

Bird & Mammal Trip Report
Peru (Oct-Dec 2022 & July-Sep 2023)



Rob Jansen
photography

Introduction

About us

We are two enthusiastic nature lovers who travel the world together to search for stunning birds, fascinating mammals and incredible nature. Our world travel started in October 2021 in Chile, where we bought a car to drive through South-America in search of birds and mammals for about 2-3 years.

Rob Jansen is biologist and wildlife photographer, and thus has a lot of knowledge about species and ecology. He is enthusiastic about all that's in nature, but mainly photographs birds and mammals.

Romy Jansen-Houtzager is marketing professional. Our social media accounts, the look and feel of this report and the website are her work. In the field, she is an excellent spotter and very patient (give me some of her patience ...and hurry!).



Rob next to *Puya raimondii*



Romy scanning the Marcopomacocha area

Information and how to use this trip report

This trip report covers the country Peru. We travelled through Peru both on our way north in 2022 and again on our way back south in 2023. This mainly had to do with better chances for good weather, as we try to visit places outside the rainy season (generally Nov-Mar in Peru on the east side). We understand that this trip report covers way too many locations to visit during one holiday. As we visited less known regions, and independent birding reports with coordinates were scarce, we still wanted to write about all the locations we visited. We set up this trip report focusing on regions/departments; ignoring the specific order we visited locations within the country in order to keep some coherence in the report for the reader. This way we hope to make a fairly complete overview of birding locations in Peru, and you can scan this trip report for the regions you plan to visit and just read about those locations.

We travelled Peru from the 12th of October – 14th December 2022 and again from the 13th of July – 13th of September 2023. For all photos of our Peru trip, comments, compliments, any specific questions, visit and/or contact us via our website. We would love to hear from you!

 www.robjansenphotography.com/peru

 www.instagram.com/robjansenphotography

Species are highlighted in this trip report: **blue for birds**, **red for mammals** and **green for herpetofauna**. Target species which we missed at a specific spot are written in *italic*. This gives you an idea which species to pay extra attention to. All observations made by us in Peru can be found on Observation.org. We observed a total of about 1051 bird species and 57 mammal species in Peru. Click here for the: [total bird list](#), [total mammal list](#) or [the total species list](#).

For more trip reports see our website: www.robjansenphotography.com/trip-reports

Map and specific locations

We made a [map in Google My Maps](#) with pointers of interesting places and trails and specific bird and mammal locations. You can view this map, download the points and add them to your own map (click on the three dots above the legend and download the KML file and drag this to your own map), or add them in the app 'Maps.me'. Maps.me has most walking trails on it and is usable offline. Route navigation by car doesn't always work great and it's better to use Google Maps for that purpose.

See the map on the next page for an overview of Peru with its departments and the ones we visited. You can explore it in more detail in our 'Google My Maps' depending on where you are planning on going during your vacation. In the table below you can click directly on the department to go to the corresponding section in this trip report:

[Amazonas](#)

[Ancash](#)

[Apurimac](#)

[Arequipa](#) (*not visited*)

[Ayacucho](#)

[Cajamarca](#)

[Callao](#) (*not visited*)

[Cusco](#)

[Huancavelica](#) (*not visited*)

[Huanuco](#)

[Ica](#) (*not visited*)

[Junin](#)

[La Libertad](#)

[Lambayeque](#)

[Lima](#)

[Loreto](#) (*not visited*)

[Madre De Dios](#)

[Moquegua](#) (*not visited*)

[Pasco](#)

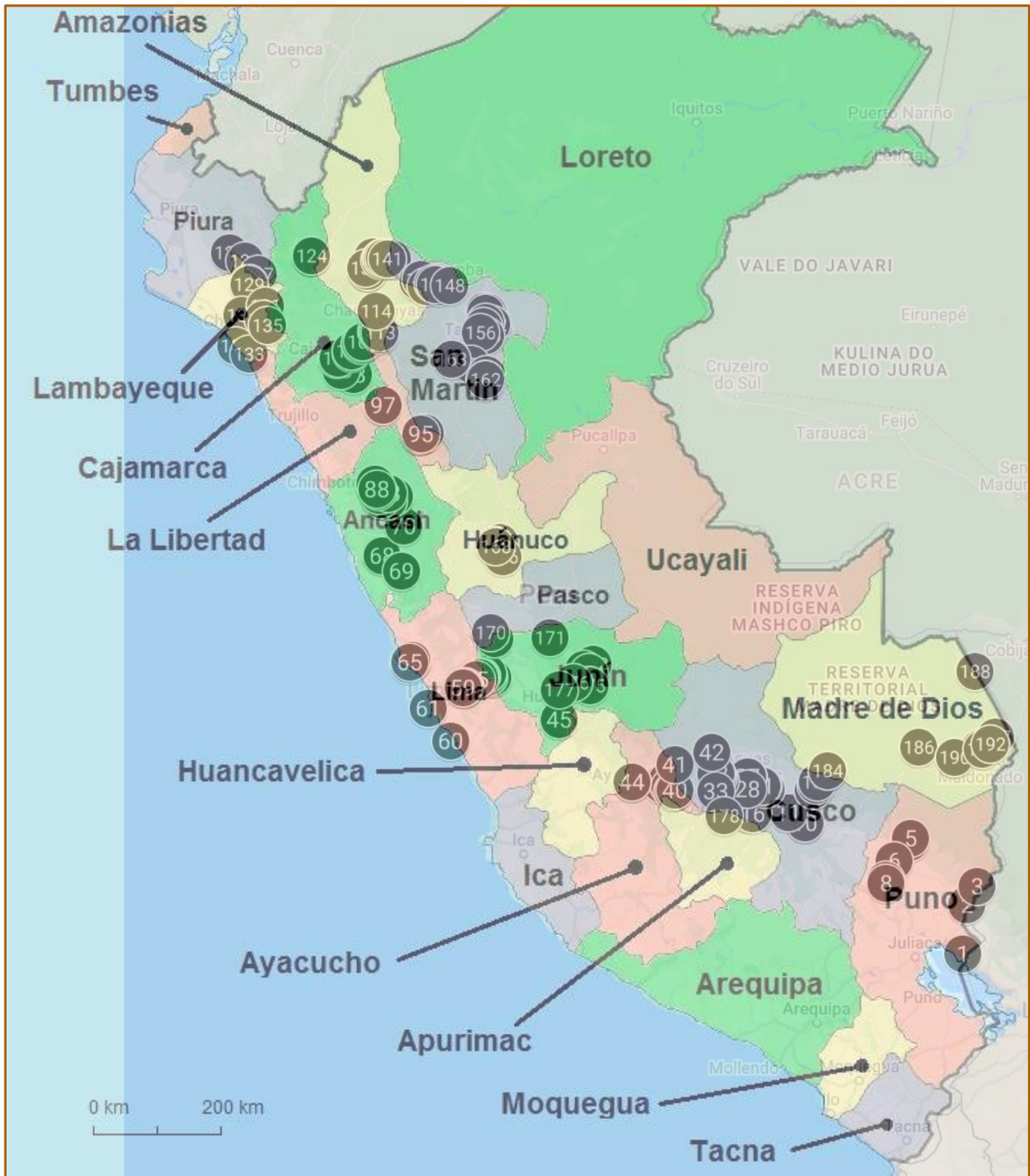
[Piura](#) (*only passed through*)

[Puno](#)

[San Martin](#)

[Tacna](#) (*not visited*)

[Tumbes](#) (*not visited*)



Weather and timing

We visited Peru as part of our world travel from the 12th of October till the 14th December 2022 and again from the 13th of July – 13th of September 2023. The weather was generally really nice, without too much rain. Only in the last few weeks of our first visit we had more rain, but nothing so terrible we couldn't at least bird a couple of hours. In the mountains it was generally quite warm during the days and cold during the nights (15-30 °C at daytime, up to freezing point at night). The coastal regions were obviously warmer (20-35 °C at daytime, 15-20 °C at night). Doing the east side of Andes on our way back made for better bird weather but also more decent roads.

Transportation

Our transportation in Peru was of course our Toyota 4Runner SR5 4.0 2010 (2WD) called 'Forrest'. We bought this car in Santiago (Chile) and got it converted so that we could sleep in it as well. Our 2WD did well in Peru and we barely had any problems on the road. Roads are generally quite good, even the gravel ones, with a few exceptions where we needed high clearance/good shock absorbers. At locations where this is the case we mentioned it in the text.



Forrest on the Laguna Llaca road



Forrest at Bosque de Yanahuyanca in Jaén

Literature & Apps

- Birds of Peru – Revised and Updated edition, Schulenberg *et al.*, Princeton Field Guides, 2010. *A nice guide, with great drawings, even focussing on different subspecies. The guide does lack Spanish names next to the English names. The Index in the back is the worst ever! We made our own [Quick Species Search Index](#), to print and glue in the back. Do yourself a favour if you are new in Peru and this book, and download & print it before you leave home!*

- [Birds of Peru app](#). *Very handy to have the exact same information as in the book on our mobile phone. It also includes sounds, but not of all species.*

- Merlin app for the birds sound. *An amazing free app. Includes sounds for most species (except for e.g. Taczanowski's Tinamou), and it will suffice. You might need to download local accents from XenoCanto, as birds don't always respond to Venezuelan/Colombian songs.*

- BirdNet app for recording the bird sounds. *BirdNet can give a possible ID on sounds. It helped us a few times when we were frustratingly searching for a bird we heard deep inside the shrubs.*

- iOverlander app for camping places. *This app gives nice information on where to camp or buy stuff.*
- Add this number to your contacts: +54 9 11 5349 5987. You can forward Spanish voice messages you get in WhatsApp and it will transcribe and translate to the language of your choosing!

Equipment

Photography: Sony A9 II + 200-600mm + 1.4x converter + Sony 24-105mm, GoPro Hero 9

Binoculars and telescope: Swarovski EL 8x32 WB, Eden 8x32 XP, Swarovski 65HD + 25-50mm

Heat scope/Thermal imager: Lahoux Spotter Elite 35V (lahouxbirding.com). A great heat scope from a company in The Netherlands. I owned other brands, but we are super happy with the sharpness, modes and light weight of this heat scope! More here: robjansenphotography.com/lahouxbirding

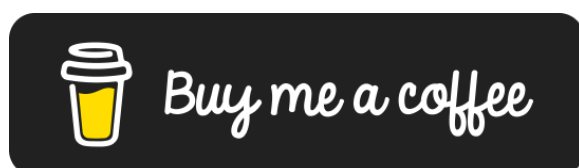
Spotlighting: Fenix HT18 Long Distance Flashlight (powerful, very focussed and my preferred choice for open areas), Fenix TK35 2018-edition (less powerful and focussed than the HT18, but still very strong and nice for spotlighting!), Fenix FD41 Focus Flashlight.

Use of cell phones in Peru

We decided to get two different SIM cards, one from Claro and one from Movistar. Claro was easily obtained at a store in a bigger city. The Movistar was already activated for someone else, but the store owner gave it to us as it was impossible to do this as a foreigner in that small border town. Recharging either SIM was very easy and could be done almost anywhere. Look out for the signs of the provider at small shops. You can also recharge credit via MobileRecharge. You pay a small fee, but for us this was worth it and sometimes more convenient. Both SIMs worked well and about 50% of the time Claro got reception and Movistar didn't and vice versa. Generally we would recommend going for Claro (this SIM can also be used in Ecuador/ Colombia etc.)

Paying in Peru

Paying in Peru is often done in cash and cards are not accepted everywhere (lots of gas stations for example don't accept cards). Be sure to bring enough cash! Banco de la Nación was a bank that didn't charge a fee for withdrawals. Limit was 400PEN per card per day.



If you enjoy my wildlife photos and trip reports, support my creative journey by buying me a coffee. Your generosity brings me closer to capturing impressive wildlife and untold stories

Visited sites

Department of Puno

[-15.44422, -69.46321](#)

Lake Titicaca

[-15.44422, -69.46321](#)

Visited dates: 12-13 October 2022

Most of the 12th of October was spent doing paperwork, driving to different offices and all that is necessary to cross the border between Bolivia and Peru (north of Lake Titicaca). While driving from the PE-34I from Tilali westwards we encountered multiple small groups of **Andean Ibises**. The biggest target of the lake, **Titicaca Grebe**, was easily found on the Peruvian side (-15.4714, -69.3762 and -15.4441, -69.4639). We even observed a family with 3 youngsters, which gives some hope for this endangered species. Common species on the lake were **Andean Coot/Slate-colored Coot**, **Yellow-billed Teal (Inca Teal)**, **White-tufted Grebe** and **Puna Teal**.



Titicaca Grebe



Andean Coot

Sina

[-14.50286, -69.26325](#)

Visited dates: 13-14 October 2022

As we had just entered Peru on the 12th of October, the 13th was mostly filled with arranging a SIM-card, obtaining cash, doing groceries and afterwards driving towards Sina (along the PE-34L). The tarred roads are surprisingly good and coming from Bolivia that's an extra delight. Make sure to take the western road going towards Sina ([-14.75785, -69.41073](#)), after which the drive is about 50km on gravel along some steep roadsides (PU-109). We heard **Stripe-headed Antpitta** and saw **Northern Viscachas** at a boulder field (-14.5733, -69.3026). By the time we finally reached Sina there were many people blocking the street. Given our experience with indigenous people blocking streets in Paraguay, we figured they too were demanding something from the government by annoying drivers... So we pressed the horn quite long for a few times to make our point as well. It turned out the Governor was giving a speech and had chosen the main road as his podium as opposed to the big square in town. A policeman came up and said we should have read about it in the local newspaper (duh). After an hour we were able to continue through Sina, going east into the valley (PU-595). It

started raining, but we still managed to observe **Puna Thistletail** in a patch of bamboo around 3400m (-14.5027, -69.2652). At the end of the afternoon we finally managed to get our biggest target here; **Puno Antpitta**. We got stunning views of a very obliging bird (-14.4988, -69.2729). Other nice birds encountered in this valley were **Scaled Metaltail**, **Diademed Tapaculo**, **Puno Tapaculo** and **Black-faced Brushfinch**. The next morning we visited the obliging Antpitta again and drove north of Sina to around 2800m. **Maroon-belted Chat-tyrants** and a couple of **Red-crested Cotingas** were seen. The third flock of **Spectacled Redstarts**, **Citrine Warblers** and **Black-faced Brushfinches** finally yielded our last target: the white-crowned morph of **Light-crowned Spinetail**.

To make this far-off-the-usual-birding-grid location more attractive one can drive all the way to Yanahuaya and make a loop via San José and then towards San Pedro de Cruce. Farther north in the valley there should be some good Yungas cloud forest. Between Yanahuaya and San José there are chances to see **Yungas Tyrannulet**, **Inambari-tambopata Antwren** (future split from Black-capped Antwren), the localized **Green-capped Tanager**, the rare **Scimitar-winged Piha** and much much more. As we had seen all these species in Bolivia already, we drove back the way we came.



Puno Antpitta



Puna Thistletail

Tayac Cucho & Tambillo

[-13.90049, -70.23529](#)

Visited dates: 14-16 October 2022

This location is more a mammal- than birdwatching destination. It is reached via the town Macusani over a very good tarmac road. A researcher had made many observations of Taruca/Northern Huemel near Tayac Cucho and Tambillo. In the observations he noted that people can contact him, so we did. Unfortunately we never got a reply, but still wanted to search for this rare deer species. A guard at a road barrier ([-13.90049, -70.23529](#)) asked us what our purpose was to enter the region. He then laughed and said that Tarucas had been just on the slopes above the guard house that morning. He also said that there are 'bastante' further up in the valleys as well, which gave us good hopes to start our search. That afternoon we drove via Tayac Cucho towards Tambillo, and then drove up a valley north of Tambillo (PU-532). All good habitat, but no Tarucas to be found. We camped in the valley and continued our search early next morning. There was a huge colony of

Northern Viscachas in this valley (mainly -13.84693, -70.21597 and a bit north in the same valley) and some of them were quite cooperative. Driving further, we scanned the valleys and mountains at every possible place, but didn't find any Tarucas. All people we asked knew about them, but all said they were high up in the mountains and could only be found by trekking to certain valleys behind the mountain tops. We continued driving towards Ituata, taking the main road (PU-100) back towards the guard post, as that place was our only concrete location with a sighting. Another guard was present and he also said the Tarucas were there that morning. Asking a bit more it turned out the Tarucas visited every morning around dawn and then disappeared behind the ridge when the first cars/dogs/humans would pass. We climbed the ridge, and the one after that, figuring they should be staying in the area if they visit every morning, but didn't see them. We visited the valley above Tambillo again, but there were less Viscachas out in the afternoon. Spotlighting yielded only two cars of the local 'vigilantes' who said it was dangerous and were also very surprised by our hobby. We then camped next to the road close to the guard house. Another guard was present, and he confirmed they were present every morning. The stories of the guards contradicted a bit, and I couldn't get a clear answer, but it seems like the Tarucas are coming year round, and in bigger numbers (8-10) when the crops are growing on the slope. The guard said they come around 06.00, so our alarm was at 05.30. I woke up before 05.00 and saw it was getting light already, so we decided to get out earlier. Scanning the hill we saw nothing, and the guard was already loudly talking to people at the barrier... Thinking that had ruined our chances I turned to Romy and then suddenly saw the silhouette of **Taruca/Northern Huemel** through the fog on the hill just above our car! We climbed up the hill and were able to obtain better views of 2 individuals. A loud honking car made them go uphill, and we tried to go around to get closer. Later we found out they crossed our path and were more or less where we had been before. They then crossed the second ridge. We went back, drove the main road to look in the valley they went in but couldn't relocate them. Crazy; knowing they're there and not finding them, makes you wonder how low chances were the day before!



Northern Mountain Viscachas



Taruca/Northern Huemel

Going to Cusco we took the gravel road going south from Macusani towards Santa Rosa (PU-100). This was quite a nice road and we were able to make some nice stops for birdwatching. On plains with short grass (-14.155, -70.4542) we observed **Tawny-throated Dotterels**, **Slender-billed Miner** and **Streak-throated Canastero**. Further south we encountered a big grove of *Poleyopsis* Forest (-14.4277, -70.5668), an unthinkable sight coming from Bolivia. **Andean Tit-spinetails** and **Giant**

Conebills were found here. We tried for *Royal Cinclodes* and *Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant*, but the valley is most likely too dry for these species. Further south there is even more Polyopsis forest, but we didn't bird this. A lake ([-14.47097, -70.57588](#)) held many **Chilean Flamingo**, **Wilson's Phalarope** and the high altitude subspecies of **Many-colored Rush-tyrant**.

Department of Cusco

[-13.48104, -71.96441](#)

Huacacapay Lake

[-13.62421, -71.72085](#)

Visited dates: 16-17 October 2022

We arrived at Huacacapay Lake on a Sunday afternoon, and it was crowded! Some quiet birding was still possible by taking a side road ([-13.62849, -71.72527](#)) and walking between the marsh and the hillside. The next morning we birded this same stretch and part of the main road up until the lookout. The main target; **(Eastern) Bearded Mountaineer** (e) was quite easily found. We saw 6 different individuals along the road/path, as well as **Giant Hummingbird** and **Black-tailed Trainbearer**. The endemic **Rusty-fronted Canastero** was not as easily found. Only around dusk, sitting in our car I heard a Canastero calling and we were able to see it in the last light. Quite a lot of **Wren-like Rushbirds** and **Plumbeous Rails** called from the marshy areas. Scanning for Plumbeous Rails we saw some cavies going through the vegetation, which turned out to be **Montane Guinea Pigs**.



Giant Hummingbird



(Eastern) Bearded Mountaineer

Manu Road

[-12.89505, -71.40378](#)

Visited dates: 25-31 August 2023

Wayqecha Cloud Forest Biological Station - 2825m altitude

Our first stop was just down from Wayqecha Lodge. There is a wooden gate with a sign that says it's not allowed to enter ([-13.177511, -71.604372](#)). Inviting as such a sign is we went in and within 50m behind the gate we observed **Leymebamba Antpitta** in the bamboo.

Manu Road - 2725m altitude

At another stop next to the road we heard **Red-and-white Antpittas** (e) calling from all around (-13.170541, -71.603775). It took some time and the help of the Lahoux Spotter Elite 35V thermal camera, but we got to see one downslope.

Manu Road - 1925m altitude

The next morning we stopped near a site where Barry Reed had seen Hazel-fronted Pygmy-tyrant recently. We parked our car next to a local's and looking to my right I saw someone watching us from the forest. Nothing strange, I figured he probably had to do a number 2. Birding a bit along the road the woman got out of the car and looked suspiciously around, then started waving to a seemingly empty road. Two guys came running of the slope, carrying big bags. A van came driving down the road and the two guys jumped of the steep slope. Thinking this was quite suspicious, let alone freaking dangerous (those slopes are really steep), we decided to stay close to our car. The van passed by, the guys started running again. Just when they arrived at the woman's car, at least 5 guys came out of the forest where we were parked, some with rifles. So far for a number 2.. It turned out they were police and anti-narco, but apparently two bags of coca leaves is not enough to arrest them. The three went on their way, the police loaded up the bags in a van and off they went, leaving us a bit flabbergasted by the event. There are many of these coca-trails coming from the mountain if you pay attention. We noticed this loading up of coca leaves multiple times, most of them tossing the bag downslope when we came around the corner. They seem indifferent to you once they see you're a tourist, but just in case; don't take pictures and ignore them to avoid problems.



Tufted Capuchin drinking sugar water



Tufted Capuchin

We did get to hear **Hazel-fronted Pygmy-tyrant** at the place where Barry had them (-13.100067, -71.567528). On the way back up we camped next to the road and hoped to get to see the bird. In the afternoon we walked a couple of kilometres along the road but didn't get a response. The next morning we heard them right next to where we were camped (-13.099267, -71.568108), but only got glimpses of a small brownish bird going through the dense shrubs. **Blue-banded Toucanets** were seen and heard often here, as were **White-eared Solitaire** and **Andean Cock-of-the-Rock**. A mixed flock brought species like **Inca Flycatcher** (e), **Short-billed Bush Tanager** and **Orange-eared Tanager**.

Unadorned Flycatchers (very low in the shrubs next to the road), **White-throated Antpitta** (HO) and **Black-faced Brushfinch** were other nice finds along this stretch of road.

We sat for a while at a lookout near this place in the hope of finally seeing **Solitary Eagle**, a species that is quite regularly seen around this spot and the CotRL lower down. We didn't get to see that one, but we did see a very small hawk soaring above; **Semicollared Hawk**! A species we hoped to see already since going up the Andes from Peru to Colombia and back.

Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge - 1375m altitude

The best place for the endemic Piedtail seems to be the Cock-of-the-Rock lodge (-13.05542, -71.54653). We expected a very luxurious lodge, but it all seemed quite basic walking the property. They were however friendly enough to let us watch the feeders without staying there. Behind the lodge **Tufted Capuchins/Black-capped Capuchins** (*Sapajus apella*) were going through the trees both times we were there. They figured out that the sugar water from the hummingbird feeders is quite nice and empties most of them at one point. Different hummers came to the feeders, including **White-bearded Hermit**, **Sparkling Violetear**, **Violet-fronted Brilliant** and **Many-spotted Hummingbird**. A stunning male **Wire-crested Thorntail** went through the *Verbena*. Around noon Romy spotted a small hummingbird going through the *Verbena*, and this turned out to be the hoped for **Peruvian Piedtail** (e). **Brown Agouti** was seen both, crossing the path in stealth-mode.



Peruvian Piedtail

Brown Agouti

Manu Road - 825m altitude

They are working on the road, making it paved all the way down. They work at many different locations, from the top all the way down. They all have their own opening hours for cars to pass and of course none of this is communicated with signs. This was quite inhibiting for roadside birding, as you could get stuck between two worksites for hours if you didn't follow the stream of cars when things opened up. If you were stuck then you had big truck driving by loudly honking every couple of minutes. This is why we under-birded the road itself and focussed more on the sites lower down:

15km before Pillcopata is a stake-out for **Black-backed Tody-flycatcher** (e). We parked the car and very quickly got a response (-13.016914, -71.455391). The bird crossed the road in a very slow flight, but didn't allow for better views.

Manu Biological Station & Birding Lodge - 550m altitude

Manu Biological Station & Birding Lodge ([-12.89505, -71.40378](#)) was previously known as Villa Carmen and is a sister lodge of Los Amigos Biological Station and Wayqecha Cloud Forest Biological Station. A big plus of this location is that it is reached by a normal road, so one can come and go as they please contrary to many lodges along the river. The main function of the place is research, and all the income from tourists goes to research. There is a variety of options to choose from when staying here, from dorms (45USD) to nice cabins (150USD), with prices being p.p.p.n. including three meals. There are possibilities in the prices if you plan to stay a bit longer. Be sure to check out their [website](#). To make a reservation you can email them (manubiostation@gmail.com) or WhatsApp the manager Alejandro (+57 312 431 9938, English/Spanish. Alejandro is Colombian, that's why the country code is different).

We always love to be around biological stations; the very relaxed vibe and interesting people knowing all kinds of interesting stuff. There are some feeders in front of the restaurant, and this is also the place where we observed **Fine-barred Piculet** (e) going through the trees.

Many good birds can be found on the trails. They use AvenzaMaps (mobile app), for which they send you a geo-referenced .pdf of the trails with numbers. We focused mainly on the loop 2-5-4, as this goes through bamboo forest where many of the target species here can be found. Many of the following species are commonly heard, but seeing them often requires quite some effort: **Bamboo Antshrike**, **Goeldi's Antbird**, **White-lined Antbird**, **Flammulated Pygmy-tyrant**, **Manu Antbird (ne)**, **Dusky-cheeked Foliage-gleaner** and **Chestnut-crowned Foliage-gleaner** (quite common, also near the cabins at the water). Less common, but still regularly heard, were **Western Striolated Puffbird**, **Yellow-breasted Warbling-antbird**, **Chestnut-tailed Antbird**, **Cabanis's Spinetail** and **Bluish-slate Antshrike**. **Tufted Capuchin/Black-capped Capuchin** (*Sapajus apella*) and **Black-headed Night Monkey** were both seen during the day on trail 2. On trail 5, between the river crossing and trail 4 (-12.891109, -71.409546), is where we found both **Rufous-breasted Piculet** and **White-cheeked Tody-flycatcher** (ne). On the intersection of trail 4 and 5 is where we got to see **Rufous-headed Woodpecker**. Walking back via trail 4 to the station we observed **Black-capped Squirrel Monkeys** just before sunset. Birds commonly heard on the trails are **Bartlett's Tinamou**, **Undulated Tinamou** and **Black-capped Tinamou**. **Amazonian Antpitta** was heard twice too.

The old airplane on trail 4 is pretty cool to see, but also houses **Seba's Short-tailed Bats**.

One morning we crossed the river via the cable car; a very fun activity to do and the view of the river is nice. However, the trail after that is going up and down steeply and we decided to turn around. We did hear **Starred Wood-quail** though! Only later we heard the river is quite low at the end of trail 1, allowing for a river crossing to trail 10, after which it is mostly flat (only going steeply up at the last part in the cloud forest part). The manager said this is one of the most beautiful parts of the reserve.

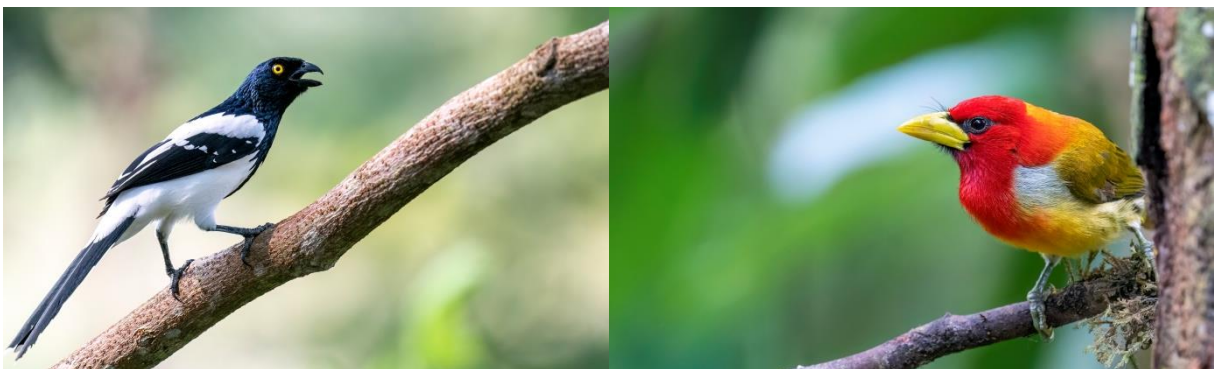
On trail 6 (after the cabins) is where we observed **Fiery-capped Manakin** and **Johannes's Tody-tyrant** (HO).



Blue-throated Piping-guan

Fine-barred Piculet

Night walks were not as interesting as we had hoped them to be. This is what we observed during 3 night walks of about 2 hours; we heard quite some **Amazon Bamboo Rats** (low hoomps) and spotted one with the aid of the Lahoux Spotter Elite 35V thermal camera. **Black-headed Night Monkeys** were heard on trail 4, and seen at the edge of the soccer field in a fruiting tree. **Brown-eared Woolly Opossums** were abundant in that same tree. **Northern Black-eared Opossum** was seen near the parking and **Common Tapeti** behind the diner. **Lowland Paca** crossed trail 4 and we heard another mammal scurrying away along this trail too. **Giant Armadillo** should be around, as is evident from the big holes and some camera trap photos, but seeing one is rare. We checked some camera traps and saw nothing on there we hadn't seen during our night walks for the week the camera was set up, except for a bunch of **Nine-banded Armadillos**. **Pauraque**, **Common Potoo**, **Great Potoo**, **Black-banded Owl** (roosts high up in a tree at -12.895004, -71.404037 and calls sometimes during the day) and **Ocellated Poorwill** (beginning trail 2) were commonly heard.



Magpie Tanager

Scarlet-hooded Barbet

Mirador Pico de Hoz - 550m altitude

The mirador ([-12.89886, -71.39672](#)) is a well-known spot for the near-endemic **Scarlet-hooded Barbet**. The reserve is open from 06.00-17.00, and there is no need to reserve. Entrance is 10PEN p.p. and includes coffee. We waited a while and observed **Mottle-backed Elaenia** besides some more

common birds. Then we heard **Toppin's Titi Monkey** calling from down a trail and we went to see them. Romy went back to the feeders to grab something, and of course then she saw the Barbet. I ran back, but too late. Luckily it came once more a couple of (nervy) hours later. The hummingbird feeders attracted **Sapphire-spangled Emerald**, **Long-billed Starthroat**, **Golden-tailed Sapphire**, **Gould's Jewelfront**, **Pale-tailed Barbthroat** and **Rufous-breasted Hermit**.

During our first visit, the owner Jonathan wasn't there. His wife told us about some other birds, including a **King Vulture** that comes down to a feeder next to the river. Of course we went there immediately and indeed the vulture was sitting on a branch, inspecting the cow head that was being torn apart by Black Vultures. They put a cow head out once a week and also on reservation. The cost of a cow head is 40PEN + 10PEN delivery to the house. They put it in a bag for 3 days to get it fermenting, so chances of vultures smelling it quickly and coming down are increased.

On another morning when Jonathan was back again we went with him to his feeder of **Amazonian Antpitta**, which showed pretty nicely. As we walked back on the property he noticed **Johannes's Tody-tyrant** and we tried at multiple spots for **Chestnut-capped Puffbird** (without success). We got to see a pair of **Fine-barred Piculets** and heard **Scarlet-hooded Barbet** again.

Jonathan (+51 970 424 737, Spanish) is a nice guy, seems to know all the birds names in English, and seems familiar with the sounds too. He charges 100PEN per day for guiding.



Amazonian Antpitta



King Vulture

Cusco - Tambomachay

[-13.48104, -71.96441](#)

Visited date: 18 October 2022

We birded the ruins of Tambomachay from 06.00-08.30 in the morning. The site officially opens at 09.00, but locals go in and out all the time and nobody stopped us going in. The main target **Taczanowski's Tinamou** (ne) was quickly heard after about 200m on a slope with a mosaic of scrubby woodland and agricultural fields. We walked past the 'no entry'-signs but couldn't locate the bird.

We did see **Chestnut-breasted Mountain Finches** (e) in the shrubs. Towards the end of the official road we saw **Andean Tinamous** walking in a recently ploughed field. In the shrubs close to the stream we observed **Creamy-crested Spinetail** (e), **Rusty-fronted Canastero** (e) and **Bearded Mountaineer** (e). We walked further into the grassy field, but couldn't locate **Junin Canastero**.

**Aplomado Falcon****Creamy-crested Spinetail**

Soraypampa

[-13.39618, -72.57371](#)

Visited dates: 18-20 October 2022

Driving uphill from the PE-3S towards Soraypampa we stopped a few kilometres after the entrance to the EcoCamp (the stay for birders visiting the region ([-13.49088, -72.5376](#))). Right next to where we parked our car ([-13.48177, -72.52926](#)) we already encountered the first **Apurimac Spinetails** (e) in dense shrubs above the road. **Crimson-mantled Woodpecker** was chopping away on a tree close by. Walking up the road we noticed **Apurimac Brushfinch** (e) in the shrubs below the road. **Mountain Velvetbreasts** were relatively common, as were **Shining Sunbeams**.

**Apurimac Brushfinch****Koepcke's Screech-owl**

Farther up the road we encountered another pair of Brushfinches and **Creamy-crested Spinetail** (e). Just when we wanted to turn around and walk back again Romy noticed **White-rumped Hawk** flying by and diving into a bush, after which we saw it flying towards another tree. Before dusk we went to the entrance of the EcoCamp and waited for the first owls to call. At 18.10 the first **Koepcke's Screech-owl** (e) started to call, and we observed at least 3 individuals that evening. We didn't hear

the **Buff-fronted Owl** that is observed as well around the camp. A stroll on the road yielded **Band-tailed Nightjar** and **Andean Fox**.

The next morning we drove up the mountain to be ahead of the many tourist busses. The endemic **Vilcabamba Tapaculo** (e) was heard and seen very well at one point ([-13.4326, -72.5588](#)). We then continued all the way to the parking lot up the hill, paying a 20S fee p.p. Getting out of the car and looking at the forested fields on the other side of the valley Rob noticed a deer walking. It turned out to be **Peruvian White-tailed Deer**! It started running and we noticed another 2 individuals, and the reason why they were running; a local dog chasing them...

We then walked the valley going west ([-13.39618, -72.57371](#)). There we encountered another **Vilcabamba Tapaculo** (e) and a group **Apurimac Brushfinches** (e). **White-tufted Sunbeam** (e) was sipping nectar from purple flowers and we got good views! Later that afternoon we walked into the valley again and spotlighted on our way back. Somebody had seen **Colocolo** about 1km into this valley, so we wanted to at least give it a try. Of course we didn't see it, but we did spotlight another **Peruvian White-tailed Deer** and **Great Horned Owl**.



White-tufted Sunbeam



Apurimac Spinetail

Along the road, near the main road, is where **Pale-tailed Canastero** (e) (*Asthenes dorbignyi usheri*) is normally seen. As they were having road constructions, lots of the shrubs had been cleared. Eventually we found a pair of these birds along another road further east ([-13.5011, -72.4709](#)). Higher up the same road we observed **White-eared Puffbird**.

A site that is relatively close by from here is Huanipaca road in the [Department of Apurimac](#). The species there are very similar to the ones here, except for the presence of Ampay Tapaculo (e).

Abra Malaga

[-13.14142, -72.29912](#)

Visited dates: 20-21 October 2022

Abra Malaga is well known as *the* site for the near-endemic Royal Cinclodes. One can park just before the top ([-13.14142, -72.29912](#)) and walk the trail on the opposite side of the street. There is a very clear path made, with stones on the sides and signs guiding you to the top of the ridge around

4400m. Behind that ridge you find the first viewpoint (mirador) with a little shelter. From here you can see the beginning of the *Polyopsis* forest, with a thick layer of moss covering the ground. Following the path will lead into denser and older/higher forest, and this is where the main targets can be found. Don't be fooled by eBird day lists, stating the presence of many more species of lower altitudes. We birded the *Polyopsis* forest one windy afternoon and one morning. The afternoon was quiet, and only after the trail descends (after the second mirador) did we see **White-browed Tit-spinetail** (e) and **Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant**. **Blue-mantled Thornbird** fed on some of the really small flowers hanging from the stones and moss. There was no sign of **Royal Cinclodes** unfortunately. We did see and hear quite many **Stripe-headed Antpittas**, as well as **Puna Tapaculos**. Suddenly we flushed a brown bird of the right size, but it flew away so quickly we can't be sure it was the Cinclodes... Climbing back up again we heard **Junin Canastero** (e) near the 2nd mirador.



Polyopsis at Abra Malaga



Stripe-headed Antpitta

We hoped the next morning would be better, and the weather was indeed. We recorded most of the same species as the afternoon before, with the exception of the Tit-tyrant. We heard some more **Junin Canasteros** as well as **Streak-throated Canastero**. A hummingbird on a rock high up turned out to be **Olivaceous Thornbird**, and to make the comparison complete a **Blue-mantled Thornbird** landed on top of a bush nearby. We now walked the trail totally down, where the *Polyopsis* gets smaller and thinner again. We did encounter **Tawny Tit-spinetails** at the bottom of the forest. Not wanting to walk all the way up again we decided to walk the rest of the trail (2km) down towards the road ([-13.15666, -72.28204](#)). There we hitched a ride back up to the top (but if you have a driver, let him meet you there). Two days later we heard from Peruvian birders that they did see 2 Cinclodes the very same morning we were there! They didn't go left at the sign (going towards the first mirador) but went straight ahead. They saw them near the first *Polyopsis* on a big mossy rock.

PE-28B – Abra Malaga towards San Luis

[-13.11936, -72.33387](#)

Visited dates: 21-22 October 2022

We made several stops on the PE-28B west of Abra Malaga. It is not the most pleasant road-side birding with so much traffic and noise, but some good species can be found here. The first stop ([-](#)

[13.11936, -72.33387](#)) we walked the road a couple of times for about 700m till where the vegetation on the ridge becomes a bit high. We encountered multiple flocks, but none with the main target; Parodi's Hemispingus. We did have a flock with the rufous-crowned morph of **Marcapata Spinetail** *ssp. marcapatae* (e). Otherwise the flocks yielded **White-browed Conebill**, **White-banded Tyrannulet**, **Tit-like Dacnis** and some more common birds. **Urubamba Antpitta** (e) was heard frequently here. We camped at this spot at night and heard **Undulated Antpittas** at dusk, and actually got short but great views of one the next morning.

The second stop ([-13.11538, -72.34086](#)) we went down on the open field and this time we found the **Urubamba Antpitta**, 6m high in a tree, singing loudly. A flock yielded the same species as at the first stop.



Urubamba Antpitta

Marcapata Spinetail *ssp. marcapatae*

The third stop ([-13.11438, -72.34639](#)) gave us a flock with the same species as above, but also finally included the main targets of this region and altitude; **Parodi's Hemispingus** (e) and **Cuzco Brushfinch** (e). **Crowned Chat-tyrant** was also present in the flock. We also thought we heard an **Unstreaked Tit-tyrant** (e), which is sometimes seen here. More or less on the same spot as where the flock was we observed **Sapphire-vented Puffleg (Coppery-naped) ssp. sapphiropygia** (a possible split) and **Inca Wren** (e). Next to the waterfall there was another **Undulated Antpitta** calling. Lower down the fog prevented any other birding stops, and with the main targets in the pocket we continued to the next destination.

Valle Calquiña

[-13.00427, -72.5561](#)

Visited dates: 22-23 October 2022

Red-crested Finch and **Swallow-tailed Hummingbird** are quite common in e.g. Brazil, but Ipal lodge (located close to the main road; [-12.99798, -72.542](#)) is one of the few places where these bird species can be seen in Peru. **Russet-crowned Crake** and **Buff-fronted Owl** are also observed around the lodge. Paco (the owner of the lodge) speaks only basic English, but knows all the bird names in English. He can be hired as a guide, even if you don't stay at Ipal Lodge.

The majority of the bird targets in the area however, can only be found higher up the hill. Therefore take the entrance from the main road ([-13.00427, -72.5561](#)) and drive all the way up. We walked uphill from our parking spot ([-12.9842, -72.553](#)) towards Mirador Diablo. Many species of hummingbird visited the flowering trees, amongst which **Green Hermit** and **Rufous-booted Racket-tail**. We turned left at the first option ([-12.98415, -72.54728](#)), and from there we walked all the way to the top ([-12.97465, -72.55727](#), turn right at the only junction halfway). Later on we parked higher up and we camped 2 nights somewhere halfway, mainly focussing on the higher parts of the trail, between the endemic hotspot ([-12.98223, -72.55266](#)) and the top.

**Andean Cock-of-the-Rock****Creamy-bellied Antwren**

Just when we came to the endemic hotspot we heard **Masked Fruiteater** (e), and it turned out Paco was guiding a group and luring the bird in. **Ocellated Piculet** landed shortly in a tree while we were observing the Fruiteater. **Creamy-bellied Antwren** (e) was found right below this spot, and according to Paco it's the only place to see this bird in the valley. **Inca Wren** (e) was heard here too, but this bird is quite common all along the road. The endemic hotspot is where we observed **Scaled Antpitta** by crawling in the bushes just above the road. Farther up the road we heard **Black-streaked Puffbird**, but we couldn't get it to come into view. Again a bit higher up, **White-rumped Hawk** did show well on all three days we were there. **Andean Cock-of-the-Rocks** were observed multiple times, and **Hooded Tinamou**, **Wattled Guan** and **Stripe-faced Wood-quail** were heard often. **Unadorned Flycatcher** was observed high up in the canopy. Just after the top of the hill (one can drive and park here) we observed **Crimson-bellied Woodpecker**. Thanks to the advice from Paco we also heard **Olive Flycatcher** and **Ochre-breasted Antpitta** early the next morning here. Unfortunately we couldn't find the other endemic that is present in the valley; **Inca Flycatcher** (e).

Mixed species flocks yielded many species of Tanagers, including **Silver-backed Tanager**, **Slaty Tanager**, **Beryl-spangled Tanager**, **Blue-and-black Tanager** and surprisingly for this altitude; **Golden-collared Tanager**.

Both nights we spotlighted for 2 hours, but surprisingly only found one **Kinkajou** and no nocturnal birds.



White-throated Quail-dove



Kinkajou

Machu Picchu

-13.16502, -72.54353

Visited dates: 23-25 October 2022

We camped behind the Los Indios restaurant and started walking towards Aguas Calientes around 05.00 in the morning via Hydroelectra. We birded towards Aguas Calientes until 09.30, where we got in line for our tickets the moment we arrived. We were nr. 185 in line, so we were lucky to get tickets for the same day (only 200 available, even if everything online is sold out). We then went back to the bridge and walked (or climbed) up the mountain towards Machu Picchu. We visited for about 2 hours and walked back down and then to our car.

The birding was pretty similar to Ipalpilhua Valley, but a little bit less interesting. **Black-streaked Puffbird** was resting on the electricity wires of the train. **Andean Motmot** was common here, as was **Andean Cock-of-the-Rock**. Both **Tricolored Brushfinch** and **Chestnut-capped Brushfinches** were observed. We added **Chestnut-breasted Coronet** to our hummingbird list and saw **Green Hermit** again. We had an Agouti crossing the path very quickly, which might be *Kalinowski's Agouti*, but I couldn't find any good distributional or distinctive ID features to separate it from *Brown Agouti*. It seems Kalinowski's have a patch of white hairs at the rump, which might not always be evident. No way we observed that in the split second it crossed the path.



Machu Picchu



Andean Motmot

Inca Wrens (e) were common, even in Machu Picchu. Again we failed to observe **Inca Flycatcher** (e). Spotlighting yielded surprisingly little, except for one **Southern Black-eared Opossum** crossing the tracks and many arboreal rodents (**Arboreal Rice Rat spec?**).

Via Kiteni

[-12.94029, -72.99352](#)

Visited dates: 26-27 October 2022

The road from Santa Maria towards Mutuypata/Yapuancca is mostly gravel and single lane. It takes about 1.5-2h to get to the turn-off towards Kiteni ([-13.05047, -72.93603](#)). From there it is steep uphill, lots of hairpin-bends and 0.75-1.5h to the good birding locations. It would be possible to bird this location from Santa Maria/Ipal lodge in one day. It will involve lots of driving (count at least 3h each directions), but would give some really nice species!



Peruvian White-tailed Deer

Vilcabamba Thistletail

Both at our first stop ([-12.9944, -72.9748](#)) and second stop ([-12.95345, -72.98076](#)) we quickly found the main target of the area in the shrubs and bamboo; **Vilcabamba Thistletail** (e). At the first stop other birders have reported **Jameson's Snipe** and good numbers of **Purple-backed Thornbill**, but we couldn't find either one. On the way back the next day we had a **Peruvian White-tailed Deer** on the road around 09.00, which went onto a grassy field and just stood there.

We walked the road for about 2km farther from the second stop and encountered a nice mixed flock with **Yellow-scarfed Tanager** (e), **Lacrimose Mountain Tanager** and **Hooded Mountain Tanager**. **Trilling Tapaculo**, **Undulated Antpitta** and **Urubamba Antpitta** (e) were all heard regularly. Besides the way more common **Rufous-breasted Chat-tyrant** we observed **Brown-backed Chat-tyrant**. Just before we turned around we heard **Yungas Pygmy-owl**, and were able to lure it in for a good look.

We drove towards our last stop around 3000m altitude, which is where we camped ([-12.94029, -72.99352](#)). We walked the road in the afternoon for about 1km and in the morning for about 2km downhill. In addition to the other Antpittas mentioned above we finally heard **Red-and-white Antpitta** (e), which calls often include a 4th note in the Vilcabamba region. This (undescribed)

subspecies should even have some yellow tinges on the belly instead of white, but we couldn't confirm this as we didn't get to see it. Another target was heard in the afternoon and saw really well the next morning: **Lulu's Tody-flycatcher/Johnson's Tody-flycatcher** (e). This endemic occurs in the Marañon valley in the northwest of Peru, but Josh Beck discovered this population here in 2016. Different flocks yielded **Chestnut-bellied Mountain Tanager**, **Drab Hemispingus**, **Superciliaried Hemispingus**, **Marcapata Spinetail ssp. weiskii** (e, with the clear white crest) and a bit unexpectedly a species we had missed after Abra Malaga: **Unstreaked Tit-tyrants** (e)! As expected we didn't find the endemic **Vilcabamba Brushfinch**. But if it's still somewhere, it could well be rediscovered on this road one day!



Lulu's/Johnson's Tody-flycatcher



Yungas Pygmy Owl in the fog

Ccayara Chucuito/CU-100

[-13.18725, -72.99724](#)

Visited dates: 27 October 2022

As we had missed the Royal Cinclodes at Abra Malaga we gave this back-up location a try. Only 30km farther after the turn-off towards Kiteni, it still took more than an hour to get there. Mainly because of many road constructions and badly or not indicated detours. Arriving at the site we only saw a few *Polyopsis* trees spread out on the hill side, but absolutely nothing like a forest. The boulder fields were covered in moss, which seemed to at least provide enough foraging habitat. Immediately after stepping out of the car we saw multiple **Cream-winged Cinclodes**, and we were of course a bit afraid some people had mixed them up. Shortly after, a Cinclodes responded to tape and sat on the rock next to us; clearly this was the much hopes for **Royal Cinclodes** (RC)! After a while it went back to the big rock it came from, and after walking up we saw another 2 RCs. They seemed to crawl underneath the huge boulder. Observing the one RC that was still close to us, I saw 2 RCs standing on a boulder 30-40m farther up in the field, and figured they went there from underneath the rock. Wanting to inspect the crevice they crawled into, a 4th RC flew out of there, then another, another and unbelievably, another!! In total we observed 7 **Royal Cinclodes** coming from or near this boulder!! Unbelievable, but true. It gives some hope for this species, which seems to do well here outside of the *Polyopsis* forest. We also observed **Vilcabamba Tapaculo** (e), **Line-fronted Canastero** and multiple **Northern Mountain Viscachas**. Because we still had a long drive to make, we didn't bird here as long as we would have liked to.



Vilcabamba Tapaculo



Royal Cinclodes

Department of Apurimac

[-13.53246, -72.88891](#)

Huanipaca road

[-13.53246, -72.88891](#)

Visited date: 21 August 2023

We only birded one morning in the Department of Apurimac because we had all the region endemics already in the nearby sites (all in the Department of Cuzco). We had seen Ampay Tapaculo in Ayacucho, but as Tapaculos are split constantly we wanted to ‘tick off’ this other population as well. The road to Huanipaca (AP-551/PE-3SV) can be reached by turning off the main PE-3S road (-13.553596, -72.813638). The Tapaculo can be found on many places along this road, but we went to a location where Barry Reed recently saw multiple, about 13km in. We started birding around 06.30 and quickly heard some of the endemics we had found 10 months earlier towards Soraypampa; **Apurimac Brushfinch** (e) was commonly seen here, **Apurimac Spinetail** (e) was seen once (-13.532465, -72.888916). After some effort we got to see 2 different **Ampay Tapaculos** (e), one above and one below the road (-13.532125, -72.888725). Walking farther along the road we encountered **Rusty-fronted Canastero** (e; HO, but heard quite often at different places), **Creamy-crested Spinetail** (e) and **Chestnut-breasted Mountain-finch** (e). Hummers were present in good numbers and included **Mountain Velvetbreast**, **Scaled Metaltail** -besides the many **Tyrian Metaltails**- and **White-tufted Sunbeam** (e),

Department of Ayacucho

[-13.0624, -74.1982](#)

Logistics: To get to and from Chiquintirca and/or Rumichaca there are multiple options. The easiest would be to drive from Ayacucho to Tambo, from there towards the intersection (-13.08479, -73.77242) and then either to Chiquintirca or Rumichaca. The road described above is all paved,

almost all the way to Chiquintirca. Don't follow the navigation if it directs you via a shortcut between Quinoa and San Miguel (thereby avoiding Tambo); this shortcut road is one of the worst we've driven during our whole trip in South America! Although it didn't seem like much on the map, the winding roads towards Rumichaca took a long time. The road has more potholes in it as well, and the loose gravel in combination with a very steep cliff sides makes you want to take it slow. Calculate about 1.5-2 hours from the intersection to Rumichacha village.

You can also arrive or leave via the north, going to San Antonio, then Monterrico and taking the ferry across the river ([-12.818751, -73.591377](#)) to get to Chirumpiari. This road is not paved, but in good condition. This is a good option if you want to visit the Vilcabamba Thistletail, as you can drive to Kiteni ([-12.64752, -73.05325](#)) and then take the shortcut to the birding places mentioned in that section. Make sure such shortcuts are open as they can suddenly close due to heavy rainfall, high rivers, landslides etc. We did pass a village just after taking the shortcut where everyone had shotguns in their hand (and we counted at least 40-50 men/boys). Most of them were sitting and waiting for something, but as it was almost getting dark and this region has been the refuge of the last 'Shining Path'-members, we didn't want to wait to find out and quickly drove on.

Don't attempt to drive here via the southeast (from Talavera). There is a river halfway that can't be crossed by car as far as we've seen on GoogleMaps. There is only a pedestrian bridge.

Chiquintirca

[-13.05002, -73.70682](#)

Visited date: 29 October 2022

We followed the example of Andrew Spencer and drove uphill near Chiquintirca, or actually Qollpa (get off the AY-101 here: [-13.05474, -73.70146](#)). A high clearance 2WD is needed here to get to the birding spot ([-13.05002, -73.70682](#)). We soon heard **Ayacucho Antpitta** (e), and by sitting and waiting in the shrubs we were able to see it hopping by. **Ayacucho Thistletail** (e) and **Black-spectacled Brushfinch** (e) have been observed here too, but activity was low as it was already quite warm. If you are short on time, this place is (way) more easily reached than Rumichaca, but you might still want to drive in that direction for the Ampay Tapaculo.

Rumichaca

[-13.17513, -73.59354](#)

Visited dates: 29-30 October 2022

On the way to Rumichaca we made a stop at some puna/scrubby paramo ([-13.1299, -73.6616](#)). This is where we found a Tapaculo that for now is considered **Ampay Tapaculo** (e, *ssp. apurimac*¹), but

¹ See Krabbe, Niels K., et al. "Untangling cryptic diversity in the High Andes: Revision of the *Scytalopus [magellanicus] complex* (Rhinocryptidae) in Peru reveals three new species." *The Auk* 137.2 (2020): ukaa003.

this might well be a new species if they get a bigger sample size for comparison. It looks a bit different from the Ampay Tapaculos farther southeast. **Northern Mountain Viscachas** were quite common here, these ones were beautifully brownish-coloured on the back and yellow-cream on the belly. We also observed **Andean Tit-spinetails**, **Streak-throated Canastero** and heard **Stripe-headed Antpitta**.



Ampay Tapaculo



Sword-billed Hummingbird

Passing the hamlet that is Rumichaca the road gets worse, but luckily you're almost there. We parked the car ([-13.17513, -73.59354](#)) and immediately heard multiple **Ayacucho Antpittas** (e) calling from the surrounding shrubs. This bird turned out to be very common around here. We birded along the road and got good views of a stunning **Sword-billed Hummingbird** and heard **Yungas Pygmy-owl**. We walked until the point where the road goes down steeply ([-13.16628, -73.58888](#)). This is where we found **Black-spectacled Brushfinches**. The next morning we walked this again, and took the road on the right side. This road zigzagged all the way up, where we walked the upper road back to Rumichaca, making a huge loop ending again at our car. The walk was quite uneventful, except for one more Brushfinch, **Yellow-scarfed Tanager** (e) and **Fire-throated Metaltail** (e). Even though we walked about 15km this way, we never heard or saw a single **Ayacucho Thistletail**! Sometimes we got a response which sounded like it, but was longer. At one point we got this response again, and it turned out to be **Trilling Tapaculos**, sounding almost the same sometimes. We were afraid we got the wrong tape, as it was quite surprising the Tapaculos responded many times.



Ayacucho Antpitta



Ayacucho Thistletail

As we really wanted this endemic we decided to walk through the vegetation on the other side of the valley, a bit above the village ([-13.1803, -73.6230](#)). Others had seen the Thistletail there and called it “(fairly) common”. This was certainly not the case for us, as we again walked for hours and many kilometres without hearing or seeing one. Only after a long time we finally got a response one time. Not satisfied with hearing it we continued and much further we heard the call multiple times. We climbed up to where we heard it and then finally saw **Ayachucho Thistletails** (e)!

Mueso de sitio Wari

[-13.0624, -74.1982](#)

Visited date: 31 October 2022

The archaeological site of Wari is worth a quick stop when passing by. You can park for free in front of the museum. We walked across the road and effortlessly observed 4 **Creamy-breasted Canasteros** *spp huancavelicae*. This is a possible (endemic) split, so an easy one to get on the go. We walked along the road to get better views of the cacti forest and encountered another 3 individuals farther up the road ([-13.0645, -74.1953](#)). **Scrub Blackbird** was observed here as well.

Department of Junín

[-11.056, -76.1585](#)

Junín Lake

[-11.056, -76.1585](#)

Visited dates: 12-14 August 2023

Arriving after a long drive we checked the hamlet of Pari to see if it would be easy to arrange a boat ourselves for the next day. We saw some boats, but no people around. We then drove south towards the Mirador ([-11.0560, -76.1585](#)) and walked down to the reed bed, where we heard **Blackish Rail**. We played the sound of **Junin Rail/Junin Crake** (e) and rapidly got a response ([-11.055176, -76.158142](#)) from at least 3 different birds of which 2 closer by. We tried to lure it into sight, and even though a bird came very close to the edge of the reed, we didn't get to see it. **Cinereous Harriers** were seen often soaring above the reeds and especially the males are eye-candy!



Cinereous Harrier male



Andean Negrito

We then drove to Ondores to meet with Cesar Donato (+51 955 835 819, Spanish). It was a relief to finally have a guide trying to speak English over WhatsApp, so kudos for him. In real life he only speaks some words and Spanish is the way to communicate. Cesar has one room with four beds in his house that can host guests, and his wife can do the cooking. There is a shared bathroom (no shower, let alone a hot one). A convenient location to stay if you want to do birding and/or mammal watching with him.

We camped at the mirador and agreed to meet there at 06.30. Cesar has a place in the reeds for the **Junin Rail/Junin Crake** where chances of seeing them are a bit higher. He put out some crushed corn, but as he doesn't do that daily (if at all without tourists), that corn was still there at the end of the day. With the aid of playback we got to see an individual cross one of the two lanes in the reed.

After this we drove to Pari for the boat ride, which leaves behind the church ([-10.9642, -76.2295](#)). To see the endemic Junin Grebe, one has to take a boat and go all the way to the centre of the lake, as outside the breeding months (Feb-Mar) they tend to be far away from the shore. Cesar had the boat prepared when we arrived and was ready to leave, something we hadn't seen often with guides in South-America. The boat ride was freezing cold (even colder than on land), so dress appropriately. Getting to the right spot took about 30 minutes and then we observed 3 **Junin Grebes** (e), 2 adults and well-grown juvenile. On the way back we went a bit slower to photograph some other species, including **Silvery Grebe**, **Andean Duck** (lying very low in the water, looking more like a swimming rat at times), **Puna Teal**, **Yellow-billed Teal** and **Yellow-billed Pintail**.



Junin Grebe feeding its young



Silvery Grebe

Between Pari and Ondores one can see some interesting birds as well. In Pari we observed **Black Siskin**, **Bright-rumped Yellow-finch** and **Andean Negrito**. Along the way **Ornate Tinamous** crossed the road. Near a small school (at the moment only 2 children go there..) we observed **Plain-breasted Earthcreeper**, **Streak-throated Canastero** and quite many **Black-breasted Hillstars** (e). The Hillstars fed on some flowers in shrubs in the schoolyard and on bright orange flowers on the rocky slope opposite to the school ([-11.046458, -76.190910](#)). Walking up the hill to try and take photos I flushed at least 8 **Puna Snipes**. Between the mirador and Ondores are some rocks on the west side of the

road where we found a nest of **Lesser Horned Owl** (-11.0774, -t 76.1503). A bit southwards on the same rocks we found **Northern Mountain Viscachas**.



Puna Teal



Yellow-billed Pintail

The first night we spotlighted the road between Ondores and Pari. Between the abovementioned school and Pari there are more houses. To be expected we got quite some flashlights on our car on our way back, but we didn't run into any trouble. Except for the many introduced **Rabbits** we observed **Short-eared Owl** (towards Pari) and **Barn Owl** (near the mirador). Near the mirador we also observed **Andean Fox**, and presumably the same individual was seen the next morning going through the reeds. We hoped for **Colocolo** or **Andean Mountain Cat** (the occurrence of the latter is disputable here), so we got Cesar to show us the spots where he found them with clients. We weren't that far off driving the first night, but Cesar focuses solely on 2 spots for the Colocolo. He says he has seen them with about 10 groups at one spot, and only with one at the other spot. According to Cesar this time of year is not good and the months Dec-Jan are better. Why he couldn't explain, and as he only seems to actively search with clients it wouldn't surprise me if there was an observer bias in there. We actually found relatively fresh scat (less than a week old would be our guess) on the spot that has been most successful for Cesar *et al*. Following the advice of Cesar we scanned that spot for one afternoon from 14.00, until after 2h it started to hail. We weren't sorrowful about that, as we were almost frozen by the strong wind that was head-on and we now had an excuse to go back to the car. Cesar normally searches the same spot with flashlights between 19.00-20.00 (21.00), spotlighting every 10-15 minutes and then going back in the car to warm up. So that's what we did too. Except for one **Puna Snipe** next to the stream we didn't see much. After the 6th time going out for a walk I suddenly got eye-shine from above a high rock, where I certainly didn't see that before! With better inspection this turned out to be **Lesser Horned Owl**. After 21.00 we decided to spotlight back to Ondores and then to the camping spot at the mirador again. We smelled **Molina's Hog-nosed Skunk** (we didn't smell the exact species of course, but it's the only skunk in the region), but as usual we didn't get to see the actual individual. We did see **Andean Fox** again as well as the **Northern Mountain Viscachas**. The end result of our search: frozen extremities and zero cats.

Puma should be around too, but Cesar told us locals shoot them. As a matter of fact 3 were shot just

2 weeks before. Cesar says he has a fairly reliable spot for Puma that is on a private farm about a 2h drive from Ondores. He recommends 2 days for a good chance there. Apparently there are decent populations of Viscacha on the private farm too, so one could try there for the smaller cats as well.



Andean Fox



Chilean Flamingo

Hacienda Armoriqui

[-11.04322, -75.37003](#)

Visited dates: 14-15 August 2023

Hacienda Armoriqui is a birding location that is only recently gaining more popularity. We reserved via WhatsApp with the owners Martin & Nancy (+964958321 or margerbi@hotmail.com, Spanish). The entrance fee for the reserve was 50PEN p.p. They own a big farm on which they produce coffee, but also preserve cloud forest at higher altitudes. The reception was a bit awkward and despite their friendly hospitality we kept feeling that way throughout our stay. The rooms are very basic and old, and the bathroom is shared. The shower is hot and there is good WiFi. For us it was a nice location to get some last remaining targets for this altitude in Peru. Our visit is not a representative for all the good species that can be found here, as we focussed mainly on our targets.



Rufous-capped Nunlet



Bluish-fronted Jacamar

We arrived around 15.30 and after a Chicha Morada we went out birding on our own. We took the road leading up to the left just before the accommodation. As it was already late it was a bit hard to ID birds with the fainting light, but we still observed **Yellow-crested Tanager** and **Wing-barred**

Piprites in a flock. Just when we turned around one of our targets flew over the road and landed in the shrubs: **Rufous-capped Nunlet**! A species I had seen only swiftly more north in Peru, but Romy had missed. Right in that same bend of the road (-11.045847, -75.371498) we got another target; **Cabanis's Spinetails** were going through the shrubs and were seen well after quite some effort. The next day we tried again here, but only heard the Nunlets.

The next morning Martin drove us up in the pick-up truck (factory year 1978!) so that we could walk down from there. They charged 60PEN for this. If wanted they also bring up birders earlier, at 04.00 for example, to try for **Cloud-forest Screech-owl** and **Rufescent Screech-owl**. We had seen both at other places, so we decided on 'sleeping in' and going up at 06.00. The local bird guide of the Hacienda, Moises Rodenas, wasn't available for guiding. Moises knows the birds and territories, while Martin only knows very few birds. He luckily knew the spot for **Cerulean-capped Manakin** (-11.046647, -75.382561). After getting some decent but far-away views of the endemic Manakin (and **White-crowned Manakin**) we started walking down. More interesting cloud forest is found higher up, about 6km from the accommodation, but we had no real targets left and only had one morning here.

Walking down we encountered a male **Rufous-booted Racket-tail** (*ssp. annae*, in which the rackets are crossed instead of straight). We were also very happy to see **Lanceolated Monklets** (-11.045877, -75.38044), a species we had only seen once before. We admired another ssp. of **Versicolored Barbet** (with a red and blue patch underneath the chin, but only yellow on the cheek), saw **Wattled Guan** running on some branches and got some nice looks at other cool species like **Reddish Hermit**, **Pale-edged Flycatcher** and **Bluish-fronted Jacamar**. We had **Hook-billed Kite** flying overhead and heard **Brown Tinamou**, **Tataupa Tinamou** and **Short-tailed Antthrush** calling from the forest. Other good species that can be found in the cloud forest are **Crimson-bellied Woodpecker**, **Creamy-bellied Antwren** (e), **Green-and-white Hummingbird** (e), **Masked Fruiteater** (e) and **Ocellated Piculet** (ne).

At night one could drive up to the cloud forest for the owls. There have been sightings of **Black-capped Night Monkeys** there. We spotlighted from the accommodation and walked part of the entrance road and the road going up (towards the Nunlet spot). At the accommodation we heard **Band-bellied Owl** and higher up the road we heard **Ocellated Poorwill**. The only mammal we came across was a **Brown-eared Woolly Opossum**.

Sapito Road/Valle Andamarca

[-11.48641, -74.88759](#)

Visited dates: 16-19 August 2023

Sapito Road

As we came through Sapito from the north we gradually ascended on the road to higher altitudes. We made a stop at around 1250m ([-11.413604, -74.760672](#)) and right away had our target for this

altitude; **Mottle-backed Elaenia**. In the river we observed **Torrent Ducks** from quite far away. Just before the bridge we found **Rufous-tailed Tyrants**. Right next to the bridge we encountered **Dusky-green Oropendola** nests and we encountered individuals there and some more along the road driving up.

We then drove up to higher altitudes. Not far after the little village *Apaya* we heard **Bay Antpitta** (e). Even though it was calling very close to us, we weren't able to actually see it (-11.508924, -74.829010). Luckily we succeeded higher up, a bit before the bridge *Puente Carrizales* (-11.509449, -74.857300). After the bridge we heard **Oxapampa Antpitta** (e) at three different points along the hairpins, but didn't see any of them. We eventually got to see it higher up (-11.492699, -74.870796). It took quite a long time for them to respond, and interestingly enough –as is often the case with Antpittas- they responded better to the sound of other species of Antpitta of similar size. In this case playing the tape of Junin Antpitta seemed to do the trick in luring the Oxampampa closer. **Junin Antpitta** (e) actually started calling from 30m away (-11.492443, -74.870926) before that in response to the Oxampampa playback.

Around 3350m altitude we parked next to the bridge and walked to both sides. Already from the parking we heard **Yungas Pygmy-owl** and **Junin Antpitta** (e). We eventually got great views of 2 Antpittas at the north side of the bridge ([-11.486419, -74.887596](#)). In the first hairpin bend after the bridge we found **Eye-ringed Thistletail** (e) and about 100 meter around the corner we found another pair. This is also where we heard **Jalca Tapaculo** (e), but it responded too shortly to locate it. Walking farther up the road didn't yield much, except for quick views of **Fire-throated Metaltail** (e). These are not uncommon here, but surprisingly hard to view up close, let alone take pictures of. Walking south from the bridge we encountered **D'Orbigny's Chat-tyrant**, a female **Purple-backed Thornbill** and eventually got to see **Jalca Tapaculo** in the last light in the shrubs (-11.487164, -74.879807). The next morning it didn't respond again, but we did see **South-American Coati** walking along the road here.



Junin Antpitta



Mottle-backed Elaenia

Andamarca Road

Turning east at Apaya (thus taking the road that leads south in the end) we drove up to around 2700m altitude ([-11.532275, -74.815856](#)). Consuming lunch here we heard **Golden-headed Quetzal**

and **Grey-breasted Mountain-toucan**. From there we walked the road up for only ± 700 m. In total we observed 4 **Junin Tapaculos** (e), 2 of which we were able to see (-11.533921, -74.815338 and the most cooperative at -11.535043, -74.815483). High up on the slope we got a response from **Leymebamba Antpitta** (-11.534044, -74.815094), which I got a glimpse of, which is more than at other locations. At the end of the forest patch we spotted **Black-throated Tody-tyrant**. Flocks brought in **White-banded Tyrannulet**, **Cinereous Conebill**, **Collared Inca**, **Streaked Tuftedcheek** and more. **Rufous Spinetails** called tirelessly from the bamboo. We spotlighted the 25km until the next location but saw nothing at all.

Valle Andamarca

We camped along the road in the Valle Andamarca to try for **Jalca Tapaculo** in the morning at a location where someone recently sighted it (-11.62784, -74.793034). Unfortunately we got no response at all, so we drove further down the road. We parked near coordinates from Ross Gallardy (2015) and within seconds we got a reaction from **Plain-tailed Wren** (undescribed form *mantaro*, provisionally considered to represent *schulenbergi*; -11.640275, -74.7931). Thanks to coordinates from Daniel Branch we got to see **Azara's Spinetail** (undescribed form *mantaro*), besides **Rufous Spinetail** going through the same shrubs (-11.675814, -74.802162). In the village we checked the roost for **Koepckes Screech-owl** (-11.692917, -74.801639), but couldn't find it. We checked some more trees around, even played the sound in the hope of a grumpy response, but nothing.

Continuing on the road towards Andamarca we parked on a side-road ([-11.713383, -74.805161](#)). **Streak-fronted Thornbirds** (undescribed form *mantaro*) responded, but it took some time before we got decent enough views of this species. Taking a break here as it was already very hot we paid attention to anything passing by. **Junin Antpitta** (e) was heard, **White-winged Black-tyrant** perched on the wires and **Marcapata Spinetail** (*ssp. weskei*) went through the shrubs. Suddenly we heard a laughing-like sound and I immediately recognized it as **Koepcke's Screech-owl**. Strangely enough 2 decided to start calling around 11.30 in the morning! We were very happy with this, as we could localize the roost (up the road in some small shrubs; -11.713919, -74.805992). Later in the afternoon they were still present at the same spot. A small round produced **Rust-and-yellow Tanager** and again the Thornbirds.

Pariahuanca Road

Driving the JU-108 from our last birding spot to the PE-24A we observed **Andean Ibis** foraging in the pastures next to the road (-11.64114, -74.97684). We hadn't gotten proper views of **Jalca Tapaculo** (e) yet, so we tried at a known spot ([-11.666120, -75.034409](#)). Within minutes we got a response from 3 individuals, of which we managed to see 2. **Fire-throated Metaltail** was observed here too.

Farther towards Huancayo we stopped at some lakes ([-11.776859, -75.245163](#)) where we observed high-altitude species including **Ochre-naped Ground-tyrant**, **Crested Duck**, **Silvery Grebe**, **Black-billed Shrike-tyrant**, but also **Wilson's Phalarope** and **Baird's Sandpiper**.

Huancayo

[-12.1875, -75.2376](#)

Visited date: 1 November 2022

We made a quick visit to a valley south of Huancayo. We camped here and walked for about 1 hour in the early morning. Besides more common species we soon heard and saw the **(Western) Bearded Mountaineer** (e, *Reonympha nobilis albolimbata*).

Department of Lima

[-12.02405, -77.11203](#)

Marcopomacocha area

[-11.58047, -76.26208](#)

Visited dates: 1-3 November 2022

Coming from Huancayo we first birded the Ticlio bog. We parked the car on the side of this busy road ([-11.60193, -76.19826](#)) and walked the fields northwest of here. Despite all the harvesting of the top soil going on we still saw quite some birds hopping around. Most were **White-fronted Ground-tyrants**, but luckily there was also one **White-bellied Cinclodes** (e)! Later we flushed **Grey-breasted Seedsnipes** and had big flocks of **White-winged Diuca-finch/Glaciers Finch**.

After that we drove from the main road towards Lima (PE-22) onto the gravel road PE-3NG. At some hairpin bends, crossing the 4500m altitudinal line, we tried for **Junin Canastero** (e). We quickly found some across the other side of the valley, but higher up they came closer by ([-11.5929, -76.2513](#)). A big hail storm (during which **Black-breasted Hillstar** (e) flew by!) made us quickly continue our route.



Dark-winged Miner



White-bellied Cinclodes

We then went to the bog known as Paso Marcopomacocha ([-11.58047, -76.26208](#)). Arriving late in the afternoon we quickly did a round through this high altitude bog. Although it seemed pretty dry we quickly found **Diademed Sandpiper-plover** just before dusk. In the morning a group of Alpacas had taken over the bog, so the plover was gone. **Olivaceous Thornbill** sat on top of a stone. We

walked around the wet areas and followed the stream. At one moment we flushed **Puna Snipe**. As it was still early we were able to locate it back with our Lahoux Spotter Elite V35 thermal camera. We were glad that we got some great pictures, because the other snipes we flushed later in this bog or later that day didn't pose for a picture. We again found **White-bellied Cinclodes** (e), this time farther away in the field. In the end we found two **Dark-winged Miners** (e) among some boulders northeast of the road.



Puna Snipe



White-bellied Cinclodes

After this we went towards the next bog, known as Pampa Curicocha ([-11.55977, -76.27649](#)). Like at the other bogs, overgrazing and peat harvesting evidently had an impact on the quality of the habitat. Still we soon encountered **White-bellied Cinclodes** (e) on the south side of the road and flushed more **Puna Snipes** from along the streams. A couple of **Dark-winged Miners** (e) hopped on the boulders. **White-winged Cinclodes**, **Cream-winged Cinclodes** and **Plain-breasted Earthcreeper** were present on the big white stone piles surrounding the parking area. After lunch we walked all the way down into the valley where there was an extensive wet area, which produced another 12 **Puna Snipes** and 2 **White-bellied Cinclodes** (e). The boulder field ([-11.54636, -76.27323](#)) on the other side of this valley produced **Stripe-headed Antpittas**. During the strenuous walk back to our car we flushed a group of **Grey-bellied Seedsnipes**, a species we had heard already multiple times during the day.



Stripe-headed Antpitta



Black-breasted Hillstar

We didn't find Laguna Millo ([-11.5779, -76.3537](#)) very nice for birding, as the road is high above the lake and the lake and surrounding area is fenced. We decided to make some stops along the route down the valley for the target species. We heard **Stripe-headed Antpitta** at a boulder field ([-11.5891, -76.375](#)) and found **Striated Earthcreeper** (e) and a female **Black-breasted Hillstar** (e) at another ([-11.59185, -76.37699](#)). The next stop ([-11.59697, -76.38635](#)) produced a beautiful male **Black-breasted Hillstar** (e), resting regularly on a boulder near the road.

Valle de Santa Eulalia

[-11.73995, -76.61684](#)

Visited dates: 3-5 November 2022

In the upper Valle de Santa Eulalia is a birding place known as Quebrada Yanac ([-11.62632, -76.43546](#)). On the south side of the road grows a *Polyopsis* grove on the hills, which can be reached by following the trail on the right side of the waterfall. Already when we arrived we observed **Rusty-bellied Brushfinches** (e) walking on the ground. **Giant Conebills** chopped away on the few *Polyopsis* trees next to the waterfall. Climbing up and arriving at the big boulder we could oversee quite some of the forest, but there was barely any bird activity. Scanning all the tree tops and finding nothing we decided to climb all the way up on the other side, higher than the second waterfall. During this walk we only observed only **Rusty-crowned Tit-spinetail** (e). Scanning all the trees from high up, we saw absolutely nothing. We walked down again and when we came to the big boulder a bigger bird flew from one tree to another. Carefully scanning didn't yield anything, and just when we wanted to dismiss it as something else, a **White-cheeked Cotinga** (e) flew from this very tree! It took 2.5 hours, but we found the target here!



Pied-crested Tit-tyrant

Peruvian Pygmy-owl

As luck and time were on our side we already continued towards the upper part of the valley around San Pedro de Castra ([-11.73258, -76.58596](#)). The road towards here (from the north) was no joke, as there had been multiple landslides, the road was very small and the steep cliffs were dazzling high. From the given coordinates we walked the road going south. After 1 kilometre we found our next big target after we saw some common birds land in a bush way down from the road. Right after these birds landed in that shrub, another bird landed in there which looked a bit like a seedeater from the

back. The sunlight was strong, but when it turned around a bit we could clearly distinguish the orange on the belly and eyebrow; **Rufous-breasted Warbling-finch** (e)! Not much later 2 more shortly landed in the shrub, before disappearing into the greener shrubs further up. Other birds encountered on this walk and the next morning, were **Rusty-crowned Tit-spinetail** (e), **Black-necked Woodpecker** (e), **Black Metaltail** (e), **Bronze-tailed Comet** (e) and the very cute **Pied-crested Tityrant**.

Later in the morning we birded the hairpin section of the road further down in the valley ([-11.74644, -76.60576](#)). A **Peruvian Pygmy-owl** started calling. Many birds came in to mock the owl, amongst which **Black Metaltail** (e) and **Rusty-crowned Tit-spinetail** (e). And then suddenly I shortly observed another **Rufous-breasted Warbling-finch** (e) before it flew down into the shrubs when **Black-necked Woodpecker** (e) landed on the pile of branches it was sitting on. During the rest of the day we observed many more **Rusty-bellied Brushfinches** (e), which are abundant here. Besides these we observed **Collared Warbling-finch**, **Oasis Hummingbird**, **Purple-throated Woodstar** and **Peruvian Sheartail** (only a female of the last one unfortunately).

Even further down into the valley we parked the car ([-11.73483, -76.60874](#)) and quickly after found a pair of **Great Inca-finches** (e), and one more just a bit further up. The next morning we went here again and found 7 Inca Finches in total along a stretch of 1.5km.

Thick-billed Miner (e) was calling from a rock next to the road going down towards Lima ([-11.73995, -76.61684](#)).



Great Inca-finch



Rusty-bellied Brushfinch

Pucusana

[-12.48307, -76.79953](#)

Visited dates: 5-7 November 2022

Pucusana is a small fishing town about 50km south of Lima. The town itself isn't that nice, maybe even a bit sketchy, but we stayed at a lovely affordable hotel on top of the hill: Cruz Del Sur. It can be

reached by a steep -and at one part very small- road, by following the Leoncio Prado street towards the hotel ([-12.48307, -76.79953](#)). Prices are about 100-120S for a double with private bathroom, including breakfast. Calle, a Danish owner, can arrange tours or guide himself in Peru or even outside of Peru (note: he is not a bird guide). He can be contacted by email (calle_granholm@yahoo.dk) or via WhatsApp (+51 988859199). It's via Calle that we arranged a private kind of 'pelagic'.

**Belcher's Gull****Peruvian Pelican**

As we arranged it quite last minute, the boatman had some trouble arranging enough fish offal. The boat was quite slow, and he didn't have a GPS so he first went parallel along the coast for too long. In the end we reached ± 15 km out of shore before we turned around. We managed to see **Elliot's Storm-petrel** (common), 3 **White-chinned Petrels**, 4 **Sooty Shearwaters**, 14 **Peruvian Diving-petrels** and 1 **Swallow-tailed Gull**. The better surprises didn't come in the form of birds, but whales! On the way out we got to see 2 (maybe 3) **Humpback Whales** quite close to the boat! On the way back we more or less passed that point and again saw a whale. It once came out with its head just enough to see that it was huge, flat and had 3 ridges: **Bryde's Whale**. So still 2 new species on this trip! The whole trip lasted from 05.30-10.30 and cost 550S, including the fish we did manage to get. Reserving in advance gives more time to get fish offal, prepare it with fish oil and/or lots of popcorn to get good quantities. We also gave this feedback to Calle, so next time he would be able to arrange a faster boat, going out further into sea, have more chum etc.

**Humpback Whale****Elliot's Storm-petrel**

Besides this creative pelagic we walked along the hilly coast and sat with our telescope to look for birds. Common birds are **Peruvian Pelicans**, **Peruvian Boobies**, **Inca Terns**, **Red-legged Cormorant**, **Black Skimmers** and **Surf Cinclodes/Peruvian Seaside Cinclodes** (e) multiple times. From the lookout you can see the island Chunchu, with **Humboldt Penguins** and a colony of **South American Sea Lions**. You can also pass this place by boat, for example in combination with the pelagic.

Lomas de Lachay

[-11.37918, -77.37558](#)

Visited dates: 14-15 November 2022

Lomas de Lachay is located not far north of the capital Lima. To get all the targets you have to go to two locations in/around the park. We birded the first location outside/north of the park on the first afternoon between 15.00-18.00. Get off the main road ([-11.35348, -77.33186](#)) and park the car. It used to be possible to drive all the way into the valley, but recently this has been made impossible by a large water gully. Already where we parked our car we heard a group of birds on the rocky hillside, and these turned out to be **Raimondi's Yellow-finches** (a species that was endemic until recently, as this nomadic species turned up in northern Chile and seems to have a population there now). Further up in the valley we arrived at the point where more cacti grow ([-11.34816, -77.35552](#)) and soon we found our second target: **Cactus Canastero** (e). We observed a pair and heard another one on the other side of the valley. Trying to observe that one as well, we heard the call from **Greyish Miner** and subsequently were able to locate 2 of them.



A big flock of Raimondi's Yellow-finches



Greyish Miner

We camped on the entrance road towards Lomas de Lachay (starting: [-11.40958, -77.38974](#)), and this is where we observed **Coastal Miner** (e) when we arrived around dusk. They went into a rabbit hole, probably to spend the night. These birds turned out to be very common along the entrance road the next morning. We also found two pairs of the stunning **Peruvian Thick-knees** and multiple **Least Seedsnipes**, some with recently fledged chicks. At the entrance gate ([-11.37918, -77.37558](#)) we observed **Peruvian Meadowlark**. With all our targets in the pocket (and seeing **Thick-billed Miner** already before at a different location) we decided not to spend 30PEN p.p. to enter the park. The park is open from 08.00-17.00 if you do want to enter.



Coastal Miner



Peruvian Thick-knee

Department of Ancash

[-9.10832, -77.68541](#)

Quilcap/San Damian

[-9.88374, -77.7719](#)

Visited date: 16 November 2022

Don't go here! There are good alternatives to get these target species nowadays, like Sinsicap/Parrapos (-7.84962, -78.75046 respectively -7.73636, -78.74475). Since 2021 someone discovered another location with the same target species one road south around Marca ([-10.10160, -77.49659](#)), which is also on route from Lima to Huaraz. At both alternative locations birding can be done from the road. We are not sure why nobody commented on the difficulty of the Quilcap valley in their eBird list. Just in case anybody is still very inclined to visit this place we write our experience: The road from Huarney is paved until Huamba, after which it turns into a single lane gravel road until Quilcap, which takes about 2-2.5h in total. After consulting the locals where the start of the valley trail was, we parked the car at the end of the village ([-9.88374, -77.7719](#)). Walking into the green valley we quickly had a pair of **Piura Chat-tyrants** (e). Not much later we observed **Tumbes Pewees** and a bit further **Bay-crowned Brushfinch**. So far the birding went pretty smooth, until we had to climb down the valley to the other side to continue. Not much later we hit a dry waterfall and couldn't continue no matter what we tried. We decided to go up the mountain on the north side and once we finally made it to the top (slipping many times) we found sort of a path. This path continued all the way to the point where the valley splits in two. The trail is sometimes very small with many loose stones, next to a steep valley, and we did slip a few times treacherously close to the edge. The only useful information anybody wrote in their eBird list was that they found the biggest target around 2175-2350m altitude. As we were only at 2000m, we decided to follow the valley to the right as much as possible. Here too we quickly encountered multiple barriers that were a bit difficult to circumvent. The plants which had all their branches covered in spines did not help either. Working our way through the shrubs and over the boulders we ended up at a sort of path again ([-9.8630, -77.7863](#)). We climbed this and soon after encountered two **Russet-bellied Spinetails** (e) around 2080m altitude.

**Piura Chat-tyrant****Russet-bellied Spinetail**

Very happy we got our target we had to do the whole way back, but this time we followed the path that we had encountered halfway. Suddenly Rob spotted another **Russet-bellied Spinetail** at 2000m altitude ([-9.8700, -77.7820](#)). We ended up on the mountain side above the village and didn't see a trail, so we worked our way down the steep agricultural fields. It's worth studying GoogleMaps satellite if you still intend to go here despite our warnings ;-). It seems best to bird the first part of the valley for the first targets and then walk another route for the Spinetail. Still we advise to visit one of the alternative locations where you can bird from the road! Even with all the targets in the pocket we don't feel the climb into the valley was worth the risks we took.

Laguna Llaca road

[-9.46951, -77.46548](#)

Visited dates: 17-18 November 2022

This valley is reached from Huaraz in about 1 hour. Maps.me guides you there, but via some narrow village roads. The last 4km require a high clearance 2WD or 4WD. There is a gate ([-9.46951, -77.46548](#)), which opens from 08.30-15.00. We got in at 14.30 and stayed till the next day. We told the man we were scientists, so it might have been an exception that we could overnight in the park here ;-). The forest after the gate is officially part of Huascarán NP, but the entrance (30PEN) has to be paid at the ranger station near lake Llaca at the top (which we never reached).

**Tit-like Dacnis****Rufous-eared Brushfinch**

We birded the forest along the road from the gate up to 2.5km farther (there's about 1km of good forest before this gate, which we didn't bird). **Ancash Tapaculo** (e) was heard multiple times, and observed once. **Tit-like Dacnis** was super common in this valley. We observed **White-cheeked**

Cotinga (e) on the cliff side. Other nice goodies observed were **Line-cheeked Spinetail** (near the gate), **Rufous-eared Brushfinch** (e, quite common), **Black Metaltail** (e) and **Blue-mantled Thornbill**. We missed out on **Plain-tailed Warbling-finch** (e), which has been seen here too. We didn't go all the way to the lake, but birds like **Green-headed Hillstar** (e), **Tawny Tit-spinetail**, **Black-crested Tit-tyrant** and **Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant** have all been seen there. A nice alternative to Huascarán NP further west, but in our opinion that is still the main bird location to go to.

Huascarán NP

[-9.10607, -77.6834](#)

Visited dates: 18-21 November 2022

Huascarán NP is reached from the small town of Yungay. The entrance fee is 30PEN p.p. for one day, or 60PEN p.p. for 2-3 days, paid at the entrance gate ([-9.106061, -77.683071](#)). We walked the trail 'Maria Josefa' (entrance: [-9.094516 -77.669029](#)), which takes about 1.5/2h going up and 1/1.5h going down. There were strong winds when we entered the park, but inside the *Polyopsis* forest it was less annoying for birding. Still activity was low in the middle of the day. The only bird of note we observed at the beginning of the trail was **Rainbow Starfrontlet**. Around the last part of the trail and around lake Chinan Cocha we encountered some nice mixed flocks, with **Giant Conebills**, **Black-crested Tit-tyrant**, **Black-crested Warbler** and **Line-cheeked Spinetail** (e). **Plain-tailed Warbling-finch** (e) has been observed on the trail and near the lake, but we couldn't find it. We also encountered **Rufous-eared Brushfinch** (e), **Smoky-brown Woodpecker** and **Striated Earthcreeper** (e) just before the end of the trail. If you have a driver, it might be worth walking this trail from lake Chinan Cocha ([-9.078134, -77.650948](#)) all the way down and have the driver pick you up again at the bottom.



Giant Conebill

Striated Earthcreeper

The rest of the afternoon we birded from the camping area ([-9.052139, -77.618539](#)) along the road towards the entrance of the 'lake 69 trail' ([-9.04569, -77.609317](#)) and back on the path that runs through the field. **Ancash Tapaculo** (e) was heard multiple times, and in the *Polyopsis* in the field we observed **White-cheeked Cotinga** (e). Otherwise nothing spectacular, and no Hillstars yet. At night we observed **Peruvian White-tailed Deer** walking on the meadow next to the lake.

The next morning we started at 07.00, more or less when the sun began shining into the valley. We walked towards the lake, where there's a Bromeliad-covered rocky hill on the northwest side ([-](#)

[9.053705, -77.621218](#)). Multiple **Green-headed Hillstars** (e) were feeding on the Bromeliad flowers. In the afternoon we found quite many **Northern Mountain Viscachas** on the rocks here.



Huascaran NP



Green-headed Hillstar

We then continued to search for our last big target in the park and drove up the road farther in the valley. We made a first stop just after crossing the stream ([-9.049663, -77.603514](#)) and quickly encountered a mixed flock with **Giant Conebill**, **Tit-like Dacnis** (which is common everywhere here) and we got a glimpse of the target; **Plain-tailed Warbling-finch** (e). That bird flew away and scanning around we saw another **White-cheeked Cotinga** (e) feeding on flowers next to the area where we parked. We got some good views of this species, but were not satisfied with our views of the Warbling-finch yet. So we stopped again at different spots where the species had been seen before ([-9.051367, -77.600876](#) and [-9.052764, -77.597037](#)). The first stop yielded only common species, but at the second stop we already heard **Plain-tailed Warbling-finch** (e) when we got out of the car. We got great views of this individual, which was chased away all the time by **Tit-like Dacnis**. We then observed **Many-striped Canastero** in the shrubs against the slope. This species is quite common higher up the hill. We did drive towards the other side of the mountain, but the road is in bad condition and we actually broke a shock absorber on this road. Except for the species mentioned above, we didn't encounter anything worth driving up much farther than our last stop. We couldn't connect with **Tawny Tit-spinetail** or **Streaked Tit-spinetail**, which are sometimes observed here.



White-cheeked Cotinga



Plain-tailed Warbling-finch

A nice stop on the way to the park is a small side road before the entrance ([-9.108327, -77.685411](#)). We had **Red-crested Cotinga** in the top of the trees and the shrubs were blooming and there were quite some species of hummingbird, like **Black-tailed Trainbearer** and **Green-tailed Trainbearer**.

Pueblo Libre/Rinconada/Tocash

[-9.08485, -77.79679](#)

Visited date: 21 November 2022



Huascarán NP



Creamy-breasted Canasteros ssp. dorbignyi

After we got our shock absorber replaced in Yungas we continued to Tocash/Rinconada, near Pueblo Libre. We parked the car ([-9.084851, -77.796799](#)) and immediately got a response from **Creamy-breasted Canasteros ssp. dorbignyi**. This population is yet undescribed and for now lumped together with the Pale-tailed Canasteros, but might warrant a full species status, making it another endemic for Peru.

Lago Parón

[-8.99918, -77.68466](#)

Visited dates: 21-22 November 2022

Lake Parón has a beautifully turquoise colour, and the benefit of this lake is that it is reached by car instead of doing a trek. This might make it a nice combination for a family group which are not all birders. It takes about 1h from Caraz (turn-off at [-9.036695, -77.820391](#)). The first 18km of the 32km towards the park gate are smooth gravel, after that the road gets a bit more bumpy. The entrance fee is 5PEN p.p.d. and it's allowed to camp near the lake. There is also very basic accommodation for 20PEN per bed.

Driving up the road you pass along a lot of *Polyopsis*, which we didn't bird, but looks quite promising. The small patches of *Polyopsis* at the top yielded **White-cheeked Cotinga** (e), **Red-crested Cotinga**, **Rusty-crowned Tit-spinetail**, **Rufous-eared Brushfinch** (e), **Blue-mantled Thornbill** and much more.

**Rufous-eared Brushfinch****Laguna Parón**

Carretera a Huaylas

-8.87843, -77.87383**Visited date:** 22 November 2022

It took us about 45 minutes to get from Caraz towards the first location on the road. The road is paved until the turn-off at Mato ([-8.969584, -77.841004](#)). Thanks to Joshua Vermeulen's accurate eBird lists we found **Great Inca-finch** (e) very quickly ([-8.920653, -77.860702](#)). We then continued for the real target higher up this road. We parked the car ([-8.885126, -77.873271](#)) and walked into the valley for about 50m. We rapidly got a response from a **Rufous-backed Inca-finch** (e), but it wouldn't come down. We also observed **Canyon Canastero** here. Another kilometre farther up the mountain ([-8.878439, -77.873833](#)) we observed a pair of **Rufous-backed Inca-finches** (e), which posed very well for the camera. We decided to drive back the way we came, taking the turnoff at San Diego ([-8.94276, -77.845145](#)). This gets you on the PE-3N again and into a very cool canyon with many tunnels (awesome piece of road!), which is the way to go towards Cajamarca (or in our case towards Tayabamba).

**Rufous-backed Inca-finch****Rufous-backed Inca-finch**

Department of La Libertad

[-8.1844, -77.23399](#)

Tayabamba/Utcubamba Valley

[-8.1844, -77.23399](#)

Visited dates: 23-28 November 2022

It took quite some time to reach this site. We drove about 4.5h/135km after the last stop for the Rufous-backed Inca-finch towards our camping place. A good place to overnight would be Sihuas if you're driving this route and don't have a tent/motorhome. After this, the total 170km via PE-12A (good gravel road), followed by the PE-10C (the 42km asphalt going up is very good, the last 54km are quite bad) until the turn-off towards Utcubamba took just over 6h. From the turn-off towards the first birding spot via the LI-129 took another hour. The LI-129 is a gravel road, which turns into a more challenging ride after about 16km. The winding road up is very narrow with little room for oncoming cars/trucks to pass. High clearance is a must and a 4WD preferred, although we did it with a 2WD.

We had very little information about this place, except for some research papers from 1979 where they had found the endemic Yellow-browed Toucanet almost daily on the expedition. Somehow this doesn't show in the eBird lists of this expedition (which have some remarkable species in them!). Coordinates didn't seem very precise and the region has been the territory of the Shining Path guerrilla group. On Google Earth it seemed that there was now a road where they once did the trekking between Tayabamba and Utcubamba. After consultation with Gunnar Engblom from Kolibri Expeditions we decided the area should be safe enough now to give it a go. We birded at multiple altitudes:



Coppery Metaltail



Red-crested Cotinga

3550-3400m

Our first stop was higher up ([-8.1844, -77.234](#)). We birded the small forest patches here and around the corner going farther up the road. **Coppery Metaltail** (e) was very common at this altitude. We heard **White-chinned Thistletail** multiple times. Flocks were scanned for **Golden-backed Mountain Tanager** (e) which has been recorded here, but we didn't find any. Very busy chattering in the shrubs

turned out to be a group of at least 8+ **Pardusco** (e). We took a road going up around the corner (starting: [-8.18276, -77.23342](#)). There was more bamboo here and we soon heard an Antpitta and after climbing onto the rocks into the bamboo patch Rob observed a 'Rufous Antpitta'. Considering the high altitude (3500m+), cloud forest/bamboo habitat and sound, this should be **Chachapoyas Antpitta** (e). While we were trying to actually see the Antpitta, another rufous bird caught our eye. Soon we realised this was **Rufous-mantled Softtail** (e) and no less than 3 came up to us after using playback. 5 days later we visited this altitude again, and the Spinetails were still in the exact spot!

**Pardusco****Russet-mantled Softtail**

A bit further we came to some shrubby páramo, where we heard **Neblina Tapaculo** (e), which was quite common. **Paramo Pipits** and **Grass Wrens** were observed in the same area. In one of the isolated forest patches we heard **Tschudi's Tapaculo** (e). The last night we camped at this altitude. The alarm was at 05.00 because we hoped for special Snipes. As soon as Rob opened the door from the car we heard the characteristic sound from an **Imperial Snipe**! Luckily we didn't put our alarm any later, because 10 minutes later we didn't hear it again. **Jameson's Snipe** was also calling in the morning, as it did at dusk the evening before.

3300-3100m

We camped in our car a bit further down in a broad bend of the road ([-8.176389, -77.231693](#)). From there we birded the next morning and again on the way back another long morning. The weather was not as good as the afternoon before, with lots of rain. Still we picked up nice flocks with, amongst others, **Drab Hemispingus**, **Superciliated Hemispingus** (White-bellied ssp.), **Black-capped Hemispingus** (White-browed ssp.), **Yellow-scarfed Tanager** (e), different species of Mountain Tanagers and 2 more **Russet-mantled Softtails** (e). Two pairs of **Peruvian Wrens** (e) were observed during the walk. Some other wrens had to be pushed out of the bamboo and turned out to be **Plain-tailed Wrens** (with a plain belly, barely any moustache stripe). In another patch of bamboo we got to see the stunning **Plushcap**. At a small stream on the roadside we were able to hear and see **Large-footed Tapaculo** (e). A surprising find were the many **Slaty Brushfinches** (*ssp. kalinowski's*, a likely endemic split). Our observations are the most northerly for this subspecies. **Red-crested Cotinga** was very common here, like at higher altitudes. While huddling together under an umbrella for the heavy

rain we noticed another Cotinga. Luckily it stayed just long enough to get a good look at it before it flew away: a male **Bay-vented Cotinga** (e)! A very nice surprise! It did respond to playback later, but didn't come closer unfortunately. Before the road wended further down we observed **Rufous Spinetail** in the bamboo. This is also where we had the 6th observation of a **Mountain Avocetbill** for Peru (in eBird), foraging very low on flowers along the roadside. While sitting out the rain in our car 3 **Unstreaked Tit-tyrants** (e) decided rain was no reason to stop birding and came to our car for a change :).

**Unstreaked Tit-tyrant****Slaty Brushfinch**

2900-2650m

We spent one afternoon and one morning focussing on this altitude. Only around 2900m the road stays at that altitude for a larger tract. The habitat right next to the road looked great for another special endemic; **Pale-billed Antpitta** (e); lots of humid cloud forest with a lot of bamboo in the right altitude. Better yet, M. Robbins had observed up to 10 individuals one morning in October 1979 between these altitudes (2650-2850m). We played the tape multiple times at different locations, but unfortunately didn't get a response. We can't believe they aren't there anymore, so it's really worth coming another time of the year to try for this species here!

**Pale-footed Swallow****Plushcap**

We did have observations of **Grey-breasted Mountain-toucan**, **Plushcap**, **Rufous-capped Thornbill**, **Sword-billed Hummingbird**, a flock of **Golden-plumed Parakeets** (listen for the characteristic sound) and even **Masked Saltator** in a mixed species flock. Driving up we saw swallows going into a tree and

flying out again. Finally we got some good looks at **Pale-footed Swallows**, a species we had only seen flying so far. At this altitude both **Trilling Tapaculo** and **Large-footed Tapaculo** (e) were heard.

2650-2100m

We drove down to 2350m and parked our car ([-8.149973, -77.179266](#)). This pointer is about 8km after the road ends on Maps.me. The Toucanet has a narrow altitude range, 2000-2600m according to the bird book. The research paper writes that on the path from Tayabamba towards Utcubamba (this valley) the Toucanet occupied a rather narrow elevational range from 2100 to 2350m. They sighted the Toucanets almost daily, most often in pairs (sometimes 3-4 ind.) in the canopy of lush, epiphyte-laden cloud forest dominated by 12-15m tall trees. The few sightings on eBird note the Toucanets in fruiting trees, on the edge of second-growth, respectively at a clearing.

The road through the valley unfortunately winds down pretty quickly between 2600m and 2000m altitude. There is about 5km of road between these altitudes and this way one can cover a length of about 3km in the valley at the right altitude. There are two areas that have been cleared for agriculture, and the section between 2250-2100m is sparsely vegetated on one side of the valley due to its steepness. We walked the road multiple times over the course of 2 full days, mainly focussing on the altitude stated in the paper for this valley (2100-2350m). Spoiler alert: we didn't get to see one. A local named 'Innocente' lives around 2600m for 3 years now ([-8.153483, -77.188165](#)), and he says that he has seen this 'toucanet verde' a couple of times, especially in the beginning (not very surprising as he cut down most of the forest around his house). Innocente has two flat areas with a roof where you could pitch a tent or two, and where you can cook even if it rains hard. He also got WiFi installed the day we were there, but already, the day after, he forgot his password and thereby already lost his first customers.

Despite us not observing the Toucanet, we did hear quite many **Rusty-tinged Antpittas** (e), which was quite common around the parking spot. Walking up we heard **Large-footed Tapaculos** (e), especially near some of the 'waterfalls' that came out of the vegetation. **Trilling Tapaculo** was not uncommon either. One fruiting tree yielded 3 **Green-and-black Fruiteaters**. **Barred Fruiteater** was seen later at the parking. We heard a sound multiple times that we first couldn't place. Suddenly it came to us and right after we played the tape 2 **Lulu's Tody-flycatcher/Johnson's Tody-flycatchers** (e) came out of the vegetation. After we finally knew what the sound was, we observed some more individuals of this spectacular species along the road. A nice range extension of the northern population of this species.

Farther down towards the 2100m there is another open area. This is where we heard **Orange-breasted Falcon** from the other side of the valley, but weren't able to locate it. **Cliff Flycatchers** with a very light head were quite common here. Lower down we heard **Rufous-vented Tapaculo** (e) at one of the streams.

**Tricolored Brushfinch****Lulu's/Johnson's Tody-flycatchers**

According to Innocente there should be *Yellow-tailed Woolly-monkeys* in the valley too. We didn't observe them, but it's an amazing species to keep an eye out for.

The road winds down quickly after the 2100m altitude towards Utcubamba. From there one could even drive to Las Pampas or Ongón, which is the end of the road for now. A great valley to explore and this might become another birding hotspot in Peru!

Molino

[-7.75821, -77.77239](#)

Visited dates: 28-29 November 2022

The road from Tayabamba to Molino is terrible, and preferably driven with a sturdy, high clearance car with some good shock absorbers. It took us 8 hours to drive the 180km between the two towns. They say paving the road will start within 2 years, but it will probably take 5-10 years before they're done with the whole section. Somehow during the preparation for our travels we missed out on the fact that *Buff-bridled Inca-finch* (e) and *Great Spinetail* (e) can be found about 1.5h before Molino along this road. Be sure not to miss that amazing distraction from such a long days drive.

The PE-10C coming from the west (Trujillo or Cajabamba) is way better and only the last 19km are in worse condition. It's definitely worth coming to Molino via that way! On the way towards Molino, look out for *White-tailed Shrike-tyrant*, which has been seen at the top. We only observed *Rufous-webbed Bush-tyrant*.

As real Dutchies we hoped that with such a name, the town would have at least one awesome windmill. Unfortunately there is none. Luckily there is an amazing endemic bird species that can easily be found in Molino. Park your car along the road or take the turn-off ([-7.75821, -77.77239](#)) and park at the plant nursery. This road makes for easy walking and is a perfect place to see the quite abundant *Purple-backed Sunbeam* (e). As they cut down a lot of shrubs along the road for 'safety reasons', the Sunbeams were resting a bit farther from the road, but we still got amazing views of them! Along the road we also observed *Yellow-breasted Brushfinch* and *Rufous-eared Brushfinch* (e). In the corner after the nursery is a little stream. This is where we heard about 4 *Unicolored*

Tapaculos (e) from different directions and were able to see 1 of them. While observing this Tapaculo, another bird flew into a nearby tree and turned out to be **Jelski's Chat-tyrant**. We ran into Wilder, the man who runs the nursery and is the town's advocate for the hummingbird. He walked with us to his house ([-7.76468, -77.75999](#)), where you are able to camp as well (there is a hotel in town too). Along the way we observed **Rainbow Starfrontlet** besides the many Sunbeams. At Wilder's we also observed **Sword-billed Hummingbird**. The rest of the morning was mostly spend catching a cavy and preparing it for lunch after Wilder heard we never tried Cuy/Cavy before. Wilder is a very nice man who hopes to see many more tourists in town, as then the locals will see why they need to preserve the habitat of this amazing species!



Purple-backed Sunbeam



Rob with his dinner, not sure whether to smile

Department of Cajamarca

[-7.1077, -78.4242](#)

San Marcos

[-7.31586, -78.18443](#)

Visited date: 30 November 2022

We passed San Marcos around 13.00 and it was scorching hot despite the strong wind. Not the best conditions to find **Great Spinetail** (e), which is often seen along the winding roads west of town. We first walked the dry riverbed to both sides and then walked up the hill via the trail ([-7.31586, -78.18443](#)). This area is where **Buff-bridled Inca-finch** (e) is sometimes seen. As nice as it was to be away from the busy road, we didn't observe the Spinetail or the Inca-finch. We did see many **Spot-throated Hummingbirds** (e), **Fulvous-faced Pygmy-tyrants** and a couple of **Black-lored Yellowthroats**. We then decided to walk the road after all and endure the disturbance of the traffic. In total we searched for 2.5-3h but didn't see the Spinetail. We might have heard it once, but we weren't sure because of the strong wind. A bit disappointed with this location we decided to drive to our back-up location.

Jesús

[-7.26062, -78.36387](#)

Visited date: 1 December 2022

Jesús is the name of a small village west of San Marcos (60km drive) and east of Cajamarca (20km drive). The road towards Jesús is paved all the way. Ironically, despite the name, we had a bit of trouble finding the way in the village. After the village it's only a few km on a gravel road to the birding location. We camped in a gravel pit and birded the road in the morning from 06.00-08.00. There was a surprising amount of traffic still, but way less annoying than at San Marcos. We found a pair of **Great Spinetails** (e) pretty quickly in a small valley towards Jesús (-7.26062, -78.36387). On the way back we found another pair on the other side of this same valley. **Buff-bridled Inca-finch** (e) was not uncommon, and we observed a total of 5 individuals on our walk.



Great Spinetail



Buff-bridled Inca-finch

Cañon de Sangal/Rio Chonta

[-7.1077, -78.4242](#)

Visited date: 1 December 2022

After some groceries shopping we left Cajabamba for Rio Chonta/Cañon de Sangal for yet another very localized endemic bird. As it was already 13.30 and quite hot and windy, we decided this was a good a time as any for our breakfast. After this Rob went walking and scanned the shrubs and hillslopes for hummingbirds, and pretty quickly found **Grey-bellied Comet** (e) on a steep cliff side near the river ([-7.1077, -78.4242](#)). Romy was still at the car and missed it, so we had to find at least one more. We tried at Cañon de Sangal ([-7.08566, -78.39957](#)) and scoured all the shrubs there, but couldn't find another Comet. We tried some other places, but found this species way more difficult than we imagined. It might have been the time of day and windy conditions, but just in case try to plan to search for this species in the morning when the hummingbirds are more active. We then went back to the first place Rob had seen it and waited there in our chairs to see if it would come back. An hour or what later, it finally did and Romy got to see it as well.

Cruz Conga/Antpitta Track

[-6.99411, -78.20189](#)

Visited date: 2 December 2022

While driving towards the next point we kept looking for *White-tailed Shrike-tyrants*, which are quite regularly seen here, but we found none. We made a stop along the roadside before Cruz Conga ([-7.011655, -78.213706](#)) and quickly heard a couple of *Cajamarca Antpittas* (e) calling. We climbed up to one, but weren't able to observe it.

After Cruz Conga we went to the Antpitta Track (turn-off: [-6.994114, -78.201894](#)). We parked at the beginning, but one could drive a bit further to skip the first boring kilometre. We heard *Cajamarca Antpitta* (e) multiple times, but only got a short glimpse of it after about 2km ([-6.992859, -78.216270](#)). For this we had to sit on our knees with our head inside the shrubs. It must have looked quite funny for people walking by, but luckily they couldn't see our faces anyway. At this same spot we heard and eventually observed *Chestnut-crowned Antpitta*.

El Limon – Endemic Point

[-6.87713, -78.0884](#)

Visited date: 2 December 2022

Before the endemic point we made a quick stop ([-6.893821, -78.086853](#)) and got stunning views of *Grey-winged Inca-finch* (e). After this we made our way to the famous Endemic Point ([-6.87713, -78.0884](#)). *Grey-winged Inca-finches* (e) were observed here too from the roadside just before the beginning of the path. Even though it was already getting quite hot (10.00am) we quickly connected with *Chestnut-backed Thornbird* (e), of which a total of 8 were observed later in the afternoon on our second round. *Marañon Thrush* and *Marañon Tyrannulet* were both found very easily. *Tumbes Pewee* was common and conspicuous. While standing in the vegetation of the canyon we got nice views of *Buff-bellied Tanagers*. A single *Peruvian Pigeon* (e) flew out of a tree and granted short views, but this species was observed more often on the road down to Cañon Balsas.



Grey-winged Inca-finch



Tumbes Pewee

Cañon Balsas

[-6.85104, -78.05252](#)

Visited date: 3 December 2022

After we did so well at the endemic point, our only remaining target for this valley was the Parrotlet. This species is sometimes seen at the Endemic Point, but can be observed all the way down towards the river (and beyond). We had no luck in the afternoon driving down the road, scanning many cacti, listening for the sound. The strong wind made it quite difficult to hear anything else at all. The next morning we started driving at 06.00 and focussed on a higher road with many cacti, as there had been some great sightings and photos there recently. While driving the road up we observed about 8 **Buff-bridled Inca-finches** (e)! We walked and waited till 08.00, but heard and saw nothing. We then drove the road slowly down again and stopped wherever we could. This tactic was rewarded quickly; we heard **Yellow-faced Parrotlets** (e) and got some short but nice views of this stunning endemic. From our (limited) experience we would opt for slowly driving the road (between [-6.85337, -78.030465](#) and [-6.851043, -78.05252](#)), stopping often, scanning cacti and listen for the sound.



Buff-bridled Inca-finch



Yellow-faced Parrotlet

NOTE: not in the Department of Cajamarca, but in the Department of Amazonas, the next logical place to visit on route is Abra Barro Negro.

Jaén – Bosque de Yanahuyanca

[-5.62778, -78.78367](#)

Visited dates: 13-15 December 2022

We tried to reserve via telephone for Bosque de Yanahuyanca (Ezequiel Huancas, +51 949 956 499, Spanish), but all the times the phone was down. He doesn't have WhatsApp, so you have to call. We tried our luck and just drove up. The owners Ezequiel and Julia were working near the gate, and they let us in without any problems. If they wouldn't be there you would have to pass the gate by foot and walk up to the house (the dog is friendly for a change!). Even though it was 14.00, windy and already hot, we went birding straight away. Ezequiel told us to go straight through the bush up the hill, which was not his best recommendation. Better to follow the road going up behind the house and walk up the hill that way. On top of the hill you encounter a good path to follow ([-5.62879, -78.78613](#)).

Going through the bush we arrived on top of the hill and immediately heard **Marañon Crescentchest**, but only managed to get a glimpse of it. **Scarlet-backed Woodpecker** and **Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet** passed by during our wait for the Crescentchest. **Rufous-fronted Thornbirds** and **Drab Seedeaters** were both abundant. Both **Collared Antshrike** and **Northern Slaty Antshrike** were lured in. When we finally found a good path we followed it. It took some time before we finally found **Little Inca-finch** (e) further along the path. Walking further we observed both **Chinchipe Spinetail** (e) and **Speckle-breasted Wren**. We flushed **Scrub Nightjar**, and this species was heard later at night as well. The **Peruvian Screech-owl** didn't call that night unfortunately.



Little Inca-finch



Northern Slaty-antshrike

We then went back to the path (the one after the house going up towards the left) and followed it all the way till into a more humid valley ([-5.63609, -78.78774](#)). On the way we encountered **Sooty-crowned Flycatcher** and **Pacific Parrotlet**. In the valley we soon encountered our last major target species for this location: **Marañon Spinetail** (e). The reason why there aren't so many good photos of them is probably the amount of mosquitos in these bushes making you want to run away immediately instead of photographing. In the morning we walked a bit farther in the forest and encountered about 4 Spinetails in 3 different places.

Camping was no problem at all and they even made us some local food. Very sweet people and a very nice place to visit!

Department of Lambayeque

On our way south from Ecuador we passed through the Department of Piura. Already from the bridge north of Suyo ([-4.511343, -80.003](#)) we found our first species; at least 50 **Chestnut-collared Swallows** breed underneath the bridge. A bit farther south we encountered our first **Baird's Flycatcher** along the road. Driving a short-cut through agricultural fields we had one **Tumbes Swallow** fly over our heads.

Driving the PE-1NJ we made our first stop, just within the Department of Lambayeque (-5.59497, -79.95219). We walked the roadside and observed **Tumbes Sparrow** and **Cinereous Finch**, both in good numbers. Walking the dry riverbed we heard **Peruvian Plantcutter** (e) and **Necklaced Spinetail**, but weren't able to see them. **Tumbes Hummingbird** and **Parrot-billed Seedeater** occur here too, but weren't found by us.

**Parrot-billed Seedeater****Cinereous Finch**

Quebrada el Limón

[-5.70201, -79.73227](#)

We tried to go to Quebrada el Limón, as this valley is known for many good bird species: **Tumbes Chat-tyrant**, **Piura Chat-tyrant**, **Short-tailed Field-tyrant**, **Tumbes Hummingbird**, **Tumbes Sparrow**, **White-headed Brushfinch**, **White-winged Brushfinch**, **Cinereous Finch**, **White-winged Guan** and **Solitary Eagle** are just some of the good birds that can be found.

We entered from the main road (-5.78312, -79.84447) and followed Google Maps. It seemed that with taking this road we didn't have to cross the river(bed), but suddenly we came to a full stop as the road in front of us was gone. With a 2m height difference between our road and the river bed we weren't able to continue. As the riverbed looked very sandy, we didn't feel like driving around and taking the (according to a local) correct road towards Limón (starting here: -5.79898, -79.83535). We would advise getting some better info than we had before going here, and to come here with a 4WD.

Abra Porculla

[-5.89106, -79.54159](#)

Visited date: 14 July 2023

We then continued towards Abra Porculla, the road above the small town Limon de Porcuya. In the morning we walked the road for several hours (from -5.89106, -79.54159 towards -5.874466, -79.537801). We encountered surprisingly many male **Peruvian Sheartails**, in way higher numbers than reported in other eBird lists. On the other hand we had trouble finding our main target; **Porculla Hermit** (split from Grey-chinned Hermit), of which we eventually only got a glimpse. Romy also got to 'tick' **Black-cowled Saltator**, after she had missed this species in Ecuador. **White-winged Brushfinch** was encountered quite often, sometimes together with **Bay-crowned Brushfinch**. **White-headed Brushfinch** should occur here too. **Elegant Crescentchest** was heard multiple times, with a sound that

reminded us of the sound geckos make. Other good birds observed along the way were **Plumbeous-backed Thrush**, **Three-banded Warbler**, **Scarlet-backed Woodpecker** and **Ecuadorian Piculet**. **Piura Chat-tyrant** was a treat to see again to, as it perched quite obviously above the shrubs. We kept an eye out for **Tumbes Short-tailed Swift**, but couldn't locate any.

On our way south we made two stops along the PE-1NJ. The first stop (-6.027072, -79.6810921) yielded **Tumbes Chat-tyrant** (ne) and **Baird's Flycatcher** by walking in the dry riverbed. The second stop (-6.044626, -79.675456) yielded the amazing-looking **Parrot-billed Seedeater** directly along the road.



Peruvian Sheartail male

Ecuadorian Piculet

Bosque de Pómac

[-6.48444, -79.78727](#)

We had planned to visit Bosque de Pómac to 'roll up' the last Tumbes endemics. Unfortunately they had closed the park for a couple of weeks because of road maintenance (due to heavy rains) and weren't allowing anyone in. A bummer, because there is a big list of potential birds at this site: **Tumbes Chat-tyrant (e)**, **Short-tailed Field-tyrant**, **Coastal Miner (e)**, **Rufous Flycatcher (e)**, **Peruvian Plantcutter (e)**, **White-tailed Jay**, **Tumbes Swallow**, **Tumbes Sparrow**, **Chestnut-collared Swallow**, **Parrot-billed Seedeater**, **Cinereous Finch (e)**, **Sulphur-throated Finch**, **Tumbes Tyrannulet**, **Necklaced Spinetail**, **Peruvian Screech-owl**, **Tschudi's Nightjar** and much much more.

Reserva Laquipampa

[-6.34293, -79.44539](#)

Visited dates: 14-15 July 2023

As we had not been able to reach Quebrada de Limón (see above), we had to go to our back-up spot for the endemic Guan. We drove the LA-103 towards Laquipampa, and found out that after Mayascón the pavement made way for a bumpy gravel road. Driveable with a high clearance 2WD, but not very comfortable. We finally arrived at the switchbacks before Laquipampa after an hour or so. We camped along the dusty road (-6.342943, -79.44539), which saw surprising amounts of traffic, including big trucks at night. A more convenient stay would be at Lajas Lodge Casa Hospedaje (-6.34423, -79.44613).

**Porcella Hermit****Guayaquil Squirrel**

As it was already getting dark we played the sound and soon got a response from **White-winged Guan** (e), but far away. At night we spotlighted and heard **Buff-fronted Owl**. We also observed a cat sticking its head out of the shrubs, but considering the orangey colour and no stripes or marks whatsoever, we suspect it to be a feral cat instead of the hoped for **Pampas Cat**. The next morning we got great views of **Porcella Hermit** (split from Grey-chinned Hermit) feeding on some small purple flowers just below the camping spot. We then walked the road down, past the hotel and towards the only shop. On the way we encountered **White-tailed Jay** and **Plumbeous-backed Thrush**. We didn't hear any Guan responding, but then suddenly I noticed a blackish shape in a dead tree on the opposite side of the valley: **White-winged Guan**! The second time we put our binos on there, it flew away, giving good views of the namesake wings. We then drank a coffee and hoped for aerial birds like **Tumbes Short-tailed Swift**, **Zone-tailed Hawk** or even **Solitary Eagle**, but only got to see the common Vultures and **Red-masked Parakeets**.

Humedal de Etén

[-6.91961, -79.87301](#)

Visited date: 15 July 2023

After a long drive down from Laquipamp, through the terribly dirty city of Chiclayo we arrived around 16.00 at the Humedal de Etén. We scanned the fields along the entrance road for our main target; Peruvian Pipit. We parked the car next to the ruins (-6.91966, -79.87141) and observed **Coastal Miners** (e). We then walked towards the pools (-6.919892, -79.873444). There was surprisingly little water in the pools, but **Many-colored Rush-tyrant** and **Wren-like Rushbird** were still present in the reed. We then decided to just walk the dunes and focus on the flat barren areas and play the sound of the Pipit. This tactic seemed to work, as within an hour of strolling through the dunes **Peruvian Pipit** (ne) flew in the low vegetation, given splendid views!

The town Puerto Etén is better than Chiclayo or Etén, but it's not the idyllic coastal town we imagined and still felt a bit sketchy and not worth staying. If you have to, then Hotel Las Palmas is the only one with a secure parking for a car.

Bosque Mocupe

[-7.02919, -79.68619](#)

Visited date: 16 July 2023

Bosque Mocupe was our back-up spot for if we would miss species at Bosque de Pomác. Now that the latter was closed this became our only option for some good species. We parked our car in the polluted roadside and Romy already spotted **Peruvian Desert Fox/Sechuran Fox** (e) of which Rob only saw the tail. We tried to find it back in the dry, shrubby vegetation, but didn't. Fairly quickly we heard and eventually observed our two easiest targets here: **Peruvian Plantcutter** (e) and **Necklaced Spinetail** (ne). Walking through the dunes we split up in the hope of flushing **Tschudi's Nightjar** (ne), which Romy eventually did. We found it back on a low branch, but it then took off. Later we also found multiple **Lesser Nighthawks** this way. **Tumbes Tyrannulet** was found often, **Grey-and-white Tyrannulet** less often, **Cinereous Finch** (e) was seen twice. **Tumbes Swallow** and **Chestnut-collared Swallow** are both seen here, so keep an eye in the sky! We had two realistic Tumbes targets remaining, so we kept on searching. Suddenly we got a response from **Rufous Flycatcher** (e), which gave perfect views by perching on top of the shrubs. Just when I said that **Sulphur-throated Finch** (e) is nomadic and therefore probably harder to find, three of them flew over our heads. A couple of minutes later two of them perched in the shrubs nearby giving good views. Within 1.5h we had all our targets, but we stayed for taking some better photos and enjoy these spectacular birds a bit more (especially the Plantcutter!). Going back towards the car after 3h we again found another **Sechuran Fox** crawling through the vegetation.



Peruvian Plantcutter



Lesser Nighthawk

Reserva Chappari

[-6.53999, -79.47511](#)

Visited dates: 16-17 July 2023

As we still missed **Short-tailed Field-tyrant**, we made a stop along Reservorio de Tinajones, west of Tierras Blancas. It only took 0.5h before we observed this weird-but-awesome-looking Flycatcher. We then went to the north side of the lake, and found **Chestnut-collared Swallow** at the bridge just before turning left along the canal (-6.61404, -79.40809). We found **Common Iguana** (*Iguana iguana*) resting on the vegetation and **Tumbesian Tegu** (*Callopistes flavipunctatus*) crossed the path.

When it became dark we observed many **Lesser Nighthawks** flying around, chasing each other. **Scrub Nightjars** called and were easily lured in with playback. **Peruvian Screech-owls** called from far away. We drove the road along the lake and hoped to come across a **Pampas Cat** while spotlighting, but found nothing else than many many **Neotropical Giant Toads** (*Rhinella marina*) and multiple **Peruvian Thick-knees**. In the morning **Sulphur-throated Finch** (e) perched next to our campsite.



Peruvian Racer Snake



Green Iguana

In the morning we went to the office of Reserva Chapparri ([-6.626538, -79.411029](#)) to pay our entrée ticket and pick up a mandatory guide. This process took way longer than needed, so we advise to reserve in advance and ask for an English-speaking guide (via Mariela, +51 978 836 377 / +51 978 131 527 or acoturch_chaparri@hotmail.com/mariela_chaparri@hotmail.com, Spanish only). Also make sure you indicate what time you want to visit, as ours didn't bring any lunch and wanted to go back already after a couple of hours. The costs are 10PEN p.p. plus 80PEN for the guide per group. There is a little store to buy drinks, but no restaurant or anything in the reserve, so bring all food (unless you're staying in the lodge of course).

We drove the entrance road towards the reserve (starting [-6.582729, -79.409659](#)). As it had rained a lot the months before, the whole vegetation was very green (as everywhere in the Tumbes). Normally the vegetation is very dry without many leaves, making it way easier to observe mammals like **White-tailed Deer** or even **Collared Peccary** and **Pampas Cat**. After we passed the gate ([-6.54879, -79.454783](#)) we did see **Sechuran Foxes** on the road two times, allowing for way better views than at the coast. **Parrot-billed Seedeaters** were observed multiple times as well along the road. Arriving at the visitor centre of the reserve we walked a small round past some terraria with reptiles and past the cages areas with (rescued) Bears. Spectacled Bears can be seen on the surrounding mountains, but the mountains were all overgrown with green vegetation. This made actually observing a bear basically impossible. There is supposed to be a good waterhole where Bears and other wildlife come to drink, but the trail towards the waterhole was overgrown and impassable. Luckily we mainly came for **Sechuran Fox**, of which there was a mother with two cubs near the ranger houses. Birds seen during our round were **Tumbes Sparrow**, **Superciliated Wren**, **Collared Antshrike**, **White-tailed Jay** and of course the main bird of the reserve: **White-winged Guan** (e).

These birds felt a bit tame and less wild – maybe because they have been reintroduced here – but it did allow for way better views than at Reserva Laquipampa. We spend some time walking the road, hoping to get better pictures of the Fox, but only encountered **Elegant Crescentchest** (HO) and **Peruvian Racer Snake** (*Mastigodryas heathii*).

**Sechuran Fox****Sechuran Fox cub**

Department of Amazonas

[-5.85638, -77.9842](#)

Abra Barro Negro

[-6.71381, -77.85427](#)

Visited dates: 3-4 December 2022

After Cañon Balsas in the Department of Cajamarca we drove to Abra Barro Negro. Before the top we made multiple stops for **Leymebamba Antpitta**, but this species turned out to be way more difficult than we imagined (maybe the time of year). We walked the roadside for about 1km at some nice forest ([-6.713813, -77.854275](#)) and heard **Grey-breasted Mountain-toucan**, **Chestnut-crowned Antpitta**, **Chayapoyas Antpitta** (e) and **Utcubamba Tapaculo** (e). The last 2 we were able to observe as well by working our way into a bamboo patch and using playback while waiting in the vegetation. Surprisingly still no **Leymebamba Antpitta**. We didn't put a lot of effort in two species we had already observed at other places: **Russet-mantled Softtail** (e) and **Large-footed Tapaculo** (e), which have both been observed here too by other birders. The next morning we tried the 'half-a-cup-of-coffee-method'. We noticed it can take quite some time for Antpittas to respond to playback in some seasons. Most of the time we wait for 2-3 minutes and continue to the next place, but that might have been too soon as Antpittas needed some time to start responding. With this method we make the hot water at the first stop and drink half a cup of coffee at every next stop where we try for Antpittas. It forces us to wait long enough; 5-10 minutes. And this paid out, as this morning we heard **Leymebamba Antpitta** on 2 different locations ([-6.725117, -77.840813](#) and [-6.725998, -77.837303](#)). Both responded only after our cup was almost finished and only responded by calling 1-3 times.



Chayapoyas Antpitta



Koepcke's Screech-owl

Leymebamba

[-6.72469, -77.79839](#)

Visited date: 4-5 December 2022

We continued to Leymebamba, where we drove into the nice Cañon Condor ([-6.758087, -77.802544](#)). We birded the morning here and a bit of the afternoon, but winds got stronger again and only the morning was ok. We heard quite many **Hooded Tinamous**, heard and observed **Grey-breasted Mountain-toucan** (quite abundant here too), **Golden-headed Quetzal** and were finally able to see a **Slaty-backed Nightingale-thrush**. We couldn't find any of our main bird targets that are sometimes seen here: **Red-hooded Tanager**, **Rufous-backed Treehunter** and **Rufous-winged Tyrannulet**.

In the afternoon we visited the small museum in Leymebamba (30S p.p.). We couldn't find it at a day roost, so had to wait till dusk before we found 3 **Koepcke's Screech-owls** in front of the museum ([-6.724696, -77.79839](#)). The mummies in the museum are quite impressive as well. Don't leave the binoculars in the car, as the coolest mummies are in the back of a room behind glass.

Amazilia Bioreserva

[-6.4139, -77.8694](#)

Visited date: 5 December 2022

As the gate was open we drove up towards the very nice looking lodge. Just before we arrived we ran into the owner, who was just about to leave. We told him we really hoped to see Curve-billed Tinamou here, as it seemed one of the few reliable places for it. He had just seen them when he left. He was so kind to drive back to the lodge to show us the place, which is behind the parking lot, where they mostly forage between the shrubs. We searched the shrubs and quickly found one **Curve-billed Tinamou** and also heard its call. Very cool! We realise that the owner was very kind to us, and there is no guarantee that you can get to the lodge and try to find this bird (or others). Best to stay at the lodge or get in contact beforehand (<https://en.amaziliaperu.com/>). It can be combined very well with the historic site of Kuelap.

Huembo Lodge

[-5.85638, -77.9842](#)

Visited dates: 5-6 December 2022

We arrived at Huembo Lodge to find the gate closed. As is common in South-America, the gate wasn't really locked and we were able to let ourselves in. This is a common practice in many places, so always check whether it's really locked and if the chain is really in the lock or just wrapped around the gate. If you want to be sure it's open and that the feeders are all filled up that day, reserve via WhatsApp with Santos Montenegro (+51 973 453 878, Spanish). The best time for the Spatulatail is March-April (May) when the males lek. There is a lek around, Santos knows where. From July-September the males don't have (big) Spatulas as they moult, so try to plan accordingly if you want to see this species as it's meant to be.

As we arrived around noon, and it was way too hot to have any activity at the hummingbird feeders (40PEN p.p. at the Huembo Lodge). Santos was kind enough to tell us the male at the lodge only had one spatula, and it was better to visit the other feeders in the private 'Reserva Privada Santos Montenegro', which he owns as well. The set-up is a bit better at the latter, so we would advise to visit that feeder. You still have to walk down to the Huembo Lodge to find Santos and pay the fee (30PEN p.p.). You then have to walk up (starting here: [-5.855641, -77.985211](#)) all the way to the feeders ([-5.854114, -77.984607](#)). We observed 1 amazingly cool looking male **Marvelous Spatuletail** (e), and a younger male with small tail feathers. Other hummers present were, in order of abundance: **Sparkling Violetear, Chestnut-breasted Coronet, White-bellied Hummingbird, Lesser Violetear, Purple-throated Sunangel, Bronzy Inca** and **Violet-fronted Hummingbird**.



Purple-throated Sunangel



Marvelous Spatuletail

San Lorenzo Trail

[-5.81067, -78.01224](#)

Visited date: 23 July 2023

To get to San Lorenzo, take the turnoff from the main road (-5.833842, -77.999228), drive the paved road all the way until the very end (-5.810675, -78.012249). Then cross the soccer field to the far left

end. This is where the trail up the mountain begins. We had heard some terrible stories about a steep and muddy trail, so we weren't particularly looking forward to the climb. Armed with rubber boots we climbed up and found that almost a year of acclimatizing to the altitude had been lost by birding the lowlands for a couple of weeks. The trail has good stepping stones, and the muddy parts were only higher up, but steep it was. After about 1.5h we reached the better parts of the forest and heard the first **Pale-billed Antpittas** (e) far away in the surrounding valleys. We also heard **Chestnut-crowned Antpitta** and **Undulated Antpitta**. It took quite a while before we finally heard the endemic close to the path. We waited a bit to see if it would come out, but it didn't. We then crawled closer and were able to get good views of one sitting less than 2m from us inside the shrubs. An amazing bird and one of the coolest bigger Antpittas in our opinion! Until the point where we turned around, we heard 3 more close to the path. They started calling every time when we were far away, so we walked back, and then they would be quiet and not call again. In the end we only saw one, but heard about 8 different individuals. Waiting for one Antpitta to call again we observed **Ash-colored Tapaculo** and **Barred Fruiteaters** close by (-5.801789, -78.029121). In the bamboo patches along the way we found **Lulu's Tody-flycatcher** (e) a couple of times, as well as **Unstreaked Tit-tyrant** (e) and the best one: **Peruvian Treehunter** (-5.811001, -78.019821). Paying attention to all hummers to come across **Violet-throated Starfrontlet** (*ssp. huanaco*), we observed **Sword-billed Hummingbird**, **Chestnut-breasted Coronet**, **Tyrian Metaltail** and **Amethyst-throated Sunangel**. The only other bird of note was **Bar-bellied Woodpecker**. We got back at the car around 12.00 and we were pretty lucky with the weather and bird-responses, so count about 6-8h at least for doing this trail.

La Esperanza/ Bosque del Toro

[-5.65458, -77.91425](#)

Visited dates: 9-13 December 2022 & 25-27 July 2023

We arranged to search for the endemic Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkeys in December 2022 (via Sam Shanee from Neotropical Primate Conservation, +51 994 440 546, English/Spanish). This started around 07.30 with a tuktuk ride from La Esperanza and involved a tough 2 hour hike to a patch of forest with a very ancient and rustic wooden cabin. The guide Isidoro was over 50 but at least twice as fast as we were. After we arrived around 10.00, we were happy to sit down and the guide said he would already start searching for the Monkeys. All well with us, being exhausted from the walk. The guide's communication wasn't very clear, and apparently he meant to be out the whole day as he only returned around 17.30. This is how they normally do it, but with 2 or 3 guides, as the terrain is pretty tough walking. The guide actually found the Woolly Monkeys around 16.00, but because they didn't clean the trails the day before he thought we wouldn't make it in time. It turned out the next morning that it only took us about 40 minutes to get to that same place, and that we could have easily made it before dark. Especially after not finding them the whole second day, we felt pretty bummed out about this fact.

**Wooden cabin****Peruvian Tyrannulet**

In the end we stayed for 4 days, but the guide (and later plural; guides) couldn't relocate the Monkeys. They sometimes use another ridge and then they might disappear for 2 days. The **Andean Night Monkeys** who had a roost nearby couldn't be located either, and the **Long-whiskered Owlet** that had a territory next to the cabin moved higher up the mountain too. Some consolation came from nice species we found at night, during our walks around the cabin, to and from La Esperanza and while searching for the primates. The first night we were woken by loud stumbling and 2 **Bicolored-spined Porcupines** had come for the salty popcorn that we had spilled in the outside kitchen. The first night we heard **Cinnamon Screech-owl** and **Band-bellied Owl**. The second night we heard an owl that appeared similar to Foothill Screech-owl, but turned out to be an even more unexpected species: **Buff-fronted Owl**! Other good birds we observed are **Green-throated Tanager**, **Orange-eared Tanager**, **Speckle-chested Piculet** (e, the former three all in flocks while walking towards La Esperanza), **Johnson's Tody-Flycatcher** (e), **White-tipped Sicklebill** (in a gully near the **Andean Cock-of-the-Rock** night roost), **Peruvian Tyrannulet** (e), **Red-ruffed Fruitcrow** (HO) and **Uniform Antshrike**.

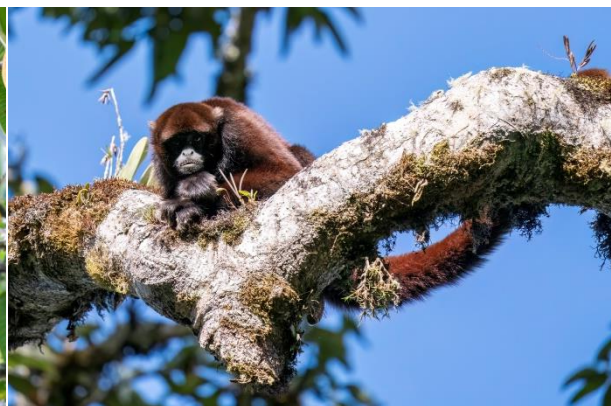
**Buff-fronted Owl****Band-bellied Owl chick**

We returned again in July 2023 and hoped that things had improved. Unfortunately the road the local government was building and should have been finished by now, will still take at least a year to finish. That would save about half of the terrible hike to and from the cabin. Due to a miscommunication they had a horse ready (100PEN total, the horse stays near the cabin), so we didn't have to haul our stuff. Unfortunately the luggage got damaged by the ride and very dirty from

the mud. Our guide this time (Manuel) wasn't very experienced and didn't seem to compensate that with motivation or enthusiasm either. There were two students with two guides already at the cabin, so we hoped to profit from their findings, but they hadn't gone out in the two days they were there already. They did see the Woolly Monkeys pass by the cabin in the afternoon before and back again in the morning. One day too late for us; that would have saved a lot of walking in the forest. In the afternoon the guides set out to search and found them late in the afternoon. The next morning we started walking around 05.00 through the dark forest. The paths were a little better due to less rain, but they are still quite crappy and hard to walk. Around 06.00 we heard a sound, but later these turned out to be **Marañon White-fronted Capuchins**. The guides split up again and while we were running up and down everywhere; following our inexperienced guides that didn't seem to have a plan at all, we heard the Woolly Monkeys again. On a lookout the guides said they saw them, but besides not having binoculars or anything, they just pointed to a faraway hill and said in Spanish: "in that green tree on the hill." Luckily we brought a laser pointer and with that they pointed somewhere, but all the black spots we saw were clumps of vegetation when zooming in on the camera. Then the guide that split off, Wilder, shouted from far away. We started racing there, as that was the sign he had found a group. It took ages, chopping our way through the vegetation on a very steep slope, up and down. Every time Wilder gave a shout it seemed to be coming from double the distance that we just climbed since the last shout. In the end our legs could barely take us any further and even though we knew the Monkeys were close we barely had any energy left. Luckily the **Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkeys** (e) stayed in the same area for a while and we were able to catch up after 3 hours of running the mountains. We got great views of a big group, with adult males, females, youngsters and babies! An amazing experience and at the same time: a big relief because we didn't have to do all the climbing again. After the Monkeys had taken off to the other side of the ridge we went straight down the mountain for what seemed to be an endless descend on a 50-60 degree slope. After two hours we finally reached the cabin, took some rest and ate our breakfast before we made the two hour walk back again to La Esperanza.



Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkey



Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkey

Only go here if you are fit enough and willing to climb steep and (at times) dangerous trails. The cabin is really basic and the landscape very physically demanding. If you spend enough time at the

cabin you might be lucky enough to have the Monkeys pass by there! If budget would have allowed us, we would have spent a couple of days at the Owlet Lodge to search the trails there.

Owlet Lodge

[-5.69808, -77.81131](#)

Visited date: 25 July 2023

We contacted the Owlet Lodge in advance (+51 984 564 884, English/Spanish) and reserved for the 25th of July. The Owlet lodge has some good species, and one can reserve for the Antpitta feeders (15USD p.p.), trails/feeders during the day (25USD p.p.) and the Long-whiskered Owlet (20USD p.p.), but we had little targets left so only went for the Antpitta. We camped in our car on the parking lot and spotlighted the Whiskered Owlet trail. This trail descends quite a lot, but the trail is gradual and in perfect state. Coming into better forest we quickly found a group of about 4 **Andean Night Monkeys**, including a young one. We found another lone individual far away and another group of 3 further up the trail. At a little flat area we heard **Long-whiskered Owlet** (e), and suddenly an **Oilbird** came flying in, gave a few clicks and was gone again. We tried for a couple of minutes to get closer to the Owlet, but it was calling from quite far up the hill and we had seen it perfectly a year before so didn't want to disturb it any more.

The next morning the ranger came around 06.00 and we tried for **Chestnut Antpitta** (e) around 06.30. The feeding place is not set up that well, and that spot stayed too dark for photography the whole time. Luckily the ranger was able to lure it into a brighter area, which allowed for some photos. As we had already seen **Rusty-tinged Antpitta** (e), we stayed with the Chestnuts to get better photos while the ranger went to feed the Rusty-tinged. We did get a glimpse of it when we passed the feeder on our way to the tower (this trail starts behind the third set of cabins). At the tower we hoped to see **Red-hooded Tanager**, but according to the ranger they only pass by sometimes and are better searched for higher up the main road.



Andean Night Monkey



Chestnut Antpitta

The hummingbird feeders attracted **Chestnut-breasted Coronet**, **Lesser Violetear**, **Collared Inca**, **Long-tailed Sylph**, **Fawn-breasted Brilliant**, **Speckled Hummingbird** and best of all; **Emerald-bellied**

Puffleg. A great place with some very nice forests around. The cabins look real nice too; definitely recommended as a stay during a vacation.

NOTE TO READER: The places Huembo Lodge until Owlet Lodge are often combined with a couple of places farther east along the same road. As those places are in the department of San Martin, see the section below for those places.

Department of San Martin

Bosque Fundo Alto Nieva

[-5.67081, -77.76299](#)

Visited date: 7 December 2022

To visit this reserve one has to reserve with the owner Carlos Calle (+51 995 090 370, English/Spanish) or directly with the local guide Wilmer Montenegro (+51 926 566 803, Spanish). The costs are 40PEN p.p. for the hummingbird feeders, 120PEN p.p. for the trails including 2-3h guiding, and 140PEN for the Whiskered Owlet (15 days advance notice). Opening times are from 06.00-17.00. Our visit to this famous reserve was a bit disappointing unfortunately, as we expected more for the price (which had doubled already since our preparations 2 years before). We arrived at 06.00 and parked next to the main road as there is no parking spot at the reserve itself. Wilmer greeted us with little enthusiasm and as 'an office day like any other' he walked us to the Antpitta feeding spots. He didn't have any binoculars, and most of the 'guiding' was only done after we asked what sound something was, and some ID's went as far as 'hummingbird'. We did see **Bar-winged Wood-wren** in the lower vegetation before the forest, walking up to the Antpittas. In this lower part we observed **Cinnamon-breasted Tody-tyrant** and **Golden-eyed Flowerpiercer** later that day on our own.



Rusty-tinged Antpitta



Ochre-fronted Antpitta

The **Rusty-tinged Antpitta** (e) was waiting at the feeding station, which was promising. Wilmer put all the worms there and within 1 minute the individual had come and gone, moving too much for a picture as it was just picking up all the worms right away. There was no second chance as there were

only a few worms left, which were for the next Antpitta. It took some time, but then we got astonishing views of one of the most incredible Antpittas; **Ochre-fronted Antpitta** (e). This one took its time, which allowed for prolonged observations and photos. The Rusty-tinged Antpitta even came up to this feeding station, attracted by our voices and looking for another meal. Including the walking we were one hour in, and that was that for the guiding apparently, as Wilmer said he had things to do and left again to the farm.

We birded our way back, seeing the incredible **Ornate Flycatcher**, **Golden-headed Quetzals** and multiple **Spotted Barbtails**. We also observed a much wanted wren species; **Chestnut-breasted Wren**.

The hummingbird feeders are famous for **Royal Sunangel**, which this time of the year rarely showed itself. We didn't even see it at all during our 4-hour wait at the feeders. **Rufous-vented Whitetip** is mostly observed in the months February-May (June). The setup is far from spectacular and especially photography-wise there is much to improve. It even turned out that the 40PEN for the feeders is on top of the 120PEN for the 'guiding' in the morning.

We observed 8 species of hummingbird here, in order of abundance/amount of observations: **Chestnut-breasted Coronet**, **Peruvian Racket-tail**, **Violet-fronted Brilliant**, **Bronzy Inca**, **Greenish Puffleg**, **Speckled Hummingbird**, **Long-tailed Sylph**, **Sparkling Violetear** and **Fawn-breasted Brilliant**. While watching the feeders we observed a pair of **Yellow-throated Tanagers** in the surrounding shrubs. Back at the farm we observed a **Black Agouti** around the banana feeder.



Peruvian Racket-tail



Golden-eyed Flowerpiercer

Bosque de Alto Mayo

[-5.66973, -77.74528](#)

Visited dates: 23-24 July 2023

We made multiple stops along the main road PE-5N at a protected area called Bosque de Alto Mayo. For our first stop we parked on the pull-out north of the road (-5.676005, -77.775225). We then climbed up the little hill next to the parking area, with the trail starting about 7-8m from the road (-

5.676022, -77.775321). The trail up is a bit steep and slippery, but luckily not too long. On top of the little plateau we watched eagerly to the other side of the road, expecting our target there. It took a while before we realised the **Royal Sunangels** were actually foraging on the flowers next to the plateau. We observed at least 4 different males and 1 female the first afternoon.

The second afternoon we only observed one male (from our parked car down below the trail) and another up the hill. While on top of the hill we also observed **Cliff Flycatchers, White-tipped Swifts, Bluish Flowerpiercers, Olivaceous Siskin** and a flock of 4 **White-capped Tanagers** (pay attention to the characteristic sound!).

The second stop was again for Royal Sunangel (-5.667458, -77.770696). We walked the trail, going left behind the little gate, but didn't encounter many flowers. We heard one, but didn't see any.

Our third stop was farther down eastwards along the road (around -5.669731, -77.745284). The first afternoon we walked westwards until the part where it got more open (-5.66773, -77.75188). We observed nothing of note and it was very quiet. Policemen stationed at the interpretation centre said this is the stretch of road where they often see **Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkeys**. The second day we were here around noon and first walked eastwards (until -5.6707, -77.7431). We ran into a nice mixed flock and encountered good species; **Yellow-throated Tanager, Rufous-crested Tanager, Green-throated Tanager, Ashy-throated Bush-tanager, Blue-naped Chlorophonia** and **Ecuadorian Piedtail** (HO). As we still didn't find our main target we again walked the road westwards. We observed **Lemon-browed Flycatcher** and at the same spot we encountered another flock. Scanning we found **Grey-mantled Wren** and **Black-capped Tyrannulet** amongst many other species. Then our eye landed on a bright red bird with a black mask (and this time also a black throat!); finally we found **Vermilion Tanager!** We were able to observe two of them for a while before the flock took off downhill.



White-capped Tanager



Royal Sunangel male

Llanteria

[-5.67471, -77.70376](#)

Visited dates: 23-24 July 2023

We arrived here in the late afternoon and gave the hummingbird feeders a glimpse. Here we encountered **Green Hermit**, **Violet-fronted Brilliant**, **Andean Emerald** and **Many-spotted Hummingbird**. On the Verbena we found **Violet-headed Hummingbird** and **Fork-tailed Woodnymph**. The main goal however, was seeing the Night Monkeys that sometimes come to the trees above the feeders according to Elmer Lino (+51 957 476 458, English/Spanish). We went searching around 18.30, but observed nothing near the feeders. We followed the trail into the forest, but the trails were not well maintained, let alone unmarked. We did hear something moving high up in the canopy, but couldn't locate it. With the Lahoux Spotter Elite 35V thermal camera Romy found a female **Collared Trogon**. Rob walked a bit ahead and suddenly flushed **Mountain Paca** digging a hole! It startled and ran into a tree stump before taking off into the forest, but not before Romy got a glimpse of it too. Even though the altitude here is 1500m, we are fairly sure it's a Mountain and not a Lowland Paca, due to coloration and head shape.

As we didn't find anything else in the forest and got annoyed by the many trees and branches on the trails, we decided to walk along the roadside. Be sure to carry a headlamp to be visible for the traffic, as even at night they don't seem to slow down at all. We first walk westwards for ±1km and pretty soon heard both **Foothill Screech-owl** and **Wattled Guan**. We found a sleeping **Kinkajou**, and again the thermal camera delivered by spotting **Brown-eared Woolly Opossum**. Still without a Night Monkey we decided to also walk eastwards for about 750m. Not far after the Llanteria Romy spotted another **Kinkajou** with the thermal camera and not much later a *rodent spec*. In a bend of the road we heard **Andean Night Monkey** (deep "whooh whooh" sounds), but only got to see it in the thermal camera. Around 22.00 we came back to the Llanteria and observed another presumed Kinkajou high up in the trees above the feeders. Then Rob got weak red eyeshine from the opposite side of the street. Getting closer our suspicion was soon confirmed, these were **Andean Night Monkeys**! We observed 2 adults, one of them carrying a youngster.

The next morning we drank a coffee on the parking lot to observe some passing flocks in the hope of seeing **Ash-throated Antwren** (e) or **Vermilion Tanager**. We observed neither, but a male **White-winged Tanager** seen from below made our heart jump for a second. **Western Striolated Puffbird** called for at least an hour and along the road we encountered **Huallaga Tanager** (e).

Aguas Verdes – Arena Blanco feeders

[-5.68354, -77.63706](#)

Visited date: 8 December 2022

Reserve your visit via WhatsApp with the owner Norbil (+51 925 702 580, Spanish/some English). You are then welcome between 06.00-18.00 and the price is 50PEN p.p. To get there, turnoff the main

road in the village and turn left ([-5.68509, -77.63254](#)) going over a small concrete plate serving as a bridge. Then continue straight until you reach the entrance of the garden ([-5.68354, -77.63706](#)). As we visited Fundo Alto Nieva the day before, it was nice to have such a nice reception for a decent price here. What a difference! The gate was open well before 06.00, and one of the sons was already waiting at the corn feeders when we walked in. He sat us down (if you photograph, don't go up but be sure to take the ground level seats) and put the corn in. We waited for about half an hour before **Little Tinamou** with a chick walked up. Some **Grey-fronted Doves** and **White-tipped Doves** joined the party, and not much later they were all chased away by a group of **Rufous-breasted Wood-quails**. The **Cinereous Tinamou** only called in the distance and also didn't show at the Tanager feeder in the back of the yard, where it sometimes shows too.

After an hour or so we heard lots of movement in the trees above us, and when we left the hide we observed a group of **Andean Saddle-backed Tamarins**. One of the sons was waiting again and took us to the hummingbird feeders and the many rows of Verbena plants and showed the species by pointing them out in the book. The father, Norbil, took us to the back of the garden where **Peruvian Warbling-antbird** and **Zimmer's Antbird** were calling. **Fiery-capped Manakin** couldn't be lured in, but is supposed to be easy in other seasons.

Rufous-crested Coquette was quite abundant on the Verbena, with 5 males present of which 3 adults. **Wire-crested Thorntail** was another show stealer, but the male only showed up a few times this day. Other good hummers were (amongst many others) **Little Woodstar**, **White-bellied Woodstar**, **Blue-fronted Lancebill**, **Long-billed Starthroat** and **Many-spotted Hummingbird**.

In the late afternoon we tried to find some more goodies like **Lanceolated Monklet**, but that one didn't come. **Red-billed Tyrannulet**, **Black-bellied Tanager** (e) and **Uniform Crake** (HO) were the best species during the walk.



Rufous-breasted Wood-quail



Rufous-crested Coquette

Moyobamba – West of Moyobamba

[-5.97655, -77.22036](#)

Visited date: 27 July 2023

PE-5N (Segunda Jerusalem)

Coming from the north this would be the first logical stop to try for *Pale-eyed Blackbird*. We tried from the spot where they are seen most often ([-5.99905, -77.26625](#)) until the bridge farther east and back, but came up empty handed. Lots of traffic and noise make the place not very pleasant for birding, let alone a bit unsafe.

Shimbillo

We visited this place ([-6.067607, -77.139603](#)) during the hot middle of the day, still hoping to find *Pale-eyed Blackbird*. Although there was good vegetation (although little compared to all the rice fields around), we only observed **Red-capped Cardinal**, **Black-billed Seed Finch**, **Oriole Blackbird** and **Black-capped Donacobius**. Walking the little road going north we observed **Black Caracara** flying around and more **Spotted Rails** along the edge of the rice fields.

Road to Yuracyacu

This is both the first and last stop we made this day. **Spotted Rail** was quickly found in the rice fields ([-5.97655, -77.22036](#)), and many more were heard. **Paint-billed Crakes** were heard in good numbers here too, but actually observing one turned out to be impossible for us, both in the morning as well as in the afternoon. In the late afternoon we finally observed **Pale-eyed Blackbird** in the vegetation along the road. We walked the trail that runs north of the road past the patch of forest and the marsh, and heard **Blackish Rail**, **Rufous-sided Crane** and again observed the Blackbird. Back at the road we observed **Andean Saddle-backed Tamarins** and **Ecuadorian Squirrel Monkeys** in the forest right next to the road. While hearing chainsaws in the forest farther south of the road, **Colombian Red Howlers** were calling from the same direction.

Moyobamba - Morro de Calzada

[-6.02994, -77.04675](#)

Visited dates: 28-29 July 2023

Morro de Calzada is the obvious landmark near Moyobamba; the hill stands out of the flat surrounding landscape like a pimple. We couldn't find any opening hours, and it seems like the gate is guarded 24/7. We arrived in the morning, paid the 10PEN p.p. entrance fee, and were allowed to stay as long as we liked (including camping the night on the parking lot). We first walked the trail 'Mono Tocón', starting behind the parking lot. We turned left into the forest, and were soon surrounded by 100s of mosquitos. We heard multiple groups of **Rio Mayo Titi/San Martin Titi** (e) calling, but weren't able to see any. With just as many ants on the forest floor as mosquitos around us, we didn't want to go directly through the forest. About halfway in we heard a mayor bird target;

Painted Manakin (e). We then returned to the broader trail that came from the parking lot and continued towards the hill from there. It didn't take long for 2 **Mishana Tyrannulets** (e) to respond to tape on this trail. Walking up the hill it got pretty quiet. We again heard **Painted Manakin** down from the trail (-6.024032, -77.042961). We sometimes heard 2 of them, and only the second morning I was finally able to get a quick look at one at this exact same spot (maybe a lek?). Farther up we only encountered **Turquoise Tanager**, **Masked Tanager** and **Black-throated Hermit** as birds of note.

In the forest we observed **Andean Saddle-backed Tamarin** a couple of times, both on the trail up the hill as well as near the entrance towards the observation tower. The observation tower is not very interesting, as it is too low compared to the surrounding forest. The road towards there starts directly behind the entrance (going to the right), and the trail back through the forest is interesting too. We finally observed our last target, **Stripe-necked Tody-tyrant**, on the road just before the observation tower.

At night we heard **Tropical Screech-owl**, **Band-bellied Owl** and **Rufous Nightjar** after it got dark. The Nightjar was calling from multiple directions, and we were able to observe it on the broader path starting behind the parking lot. From the wooden bridge on this path we saw a big hot clump high in the trees with the thermal camera. These turned out to be 4 **San Martin Titis** huddled together, sleeping with their tails wrapped around each other. We observed them again in the morning, and then also spotted **Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth** in a tree close by. At night we didn't see anything on the trail going up the hill, except for more **Rufous Nightjars** and **Stygian Owl** from the viewpoint (-6.02621, -77.04324).



Andean Saddle-backed Tamarin



Mishana Tyrannulet

Moyobamba - Waqanki Lodge

[-6.07468, -76.97552](#)

Visited dates: 29-30 July 2023

We were very much looking forward to this location, with many good species like **Rufous-crested Coquette**, **Green Manakin**, **Speckle-chested Piculet**, **Lanceolated Monklet** and **Fiery-throated Fruiteater**. We were a bit disappointed that they seemed to charge separately for everything; 20PEN per day per person for the hummingbird feeders, another 20PEN for the trails and again 20PEN for

camping on an inclined field with only cold water as a shower. But maybe our disappointment came from the fact that lodges like this serve western tourists, but are still unwilling to try to communicate in English... but let's say expectations far exceeded our experience here.

As we had seen the Coquette before, we didn't visit the hummingbird feeders. We focussed on the trail system, which actually starts outside the lodge and seems publically accessible. Take the road going left just before the entrance of the lodge (-6.074585, -76.975115) and continue for a while until you reach the forest. There are three trails, of which the first one 'Trail A/Mishana' wasn't very interesting for us. The other two trails split off (-6.080245, -76.979677) in 'Trail B/Fruiteater' going straight and 'Trail C/Manakin' going right. The first afternoon -during the midst of the day- we walked the Fruiteater Trail. We finally got to see **Fiery-capped Manakin** instead of just hearing it, but unfortunately it was a female. A bit later we got one of our main targets; **Chestnut-throated Spinetail** (-6.080905, -76.981575). Only a bit farther we heard another cool bird; **Black-and-white Tody-flycatcher** (-6.081606, -76.982605). We decided to leave it for the rest of the afternoon, as activity was low.

At night we spotlighted the Fruiteater trail and observed **Bicolored-spined Porcupine**, **Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth** and with the thermal camera we found **Brown-eared Woolly Opossum**. Along the trail we also heard **Ocellated Poorwill**, and at the beginning of the forest we heard **Band-bellied Owl**.

The next morning we came into the forest and observed **Andean Saddle-backed Tamarin** (HO). We then took the right turn and walked up the Manakin Trail. After taking a couple of 'hairpin bends' we came to the area for **Painted Manakin** (-6.078300, -76.980347), but unfortunately for Romy only heard it. We were again surrounded by 100s of mosquitos, and at least a tenfold more Cicadas were calling in the trees. As the trail climbed up we came to a more open area. We appreciated the relative silence, and only heard **San Martin Titi** calling from below in the valley. This area with lower vegetation should be good for **Dusky Spinetail** and **Speckle-breasted Piculet** (e), but we only encountered **Lafresnaye's Piculet**. Arriving at the top it was unclear to us if this was the region indicated on the map as the area for the endemic **Ash-throated Antwren**. The guide at the lodge told us they hadn't observed it for a long while, so that wasn't promising. We continued after the ridge, and walked along the coffee plots and freshly cut down forest... We did run into some flocks with **Masked Tanager**, **Paradise Tanager** and **Green-and-gold Tanager**, but then decided to turn around. Only afterwards we noticed that the trail on the map went even farther, eventually going to the second ridge that can be observed behind the coffee plots.

Moyobamba - Humedal de Indañe

[-6.040402, -77.008627](#)

Visited dates: 30-31 July 2023

We went here in the afternoon, mainly to (finally) see a male **Masked Duck**, but there were only 2 females present in the very small pond next to the road. We hoped more would emerge from the vegetation at night, but that didn't happen. In the morning we found only **Brazilian Teals** on the

pond. A specialty for Peru that can be heard here is **Ocellated Crane**. We got a response late in the afternoon, coming from the grassy/shrubby part on the opposite side of the road from the pond. Our only other target here was **Spot-tailed Nightjar**. As it was very windy we couldn't hear anything at night and gave up after an hour or so. We camped a bit east of the pond, and as we were preparing the car for sleeping we suddenly heard multiple Nightjars, including Spot-tailed (around -6.040435, -77.006134). Take the little road going east just north of the pond to get there. We were subsequently able to observe them on some wooden poles and saw them flying through the field. We again heard them around 22.30 when the police woke us up (more than 2 hours after our suspicious behaviour with some flashlights...), and again in the morning around 05.00.

Moyobamba - Jesús del Monte

[-6.07468, -76.97552](#)

Visited date: 31 July 2023

As we still hadn't found Ash-throated Antwren, we decided to pay Jesús del Monte (from now: JdM) a visit; the spot where legendary Ted Parker discovered this very species. Gunnar Engblom from KolibriExpeditions was kind enough to provide some information. Getting there turned out to be more difficult than we imagined. We first got off the main road (-6.109074, -76.848877) and drove down to the river, suspecting a bridge to get to the small village Libertad on the other side. It turned out the bridge was just for motors and motor taxis (tuktuks). If you have a motorcycle you can continue from here, or walk to the other side and charter a motor taxi or 4WD taxi to JdM. If you want to drive you have to drive all the way around, which we did with our high clearance 2WD. However, there were some muddy parts and in rainy season we would only recommend driving it with a 4WD. If you want to drive yourself, turn off at Triunfo (-6.143081, -76.840565), drive over the bridge and keep left at the turn-off on Maps.me. The road to Libertad is not on Maps.me or Google Maps, and only part of the road between Libertad and JdM is on there. You can [download our .KML-file with the route](#), or ask any local. It's 22km from the main road to JdM, which takes about 50-60 minutes.

Once at JdM, park it in the village (-6.063631, -76.815959) and start walking the trail up. It takes about 20-30 minutes to get to the right forest. On the way there we heard **Russet-crowned Crane** and paid attention to tree tops with the hope of seeing **Purple-breasted Cotinga**. This site is one of the only places it has ever been recorded in Peru. Just after we entered this shrubby low forest with sandy soils, we already heard our main target. We were able to lure in a male and got splendid views of the endemic **Ash-throated Antwren**. Walking further we observed **Spot-backed Antbird** (HO), **Fiery-capped Manakin** (HO), **Red-shouldered Tanager** and **Swallow-winged Puffbird**. There is a lot more possible here, and some cool things have been observed by other birders; **Varzea Thrush**, **Royal Sunangel**, **Foothill Schiffornis**, **White-fronted Tyrannulet** etc. As it was very sunny and hot, activity was low, we decided to continue to Tarapoto and surroundings.



Stick insect



Ash-throated Antwren male

Tarapoto - ACONABIKH

[-6.07468, -76.97552](#)

Visited dates: 31 July -2 August 2023

We first went to the locations northeast of Tarapoto, and as it was already getting later we gave Jerik ('Jerry'; +51 942 880 505/jerikpc@hotmail.com, Spanish) a heads up that we were coming. The name ACONABIKH stands for Asociacion para La Conservacion de Aves y La Biodiversidad Koepcke's Hermit. The last part of the name gives away the main specialty of the reserve. Entrance is 50PEN p.p., which includes the hummingbird feeders and the trails. A very nice location, and Jerry is building a couple of comfortable looking cabins (double bed, hot shower, WiFi etc.) which makes this probably a very good location to stay while exploring this part of the region. Take a look at [the website](#) to see how the cabins have become.

We went directly to the feeders, and raked up a list of 10 species (in order of abundance); **White-necked Jacobin**, **Grey-breasted Sabrewing**, **Golden-tailed Sapphire**, **Fork-tailed Woodnymph**, **Gould's Jewelfront**, **Blue-fronted Lancebill**, **Great-billed Hermit**, **White-bearded Hermit**, **Brown Violeteater**, **Amethyst Woodstar**, **Rufous-crested Coquette** (both on *Verbena* flowers) and **Pale-tailed Barbthroat** (in the *Heliconias*). The main target didn't show, but luckily the ranger knew a spot along the trails where it has a perch. Ask the ranger, or try to find it yourself by walking Ruta 1 for about 8-10 minutes. Go up two sets of stairs, just after a wooden little bridge. After 10-15m of flat trail the perch is 20cm above the ground on the right side of the path (-6.418170, -76.318542). As soon as we arrived we got to see **Koepcke's Hermit** (e). We observed it again one time out of the two times that we tried after this.

At the hummingbird feeders is a tower, which just doesn't reach to the top of the trees unfortunately. There is another tower about 1-2 minutes from the entrance, but this one is surrounded by pasture with a couple of trees. Walking between the two towers we observed **Black-faced Antbird** (HO) and **Fiery-capped Manakin**. This last tower might get really interesting in about 5-10 years, but for now we only got **White-lored Tyrannulet** as a new species.

**Andean Saddle-backed Tamarin****Koepcke's Hermit**

There is a corn feeder between the two towers (close to the hummingbird feeders), which can attract **Cinereous Tinamou** (HO), **Grey-fronted Dove** and **Black Agouti**. They put out the corn around 07.00, so communicate with them for an early entrance if you want to try for these species.

At night we heard **Pauraque**, **Great Potoo**, **Tropical Screech-owl**, **Crested Owl** and **Band-bellied Owl**. Spotlighting didn't yield as much as we had hoped, especially given that it's a lowland location. The first night we only spotlighted from the entrance towards the intersection of Ruta 3 and Ruta 4. We didn't see any mammals, but did get to see a stunning **Collared Puffbird**! We had hoped for **Nancy Ma's Night Monkey**, but the ranger said he had never heard of them. Someone on iNaturalist had seen them in a hollow, and upon asking he said he observed these in ACONABIKH. I showed the picture to the ranger, and he pointed to the 'Arbol Gigante' on the map (Ruta 4, -6.41763, -76.323544). We went there already before dusk via Ruta 1 (right side), then a small part Ruta 3 and then Ruta 4. Along the way we heard **Black-faced Antthrush** and **Starred Wood-quail** on Ruta 2. With some playback we were able to actually see the Wood-quails crossing the path, incredible!

Arriving at 18.30 at the big tree we could see the (empty) hollow and confirmed it was the same one. No Night Monkeys here or anywhere nearby for as far as we could see. The trees are quite high along Ruta 4 and we had trouble finding anything at all. We only spotlighted a single **Kinkajou** high up feeding on some flowers. We also came across army ants, which annoyed us big time as we somehow never seem to find them during the day (and thus missing cool species like White-plumed Antbird). The Ants only move at night when they move the colony, including the larvae. We saved the GPS location and returned early the next morning, hoping we would finally see the ants during the day, and thereby seeing **Hairy-crested Antbird** or **White-plumed Antbird**.. but we didn't encounter them again. We did see **White Hawk** in an open area along Ruta 4 and flushed a bat species from underneath a very cool self-made tent (-6.419246, -76.321942, right along the path). From here we also heard **Thrush-like Antpitta** and observed **Blue-capped Manakin** (*ssp. exquisite*, with the green body). Walking back via the Koepcke's Hermit we observed **Andean Saddle-backed Tamarin**.

Tarapoto – PE-5NB

[-6.45143, -76.29149](#)

Visited dates: 1 & 2 August 2023

On the first of August we drove 10km down from ACONABIKH. Park next to the road (-6.434987, -76.2672) and walk down towards the electricity pylon. We read about multiple birders seeing *Dotted Tanager* and *Plumbeous Euphonia* here a month earlier. We had neither of them in the 2-3h we were here, but observed a couple of nice species like *White-banded Swallow* (perched on the wire) and *Black-and-white Hawk-eagle* (flying over, mixing in the thermal with Black Vultures) and *King Vulture* (in between many other Vultures).

On the second of August we drove back to Tarapoto from ACONABIKH, making multiple stops along the highway to try for the two remaining targets. It wasn't until the famous tunnel (-6.451437, -76.291495) that we got one of them. While I had fun with the resonating acoustics of the tunnel, Romy played the sound of the Tanager inside the tunnel, making both of us laugh. But instead of an echo we actually heard it, making us stand still, listen from which side it came and then we started running to the west side. Not much later we observed *Dotted Tanager* above us in the trees. Other birds observed along the roadside are *Cliff Flycatcher*, *Carmioli's Tanager*, *Huallaga Tanager* (e), *Crowned Slaty Flycatcher* and *Olive-faced Flycatcher* (Flatbill). We tried a couple more places along the road for *Plumbeous Euphonia*, but came up empty handed.



Probable *Boana cinerascens*

White Hawk

Tarapoto – Road along Rio Huallaga

[-6.60953, -76.21228](#)

Visited date: 2 August 2023

As we still hadn't found Nancy Ma's Night Monkey we wanted to try along the road where Jon Hall had found it; near the gate of Pumarinri Amazon Lodge (-6.607305, -76.213779). We went to the very nice-looking lodge and asked them for info about the monkeys. They said they are only around during the months of January – March, when the mango trees in the garden are fruiting. Then they find them very frequently, and do night walks with the guest to see them. They said they rarely saw

them other times of the year. We got a bit stressed right away, but reminded us that a receptionist probably rarely searches for them outside the gate and Jon had them in the month May as well.



Brown-eared Woolly Opossum



Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth

We then continued along the road towards Chazuta, to a point (-6.599545, -76.146956) where other birders had observed *Purple-throated Cotinga*, *White-browed Purpletuft* and *Spangled Cotinga*. We weren't as lucky, but did see **Cinnamon Throated Woodcreeper** and **Bluish-fronted Jacamar**. We also ran into some locals who said the Night Monkeys were around there too. One local said they had a roost inside a hollow tree on top of the hill, but couldn't specify how far a walk that was and how to get there. We thus focussed on the trees along the road after dusk (18.30) but didn't see or hear anything. We drove slowly back towards Pumarinri Lodge, me driving and spotlighting, Romy with the thermal camera. Even though we crossed some interesting forested parts, it took a while before we observed our first species. Even worse, when we finally found our first species, something that looked like a species of *Four-eyed Opossum* going from flower to flower in a high tree, we lost it before we could get a picture for a sure ID. We then found **Northern Black-eared Opossum** –of which we found 2 total that night-, and not much later **Brown-eared Woolly Opossum** –of which we found 6 in total!-



Northern Black-eared Opossum



Nancy Ma's Night Monkey

The wind had picked up, but I still noticed a branch moving more than others. As soon as I put my flashlight on there it was clear; **Nancy Ma's Night Monkey**! We eventually observed a group of 3,

feeding near *Cecropia*-like trees and other trees with flowers. The observation turned out to be only 450m from the gate of the lodge, even though we had started our drive 11km from there! We walked towards the lodge and observed **Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth** with a young. We then continued towards a roadside quarry for camping and found another Sloth and a group of sleeping **Andean Saddle-backed Tamarins**.

Tarapoto – Juan Guerra

[-6.63564, -76.32188](#)

Visited date: 3 August 2023

Juan Guerra Senda Tyrant-manakin

Near the small town of Juan Guerra is a trail known on eBird as ‘Senda Tyrant-manakin’. One can park on a designated area along the road and walk the trail from there (starting at [-6.58047, -76.30054](#)). Unfortunately there had been some recent clearing of trees and dense shrubs along the trail. Undoubtedly the habitat would’ve been way better before. Pretty soon we observed some Antbirds, including **Stripe-chested Antwren**, **White-browed Antbird** and **Riparian Antbird**. Way sooner than we thought we reached the end of the trail where we didn’t see a way to continue, except maybe towards a stable full of cows. There we observed **Pearly-vented Tody-tyrant** (isolated population in this part of Peru) and **Bluish-fronted Jacamar** (HO). Finally on the way back heard **Northern Slaty Antshrike** (*ssp. huallagae*; a possible split as **Huallaga Slaty Antshrike**). Almost back at the road we got a response from our main target; **Sulphur-bellied Tyrant-manakin** (-6.579494, -76.301086). As we tried to observe it a man came driving up and without a *hola* asked who gave us permission to enter this road. Of course no one had, but apparently he wasn’t keen on having visitors (even though there is no sign or gate saying otherwise). He agreed we could bird the first part of the road as long as we stayed out of the way of the cow polonaise that was coming. We tried for a while to see the Tyrant-manakin, but that one didn’t show anymore. At the parking we encountered **Rusty-fronted Tody-flycatcher**.



Sulphur-bellied Tyrant-manakin
Pantana Juan Guerra



San Martin Titi

A pointer on eBird on something that looks like a lake in the forest, has the name 'Pantana Juan Guerra'. We expected lots of forest along the roadside after consulting Google Maps, but were once again confronted in real life how quickly deforestation goes here. We didn't have any info on this location, so decided to park on the east side of the road and walk the road going east into some forest (-6.63564, -76.32188). Down the hill we heard **Plain-crowned Spinetail** (*ssp. huallagae*), which looked different here from the nominate form (more greyish). We heard 2 groups of **San Martin Titis** (e), but again didn't get to see them. We then got a response from **Sulphur-bellied Tyrant-manakin**, which came flying in and perched close by, giving splendid views (-6.636541, -76.39870)! Where the forest gets more open we finally heard **Planalto Hermit**, after which it came flying in and around us for a while in response to playback. The road continues a bit farther through semi-open forest, which resulted in observations of **Rusty-fronted Tody-flycatcher**, **Dull-colored Grassquit**, **Rufous Casiornis**, **Northern Slaty Flycatcher** and **Bluish-fronted Jacamar**.

Tarapoto – Buenos Aires

[-6.7306, -76.37652](#)

Visited dates 3-4 August 2023

Buenos Aires - Rio Huallaga

We made a stop on the pull-out along the road ([-6.765904, -76.300369](#)) and hoped to get great views of **Sand-colored Nighthawk**. We had seen some nice photos on eBird, but once there that hope was gone. The river is quite far down and the sandy islands with drift-wood are far away. We got some crappy views and they were visible in the camera just well enough for certain ID. We decided to come back later at night to see them flying. This turned out to be a good choice, as already when we arrived at 17.50 we saw 10s of Nighthawks flying around; their distinctive pattern clearly visible even from far away.

On the river banks we observed around 250 **Comb Ducks** (and another 100 flying over at another stop) and **White-banded Swallow** flying over. We couldn't find **River Lapwing**, which is often observed as well.

Quebrada Upaquihua

Northwest of Buenos Aires is a patch of forest around KM10 ([-6.730601, -76.376526](#)) that is still preserved along the road. The species here are similar to the ones at the locations around Juan Guerra, with the addition of some others that are more easily found here.

Even though it was intensely hot during the midst of the day, I went out for a walk and got to see **Ashy-headed Greenlet** (again a very isolated population occurs in this part of Peru). Back at our parking we heard **Flammulated Bamboo-tyrant/Flammulated Pygmy-tyrant**. The name Pygmy-tyrant is especially more accurate in this part of Peru, as it inhabits dense shrubs and vines instead of just bamboo as in the southern population.

A walk later in the afternoon produced **Northern Slaty Antshrike** and **Rusty-winged Antwren** at the very end of the forest along the main road. Did I already mention that many species have isolated populations in this part of Peru? **Sulphur-bellied Tyrant-manakin**, **Planalto Hermit** and **Chestnut-throated Spinetail** are possible in this patch of forest too.

We spotlighted the 10km from Buenos Aires towards KM10 after the Nighthawks, but only observed **Northern Black-eared Opossum**. Spotlighting on foot along the main road along the forested patch yielded no mammals, except for one that we didn't expect to find yet until the next morning. Romy spotted a big blob with the Lahoux Spotter Elite 35V thermal scope and when I looked through I saw that the blob was connected via 5 strings underneath. This big blob turned out to be a group of 5 **San Martin Titis**, huddling together with their tails intertwined. Not much later Romy found another group high up in a big tree along the road. Taking the side road going right just after the KM10 marker we again observed big blobs in the trees. With the flashlight we saw intense colours and hoped that these would be Night Monkeys, but they turned out to be Hoatzins! We then heard some rustling next to the path, which turned out to be an Armadillo. I only saw the head shortly and it looked much like a **West Amazonian Long-nosed Armadillo**, but could have been a **Nine-banded Armadillo**. Once we turned around we observed a beautifully spotted **Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth**.



San Martin Titi Monkeys sleeping together



San Martin Titi

The next morning we were full focus on the San Martin Titis (e), as we still hoped for a good picture of one of these awesome primates. We went back to the tree where we had seen them sleeping, but didn't want to arrive too early and have them take off before it got light enough for pictures like what happened at Morro de Calzada. Unfortunately the Titis had already left when we arrived around 06.15. We then hoped to encounter them by walking along the road. Waiting at the car we observed **Rufous-capped Nunlet** shortly foraging in the vines next to us before it took off. It seemed irresponsive to playback and we couldn't lure it back for a photo. The first group of Titis started calling at 07.15, but none of the groups were close to the road. After a while we decided to follow some trails into the forest; there are some trails parallel to the road, perpendicular to the road at the

beginning and end of the forest and just before KM10. This way we got very close to a group of 3, but photographing them through dense forest turned out to be very difficult. We then got close to another group of 3, but these too were skittish and took off before we had a chance for good pictures. Finally after sneaking through the forest near the end of the main road we got to see a group of at least 4, of which one allowed for some decent record shots. We heard at least 2-3 other groups, so there are plenty of them around. Still they seem to be pretty weary, and take off quicker than any other Titi species we had seen before. In our experience, they also call from lower within the forest instead of higher up in a tree than other Titis do.

Back at the car Romy suddenly noticed a big brown shape crossing the street. I was just in time to see the tail; **Tayra!** Right then two smaller ones crossed the road after it! We tried to go there and see them again, but of course this attempt was futile.

Plataforma

[-7.39779, -76.29819](#)

Visited dates 4-7 August 2023

Plataforma (also known as Flor de Café) is one of the birding sites we had been looking forward to our whole journey. With some epic and localized endemics and rare species it was very promising. We had read the horror stories about how to get there; involving a 5-15h drive with modified 4x4's to get through the terribly deep muddy roads. Times change and there has been major work on the roads! The worst part of the road was now in the lowlands in between the rice fields coming from Bellavista (-7.067605, -76.581933) towards the turn-off towards Plataforma (-7.184182, -76.498435). It took about 30 minutes from the river at Bellavista to the turn-off. From there you only have to follow the road towards Triunfo (-7.325627, -76.277681) and turn right for the last 13km towards Plataforma. The drive from the turn-off towards Plataforma took us about 1h40m with our 2WD! Weather conditions had been dry the days before, and especially in the rainy season (especially Jan-May) road conditions might deteriorate again. Therefore a 4WD is still advised, but depending on the weather one could drive up with any high clearance 2WD. The road towards Triunfo should be pretty good year-round, and then one could also opt for leaving a rental car there and walking the last 13km up to Plataforma.

The rate of deforestation is depressing driving up from the rice fields towards Triunfo, but also at Plataforma. We have seen quite some agricultural fields where once had been forest during our trip, but this was one of the first places where very recent large scale deforestation was this evident. Trees lying everywhere, burned fields etc., all to give way for a monoculture of corn as feed for cattle. Documenting it by making pictures on our way back down, two **Illiger's Saddle-back Tamarins** (e) crossed the path. Stupidly enough I didn't take pictures of these endemic primates, as I had my landscape lens on the camera and could only think of the amount of wildlife that once lived here and would very soon be locally extinct.

**Deforestation****Deforestation**

We didn't do much birding up towards Plataforma, but we did stop at the stake-out for **Blackish Pewee**. The location for this species is in a sharp turn, on the inner side of the curve. It often perches on some bare branches on the otherwise unvegetated hill (-7.368583, -76.294557). Another guide had one of our targets, **Buff-throated Tody-tyrant**, singing in the late afternoon 80m before the green 'Plataforma' sign. We tried on our way back down around noon but couldn't locate it.

Even though we had the map made by Josh Beck ([see blog of Gunnar](#)), we had some trouble orienting ourselves in this authentic yet chaotically set up village. Once past the Plataforma sign the village begins with many wooden houses on both sides of the road. Then one gets to a T-intersection (-7.397797, -76.298193), which is a good reference point for the rest of this part. From the intersection one can go left for 100m, ending up at the soccer field. On the far right end of the soccer field is the only hotel of the village; Hotel Capito. The hotel is run by Eugenio Vallejos (+51 985 247 629, Spanish). A room is 70PEN for a single, 120PEN for a double. This is excluding meals (15/25/25PEN for breakfast/lunch/dinner). Eugenio is learning the birds and knows the most important ones. His guidance costs 60PEN for a morning, 120PEN for a full day.

**Blackish Pewee****Noble Leafwing - *Fountainea nobilis***

As the annual soccer festival was on (every year, first weekend of August), we were very happy not to sleep in said hotel. There were 100s of people in this small village and the fireworks and music went

on until deep in the night. We had hired the services of Eugenio as a guide and agreed to meet at 06.00 at the north side of the village. When he didn't show up we drove down to his hotel, only to find it locked. Some knocking didn't help, but luckily a drunken friend of Eugenio showed up from the pub next door, still playing music as loud as the evening before. The friend went in and lifted Eugenio from his bed, ready to bird. With all the deforestation going on, places for the Antbird are getting rarer and rarer. We think lots and lots of ecotourism (lodging, food, hiring a guide etc.) is the way to save at least some forest around here, so hiring Eugenio was an easy choice.

Main road going up

Eugenio knows a spot for the Antbird so we drove up towards the forest. To get to these better forests one has to turn right from the intersection and continue for about 3km. We parked opposite of a shed (-7.420886, -76.29156) and birded and spotlighted at night on foot from there.

As we went with Eugenio we won't disclose his spots. It's doubtful how useful those coordinates would be anyway, as it's unlikely the forests he took us to are still there a year from now. Walking a side road we heard **Yungas Manakin** (isolated population and possible split, thus becoming an endemic). We went inside the forest to see them lekking. While doing so we encountered **Ringed Antpitt** and **Foothill Schiffornis**, a species that had eluded us in so many foothill locations before on our trip.

We then took a trail into the forest and he told us to play the tape of **Cordillera Azul Antbird** (e). He said it might take 20 minutes, and he was exactly right. With Eugenio in a tree spotting the forest floor he noticed two of them sneaking quietly between the many branches around the speaker. Impossible to get the photos we hoped for, but how fantastic to see such a species, only discovered as recently as 2016 by Josh Beck. After observing it for a while we didn't want to overuse playback (something Eugenio doesn't totally seem to realise, in sake for the species and his future clients) and focussed on other cool birds in the same forest patch; **Yellow-throated Spadebill**, **Grey-throated Leaf-tosser** (HO), **Chestnut-crowned Gnatcatcher** and **Blue-rumped Manakin** (ssp. *leucopygia*, where the colour of the rump is a milky-light blue).

We then took a trail (made for the sake of a small pipeline?) through some forest which yielded some more good species; **Yellow-breasted Antwren**, **Slaty Antwren**, **Blue-rumped Manakin**, **Jet Manakin** and good views of **Greyish Mourner**. Eugenio said he also heard **Green-backed Becard** and **Roraiman Flycatcher**, but once paying specific attention to those sounds we didn't hear them and couldn't lure them in neither.

**Yellow-throated Spadebill****Jet Manakin**

As it was very hot and activity low, we stayed near the forest while Eugenio went back to the village. In the afternoon we walked the road further up, but activity remained fairly low. We came across one big flock, containing amongst many others; **Green-throated Tanager**, **Blue-browed Tanager** (commonly encountered during the next days) and **Long-tailed Woodcreeper** (ssp. *plataforma*). We also heard **White-crowned Tapaculo**. In the end of the afternoon we went back due to approaching rain. Eugenio had warned us this road gets very slippery and muddy after rain, so said we had to leave with our 2WD if we didn't want to get stuck for days. In the end the rain passed by in the form of a few drops, so the road stayed fine. We went back the night after for spotlighting. **Foothill Screech-owl** was commonly heard, and it already started calling just after 18.00. **Band-bellied Owl** and **Silky-tailed Nightjar** (both HO) were observed as well. Mammal-wise it wasn't as much as we hoped for, but still encountered 2 **Kinkajous** in a fruiting tree, as well as a **Bicolored-spined Porcupine** in some dense shrubs, luckily climbing into the open for better views.

The place for **Foothill Screech-owl** closest to the village is also along the road going to the right after the intersection. Walk a couple of 100m along the main road, after which there is a small patch of forest on the right hand side. At the end is a cattle trail (muddy) going right (-7.404429, -76.297686) from the main road. In the huge tree we observed 2 **Eastern Lowland Olingos**. Behind is where we heard 2 Screech-owls and were able to observe 1 of them.

**White-winged Tanager male****Foothill Screech-owl**

Trail northeast of village

Josh Beck drew a trail going north on the map. This trail starts on the left side just before the intersection (-7.397625, -76.298307). Unfortunately there is little forest left and the walk is mostly along coffee farms. In a small forest remnant we observed **Western Striolated Puffbird** while we were looking at **Paradise Tanagers**. As indicated on Josh's map we went left (-7.3941, -76.2908) and again left (-7.3929, -76.2907). While these intersections are in the middle of the forest in his map, now there are just coffee plants. The road is good enough to drive it all the way with a 4x4, maybe one can get a bit farther to explore other forest remnants. We came to the forest patch where Josh had discovered the Antbird, but the small forest patch isn't really worth the walk anymore. We did suddenly see a primate sitting in the shrubs next to us and we then got great looks at 4 **White-fronted Titi Monkeys** (*Callicebus discolor*) loudly calling from a nearby tree. An amazing sight with their bushy white tails and stunning red underside.

**White-fronted Titi Monkey****Western Striolated Puffbird****Trail west-southwest of village**

Turning right at the intersection there is a trail going to the right after about 100m (-7.398689, -76.298622). We walked this trail on two separate mornings. After passing some houses along the very first part, the trail goes through some farmland. This is where **Black-faced Tanager** and also **Green-backed Becard** (ssp. Yellow-cheeked) were encountered. The trail then ascends through some forest where we heard quite some birds; **White-crowned Tapaculo**, **Blackish Antbird**, **Slaty Antwren** and **Rufous-breasted Wood-quail**. This is where Eugenio observed the endemic Barbet when he had to go back early from guiding us. At the summit is a little shelter on the left side (a *Tambo* in Spanish). According to a birding guide this area should be a good place to try for **Roraiman Flycatcher**. After the summit the trail descends again and goes through some more open area. 100m after the *Tambo* we got to see **Scarlet-banded Barbet** (e) in a very high fruiting tree, thanks to a tip from a guide who had seen up to 4 individuals in there earlier that morning.

Farther down we came across a big mixed flock on the first morning, containing many cool species including **Bronze-green Euphonia** (common in the area), **Golden-rumped Euphonia** (8 ind.!), **Blue-**

naped **Chlorophonia**, **Golden-collared Honeycreeper** **Orange-eared Tanager** and a lot more. **Amazonian Umbrellabird** landed in a tree and took off again shortly after.

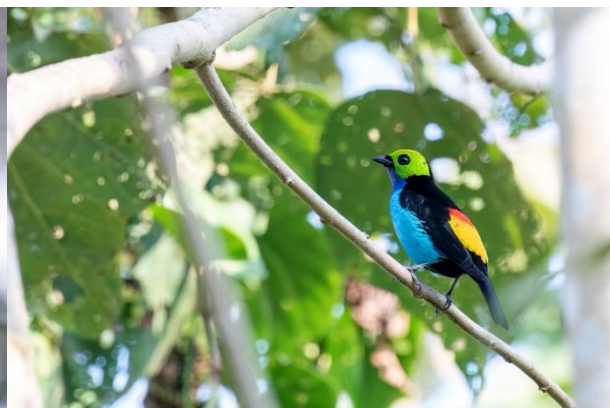
After this more open part, the trail goes into more forested area again and parts of the trail can be quite muddy. Take a right at the intersection (-7.4027, -76.3098) and then the trail descends a bit more through some great forest. At the intersection we heard **Foothill Schiffornis** on both mornings. Other birds that are commonly heard along the trail are **Scaled Antpitta**, **White-throated Quail-dove**, **Rufous-breasted Antthrush** and **Short-tailed Antthrush**. Inside the forest we observed **Scarlet-breasted Fruiteater**, **Grey-tailed Piha** (HO), **Gilded Barbet**, **Napo Sabrewing** and **Long-tailed Woodcreeper** (undescribed form *plataforma*). This should also be a good place for **Foothill Antwren** (right side of the trail) and **Buff-throated Tody-tyrant** (halfway on the left side of the trail) according to a birding guide we ran into. **Blue-rumped Manakin** seemed to have a lek at the right hand side at the very end of the forest (-7.40124, -76.311516), being present the four times we passed by this point.

On our first morning we observed **Scarlet-banded Barbet** (e) in the very big tree at the end of the forest. The Barbets seem to favour the area after the forest, with fruiting trees and shrubs on the right side of the trail and open farmland on the left.

On the second morning we walked farther along the trail and after a lot of effort got views of **Buckley's Forest-falcon** sneaking through a dense tree (-7.399683, -76.313751). We wanted to explore the forest shown on Josh's map, starting after a plot with coffee (-7.398851, -76.316022). We hoped for **Roraiman Flycatcher**, a species that he had seen there. We dipped on that one but did see **White-fronted Nunbird** and **Yungas Manakin** at the beginning of the forest. A bit farther in we heard another **Buckley's Forest-falcon** and **White-crowned Tapaculo**. The trail descends quite steeply after this, but as we heard **Subtropical Pygmy-owl** farther below we decided to walk down anyways. We came to a coffee farm (-7.399149, -76.319957) where we could hear the Pygmy-Owl calling from a forest patch below, but weren't able to actually see it. We heard multiple **Andean Cock-of-the-rocks** (probably a lek) there too and got to see **Golden-eared Tanager** from our viewpoint.



Scarlet-banded Barbet



Paradise Tanager

Termales de Sacanche

[-7.09839, -76.78664](#)

Visited dates: 7-8 August 2023

This place is about 30km from Bellavista and makes for a great stop towards the south, or for anyone travelling with non-birders. Take the turn-off (-7.094225, -76.754887) and then drive 6km towards the end of the gravel road. This is a great free and safe place to camp and there are barely any people around. Crossing the river via the bridge and climbing up the steep hill via the short trail you end up at thermal baths with a perfect temperature. We observed **Fasciated Tiger-heron** and **Hoatzins** at the river during the day and **Boat-billed Heron** at night. **San Martin Titi** (e) was calling at 08.20, but we couldn't find the group that was close to the thermal baths. We read on iOverlander that other people had two groups of primates passing by! Hanging under the ceiling of the wooden structure we found some **Greater Spear-nosed Bats** at night and **Sac-winged Bat spec.** during the day. We did get to observe a group of 4 **San Martin Titis** along the entrance road (-7.098423, -76.779312). While trying to get a better look at them in the bushes, **Spectacled Owl** flew away. A great place to get some rest during a vacation and to relax for a day or two.

Department of Huánuco

Senda Paty/Tunel de Carpish

[-9.71931, -76.09886](#)

Visited date: 9 August 2023

Senda Paty

As we arrived late at night we decided to drive down from the narrow entrance at Senda Paty ([-9.695325, -76.086897](#)). We drove down towards the soccer field (-9.696959, -76.087953), which was a bit steep and bumpy; better park up at the road if you have a lower clearance or less powerful car. The soccer field is flat and makes for a good camping area. The website [Peru Birds](#) writes that in 2017 the pedestrian path has been replaced by a dirt road, destroying quite some vegetation. We don't know the situation before, but we didn't particularly enjoy the steep walk down with –indeed- not very great vegetation around in our opinion. We heard **Bay Antpitta** (e) from quite far away and picked up a small flock including **Citrine Warbler** and **Plushcap** going through the bamboo. We then decided we rather spend the good birding hours at the Tunel de Carpish.

Tunel de Carpish

On the north side of the tunnel is a turn-off to the west ([-9.719314, -76.098862](#)). Interesting habitat with lots of bamboo is interspersed with some agricultural fields. As most of the road is flat, we found this trail way more enjoyable than Senda Paty and were happy we switched locations. Again we heard **Bay Antpitta** (e) from far away, and furthermore heard **Chestnut Antpitta** (e) next to the

trail (-9.724621, -76.102493). As we had great views of this species at Owlet lodge we didn't try very hard to see it, although it was frustrating to hear it so close by in the bamboo without seeing it. **Violet-throated Starfrontlet** (*Coeligena violifer dichroua*) was seen quite often. **Barred Fruiteater** was heard often and a pair was seen once, although we had hoped to observe **Green-and-black Fruiteater** (ssp. *tallmanorum*). Another cool bird that we first heard and then observed was **White-eared Solitaire**, which showed quite nicely. With observing **Tschudi's Tapaculo** (e) we succeeded in adding another Tapaculo species to our 'seen list' after a bit of effort (-9.724313, -76.102249). A big mixed flock going through the bamboo included **Peruvian Wren** (e), **Black-capped Hemispingus** (ssp. *auricularis*; White-browed) and **Rufous Spinetail** besides some other species. Other species observed were the endemic **Yellow-scarfed Tanager** and **Slaty Brushfinch** (ssp. *taczanowskii*, potential split and endemic). As most of our remaining targets were easier to find elsewhere we decided to move on again after 1.5h.



Black-throated Flowerpiercer



Black-capped Hemispingus

Bosque Montepotrero

[-9.90289, -76.04934](#)

Visited date: 9 August 2023

Driving south from Senda Paty/Tunel de Carpish one crosses the Huallaga River. Right after it we turned left (-9.831042, -76.093358) to drive the 30km to Bosque Montepotrero (-9.897415, -76.051334), which takes about 1h. Arriving at the parking you have to walk ± 900 m to reach the entrance of the park (-9.902892, -76.04934). We couldn't find anybody at the administration centre, so decided to go around the closed gate. This was a bit trickier than we expected, and if you find yourself in the same situation; having rubber boots allows crawling under the wire through the little canal, which is easier. We followed the flat upper 'Trail 3' for ± 800 m and got to see **Panao Antpitta** (e) 3 times (the most cooperative one being here; -9.899173, -76.054283), and heard two additional individuals from farther away. **Tschudi's Tapaculo** (e) also cooperated well enough for some decent views (-9.900145, -76.051675). **Brown-flanked Tanager** (e) went through the shrubs near the last and most cooperative Antpitta. A great place for the Antpitta! There are some sightings along the road just before the parking as well in case the gate is locked and you don't want to climb around. Just

before the parking is where we flushed **Curve-billed Tinamou**. Driving with our windows open I was able to hear the flush call; Romy actually got to see it.



Brown-flanked Tanager



Pano Antpitta

Bosque Unchog

[-9.74095, -76.16864](#)

Visited dates: 9-11 August 2023

All roads lead to Rome goes the saying.. well, it seems that all roads lead to Bosque Unchog as well. A bit confused we looked at the many roads on maps.me between the main road and our destination. According to locals the best way to go is as follows: take the turnoff from the main road PE-18A (-9.852177, -76.150899) and turn right after the bridge (-9.850087, -76.152408). In the next village called Cascay turn left (-9.839056, -76.146604) and continue until the turnoff going right (-9.803835, -76.172248) towards Cochabamba. Once past Cochabamba turn left (-9.785235, -76.15611) and follow this road until the very end (-9.74095, -76.168644).

The end of the road makes for great camping, but be sure to bring the right gear as we had nights below 0 °C. We walked into the valley on two days, the first from 08.00-16.00 and the second day from 07.00-12.00. Below I give a description from the beginning of the valley towards the end instead of chronologically time-wise for the two days we went into the valley.

Around the parking we heard **Neblina Tapaculo** (e) often; near the road (-9.74121, -76.168005) and along the stream (-9.740570, -76.169907). They had the habit of shutting up when playing tape, and only started again after 5 minutes or so. With some waiting I finally managed to observe an individual skulking through some ferns and moss along the back of the stream. **Tschudi's Tapaculo** (e) was heard often through the whole valley until the end.

The trail into the valley is quite flat until a big wooden cross and passes forest on the left side and open grassy fields on the right. In the field we observed **Line-fronted Canastero** (*ssp. huallagae*) and **Paramo Pipit** (HO). The shrubs along the trail in the first flat part are especially good for **Coppery**

Metaltail (e), which is very abundant. At some bamboo we got to see the Peruvian ssp. of **White-chinned Thistletail** (-9.735899, -76.170494). Other species observed in this first part of the valley are **White-browed Conebill**, **Drab Hemispingus** and **Slaty Brushfinch** (*ssp. taczanowskii*).



White-chinned Thistletail



Andean Lapwing

After the wooden cross the trail starts to descend (-9.731857, -76.169144). This is where we heard **Stripe-headed Antpitta**. In the forest on the right side is where we got amazing views the second day on the way back of **Golden-backed Mountain-tanager** (e). After descending some more on the main trail you will arrive at a nice patch of forest, which is known as the second forest patch (-9.726926, -76.169777). From here and further down the valley is where we had most of our interesting sightings. On the first morning we observed **Golden-backed Mountain-tanager** high up on the ridge on the left side. As I climbed up to take a picture it was chased off its perch where it had been sitting for a couple of minutes just before I reached the perfect spot for a picture. I didn't love Great Thrushes before that, but this sealed the deal.. It seemed that the Mountain-tanager was part of a mixed flock, including **Golden-collared Tanager**, **Pardusco** (e), and of course the usual suspects like **Masked Flowerpiercer**, **Pearled Treerunner** and **White-throated Tyrannulet**. Other Flowerpiercers observed throughout the valley are **Black-throated Flowerpiercer** and **Moustached Flowerpiercer**. Also present on this side of the valley was a pair of **Bay-vented Cotinga** (e).



Bay-vented Cotinga male



Golden-backed Mountain-tanager

Continuing, the trail descends steeply through the patch of forest. The forest is known for a very rare endemic, our other main target of the valley. It is supposed to occur along the stream, but the first

day we only heard it. The second day we were there earlier and got splendid views of **Rufous-browed Hemispingus** (e) just before we reached the stream (-9.726459, -76.168793). Between that pointer and the stream we got to observe the cute **Rufous-headed Pygmy-tyrant**. **Chachapoyas Antpitta** (e) was heard in the forest near the stream. Crossing the stream and turning left (the only possibility if you like to follow a trail) we observed **Ochraceous-breasted Flycatcher** on both days. Where the forest opens up again there is an overhanging rock on the left side, just a bit of the trail (-9.725408, -76.168223), which makes for a great shelter if it rains (like it did on the second morning). From here we heard **Large-footed Tapaculo** and a mixed flock passed, including of course **Scarlet-bellied Mountain-tanager** but also **Streak-headed Mountain-tanager** (a split from Buff-breasted Mountain-tanager).

**Rufous-browed Hemispingus****Yellow-scarfed Tanager**

From there the path continues on a ridge, passing by good forest on the right side. On the second morning we heard **Rufous-browed Hemispingus** near the coordinates given in the eBird list of Daniel Branch (-9.723821, -76.167016). A bit farther we heard **White-winged Tapaculo** (e) in the forest near the path (-9.722646, -76.166924) as well as on the far side of the small valley. These Tapaculos didn't seem to respond more than once and despite us waiting for a long time we couldn't localize them enough to even try and see them. **Red-crested Cotingas** (at least 8 ind.) were especially abundant along the forest on the ride side, and **Bay-vented Cotingas** (at least 3 ind.) mixed with them. **Grass Wren**, **Yungas Pygmy-owl** (HO) and **Yellow-scarfed Tanager** (e) were some other species observed along this stretch of the trail. **Chachapoyas Antpitta** was heard calling from the forest as well.

Irrigation Canal Trail to Laguna Quiullacocha

In the afternoon we walked another trail one valley to the east. We had seen an eBird list containing **Golden-backed Mountain-tanager** and an acquaintance of us had seen them there after missing them at Bosque Unchog during two days of searching. We parked the car (-9.759595, -76.14778) and walked past the house and took the irrigation canal trail to the right. The trail is given in Maps.me and leads all the way to a small lake (-9.730239, -76.155048). The trail is quite flat and passed agricultural fields in the beginning. After a km or so the trail passes along nice forest and has some nice vistas. We didn't get to see the Mountain-tanagers but saw some of the same species as at Bosque Unchog, including **Tschudi's Tapaculo** (e), **Coppery Metaltail** (e), **Slaty Brushfinch**, **White-chinned Thistletail**, **Stripe-headed Antpitta** (HO) and **Red-crested Cotinga**. Going up the hill on the

left side of the lake we heard **White-winged Tapaculo** (e), but again the bird shut up as soon as we got anywhere near it... An interesting walk and some nice habitat, but definitely not as good as Bosque Unchog in our opinion.



Landscape at Bosque Unchog



Coppery Metaltail

Madre de Dios

Puerto Maldonado

[-12.5849, -69.21817](#)

Visited dates: 1-2 & 10-11 September 2023

Camino Pastora

When we arrived late afternoon we decided to bird west of Puerto Maldonado. We ran into a closed gate ([-12.5849, -69.21817](#)) so we parked the car around there and circumvented the gate on foot. Only a couple of 100m after the gate we already had our first **Purus Jacamars**, a species that is quite common here. **White-throated Jacamar** was observed as well, but in lower numbers. We also heard **Amazonian Antpitta**.

Reserva Inkaterra

We saw many cool bird sightings at Inkaterra on eBird, but it seemed too expensive to stay there and we couldn't find any info on day visits. As the surrounding forests looked quite good on Google Maps we decided to bird the road north of there. Overall the habitat was quite open and there was a lot more deforestation going on than expected. Besides seeing a pair of **Rufous-fronted Antthrush** (-12.529730, -69.079361) and **Black-faced Cotingas** (-12.527102, -69.073448) we didn't really see much of note the 4 hours we birded there. Probably better to go the actual reserve and figure out in advance how to get there.

Carretera Gamitana

As we missed some species after Los Amigos, we went to a bit of a random road the day after. There were recent sightings of Fulvous-chinned Nunlet with some great photos on eBird, so we wanted to

give that a try. It was evident that –like everywhere in the lowlands– forest was being cut down here at high rates. The road was being prepared to be broadened and big trees were being cut down everywhere around. Still we managed to hear **Fulvous-chinned Nunlet**, but unfortunately it wouldn't come out in the open, neither in the afternoon nor in the morning. At the same spot we encountered **Chattering Gnatwrens** and **Pavonine Cuckoo**. We thought we heard **Black Bushbird**, but it was impossible to record sounds with so many birds calling and unfortunately it stopped calling soon after. At night we had **Amazonian Swifts** fly over our heads. Spotlighting yielded **Yellow-crowned Toró** and **Amazonian Bamboo Rats**. We also observed an **Armadillo spec** (Amazonian long-nosed or Nine-banded) in the heat scope, it wouldn't come out of the shrubs. A very big and cool looking **Tree Frog spec** might have been the most awesome thing to see. In the morning we heard **Toppin's Titi**, but we didn't get to see them.

Note: only go here if there are any recent eBird lists; chances are this forest will be gone within a couple of months.



Black-faced Cotinga

Yellow-crowned Toró

Los Amigos Biological Station

[-12.57079, -70.1018](#)

Visited dates 3-9 September 2023

It's hard where to begin writing on such a location, so let's begin with the logistics. Reservations can be made by email (reservas@conservacionamazonica.org, English/Spanish). The lodge is a bit pricy, but not as expensive as some of the lodges along the same river. We paid the researchers price, but still got meals included and ended up in nice cabin next to the stairs and close to the river.

Actually getting to Los Amigos is quite a trip, so a minimum of 4 nights is advised to make it worth your while. First you need to get from Puerto Maldonado to Laberinto. We took a shared taxi (leaving at -12.59472, -69.18665), which costs 10PEN p.p. one way. This shared taxi takes 6 people and leaves when full. If you are with two, take the two back seats for more comfort. The taxi arrives in Laberinto

about 45 minutes later (-12.71877, -69.58842). From there you can also take the shared taxi back to P. Maldonado when coming back from Los Amigos. At the harbour there will be many boats and already when we walked up they asked 'CICRA?' (pronounced; 'siekra'), which is how Los Amigos is locally known. We were told there are only boats at 06.30 and 08.30, but we got one at 07.30 anyways. To be sure you have the right boat, ask for the price (100PEN p.p.) and the travel time to CICRA (somewhere between 3.5-5h depending on the river). It took us 4h to get to Los Amigos, mostly because they had to unload many people and material, specifically for the illegal gold mining. The river is littered with gold mines, so we were glad we didn't go earlier to have a chance at any wildlife on the way.

Once at Los Amigos we guessed that we had to take the left path, which brought us to a stair (± 215 steps) and up to *terra firme* and the lodge. Los Amigos has 11 primate species (of which **Goeldi's Monkey** is rarely seen) which was the main reason for us to come here. Furthermore, there are about 50km of trails going through a huge variety of habits, being very interesting for many lowland bird species we hadn't seen yet (despite already having raked more than 2500 bird species in South-America during our trip). There are many birds that have to be IDed by sound first, but that can be a bit overwhelming (for us it still is). It's good to learn the sounds of the Tinamous, Flatbills, Trogons, Antshrikes, Antbirds and Antwrens in particular, as these make up the bulk of spontaneous calling birds in our experience.



Cabin at Los Amigos

Inside of the cabin

The trail numbers at Los Amigos don't make sense to us, so below I will give a description of all the trails we walked. They use AvenzaMaps (mobile app), for which they send you a geo-referenced .pdf of the trails with numbers (you can ask for it already by email to get a sense of the trails while reading this report). Ultimately I included a map and a table for the mammal species to have a bit more of an overview of where to search for each species in case you are not as feather-interested as we are. Refuelling times are officially from 06.00-07.00 (breakfast), 12.00-13.00 (lunch) and 18.30-19.30 (dinner). They happily agreed on breakfast at 05.30 and dinner at 18.00, so that we could maximize our time in the field. The food was great overall, more than enough and varied! We had rain the first night and first morning till 10.00, but that day and the following day were the best for primates and birds we had! Better hope for some rain or a friaje (cold front) during your stay,

because on the other days without rain it was very hot. Activity died out already around 07.30 for the birds and the noise of insects was ear-deafening at times.

To give you an idea of some routes we did (day 1 being arrival at 11.00 and day 7 leaving at 12.00):

Day	06.00-12.00/12.30	14.00/14.30 – 18.00	18.30-20.30/21.00
1	N.A	Camp, T1, T23, T28, T10	Camp
2	Camp, T15, T30, T18, T14, T15	T10 (until T8/T24) and back	Camp, T1 (until T22), T13, T15
3	Camp, T1, T9, T8, T10	T15, T14 (until Cocha Lobo) and back	Camp, T15, T13
4	Camp, T13, T14, T27, T25, T10	Camp, T10, T8 (until T20) and back	Camp, T15, T14 (until T29), T13
5	T1, T39, T1, T9, T22, T20, T1	T19, T25, T24, T10	Camp
6	T10, T25, T26, T31, T11, T14, T15	T10, T8 (until viewpoint close to T9) and back	Camp, T13, T14, T12, T14, T15
7	Spotlighting 03.45-06.00: T10, T8, T20 From 06.00-09.30: T22, T9, T1, T20, T2, T17, T2, T1	N.A.	N.A.

Camp area

The camp area is quite large and goes from the river, the station is located on a buff, towards the soccer field. Close to the river are the accommodations, farther inland the offices, labs and the restaurant. Even farther again, the maintenance buildings and the soccer field. The area is quite open and therefor interesting to easily observe the canopy and birds flying by, even from our accommodation. Our cabin was the one close to the river and the stairs, and this would be my preferred cabin if you like primates, as 4 species of primate came by the cabin in the 6 days we were there (see table below), one of which was a group of Emperor Tamarins seen by the lady who cleaned our room. Nice birds seen from our cabin include **White-rumped Sirystres**, **Western Striolated Puffbird**, **Johannes's Tody-tyrant** (HO), **Yellow-billed Nunbird** (at night, after which it got eaten by a snake –live action stuff–). The river nearby is a good place for sunset if you take the time for such things, and it is probably a good point to see **Amazonian Parrotlet** and **Dusky-billed Parrotlet** fly over the river, but we didn't try enough for those.



Toppin's Titi Monkey

Toppin's Titi Monkey

No less than 6 species of Macaw can be seen from the camp area, of which **Blue-headed Macaw** was a lifer! It was also the spot where we observed our first **Emperor Tamarins** on the first warm morning (3rd morning). These Tamarins, of which some have a collar around the neck, loosely group together with **Weddell's Saddle-backed Tamarins**. We heard them while sitting in the restaurant, but weirdly enough none of the researchers paid any attention to them or us when they walked by. The cooks also stayed oblivious of the Tamarins passing by, even though I ran towards our room to get my camera and yelled "LOS MONOS!!!" to explain my running. There didn't seem to be anyone with good info on the primates at all when we were at Los Amigos, and given our experience I am not sure how much one should rely on 'no recent sightings' or random locations along trails. Other primates seen near camp were of course the **Toppin's Titi Monkeys**, which are very common around the station. The last morning we had **Bolivian Red Howlers** climbing up the slope towards our cabin.

At night we always encountered **Common Tapeti** on the grassy fields. Near the maintenance buildings (close to the soccer field/compost heap) we twice encountered **Western Amazonian Long-nosed Armadillo**, once **Eastern Lowland Olingo** in a tree and twice **Great Potoo** on a big tree stump.



Western Amazonian Long-nosed Armadillo



Common Tapeti

In a fruiting tree we also observed many bats flying around. We are not totally sure which species, but most likely **Leaf-nosed Bat spec.**



Snake spec. catching a juvenile **Black-fronted Nunbird** in front of our cabin at night

Trail 1

This is one of the main trails from camp, flat all the way and quite broad. Early morning we heard **Buckley's Forest Falcon** not too far in. On the second (colder) morning we found **Ryland's Bald-faced Saki** (-12.5695, -70.0975). **Toppin's Titi Monkeys** are very commonly heard along T1 and **Tufted Capuchins** were found multiple times on T1 as well. Just before T39 is where we actually observed **Rufous-tailed Flatbill**, instead of just hearing it. We also flushed **Common Red Brocket** from the shrubs along T1. With a mixed flock passing by we lured in **White-eyed Stipplethroat** as a new species.

Towards the end of T1 (after T23) is a big stand of bamboo, where there was once an airstrip. In and around this bamboo we observed **Chestnut-capped Puffbird**, **Long-crested Pygmy-tyrant**, **Flammulated Pygmy-tyrant**, **Rufous-tailed Flatbill** and **Striated Antbird**. We tried hard for **Chattering Gnatwren**, which has been observed near the north-end of the airstrip, and **Black Bushbird**, which has been regularly found here a couple of years back. The bamboo makes for decent views of the higher surroundings trees, where there was a group of **Curl-crested Aracari**.

This trail is ideal for spotlighting as it's flat and broad; we found **Black-headed Night Monkeys** and **Ferreira's Spiny Tree Rat - *Mesomys hispidus*** at night on this trail.



Ryland's Bald-faced Saki male

Ryland's Bald-faced Saki female

Trail 2 & Trail 17

We only walked these trails once late in the morning. We descended the stairs on T17 (some interesting looking burrows at the top of the stairs btw) to get to the Mauritia palm swamp. There you can take a canoe, which we did. Unfortunately the jetty was broken and the ground not very firm. Within seconds I was hip-deep in the water, the camera safe above the water but my phone soaked wet. In the palms we encountered **Point-tailed Palmcreeper** and **Sulphury Flycatcher** (HO). We totally forgot to play the tape of **Cinnamon-rumped Foliage-gleaner**, which also likes these kind of swamps. On the way back **Weddell's Saddle-backed Tamarins** were above T2.

Trail 8

We walked this trail a couple of times. Near 9 is a high lookout over a swampy area where we found **Grey-breasted Crake** (HO), **Chestnut-headed Crake** (HO) and observed **White-throated Jacamar**. One afternoon we sat here hoping for fly-by's of Parrotlets, but only got the common **Cobalt-winged Parakeet** and several species of Macaw. Furthermore, we heard **Black Hawk-eagle** from this point.

A bit farther south on this trail we encountered our third group of **Ryland's Bald-faced Saki**, eating again the same fruits as the other groups did. Thanks to an eBird list we knew a recent spot for **Fulvous-chinned Nunlet**, which only responded very late in the afternoon (17.15), while it hadn't responded the other 3-4 times we tried it before.

Nice mixed canopy flocks we encountered on this trail included a female **Pink-throated Becard**, **Slater's Antwren** (HO) and in lower flocks **Semicollared Puffbird** and **Olive-backed Foliage-gleaner**. Near T10 we had **Ash-throated Gnateater** (HO).



Ryland's Bald-faced Saki



Spider web

Trail 9

This trail goes through some nice mature *terra firme* forest. Near T1 we heard **White-browed Hawk** one early morning. **Weddell's Saddle-backed Tamarins** were encountered 3 times on this trail, between T1 and T22, but we never had them mixed here with Emperors. Also seen on that part of the trail were **Pale-winged Trumpeters** and **Waved Woodpecker**.

Thanks again to an eBird list we knew that **Brown-banded Puffbird** had been heard at two locations on this trail, and we found it just east of the T22 intersection. Despite it being right above us at one point, we couldn't find it. While we had almost eyes on **Thrush-like Antpitta** (HO), we heard a call from a tree near us. We decided to stay shortly with the Antpitta, and when that one didn't come out, the primate was gone too. Given the call and the sneaky behaviour we suspect another **Ryland's Bald-faced Saki**; the habitat looks great. After this a mixed flock brought in a pair of **Rio Madeira Stipplethroat** and not much farther we got to see **Pavonine Quetzal**. Watching the mixed flock we saw an Eagle soar over, which turned out to be **Ornate Hawk-eagle**.



Semicollared Puffbird



Pavonine Quetzal

Trail 10

T10 is another trail starting from camp, and it's one of the few diagonal ones to cut some of the large distances towards far-away trails. Some cool things were found on this trail, including the **Weddell's Saddle-backed Tamarin/Emperor Tamarin** group one early morning, as well as a **Mouse Opossum spec.** pre-dawn.



Brown-rumped Foliage-gleaner

Rufous-tailed Flatbill

Birds more commonly encountered on the first part until T28 were **Plain-winged Antshrike** (HO), **Bluish-slate Antshrike**, **Southern Chestnut-tailed Antbird**, **Goeldi's Antbird** (HO), **Large-headed Flatbill** and **Flammulated Pygmy-tyrant**. Shier birds like **White-throated Tinamou**, **Starred Wood-quail** and **Chestnut-headed Crake** were observed walking right in the open on this trail. **Ruddy Spinetail** (HO) was found about halfway between camp and T28 (-12.5652, -70.0992). In the bamboo just before T28 we observed **Peruvian Recurvebill** (thanks to Joshua Vermeulen who had seen it there a year earlier). In that very corner with T28 Romy somehow found **Rufous-capped Nunlet** sitting in the bamboo. This should also be the spot for **Long-tailed Potoo**, which we missed the only time we tried. **Ocellated Poorwill** was commonly heard at night between camp and the intersection with T28.

Farther on T10, after T28, we often heard **Rufous-tailed Flatbill** and one morning **Semicollared Puffbird**. Even farther we encountered **Black Spider Monkeys** (3x). We unfortunately missed **Bolivian Squirrel Monkeys** during our whole stay at Los Amigos, which are sometimes seen on this trail. Not that we hadn't seen the species before, but **Rufous-vented Ground Cuckoos** sometimes follow these

groups here. **Pale-winged Trumpeters** were encountered one afternoon and we observed them sleeping high up in a tree later that night.

Near the intersection with T23 is where we found our first **Humbolt's White-fronted Capuchins** on our third morning, just before it started to rain. Towards the end of T10 we found **Brown-rumped Foliage-gleaner** in a patch of bamboo. A flock near T25 brought in the very cool **Long-billed Woodcreeper**, which made us think an Eagle had landed nearby by making its calls.



Black Spider Monkey



Mouse Opossum spec

Trail 11

We walked this trail once, coming from 31 and going to Cocha Lobo. As part of the trail was gone due to the river it was a real pickle following it as the new trail was not well maintained. Finding our way we did flush **Chestnut-capped Puffbird**. An army ant swarm produced nothing on the ground, but by playing tape we lured in **White-chinned Woodcreeper**. We tried for **White-throated Antbird**, **Hairy-crested Antbird** and **Rufous-vented Cuckoo**, but none of that all.



Great Potoo



Silvered Antbird

Along Cocha Lobo (just north of the dock) we got to see **Silvered Antbird** and heard **Band-tailed Antbird**.

Trail 12

We only walked this trail once during the night and only encountered **Double-toothed Kite** asleep. There should be a lek of **Band-tailed Manakins** on this trail (HO from T14).

Trail 13

During one morning we tried to refind the Emperors on T13 after they had gone down from the camp area (we later learned that they were seen on T15, thus having gone along the slope instead of down). We did observe **Bolivian Red Howler** in some *Cecropia* trees, where we had spotlighted them the night before. We spotlighted **Black-headed Night Monkey** at the same spot another night. On this trail we eventually found **Amazonian Horned Frog** at night (their eyeshine is pretty decent).

Trail 14

T14 goes through some lowland forest. We birded it one afternoon and observed a flock with **Chestnut-shoulded Antwren** (HO) and **Sclater's Antwren** (HO). **Black Spider Monkeys** crossed above the path, making their way from the lower to the higher parts again (going to T25/T29). A bit farther we observed both **Ringed Antpiper** and **Black-tailed Leaf-tosser** foraging on the ground. When we tried to photograph the Antpiper I noticed a low grumbling sound and a white shape, which were our first **Pale-winged Trumpeters** about to cross the path!

**Pale-winged Trumpeter****Ringed Antpiper**

From the dock at the end we observed **Amazonian Streaked Antwren** and **Amazonian Antshrike** (HO, from the other side). You could take a boat from the dock and try for **Giant River Otter**. This trail should be especially good for the **Amazonian Horned Frog**, which we didn't find here on two separate nights of searching. We did find **Brown Brocket Deer** going through the vegetation.

**Casqued Oropendola****Amazonian Horned Frog**

Trail 15

T15 is one of the trails leading from camp, and the first descending part (with pebbles for the motortaxi to bring up food and luggage) we walked a couple of times to reach the trails below. On the first morning we went down here after the rain and encountered our first **Ryland's Bald-faced Sakis** high up in a tree, totally soaked from the rain. They might have even looked funnier than normal, shaking their fur to get the water out. In the same tree we encountered **Black-headed Night Monkeys** at night (otherwise spotlighting T15 didn't yield much on multiple nights). **Black Spider Monkeys** were seen up close on this trail as well as more distant views of **Bolivian Red Howler**. On the descending part of T15 we heard **Barred Forest Falcon**.

**Very wet Ryland's Bald-faced Saki****Fruits eaten by all 3 Saki Groups encountered**

After the intersection with T13 and T14, T15 goes straight on, paralleling the river. We got our first **Spot-winged Antshrikes** and **Black-capped Parakeets** high up in the trees here. **Dull-capped Attila** was observed often just after T14. We got a very short view of **Ringed Woodpecker** on this trail too. Being in *varzea* forest we played the tape and quickly got a response from **Varzea Schiffornis**. Actually observing them took some time, but was definitely worth it. A raptor flying through the trees was eventually found back and was our first proper sighting of **Slate-colored Hawk**. Our only **South American Coati** at Los Amigos crossed the trail here. Spotlighting at night on this lower part yielded nothing at all. The river lookout (close to the intersection with T30) is a good place for **Pied Lapwing** and **Black Skimmer**.

**Black Spider Monkey youngster****Black Spider Monkey**

Trail 18

We only walked this trail once, coming from T30. Thanks to Joshua Vermeulen we knew there was a **Casqued Cacique** colony just north of Cocha Amigos (-12.578684, -70.086868), which was easily found due to the noise. Rob actually saw 2 **Brazilian Tinamous** walking between the shrubs before they noticed him. Close to T21 we heard **Slaty-backed Forest-falcon** late in the morning.

Trail 19

T19 is another trail starting at camp and after a first pleasant part through nice forest it passes through a gully. In the trees before the gully we spotted **Bolivian Red Howler**. After that there was quite a lot of bamboo, which often leads to overgrown trails and fallen stems, as was the case. In the open area next to the bamboo were loudly calling **Yellow-billed Nunbirds**.

**Bolivian Red Howler****Black Spider Monkey with 1 missing limb****Trail 20**

We walked this trail only one morning very early. It was one of our least favourites, being ill-maintained and having 2 steep valleys to cross. At the west valley we heard **Amazonian Leaf-tosser** (thanks to the eBird list of Alex Wiebe from more than 5 years ago!).

Trail 21

We only walked this trail once during the hot end of the morning. We hoped for **Black Bushbird** that had been seen here sometimes, but didn't find it.

Trail 22

The trail is quite nice between T9 and T23, but besides **Amazonian Pygmy Owl** and **Brown-banded Puffbird** (HO) we didn't get to see much on it, walking it one afternoon and one morning.

Trail 23

We only walked this trail one afternoon, and as it was getting quite late we didn't see a lot on it, except for our first **Amazonian Barred-woodcreeper** (a species more often encountered during the next few days on other trails).

Trail 24

Walked only once we encountered the same **Black Spider Monkey** group that came from T25 and were practically walking up with them for most of the trail until T10.

Trail 25 & 27

Trail 27 is not much more than a connection between T14 (*varzea*) and T19/T25 (*terra firme*) and is therefor a bit steep. T25 is where we had some good sightings of mammals, especially **Black Spider Monkey** (2x) and **Bolivian Red Howlers**. The last ones had to make way for the Spider Monkeys and seemed even a bit scared of them rushing through the branches. Later they rested in the sun and with a little one present that made for perfect pictures. **Collared Peccary** was encountered on T25 as well. Towards the end it descends steeply towards T26/T11. Just before the descend we encountered **Emperor Tamarins**, but these were quite skittish. During the descend we observed **White-throated Jacamar**.



Black Spider Monkey



Emperor Tamarin

Trail 26

Nice-looking trail after we descended the steep hill coming from T25. Despite that, we observed nothing of note as it was already scorching hot at 08.00.

Trail 28

Not well maintained trail, and after walking it back in the dark the first afternoon we decided not to take it again. Ask for the status of the trails before walking them. The only thing we heard as it was getting dark was **Brazilian Tinamou** (be careful, there are some insects that sound a bit the same). We found **Round-eared Bats spec** roosting in a termite mount close to T10 (-12.563925, -70.098434).

Trail 30

We walked it once after we found the walk along T15 very long and took it as a shortcut towards T18. The trail didn't follow the trail on Avenza Maps unfortunately, so we mostly paid attention to actually finding our way. We did observed **Plain Softtail** about halfway in (should be good on T14 at Cocha Seca too), besides **Plumbeous Antbird**. We got an army ant swarm, but somehow there was absolutely nothing with it bird-wise unfortunately (this happened a couple of times more during the days at Los Amigos).

Trail 31

Ill-maintained trail when we walked it coming from T26 and going to T11. As it was also very late and warm we walked a bit faster and only observed **Gould's Jewelfront**, **Pale-winged Trumpeters** and **Collared Peccary** on this trail.

Trail 39 – Tower

We walked this dead-end trail one morning and encountered **Black-spotted Bare-eye** and arguably even better; a group of **Humbolt's White-fronted Capuchins**.

**Humbolt's White-fronted Capuchin****Black-headed Night Monkey**

Mammal species	Notes
Emperor Tamarin	3x, warmer mornings only; camp next to the restaurant, beginning T10 & end of T25 just before it steeply descends towards T11/26
Ryland's Saki	3x, colder mornings only; T15 (but this seems to be unusual), T1 and T8. We think we also heard it on T9 and the habitat seems suitable.
Peruvian Spider Monkey	Seen almost daily, both mornings and afternoons. Mostly on T9, T10 and T25
Bolivian Red Howler	Camp at our cabin, T13 (2x), T15, T19 and T25
Toppin's Titi Monkey	Seen daily, very common. Mostly around camp and T1
Black-headed Night Monkey	At night spotlighting on T1, T13 and T15
Humboldt's White-fronted Capuchin	2x, both in the morning; on T10 towards the end (lower parts) and on the dead-end T39
Tufted Capuchin	Many almost daily, common around camp (soccer area)
Weddell's Saddle-backed Tamarin	Mostly (warmer) mornings; camp and T10 (both times together with Emperor, T9 (3x) and T2
Bolivian Squirrel Monkey	<u>Not encountered</u> , even though we have walked T10 (where it is most often encountered) many times.
Collared Peccary	2x; once on T25 and once on T31
West Amazonian Long-nosed Armadillo	Encountered 2x going from the maintenance shed (-12.5690, -70.0990) towards the compost heap next to the soccer field around 19.00
Southern Amazon Red Squirrel	Encountered many times, around camp and a variety of trails
South American Coati	T15, on the lower parts of the forest (between T14 and T30)
Mouse Opossum spec	Early morning before sunrise on T10

Ferreira's Spiny Tree Rat - 3x, all at night; on T1 and early morning before sunrise on T10
Mesomys hispidus

San Lorenzo – Twistwing Trail

[-11.50587, -69.30036](#)

Visited dates: 11-13 September 2023

We thought this would be a random public road with some houses next to it, but upon arrival we were 'greeted' by two locals two said that this was their property. Asking whether we could bird it they said the cost was 50USD, but in the end we settled for 50PEN. Still too much considering nothing seems to go to conservation, but hey, we wanted to see Rufous Twistwing, and this seems to be the spot nowadays in Peru. We didn't have much info to go on, except one set of coordinates from an eBird list of Chris Sayers that visited this spot about a month prior. Thinking and hoping the Twistwing would be an easy tick; it turned out we were in for a challenge.

We drove to a more open spot (-11.501503, -69.29282) where we camped for two nights (not sure if this was allowed, but the owner didn't come to collect more money). Already along the road driving up there was quite a large stand of bamboo, which seems to be older towards our camping spot (and thus more suitable habitat?!). We only found **Manu Antbird** on this stretch of road.

Right when we arrived at our camping spot we had a group of skittishly fleeing **Bolivian Squirrel Monkeys** and **Tufted Capuchins**. On a trail going through some bamboo north of our camping spot is where we observed **Toppin's Titi Monkey**. We observed fresh **Lowland Tapir** tracks in a very muddy part of the road just after our camping spot, and those tracks hadn't been there an hour before. On the second day we again saw fresh tracks after we came back from our lunch break. During our lunch break we had **Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts** flying over our heads.

A bit farther along the road we entered the forest with more bamboo (-11.49876, -69.28901). From there we walked further until the bigger stands of bamboo ended (-11.498341, -69.282267), and we also took a side trail going north (-11.498087, -69.286423). Going straight after this side track is where we observed **Emperor Tamarins** on our first morning! Totally unexpected, but an awesome surprise.



Stunning butterfly



Dusky-headed Parakeet

We did walk beyond the bamboo stands, but didn't encounter any habitat that looked suitable for the Twistwing, which was the main focus for the next 2 days. It seemed that between Chris his visit and ours there had been quite some destruction of the forest and many big trees were taken out, and someone was still busy with one right next to the coordinates where Chris observed the Twistwing. The bamboo stand opposite of that point was gone too; so far for an easy tick at a known territory. One moment a rufous-looking bird flew towards us, but landed in the bamboo on the other side of a big stem. I tried to alert Romy who was looking the other way, but she couldn't hear me over the sound of the chainsaw. Right before I had her attention the thing took off quickly. I suspect that this was *Rufous Twistwing*, but I can't be 100% sure it wasn't one of the rufous-looking Woodpeckers that occur here too, like Chestnut Woodpecker. It took until our second afternoon that we got a response from a bird (-11.498063, -69.288452, first sound in Merlin). After playing the tape again it flew over the road, through the bamboo and was gone. Despite trying several more times, we didn't get to see or hear it again that afternoon or following morning. We found this species surprisingly difficult, especially as someone had seen no less than 4 only two days prior to our visit.

In the bamboo stands we encountered *Flammulated Pygmy-tyrant* and *Long-crested Pygmy-tyrant* together. A lone *Black-headed Night Monkey* was hiding in the bamboo. On our second morning we finally found *Acre Tody-tyrant* (-11.498322, -69.288949, third sound in Merlin). We also finally observed *Needle-billed Hermit* going through the bamboo, after we somehow missed this species at Los Amigos.

Following the track going north a bit farther we encountered fresh cat tracks in the mud (most likely *Jaguar*), that weren't there the afternoon before. Of course we didn't get to see it, but we did get *Band-tailed Manakins* as consolation price (-11.493657, -69.285118).

After seeing so many Tapir footprints we wanted to spotlight, but right when we got out of the car we were greeted by two hunters with shotguns on their way back from the forest. The only thing of note we found that night was *Amazonian Bamboo Rat* and *Mottled Owl* (HO).

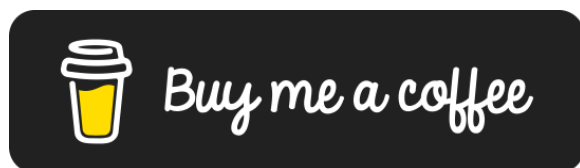


Amazonian Bamboo Rat

Amazonian Bamboo Rat

You made it! Thank you for reading 😊

For all photos of our trip, comments, compliments, any specific questions, visit and/or contact us via our website. We would love to hear from you!



If you enjoy my wildlife photos and trip reports, support my creative journey by [buying me a coffee](#). Your generosity brings me closer to capturing impressive wildlife and untold stories

 www.robjansenphotography.com/peru

 www.instagram.com/robjansenphotography

All observations made by us in Peru can be found on Observation.org. We observed a total of about 1051 bird species and 57 mammal species in Peru. Click here for the: [total bird list](#), [total mammal list](#) or [the total species list](#).

Our Top 10	Birds	Mammals
1	Marvelous Spatuletail	Emperor Tamarin
2	Scarlet-banded Barbet	Ryland's Bald-faced Saki
3	Long-whiskered Owlet	Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkey
4	Golden-backed Mountain-tanager	San Martin Titi
5	Buff-fronted Owl	Taruca
6	Rufous-crested Coquette	Bryde's Whale
7	Ochre-fronted Antpitta	Sechuran Fox
8	Wire-crested Thorntail	Humpback Whale
9	Buff-bridled Inca-finch	Eastern Lowland Olingo
10	Johnson's Tody-flycatcher	Bicolor-spined Porcupine

Purchasing Photos

If you like my pictures, you are in luck: they are for sale! For publication, presswork or just as artwork in your office or at home. A great memory of those great species you've seen during that trip! We donate 10% of our profits to WWF. My photos can be used for free for conservation or educational purposes after consultation. Have a look on my website and/or contact us via the website for the possibilities if you are interested: www.robjansenphotography.com/shop



American Kestrel



Ochre-fronted Antpitta



Puno Antpitta



Andean Cock-of-the-Rock



Bolivian Red Howler



Northern Mountain Viscacha