White-throated Tyrannulet**, **Pearled Treerunner**, **Hooded Mountain Tanager**, **Chestnut-bellied Mountain Tanager**, **Yellow-scarfed Tanager**, and **Golden-collared Tanager**. All these birds passed very fast, and it was difficult to follow them through the low canopy of the elfin forest. After some minutes, though, we had great views of the endemic **Bay-vented Cotinga** perched in front of us. Then another good species showed up nicely, **Pardusco**. We waited for a few hours, but there was no sign for the weather to get better; in fact it got worse, so we decided to start the hike back to the car. Before we left the site we had splendid views of the endemic **Neblina Tapaculo**.

Before we arrived at the little community of Cochabamba located below Bosque Unchog we found another endemic, the range-restricted **Brown-flanked Tanager**. On the way to the main road we crossed the dry section of the valley, a suitable habitat for the endemic **Spot-throated Hummingbird**, which we saw right away. Other birds included **Pacific Pygmy Owl**, **Fasciated Wren**, and **White-bellied Hummingbird**.

Another day had passed, and we were ready for another delicious dinner and a good checklist session. Over dinner we decided to skip our extra day at Bosque Unchog and switch it to another locality. It was a hard decision for everybody, but it would have been difficult to repeat the hike on another rainy day, and the forecast was showing rain for the Huánuco area again. So we decided to do the best for the group's safety and enjoyment, and I came with a good option for the next day, namely a morning in the tropical lowlands of Tingo Maria to look for Blue-headed Macaw, which was on the wish list of the participants but had not been expected to be found on the tour.



Bay-vented Cotinga (photo Alejandro Tello)

Day 11, September 25th 2019. Tingo Maria and Villa Jennifer Lodge

We had another predawn start, drove to Tingo Maria, and arrived at the entrance of the Tingo Maria National Park, where we stopped and started to scan the forest clearing, canopy, and river looking for the macaw. We saw flocks of **White-eyed Parakeets**, **White-winged Swallow**, **White-banded Swallow**, **Southern Rough-winged Swallow**, and **Blue-grey Tanager** and a glimpse of **Blue-headed Macaw** silhouetted in the sky. Well, not good enough! We explored some areas away from the main road, following the Monzón and Huallaga Rivers. We found **Swallow-winged Puffbird**, **Black-capped Donacobius**, and **Hoatzin**, but no trace of the macaw. So we decided to return to the entrance of Tingo Maria National Park, where we finally found a couple of **Blue-headed Macaws** perched in a tree and giving exquisite scope views.

Then we went to bird the Villa Jennifer Lodge, where we were able to add more species to our day list, including **Bluish-fronted Jacamar**, the endemic **Huallaga Tanager**, **Ringed Kingfisher**, **Amazon Kingfisher**, **Bat Falcon**, **Orange-backed Troupial**, **Golden-tailed Sapphire**, **Chestnut-eared Aracari**, **Grey-capped Flycatcher**, and the silhouettes of **Military Macaws**.

After lunch in the lodge we drove back to Huánuco with a stop at the Carpish Tunnel. Once one of our favorite birding spots, the habitat now is dramatically disappearing due to large-scale deforestation and the introduction of Hortensia (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) for commercial purposes. We made a brief stop at the tunnel to add **Violet-throated Starfrontlet** and **Amethyst-throated Sunangel**, and back at our hotel in Huánuco we celebrated another good birding day.

Day 12, September 26th 2019. Kotosh and drive to La Oroya

The original plan for today had been a day of travel between Huánuco and La Oroya with some birding along the way. But there was nothing new left for the group to see, except one country endemic, Junin Canastero, so we decided to have a late start, to enjoy the hotel breakfast, and before hitting the road to make a short visit to the pre-Hispanic site of Kotosh, five kilometers from the city of Huánuco. The Temple of the Crossed Hands is one of the oldest ancient religious archaeological sites in the Americas, around 4,000 years old. The visit was an interesting and educational experience. There were not many birds at the site except for a few **Fasciated Wrens** and **Blue-and-white Swallows**.

After a short visit we found ourselves getting out of bustling Huánuco and hitting the road again. We made a stop outside Huánuco, and, although it took a while, we found **Rufous-backed Inca Finch**. Then we drove along the Polylepis forest of La Quinoa but we did not stop, as we had birded the Huascarán National Park in 2012, finding all the Polylepis specialists except one, which was left for the very last day of this tour. We started climbing, and a couple of hours later we were back at 4000 meters (13123 feet) in the Junín plains. It was nice to see troops of wild **Vicuñas**; this amazing animal is recovering from its once very endangered existence. We looked for a good spot that would allow our driver and master chef to prepare some tasty soup while we were determined to find our target. And after a few minutes there it was, the endemic **Junin Canastero**. With the canastero in the bag we made our way back to La Oroya. Sleeping at 3800 meters (12467 feet) is not an easy task, but the new hotel in town is so comfortable that we had a good night's sleep to get ready for our last birding day in the Central Andes.



Vicuña

Day 13, September 27th 2019. Polylepis Forest and transfer back to Lima

We had another early start to leave La Oroya on the route to Marcapomacocha, then to the detour to Milloc, and then we connected with the Santa Eulalia road once more. In the upper parts of the Santa Eulalia Valley at 3700 meters (12139 feet) there is a patch of Polylepis forest called Japaní. This has been a reliable site for the endemic and most-wanted White-cheeked Cotinga for some years, and we were determined to get it after having missed it in 2012. We arrived at the site before 8 a.m. in time for coffee, set up the scope, and started to look for our target. By the road we found the endemic **Rusty-crowned Tit-Spinetail**, **Mourning Sierra Finch**, **Peruvian Sierra Finch**, and **Rufous-collared Sparrow**. We also had superb views of the endemic **Black Metaltail**, **D'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrant**, and finally of our target, the exquisite **White-cheeked Cotinga**. Mission accomplished!

We continued driving the Santa Eulalia road and finding old friends like **White-capped Dipper**, **Torrent Duck**, and **Great Inca Finch**. Sadly we could not find Streaked Tit-Spinetail this time, but we had lots to be happy about and continued the drive to the crazy city of Lima. We arrived at our hotel in the afternoon and went immediately to get a light late lunch, which was perfect for us. Then we said our fairwells, carrying wonderful memories and a huge list of Peruvian endemics.

Day 14, September 28th 2019. Transfer to the airport for departure

The group was met by our private shuttle and transferred to the airport.

BIRD LIST (Taxonomy IOC 9.2)**Tinamidae****Brown Tinamou (H)** *Crypturellus obsoletus* Heard above La Merced**Andean Tinamou** *Nothoprocta pentlandii* Seen along the Santa Eulalia road**Cracidae****Speckled Chachalaca** *Ortalis guttata* Seen and heard above La Merced**Andean Guan** *Penelope montagnii* Seen along the Satipo Road**Sickle-winged Guan** *Chamaepetes goudotii* Seen at Ulcumano Lodge near Oxapampa. Here the subspecies *rufiventris***Odontophoridae****Rufous-breasted Wood Quail** *Odontophorus speciosus* Great views of two individuals above La Merced. An amazing encounter with this always hard-to-see species. The species is classified as Near-threatened. Here the subspecies *speciosus***Anatidae****Torrent Duck** *Merganetta armata* Great views along the mid Satipo Road. One of the classics of the Andes**Andean Goose** *Chloephaga melanoptera* Nice views at high elevation**Yellow-billed Teal** *Anas flavirostris* Seen on Lake Junín. Here the subspecies *oxyptera***Puna Teal** *Spatula puna* Seen on Lake Junín**Yellow-billed Pintail** *Anas georgica* Seen on Lake Junín. Here the subspecies *spinicauda***Crested Duck** *Lophonetta specularioides* Great views of this attractive duck at Lake Junín. Here the subspecies *alticola***Cinnamon Teal** *Spatula cyanoptera* Seen on Lake Junín. Here the subspecies *orinoma***Andean Duck** *Oxyura ferruginea* Seen on Lake Junín. *Oxyura ferruginea* is split from *O. jamaicensis* (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001; Jaramillo 2003, Dickinson 2003); lumped by some (H&M4, Fjeldsa 1986, SACC, McCracken & Sorenson 2005) based on hybrid populations (*andina*) in Colombia**Caprimulgidae****Pauraque** *Nyctidromus albicollis* One seen along the road on the lower Satipo Road**Rufous Nightjar** *Antrostomus rufus* One flushed during our morning hike in the forest above La Merced**Apodidae****Chestnut-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne rutila* Seen along the Satipo Road**White-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne zonaris* Massive flocks above the Satipo Road**Andean Swift** *Aeronautes andecolus* Seen along the Santa Eulalia Valley**Neotropical Palm Swift** *Tachornis squamata* Seen at Villa Jennifer Lodge near Tingo Maria**Trochilidae****Sparkling Violetear** *Colibri coruscans* Seen along the Santa Eulalia Valley**Black-throated Mango** *Anthracothorax nigricollis* Good views above La Merced**Fork-tailed Woodnymph** *Thalurania furcata* Good views above La Merced**Golden-tailed Sapphire** *Chrysuronia oenone* Seen at Villa Jennifer Lodge**Spot-throated Hummingbird** *Leucippus taczanowskii* Seen in the drier sections of the Huallaga Valley near Huánuco. A Peruvian endemic**White-bellied Hummingbird** *Amazilia chionogaster* Seen along the drier part of the Huallaga Valley near Huánuco

Amazilia Hummingbird *Amazilia amazilia* Seen at Lomas de Asia and the lower parts of the Santa Eulalia Valley

Sapphire-spangled Emerald *Amazilia lactea* Good views at Villa Jennifer Lodge

Speckled Hummingbird *Adelomyia melanogenys* Seen at Ulcumano Lodge

Chestnut-breasted Coronet *Boissonneaua matthewsii* Seen at Ulcumano Lodge

Shining Sunbeam *Aglaeactis cupripennis* Seen at high elevations between Concepción and Comas

Black-breasted Hillstar *Oreotrochilus melanogaster* Great views in Marcapomacocha and Junín. A Peruvian endemic

Mountain Velvetbreast *Lafresnaya lafresnayi* Seen well along the Apalla-Andamarca Road

Bronzy Inca *Coeligena coeligena* Seen at Ulcumano Lodge

Collared Inca *Coeligena torquata* Seen along the Satipo Road

Violet-throated Starfrontlet *Coeligena violifer* Good views in the Carpath Tunnel

Sword-billed Hummingbird *Ensifera ensifera* Good views along the Satipo Road

Giant Hummingbird *Patagona gigas* Great views in the upper part of the Santa Eulalia road. The largest hummer in the world

Amethyst-throated Sunangel *Heliangelus amethysticollis* Seen well at the Carpath Tunnel. Here the subspecies *decolor*

Rufous-booted Racket-tail *Ocreatus addae* Seen well at Ulcumano Lodge. Rufous-booted Racket-tail *O. addae* is split from [White-booted] Booted Racket-tail (Schuchman et al. 2016). Tentatively includes *annae*. Found in Peru and Bolivia

Black-tailed Trainbearer *Lesbia victoriae* Seen at suitable habitat along the Satipo Road

Bronze-tailed Comet *Polyonymus caroli* Great views of a glowing male in the upper Santa Eulalia Valley. A Peruvian endemic

Tyrian Metaltail *Metallura tyrianthina* Seen at a few locations

Fiery-throated Metaltail *Metallura eupogon* It took us a while, but we had a good view of one individual at the Carrizales bridge. A Peruvian endemic and restricted to a very tiny portion of the central Andes

Coppery Metaltail *Metallura theresiae* Good views at Bosque Unchog. A Peruvian endemic

Black Metaltail *Metallura phoebe* Seen at the White-cheeked Cotinga site in the upper parts of the Santa Eulalia Valley. A Peruvian endemic

Olivaceous Thornbill *Chalcostigma olivaceum* Incredible views of this most-wanted hummer working on the tiny flowers that grow a few inches above the bog cushion grounds in Marcapomacocha. A real survivor. Found in Peru and Bolivia. Here the subspecies *pallens*

Long-tailed Sylph *Aglaiocercus kingii* Good views at Ulcumano Lodge

Oasis Hummingbird *Rhodopis vesper* Great views at Lomas de Asia. Found in Peru and Chile

Peruvian Sheartail *Thaumastura cora* Good views along the Santa Eulalia road

Purple-collared Woodstar *Myrtis fanny* Seen at Lomas de Asia and the Santa Eulalia road

Cuculidae

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris* Several seen along the west slope of the Andes

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* Seen in the lower parts of the Satipo Road and at Tingo Maria

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* One noticed at Villa Jennifer Lodge near Tingo Maria

Columbidae

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* Common

Spot-winged Pigeon *Patagioenas maculosa* Good views in the upper Santa Eulalia Valley. Here the subspecies *albipennis*

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata* Seen along the upper part of the Satipo Road

Plumbeous Pigeon *Patagioenas plumbea* Seen at the lower Satipo Road

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis* Seen near Tingo Maria

Bare-faced Ground Dove *Metriopelia ceciliae* Great views along the Santa Eulalia road

Black-winged Ground Dove *Metriopelia melanoptera* Excellent views along the upper parts of the Santa Eulalia road

Croaking Ground Dove *Columbina cruziana* Seen in the Santa Eulalia road and at Lomas de Asia

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti* Seen in Tingo Maria and in the lower Satipo area

White-throated Quail-Dove *Zentrygon frenata* Seen along the Satipo Road

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* Seen along the Satipo Road, in the Santa Eulalia Valley and at Ulcumano Lodge

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata* Common along the coast. Noticed at Lomas de Asia and in the Cañete Valley

West Peruvian Dove *Zenaida meloda* Seen at Lomas de Asia and in the Cañete Valley

Rallidae

Black Rail *Laterallus jamaicensis* Amazing sighting of this not long ago impossible-to-see species in the shore reeds of Lake Junín. The isolated subspecies *tuerosi* at 4,100 meters (13450 feet) above sea level in central Peru is treated by other authorities as a different species, Junin Rail, being endemic to Lake Junín and Peru.

Plumbeous Rail (H) *Pardirallus sanguinolentus* Heard at the Cañete River, but we had better fish to fry.

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* Common at Lake Junín

Andean Coot *Fulica ardesiaca* Common at Lake Junín

Giant Coot *Fulica gigantea* A couple of sightings around the Ticlio ponds

Podicipedidae

White-tufted Grebe *Rollandia rolland* Seen on Lake Junín

Silvery Grebe *Podiceps occipitalis* Seen on Lake Junín

Junin Grebe *Podiceps taczanowskii* After a long and pleasant boat trip across Lake Junín we managed to get into the area where this species occurs in the lake. We were rewarded with views of at least four different individuals. This species is endemic to Peru and classified as Critically endangered, with a population no bigger than 200-250 species. The bird is named after Lake Junín, the second largest Andean lake in Peru, and the scientific name commemorates the Polish zoologist Władysław Taczanowski, author of *Ornithology of Peru* (1884–86). Together with the Titicaca Grebe and the extinct Colombian Grebe and Atitlán Grebe it is a flightless grebe.

Phoenicopteridae

Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopus chilensis* Hundreds on Lake Junín. A nice show

Charadriidae

Andean Lapwing *Vanellus resplendens* Common at high elevations

Diademed Sandpiper-Plover *Phegornis mitchellii* Amazing sightings of this high-elevation wader in Marcapomacocha. One of the finest birds, without hesitation. Classified as Near-threatened

Thinocoridae

Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe *Attagis gayi* Great views in Marcapomacocha. Here the subspecies *simonsi*. The subspecies *latreillii* of Northern Ecuador is a good contender for a future split.

Grey-breasted Seedsnipe *Thinocorus orbignyianus* Good views in the Marcapomacocha area. Here the subspecies *ingae*

Scolopacidae

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* Seen at Lake Junín

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* Seen at Lake Junín

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* A couple of sightings in the lowlands of Tingo Maria

Puna Snipe *Gallinago andina* Great views in the marshes of Junín. Here the nominate subspecies

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* Seen at Lake Junín

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* Seen at Lake Junín

Laridae

Andean Gull *Chroicocephalus serranus* Common at high elevations

Belcher's Gull *Larus belcheri* A couple of sightings along the coast of Lima. Named after Admiral Sir Edward Belcher (1799–1877), a British naval officer, hydrographer, and explorer. Found in Peru and Chile

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* A couple of sightings along the coast of Lima

Inca Tern *Larosterna inca* A few seen while driving along the coast of Lima. Classified as Near-threatened

Large-billed Tern *Phaetusa simplex* Good views at the lower Huallaga River near Tingo Maria

Eurypygidae

Sunbittern *Eurypyga helias* One sighting in Tingo Maria

Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* Seen along the coast of Lima and in the Tingo Maria marshes

Threskiornithidae

Andean Ibis *Theristicus branickii* Seen near the Ticlio Pass in the high Andes of Lima. Classified as Near-threatened

Green Ibis *Mesembrinibis cayennensis* One noticed near Tingo Maria

Puna Ibis *Plegadis ridgwayi* Common at Lake Junín

Ardeidae

Fasciated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum* One seen along the Satipo River

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Seen at Lake Junín

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* Seen in the Tingo Maria marshes

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Common

Great Egret *Ardea alba* Seen in the lowlands of Tingo Maria

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* Seen along our long drive to Cañete

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* Seen in the Cañete Valley and the tropical lowlands

Pelecanidae

Peruvian Pelican *Pelecanus thagus* Seen along the coast of Lima. Classified as Near-threatened. Found in Peru and Chile

Opisthocomidae

Hoatzin *Opisthocomus hoazin* A few seen along the Monzón River in the Huallaga Valley

Cathartidae**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus* Common**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* Common**Andean Condor** *Vultur gryphus* Great views of one individual soaring above Marcapomacocha. Classified as Near-threatened. The national bird of Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, and Chile**Accipitridae****Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus* Seen on the way to Tingo Maria**Cinereous Harrier** *Circus cinereus* A single sighting in the Lake Junín area**Plumbeous Kite** *Ictinia plumbea* Seen in the Tingo Maria area**Variable Hawk** *Geranoaetus polyosoma* Good views in the Santa Eulalia and Marcapomacocha areas**Roadside Hawk** *Rupornis magnirostris* Seen in Tingo Maria**Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle** *Geranoaetus melanoleucus* Good views along the Santa Eulalia road**Strigidae****Cloud-forest Screech Owl** *Megascops marshalli* An amazing score with this mega-rarity at Ulcumano Lodge. A true highlight of the trip. A very small range of distribution in Central Peru and an isolated population in Western Bolivia. Further studies need to be done to understand the populations.**Lesser Horned Owl** *Bubo magellanicus* Roosting at daytime in Ondores near Lake Junín. *Bubo magellanicus* is split from *B. virginianus* (König et. al.1999, Jaramillo 2003); SACC awaits analysis and proposal**Pacific Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium peruanum* Seen in the Santa Eulalia Valley**Ferruginous Pygmy Owl (H)** *Glaucidium brasilianum* Heard distantly at Villa Jennifer**Trogonidae****Golden-headed Quetzal (H)** *Pharomachrus auriceps* Heard at Ulcumano Lodge**Alcedinidae****Amazon Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle amazona* Seen along the Huallaga River**Ringed Kingfisher** *Megaceryle torquata* Seen at Villa Jennifer Lodge**Momotidae****Amazonian Motmot** *Momotus momota* Seen at Villa Jennifer Lodge**Andean Motmot** *Momotus aequatorialis* Good views at Ulcumano Lodge**Rufous Motmot** *Baryphthengus martii* Seen along the lower Satipo Road**Galbulidae****Bluish-fronted Jacamar** *Galbula cyanescens* Seen along the lower Satipo Road**Bucconidae****Rufous-capped Nunlet** *Nonnula ruficapilla* Great views of one pair along the lower Satipo Road**Black-fronted Nunbird** *Monasa nigrifrons* Seen in the Tingo Maria lowlands**Swallow-winged Puffbird** *Chelidoptera tenebrosa* Seen in the Tingo Maria lowlands**Capitonidae****Gilded Barbet** *Capito auratus* Seen at Villa Jennifer Lodge**Versicolored Barbet** *Eubucco versicolor* Seen along the mid Satipo Road**Ramphastidae****Chestnut-eared Aracari** *Pteroglossus castanotis* Seen at the lower Satipo Road**Black-throated Toucanet** *Aulacorhynchus atrogularis* Seen at Ulcumano Lodge

Blue-banded Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus coeruleicinctis* Seen along the mid Satipo Road. Found in Peru and Bolivia

Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan *Andigena hypoglauca* Seen along Satipo Road. Classified as Near-threatened

Picidae

Ocellated Piculet *Picumnus dorbignyanus* Seen above La Merced

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker *Melanerpes cruentatus* Seen in the Tingo Maria lowlands

Crimson-mantled Woodpecker *Colaptes rivolii* Seen in the cloudforest of the Satipo Road

Andean Flicker *Colaptes rupicola* Seen at high elevation

Black-necked Woodpecker *Colaptes atricollis* Seen along the Santa Eulalia Valley. A Peruvian endemic

Crimson-crested Woodpecker *Campephilus melanoleucos* Seen in the Tingo Maria lowlands

Falconidae

Black Caracara *Daptrius ater* Seen in the Tingo Maria lowlands

Red-throated Caracara *Ibycter americanus* Seen at Ulcumano Lodge

Mountain Caracara *Phalcoboenus megalopterus* Seen at high elevations

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima* Seen in the Tingo Maria lowlands

Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis* Amazing close-up views of a pair eating its prey after hunting. A super encounter along the Satipo Road

Bat Falcon *Falco rufigularis* Seen at Villa Jennifer

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* Seen along the Santa Eulalia Valley. The most common raptor on the west slope of the Andes

Psittacidae

Mountain Parakeet *Psilopsiagon aurifrons* Good views along the Santa Eulalia road

Andean Parakeet *Bolborhynchus orbynesius* Great views along the Satipo Road

Cobalt-winged Parakeet *Brotogeris cyanoptera* Seen in the Tingo Maria lowlands

Plum-crowned Parrot *Pionus tumultuosus* Seen on the Satipo Road. Found in Peru and Bolivia

Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus* Common in the lowlands

Scaly-naped Amazon *Amazona mercenarius* Good views along the Satipo Road

Military Macaw *Ara militaris* Flying-by views in the Tingo Maria lowlands

Blue-headed Macaw *Primolius couloni* Great scope views of one pair in the Tingo Maria lowlands. Classified as Vulnerable. One of the targets of the trip for our participants

White-eyed Parakeet *Psittacara leucophthalmus* Seen in the Tingo Maria lowlands

Furnariidae

Common Miner *Geositta cunicularia* Seen in the Junín area

Greyish Miner *Geositta maritima* Seen on the Santa Eulalia road. Found in Peru and Chile

Thick-billed Miner *Geositta crassirostris* Great views at Lomas de Asia. A Peruvian endemic

Slender-billed Miner *Geositta tenuirostris* Seen at Marcapomacocha

Dark-winged Miner *Geositta saxicolina* Good views at Marcapomacocha. A Peruvian endemic

Montane Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger* Seen at Ulcumano Lodge

Streaked Xenops *Xenops rutilans* Seen at Ulcumano Lodge and above La Merced

Streaked Tuftedcheek *Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii* Seen on the Apalla-Andamarca Road

Buff-breasted Earthcreeper *Upucerthia validirostris* Seen at Marcapomacocha

Cream-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes albiventris* Common at high elevations

White-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes atacamensis* Seen along the Santa Eulalia Valley

White-bellied Cinclodes *Cinclodes palliatus* Great views below the Ticlio Pass. A Peruvian endemic. Classified as Critically endangered

Canyon Canastero *Asthenes pudibunda* Brief views along the upper Santa Eulalia road. Found in Peru and adjacent Chile

Line-fronted Canastero *Asthenes urubambensis* Seen at Bosque Unchog. Classified as Near-threatened

Junin Canastero *Asthenes virgata* Seen in the tussocks along the Junín highway. A Peruvian endemic. Named after the Junín state

Streak-backed Canastero *Asthenes wyatti* Seen at the Ticlio Pass

White-chinned Thistletail *Asthenes fuliginosa* Seen well at Bosque Unchog

Eye-ringed Thistletail *Asthenes palpebralis* It took a while, but at the end we were rewarded with great views of a pair at the Carrizales bridge on the Satipo Road. A Peruvian endemic

Azara's Spinetail *Synallaxis azarae* Seen along the Satipo Road. Named after Félix Manuel de Azara (1742 –1821), a Spanish military officer, naturalist, and engineer

Rufous Spinetail *Synallaxis unirufa* Seen along the Satipo Road

Creamy-crested Spinetail *Cranioleuca albicapilla* Great views along the Apalla-Andamarca Road. A Peruvian endemic

Marcapata Spinetail *Cranioleuca marcapatae* Great views along the Satipo Road. A Peruvian endemic. Named after the Marcapata valley in SE Peru

Dark-breasted Spinetail (H) *Synallaxis albigularis* Heard only at Villa Jennifer Lodge

“Mantaro Thornbird” *Phacellodomus* sp. nov. Great views along the Apalla-Andamarca Road. This undescribed subspecies of Streak-breasted Thornbird *S. striaticeps* is awaiting the status of a separate species.

Striped Treehunter *Thripadectes holostictus* Seen at Ulcumano Lodge

Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner (H) *Syndactyla rufosuperciliata* Heard at Ulcumano Lodge

Montane Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia striaticollis* Seen along the Satipo Road

Pearled Treerunner *Margarornis squamiger* Seen along the Satipo Road

Rusty-crowned Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura pileata* Seen in the Polylepis patch above the Santa Eulalia Valley. A Peruvian endemic

Thamnophilidae

Plain-winged Antshrike *Thamnophilus schistaceus* Seen above La Merced

Great Antshrike *Taraba major* Seen at the lower Satipo Road

Chestnut-backed Antshrike *Thamnophilus palliatus* Seen above La Merced

Variable Antshrike *Thamnophilus caerulescens* Seen along the Satipo Road

Stripe-chested Antwren *Myrmotherula longicauda* Seen above La Merced

Creamy-bellied Antwren *Herpsilochmus motacilloides* Good views above La Merced. A Peruvian endemic. Classified as Near-threatened

White-browed Antbird *Myrmoborus leucophrys* Seen at the lower Satipo Road

Blackish Antbird (H) *Cercomacroides nigrescens* Heard at the lower Satipo Road

White-backed Fire-eye *Pyriglena leuconota* Seen above La Merced

Formicariidae

Black-faced Antthrush *Formicarius analis* Seen above La Merced

Grallariidae

Undulated Antpitta (H) *Grallaria squamigera* Heard at Bosque Unchog

Stripe-headed Antpitta (H) *Grallaria andecolus* Heard at both Marcapomacocha and the upper Santa Eulalia road

Bay Antpitta (H) *Grallaria capitalis* Sadly it was not cooperative this year. We tried hard but not success at Ulcumano Lodge. A Peruvian endemic

Rhinocryptidae

“Millpo Tapaculo” *Scytalopus* sp. nov. Good views along the upper parts of the Satipo Road. This tapaculo has been known for over 25 years and was collected near Millpo in the Pasco department. Fjeldså and Krabbe mention it in *Birds of the High Andes*, published in 1991. Surprisingly it has not been described yet.

Tschudi’s Tapaculo *Scytalopus acutirostris* Good views along the Satipo Road. A Peruvian endemic. Named after Baron Johann Jacob von Tschudi (1818-1889), Swiss explorer, collector in Peru, and author (*Untersuchungen über die Fauna Peruana*, 1844)

Junin Tapaculo *Scytalopus gettyae* Good views along the Satipo Road. It was discovered in 2008 and described as new species in 2013. It differs from other *Scytalopus* species by its song, which consists of a rapidly repeated series of ascending phrases. The species' epithet commemorates Caroline Marie Getty, a granddaughter of J. Paul Getty and nature conservationist, who works for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. A Peruvian endemic. Classified as Near-threatened

Neblina Tapaculo *Scytalopus altirostris* Great views at Bosque Unchog. A Peruvian endemic. The term Neblina means “mist”, which is a reference to the cloudforest and paramo habitats in which the bird occurs.

Rufous-vented Tapaculo *Scytalopus femoralis* Good views at Ulcumano Lodge. A Peruvian endemic

Northern White-crowned Tapaculo (H) *Scytalopus atratus* We heard this species above La Merced, but we were working on Creamy-bellied Antwren.

Tyrannidae

Sierran Elaenia *Elaenia pallatangae* Seen along the Satipo Road

White-banded Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus stictopterus* Seen along the Satipo Road and at Bosque Unchog

White-throated Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus leucophrys* Seen at Bosque Unchog

Pied-crested Tit-Tyrant *Anairetes reguloides* Good views along the Santa Eulalia road. Found in Peru and Chile

Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant *Anairetes flavirostris* Seen in the mid Santa Eulalia Valley

Tufted Tit-Tyrant *Anairetes parulus* Seen along the Satipo Road

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum* Seen along the lower Santa Eulalia road

Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant *Lophotriccus pileatus* Seen along the lower Satipo Road

Short-tailed Pygmy Tyrant *Myiornis ecaudatus* Great views at Villa Jennifer Lodge

Short-tailed Field Tyrant *Muscigralla brevicauda* Good views at Lomas de Asia

Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes ventralis* Seen at Ulcumano Lodge

Flavescent Flycatcher *Myiophobus flavicans* Seen at Ulcumano Lodge

Bran-colored Flycatcher *Myiophobus fasciatus* Good views in the Cañete Valley. The subspecies *rufescens* from W Peru and N Chile is sometimes considered as different species, “Rufescent Flycatcher”.

Torrent Tyrannulet *Serpophaga cinerea* Seen at the Huallaga River

Cinnamon Flycatcher *Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus* Seen at Ulcumano Lodge

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* Seen on the lower Satipo Road

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus obscurus* Seen at Lomas de Asia

Smoke-colored Pewee *Contopus fumigatus* Seen along the Satipo Road

Andean Negrito *Lessonia oreas* Seen at Lake Junín

White-winged Black Tyrant *Knipolegus aterrimus* Seen along the Apalla-Andamarca Road

Cinereous Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola cinereus* Seen at Marcapomacocha

Ochre-naped Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola flavinucha* Seen at Marcapomacocha

Taczanowski's Chat-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola griseus* Seen at Marcapomacocha. Named after Wladyslaw Taczanowski (1819-1890), Polish ornithologist, zoologist and *author* (*Ornithologie du Perou*, 1884)

Rufous-naped Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola rufivertex* Seen along the upper parts of the Satipo Road

Streak-throated Bush Tyrant *Myiotheretes striaticollis* Seen along the Satipo Road

Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant *Agriornis montanus* Seen around Ondores in Junín

White-browed Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca leucophrys* Seen along the Santa Eulalia road

Maroon-belted Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca thoracica* Good views at Ulcumano Lodge

Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca rufipectoralis* Seen along the Satipo Road

D'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca oenanthoides* Seen in the upper parts of the Santa Eulalia road. Named after Alcide Charles Victor Marie Dessalines d'Orbigny (1802 –1857), a French naturalist who made major contributions in many areas, including zoology (including malacology), palaeontology, geology, archaeology, and anthropology

Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus* Seen along the Satipo Road

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* Common in the tropical lowlands

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis* Seen at Villa Jennifer Lodge

Grey-capped Flycatcher *Myiozetetes granadensis* Seen in the Tingo Maria lowlands

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua* Seen in the tropical lowlands

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* Seen at the lower Satipo Road and Tingo Maria

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus* Seen at Villa Jennifer Lodge

Cotingidae

Red-crested Cotinga *Ampelion rubrocristatus* Seen at Bosque Unchog

Chestnut-crested Cotinga *Ampelion rufaxilla* Scope views of a distant individual at Ulcumano Lodge. Here the nominate subspecies

Bay-vented Cotinga *Doliornis sclateri* Great views at Bosque Unchog. A Peruvian endemic. Classified as Vulnerable

White-cheeked Cotinga *Zaratornis stresemanni* Nice views in the Polylepsis patch above the Santa Eulalia Valley. A Peruvian endemic. Classified as Vulnerable. It is monotypic within the genus *Zaratornis*. Described by Maria Koeppke in 1954

Barred Fruiteater *Pipreola arcuata* Seen along the Satipo Road

Masked Fruiteater *Pipreola pulchra* Seen at Ulcumano Lodge. A Peruvian endemic

Andean Cock-of-the-rock *Rupicola peruvianus* Seen along the Satipo Road. The national bird of Peru. Here the nominate subspecies

Pipridae

White-crowned Manakin *Pseudopipra pipra* Great views above La Merced

Cerulean-capped Manakin *Lepidothrix coeruleocapilla* A superb surprise was finding this most-wanted species above La Merced. A Peruvian endemic

Round-tailed Manakin *Ceratopipra chloromeros* Great views above La Merced

Corvidae

Violaceous Jay *Cyanocorax violaceus* Seen at Villa Jennifer Lodge

Inca Jay *Cyanocorax yncas* Seen along the lower Satipo Road

Hirundinidae

Andean Swallow *Haplochelidon andecola* Seen at Marcapomacocha

Pale-footed Swallow *Notiochelidon flavipes* Seen in the Carpish tunnel

Brown-bellied Swallow *Notiochelidon murina* Seen at the upper Santa Eulalia road

Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca* Several sightings

White-banded Swallow *Atticora fasciata* Seen in the tropical lowlands

White-winged Swallow *Tachycineta albiventer* Seen along the Huallaga River

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* Seen along the lower Satipo Valley

Donacobiidae

Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapilla* Seen at Tingo Maria

Troglodytidae

Fasciated Wren *Campylorhynchus fasciatus* Seen in the drier portions of the Huallaga Valley

Thrush-like Wren *Campylorhynchus turdinus* Seen at Villa Jennifer Lodge

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* Several sightings

Mountain Wren *Troglodytes solstitialis* Seen along the Satipo Road

Peruvian Wren *Cinnycerthia peruana* See along the Satipo Road. A Peruvian endemic

“Mantaro Wren” *Pheugopedius* sp. nov. Great views along the Apalla-Andamarca Road
Another taxon in the Mantaro Valley that is waiting for description

Coraya Wren (H) *Pheugopedius coraya* Heard at Villa Jennifer Lodge

Southern Nightingale-Wren (H) *Microcerculus marginatus* Heard above La Merced

Chestnut-breasted Wren *Cyphorhinus thoracicus* Good glimpses above La Merced

Mimidae

Long-tailed Mockingbird *Mimus longicaudatus* Seen at Lomas de Asia and along the lower parts of the Santa Eulalia road

Turdidae

White-eared Solitaire *Entomodestes leucotis* Seen at Ulcumano Lodge

Great Thrush *Turdus fuscater* Common

Glossy-black Thrush *Turdus serranus* Seen along the Satipo Road

Chiguanco Thrush *Turdus chiguanco* Common on the Santa Eulalia road

Black-billed Thrush *Turdus ignobilis* Common in the tropical lowlands

Cinclidae

White-capped Dipper *Cinclus leucocephalus* Seen along the Santa Eulalia Valley

Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Seen in Tingo Maria town

Fringillidae

Hooded Siskin *Spinus magellanicus* Seen on the Santa Eulalia road

Black Siskin *Spinus atratus* Seen Marcapomacocha and Junín

Olivaceous Siskin *Spinus olivaceus* Seen at the Satipo Road

Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia lanirostris* Seen Satipo Road

Orange-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia xanthogaster* Seen at Villa Jennifer Lodge

Passerellidae

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis* Several sightings

Yellow-browed Sparrow *Ammodramus aurifrons* Seen at the lower Satipo Road

Black-spectacled Brushfinch *Atlapetes melanopsis* Great views along the Apalla-Andamarca Road. A Peruvian endemic. Described in 1999. Restricted to a small portion in the Mantaro Valley. Classified as Endangered

Rusty-bellied Brushfinch *Atlapetes nationi* Common along the mid Santa Eulalia road. A Peruvian endemic

Slaty Brushfinch *Atlapetes schistaceus* Seen along the Satipo Road. Here the endemic subspecies *taczanowskii*

Bay-crowned Brushfinch *Atlapetes seebohmi* Seen below Bosque Unchog. Found in Peru and Ecuador

Tricolored Brushfinch *Atlapetes tricolor* Seen at Ulcumano Lodge. A Peruvian endemic

Common Bush Tanager *Chlorospingus flavopectus* Seen at Ulcumano Lodge

Icteridae

Peruvian Meadowlark *Leistes bellicosus* Seen at Lomas de Asia

Dusky-green Oropendola *Psarocolius atrovirens* Seen along the Satipo Road. Found in Peru and Bolivia

Russet-backed Oropendola *Psarocolius angustifrons* Common in tropical lowlands

Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus* Seen in Tingo Maria

Northern Mountain Cacique *Cacicus leucoramphus* Good views at Bosque Unchog. Here the endemic subspecies *peruvianus*

Orange-backed Troupial *Icterus croconotus* Seen at Villa Jennifer Lodge

Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cacicus cela* Common in the tropical lowlands

Oriole Blackbird *Gymnomystax mexicanus* Seen along the Huallaga River

Scrub Blackbird *Dives warczewiczi* Seen in the Santa Eulalia Valley. Found in Peru and Ecuador

Parulidae

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiayumi* Seen above La Merced

Black-lored Yellowthroat *Geothlypis auricularis* Good views in the Cañete Valley. Found in Peru and Ecuador. *Geothlypis auricularis* is split from *G. aequinoctialis* (Escalante-Pliego 1992; Curson et al. 1994); SACC 70 needs more documentation.

Citrine Warbler *Myiothlypis luteoviridis* Seen along the Satipo Road

Russet-crowned Warbler *Myiothlypis coronata* Seen at Ulcumano Lodge

Spectacled Whitestart *Myioborus melanocephalus* Seen along the Satipo Road

Slate-throated Whitestart *Myioborus miniatus* Seen above La Merced

Cardinalidae

Rothchild's Grosbeak *Cyanocompsa rothschildii* Nice views on the lower Satipo Road. Rothchild's Grosbeak is split from Blue-black Grosbeak (Bryson et al. 2014, SACC 736) Blue-backed Grosbeak *Cyanocompsa cyanooides* from Mexico, Central America, Colombia, Venezuela and NW Peru, Rothchild's Grosbeak *Cyanocompsa rothschildii* W. Amazonia

Golden Grosbeak *Pheucticus chrysogaster* Seen in the Santa Eulalia Valley

Thraupidae

Magpie Tanager *Paroaria gularis* Seen along the Satipo Road

White-browed Hemispingus *Hemispingus auricularis* Seen in the Satipo Road. A Peruvian endemic

Superciliaried Hemispingus *Hemispingus superciliaris* Seen along the Satipo Road

Drab Hemispingus *Hemispingus xanthophthalmus* Seen at Bosque Unchog

Rust-and-yellow Tanager *Thlypopsis ruficeps* Seen on the lower Satipo Road

Brown-flanked Tanager *Thlypopsis pectoralis* Great views below Bosque Unchog. A Peruvian endemic

Pardusco *Nephelornis oneilli* Seen at Bosque Unchog. A Peruvian endemic

Silver-beaked Tanager *Ramphocelus carbo* Seen in the tropical lowlands

Huallaga Tanager *Ramphocelus melanogaster* Seen at Villa Jennifer. A Peruvian endemic. Named after the Huallaga River in Peru

Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus* Seen in the tropical lowlands

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum* Seen in the tropical lowlands

Blue-and-yellow Tanager *Thraupis bonariensis* Seen in the Santa Eulalia Valley

Blue-capped Tanager *Thraupis cyanocephala* Seen on the Satipo Road

Hooded Mountain Tanager *Buthraupis montana* Seen on the Satipo Road

Lacrimose Mountain Tanager *Anisognathus lacrymosus* Seen at Bosque Unchog

Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager *Anisognathus igniventris* Seen at Bosque Unchog and on the Satipo Road

Chestnut-bellied Mountain Tanager *Delothraupis castaneiventris* Seen in the mixed flock at Bosque Unchog

Yellow-throated Tanager *Iridosornis analis* Seen at Ulcumano Lodge

Yellow-scarfed Tanager *Iridosornis reinhardti* Seen at Bosque Unchog. It was nice to see this species, considering the last time we saw it together was at the Owlet Lodge in Northern Peru in 2012. A Peruvian endemic

Golden-collared Tanager *Iridosornis jelskii* Seen at Bosque Unchog. Found in Peru and Bolivia

Blue-and-black Tanager *Tangara vassorii* Seen at Bosque Unchog

Paradise Tanager *Tangara chilensis* Seen on the lower Satipo Road

Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola* Seen on the lower Satipo Road

Turquoise Tanager *Tangara mexicana* Seen on the lower Satipo Road

Spotted Tanager *Tangara punctata* Seen on the lower Satipo Road

Beryl-spangled Tanager *Tangara nigroviridis* Seen at Ulcumano Lodge

Cinereous Conebill *Conirostrum cinereum* Seen at Lomas de Asia

Moustached Flowerpiercer *Diglossa mystacalis* Seen at Bosque Unchog. Here the subspecies *pectoralis*

Masked Flowerpiercer *Diglossa cyanea* Seen at Bosque Unchog

Black-throated Flowerpiercer *Diglossa brunneiventris* Seen along the Apalla-Andamarca Road

Peruvian Sierra Finch *Phrygilus punensis* Seen in Marcapomacocha

Band-tailed Sierra Finch *Phrygilus alaudinus* Seen at Lomas de Asia

Ash-breasted Sierra Finch *Phrygilus plebejus* Seen in the upper parts of the Santa Eulalia Valley

Mourning Sierra Finch *Phrygilus fruticeti* Seen in the upper parts of the Santa Eulalia Valley

Plumbeous Sierra Finch *Phrygilus unicolor* Seen in Marcapomacocha

White-winged Diuca Finch *Diuca speculifera* Seen in Marcapomacocha

Great Inca Finch *Incaezpiza pulchra* Great views along the mid Santa Eulalia Valley including the tunnel area, the Autisha bridge, and down to the Huinco reservoir. A Peruvian endemic

Rufous-backed Inca Finch *Incaezpiza personata* Good views in the dry valleys near Huánuco. A Peruvian endemic

Slender-billed Finch *Xenospingus concolor* A shy couple was seen on the Cañete River. A very good bird. Classified as Near-threatened

Rufous-breasted Warbling Finch *Poospiza rubecula* One of the rarest birds in the Peruvian Andes; we had been lucky regarding this bird during our recent trips. We saw this elusive species near the village of Huachupampa above the Santa Eulalia Valley. A Peruvian endemic. Classified as Endangered

Collared Warbling Finch *Poospiza hispaniolensis* Seen at Lomas de Asia and the Santa Eulalia Valley. Found in Peru and Ecuador

Greenish Yellow Finch *Sicalis olivascens* Seen at mid elevation along the Satipo Road

Raimondi's Yellow Finch *Sicalis raimondii* Great views at Lomas de Asia, where it is more reliable than at Lomas de Lachay. We have scored with this species on several recent day trips. A good bird. Unpredictable. Named after Antonio Raimondi, a prominent Italian-born Peruvian geographer and scientist

Bright-rumped Yellow Finch *Sicalis uropigialis* Seen at Marcapomacocha

Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola* Seen in Tingo Maria

Golden-billed Saltator *Saltator aurantirostris* Seen on the Apalla-Andamarca Road

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina* Seen at Lomas de Asia

Chestnut-throated Seedeater *Sporophila telasco* Seen on the Cañete River

Band-tailed Seedeater *Catamenia analis* Seen along the mid Santa Eulalia road

Plain-colored Seedeater *Catamenia inornata* Seen at Bosque Unchog

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola* A few sightings in the lowlands and above La Merced

WILDLIFE

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata* Seen above La Merced

Southern Mountain Viscacha *Lagidium peruanum* Seen in the rocky areas of Marcapomacocha

Peruvian Bamboo Rat *Dactylomys peruanus* An incredible sighting at Ulcumano Lodge near Oxapampa. This species is found in Peru and Bolivia.

Ashy Chinchilla Rat *Abrocoma cinerea* Seen in the rocky slopes at Lake Junín

Montane Guinea Pig *Cavia tschudii* Seen around Lake Junín

Culpeo *Lycalopex culpaeus* An amazing sighting at high elevation while looking for the White-bellied Cinclodes. The Culpeo or Andean Fox is the second-largest canine on the continent after the Maned Wolf.

Vicuña *Vicugna vicugna* Nice views of several individuals along the Junín Pampas. The estimated population in Peru increased from 6,000 to 75,000 with protection by game wardens.

Common House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus* Seen across the walls of our nice restaurant in Satipo

Golden Tegu *Tupinambis teguixin*