

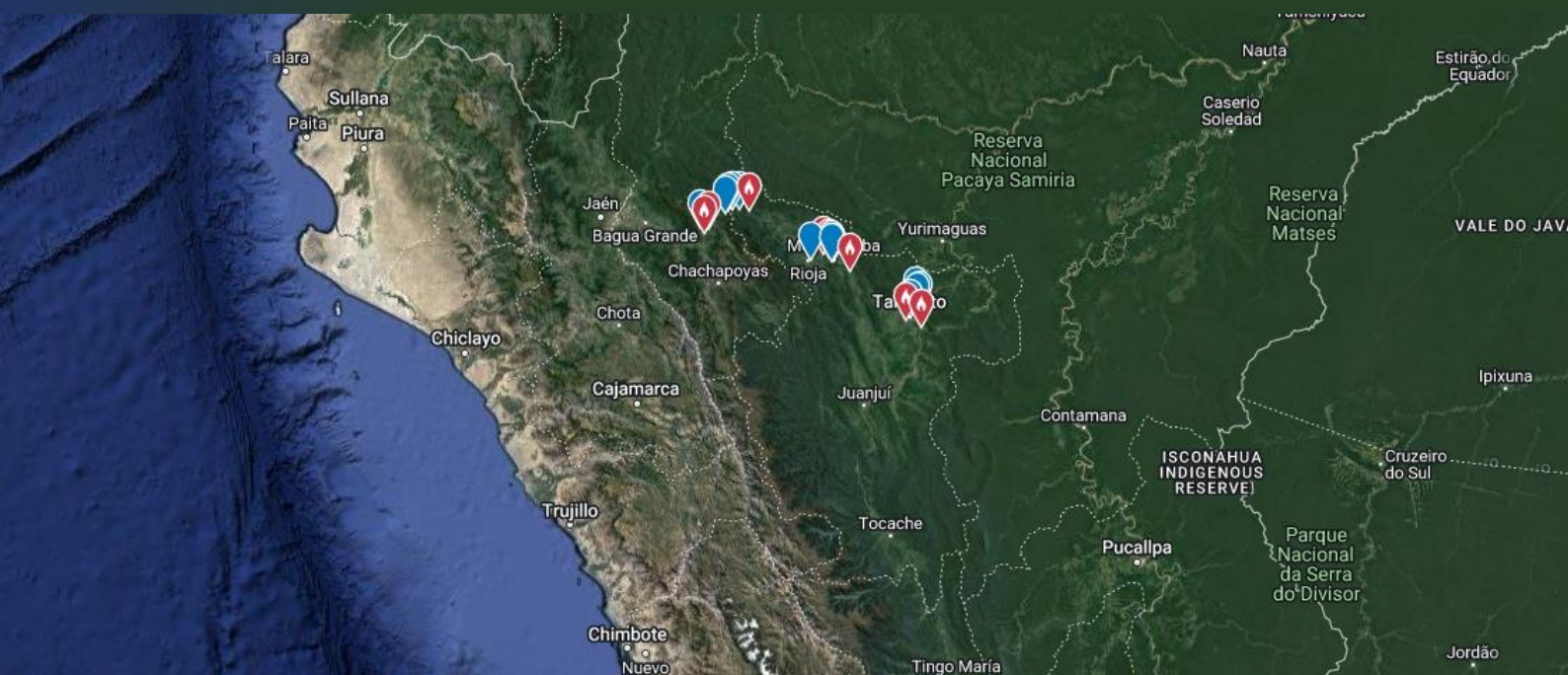
A Birding Trip to

Northern Peru



14th to 21st September, 2022

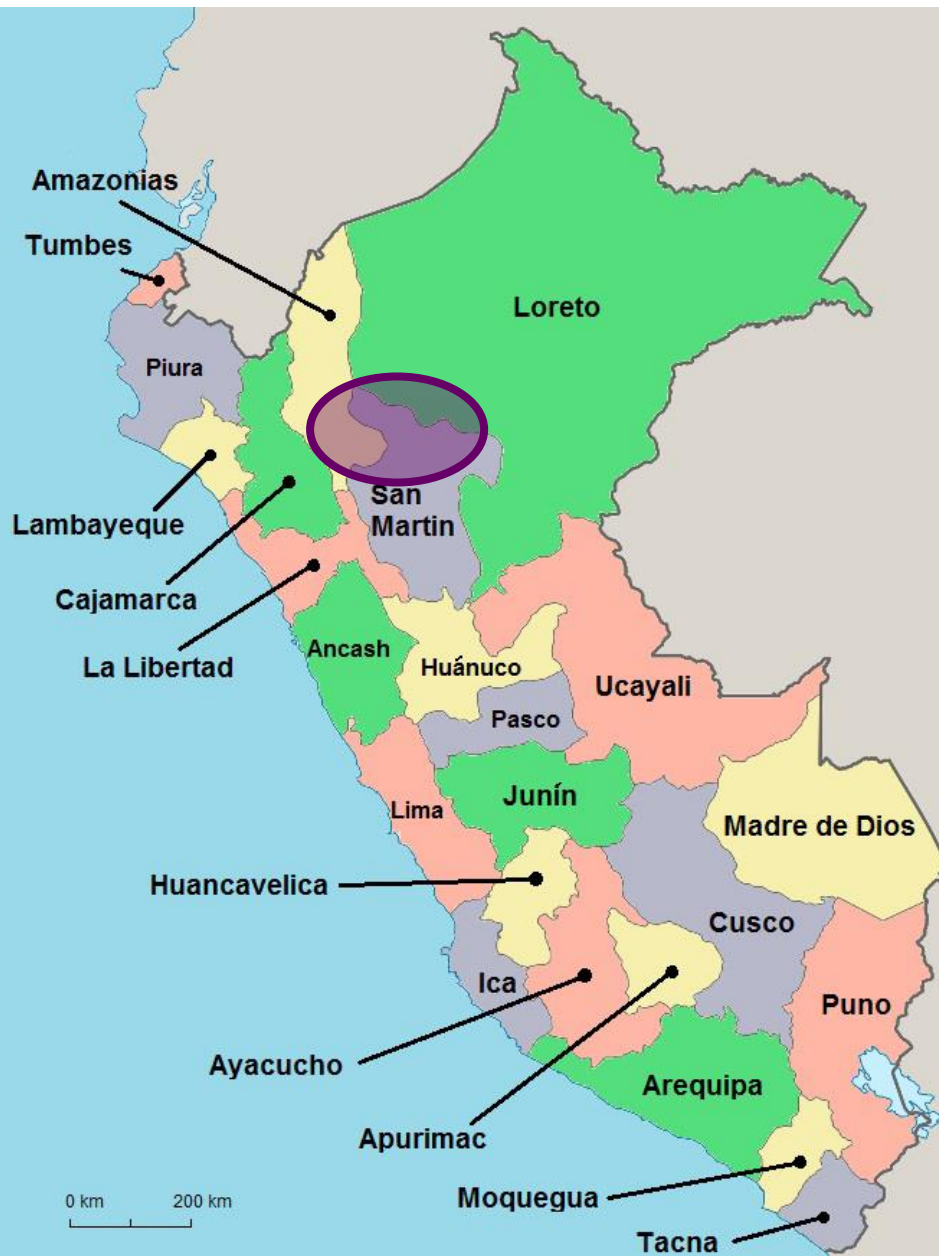
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|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday 14 th September | Cordillera Escalera, San Martin | Tunnel area Aconabikh Paraiso Verde Restaurant Cañón Quiscarrumi |
| | Moyobamba area, San Martin | Waqanki Lodge |
| Thursday 15 th September | Moyobamba area, San Martin | Waqanki Lodge |
| | | Morro de Calzada |
| | | Tonchima paddy fields |
| | | Humedal de Indañe Waqanki Lodge |
| Friday 16 th September | Moyobamba area, San Martin | Waqanki Lodge |
| | San Martin | Reserva Arena Blanca La Llanteria Alto Nieva |
| | | |
| Saturday 17 th September | Pomacochas area, Amazonas | Reserva Huembo |
| | | Laguna Pomacochas |
| | | Reserva Huembo |
| Sunday 18 th September | Pomacochas area, Amazonas | San Lorenzo Laguna Pomacochas |
| | Abra Patricia, Amazonas | Owlet Lodge |
| Monday 19 th September | Abra Patricia, Amazonas | Owlet Lodge |
| | | Road from Owlet Lodge to Alto Nieva |
| | | Owlet Lodge |
| Tuesday 20 th September | San Martin | Reserva Arena Blanca |
| | Moyobamba area, San Martin | Milan Restaurant Laguna Ricuricocha |
| Wednesday 21 st September | Tarapoto area, San Martin | Rio Huallaga & Rio Mayo |



Northern Peru

14th to 21st September, 2022

Northern Peru is a birding destination rich in number and quality of South American species, but seems to be currently much further down the pecking order in terms of popularity for birders than other hotspots in the continent such as Ecuador and Costa Rica. Having now been to all three, I can thoroughly recommend it for both the aforementioned quality of birds and numbers of species for those liking decent list sizes. For those who bend towards the latter, we had 251 species, including 44 hummingbirds, and the quality-focused might lean towards Marvellous Spatuletail, Long-whiskered Owllet (spoiler - we heard a few of these but didn't see one eye to owllet), 2 species of Antpittas, Masked & Torrent Duck, easily accessible Oilbird and Hoatzin in an easy to reach site.



We used the services of Perubirdingtours, run by Omar Diaz. He has many different trips to choose from, but we liked the look of this 7 day/6 nights jaunt around the **Northern San Martín and South-eastern Amazonas districts**. Rather than book return flight on the last of the 7 days, we chose the similarly timed flight from Tarapoto via Lima for the following day. For \$100 each, this meant we had a full day's birding on the 7th day, and another morning for Hoatzin, etc on the 8th. A flight on the previous day would have meant using the whole of the morning travelling from Owllet Lodge in the mountains back to Tarapoto – over 4 hours – and missing some superb birding (including a revisit to Arena Blanca to catch up with early morning Little Tinamou and Rufous-breasted Wood-Quail).

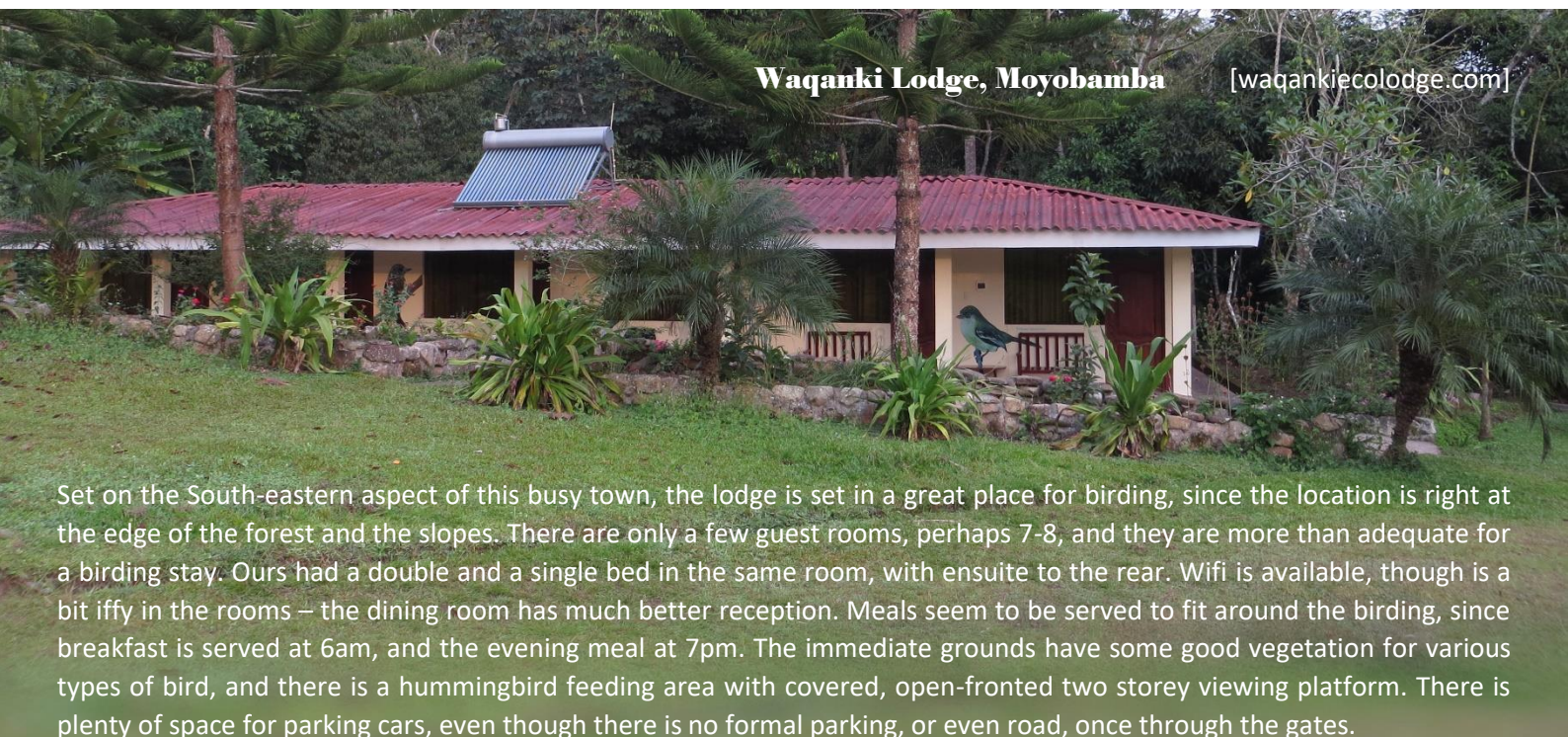


Peru Birding Tours

(perubirdingtours.com)

We had quotes from a couple of guides in Northern Peru, and Omar Diaz came up with the best value and what looked like a suitable off the peg tour which he has run many times before. The company is basically himself as the guide and also the main owner, but he does have access to other guides. Since the decimation of Covid, he is building up backroom staff/help again, including maintaining the website. He uses a regular driver (we had Arthur who lives in Tarapoto and is one of the safest South American drivers I have come across!). Anyone booking with Omar should have patience waiting for replies to emails and texts (Whatsapp works well with him) since sometimes replies take some time to come. He is a decent birder, however, and also welcomes discussion around the ID of contentious species. He also had a good eye for spotting birds.

The rainy season in Northern Peru is reported to be from October to the early March, but it can still rain during September. This was proven when we landed and crossed the tarmac to the arrivals hall at Tarapoto airport during a deluge! Luckily, the rain macs were only seriously needed on one other day while we were at Huembo Lodge high in the mountains. Mosquitoes and other biting insects are also present, but are more numerous at lower elevations such as Tarapoto. This is also where we had the highest temperatures, with 30°C's here as opposed to high teens/lower 20°C's higher up. Accommodation ranged from 2 night stays in birding lodges (*see below*) to a random hotel at Pomacochas in the centre of town used purely as a base for Huembo and other sites there. Huembo Lodge itself is starting to develop as an overnight stay and is run by the same people as Owlet Lodge.



Waqanki Lodge, Moyobamba

[waqankiecolodge.com]

Set on the South-eastern aspect of this busy town, the lodge is set in a great place for birding, since the location is right at the edge of the forest and the slopes. There are only a few guest rooms, perhaps 7-8, and they are more than adequate for a birding stay. Ours had a double and a single bed in the same room, with ensuite to the rear. Wifi is available, though is a bit iffy in the rooms – the dining room has much better reception. Meals seem to be served to fit around the birding, since breakfast is served at 6am, and the evening meal at 7pm. The immediate grounds have some good vegetation for various types of bird, and there is a hummingbird feeding area with covered, open-fronted two storey viewing platform. There is plenty of space for parking cars, even though there is no formal parking, or even road, once through the gates.



Owlet Lodge [owletlodge.org]

Huembo Lodge is also owned by this organisation – Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos or ECOAN. The location for this lodge is in the Abra Patricia, a cloud forest district at the foot of the Andes. It is set in the midst of the forest, with hummingbird feeders, a canopy tower, and numerous trails. It is named after the diminutive Long-whiskered Owlet, a speciality of the area which can be reached by a guide leading along a 2.5km trail downhill. Rooms are spacious and easily the best we had experienced on the trip, although the 2 double sockets in such a large room were disappointing. We have loads of equipment to charge these days you know! The trails are undulating but not unduly long, and generally flow through the forest itself, although there is also roadside birding to be done just outside of the gates. Decent Wifi is freely available but only in the restaurant. It also has to be said that the food here is a cut above all the other places we ate.

Day 1

Cordillera Escalera

For one reason or another, this trip took a long time to come. We had initially booked a 2020 visit in 2019, and then as with many other would-be travellers, Covid decided to play a nasty trick on the world and closed it down. 2021 then seemed so far into the future that we planned to be back in birding business again, but we all know how that went, hitting Peru very hard at that time. And so to 2022. Our deposit with Omar was still there. Flights at similar times were available. And as time went on, Peruvian specialities seemed more than just a pipe dream. Yet after all this, not everything could go smoothly. We negotiated our first flight (of three) from Newcastle to Amsterdam with no issue. Then the more recent scourge of Covid related staffing problems took its toll. Our flight from Amsterdam to Lima was late, so we missed the connection and the final leg to Tarapoto, being housed in a reasonable hotel in salubrious Lima. This proved to be no problem, since we were put on the 6am flight the next morning, so missed out on barely any birding.

Túnel Carretera Yurimaguas

When we stepped off the plane, and eventually reached our car with Omar as guide, there was a torrential thunderstorm. Many of the roads had mini rivers on them as we negotiated the bends of the foothills, but luck eventually turned our way, and by the time we arrived at the first roadside stop, the rain had ceased. Clouds were impressively rolling up from the depths of the deep valleys and slopes, which was a great backdrop for our first morning of Peruvian birding. This area, both before and after a notable tunnel, form some great birding viewing along and up the heavily forested slopes. We pulled in at what was an old



concrete piece of dilapidated road and had an impressive first half hour. It has to be said that the trio of Swallow Tanagers, perching very close to where we stood, easily stole the show. Not only were these a species we had been wanting to see for many years, but they were also much more impressive than the books would suggest. Supporting cast was a small variety of more expected species, such as Cliff Flycatcher, Orange-bellied Euphonia and Smooth-billed Ani. We later passed this spot to descend further down the foothills road to a restaurant, and while waiting to be served our delicacies we turned up female Plumbeous & Thick-billed Euphonia, and flycatchers in the guise of Greater Kiskadee, Social & Short-crested Flycatchers.



Swallow Tanagers (from 2 separate images)

KOEPCKE'S HERMIT ACONABIKH

Aconabikh (Koepkes feeders)



A little way further along the from our first stop above, we pulled into the rather steep (yet short) and rough drive to a purpose-built feeding area in the forest dedicated to hummingbirds. A short uphill walk of about 200m through said forest found a multi-storey hide with open ground housing a few nectar feeders. The hide itself is well built for the watching activities, since it was open all round allowing views of the birds whichever angle they came from. They are also not too shy, so any human movement seemed not to disturb them. Activity here was intense and solely hummingbird focused.

Main attraction is the **Koepcke's Hermit** (*image right*), which was in and out with a loud beat of wings regularly, supported by the slightly less elusive but stunning Gould's Jewelfront. They enjoyed many sorties to the feeders but were more reluctant to pose on open branches. A Black-bellied Thorntail was dwarfed by even some of the insects sharing its occasional favoured patch but it was so fast it became difficult to see for any length of time. Golden-tailed Sapphire, Fork-tailed Woodnymph and copious White-necked Jacobins were amongst the support.





Golden-tailed Sapphire

There are also a couple of trails from the feeders. These generally wind uphill along stone and tree root littered yet decent paths and seem ed to be mainly there to service the viewing of a rather wonderful Golden-headed Manakin lek, purportedly the only one known in Peru. The going is relatively tough in the heat, but well worth any exertions. The lek was buzzing when we visited, and at least 5 males were present, even if it was outside the true lekking season. Other birdlife along the trails was hard to come by, but we did sift a couple of goodies out of two bird parties – Carmiol's Tanager and Bluish-fronted Jacamar in one, and Dusky-throated Antshrike in another. Non-birding highlights were Brown-mantled Tamarin and a stunning Three-striped Poison Dart Frog.



Golden-headed Manakin


Quiscurami Bridge

Following a lunch which was overshadowed by the birds we picked up while noshing, we headed down towards, through, and thankfully away from the bustling town in a westerly direction. The driver probably picked up the vibes because we didn't stop again for another couple of hours, during which time we were thankfully back in the hills again in the direction of Moyobamba. The only stop we made was curious, in that it was next to the busy Quiscurami Bridge, with traffic constantly and noisily past, but of course this is the bridge well known for its colony of Oilbirds. This was a bit surreal since the only ones we had seen before were an hour or so trek through difficult forest to their caves in the Aripo Hills on Trinidad. This time we had to traverse the 20 metres from the car to the edge of the bridge and (carefully) peer down into the deep chasm below, where the birds could be seen in the fading light. The cacophony of singularly oilbird rasps was now vaguely familiar, as was the size of these beasts.

A close-up photograph showing three oilbirds resting on a dark, textured surface, possibly a rock or a piece of bark. The birds have a brownish, mottled appearance with darker wings and tails. They are positioned in a cluster, with one in the foreground and two slightly behind it. The lighting is somewhat dim, highlighting the texture of the birds' feathers and the surface they are on.

Oilbird

This wasn't all the location had to offer. Still next to the busy road bridge was a mixed colony of caciques and oropendolas, plying to and fro from their impossibly shaped upside-down dome nests. Yellow-rumped Caciques were most common, with support from Russet-backed Oropendola and the odd Yellow-billed Cacique. Making their similar status known were good numbers of White-eyed Parakeets on both sides of the bridge. Trying to sneak by were a pair of Speckled Chachalachas, with a single Giant Cowbird hanging around the periphery. Almost as surreal in the slightly fading afternoon light was the sudden appearance of a swarm of White-collared Swifts, all heading in the same westerly direction.

A photograph of a paved road with a double yellow line, curving to the right. The road is bordered by orange metal railings and yellow-painted curbs. The background is a dense, lush green forest. The sky is not visible, suggesting a canopy of trees. The overall scene is a well-maintained road in a tropical or subtropical environment.

Quiscurami Bridge

Another drive, shorter this time, took us through Moyobamba, and again happily we veered off from the centre to our lodge for the next 2 nights – The Waqanki Lodge. After settling in and downing the evening meal, we donned torches and wandered part of the grounds in search of owls. We struck out with a couple of tape lures but did have the satisfaction of watching one of a pair of Common Opossums by torchlight. One of the two we pinned down did give occasional good views but was more intent on hiding its face. After unsuccessfully trying to wait it out, we turned back only to hear and then see a Tropical Screech Owl perched on an upright narrow trunk before it flew off into the night.

Waqanki Lodge

One of the good things about staying in a birders lodge is that they taper small items such as breakfast to suit the itinerary. And so it was that after a 6am nosh that we could start our birding day with a wander around the grounds. Again, the birding lodge moniker also indicates that there is a fair chance of good birding in the locale, and this was certainly proven correct. The grounds themselves have a lot of open areas planted well with trees and flowers to attract the birds, with plenty of forest as a backdrop. Once out of the lodge grounds, there is more good habitat in areas worked as smallholdings, and this provided a good mix of avian delights. Breakfast itself provided Purple-throated Euphonia next to the restaurant, feasting on the provided bananas. A Violet-headed Hummingbird was putting in an early shift feeding just in front of our room, and the first of many Fork-tailed Palm Swifts was overhead. The most common and regular bird was Black-billed Thrush, with other regulars including House Wren and Tanagers - the common Blue-Grey & Palm were enlivened with a couple of Paradise Tanagers. Stage was set for something different, and a Masked Tityra obliged. First looking like a fly through, it settled on the outer trees for a little while. Russet-backed Oropendolas and Cobalt-winged Parakeets were often flying through.

Once outside of the lodge gates and into the smallholdings area, the birding changed and perhaps even ramped up a notch or two. The area benefited from being quite open so less difficult to pin down birds. Early hit was a White-winged Becard, unfortunately not settling too long for study. A small flycatcher at the top of a tall tree however was more obliging, turning out to be the diminutive Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet. Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet followed shortly after and must have felt embarrassed for colour when a pair of Paradise Tanagers landed nearby. Dull-coloured Grassquit lived up to its name, but interest peaked when a pair of Rufous-fronted Thornbirds started singing, with a characteristic nest nearby. A Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant was initially more secretive if not noisy, but also decided to join the showy collection.



Rufous-fronted Thornbird

Blue-necked Tanager

Morro de Calzada



A 20 minute or so drive through Moyobamba found this reserve, which had a per person charge at the gate. We drove the rough track up the hill and through the forest to alight at the visitor centre. This is placed within some very dense trees and looked like it was going to be a bit of a trudge with neck-breaking forest birding. But this was far from the experience, since there are some trails leading off from the hub, one of which overlooks the forest from a rocky vantage point. From here, we had superb forest birding without even moving from where we stood. At first it seemed many of the species had a favoured tree far below, since many seemed to perch in the open on its branches, but then it was obvious they weren't that particular, and other trees were also worth searching. Omar also tried his hand at playing back owl calls, and this had the desired effect of luring in small groups of birds to much closer bushes in front of us.

Black Caracara overhead set the ball rolling, but it wasn't till we got to the outlook that the excitement started. First to appear were Dacnis – both Black-faced & Blue, and we found ourselves giving directions in the tree via a perched Swallow Tanager!! Honeycreepers in here were both Green & Purple, but a Red-shouldered Tanager took the telescope to sort out. The feeding flock was lured in to add additional Forest Elaenia, Thick-billed Euphonia and Buff-throated Saltator, with additional White-crested Elaenia and White-eyed Parakeet a little further away.

Black-faced Dacnis



Turquoise Tanager

The stroll down the track to the entrance where the car was parked was a total contrast in techniques, but equally as enjoyable. The forest species had to be worked on or even prodded with tapes, with a superb Bluish-fronted Jacamar amongst the former. A pair of Blue-crowned Trogons stayed high and mainly hidden, but the female did show the tell-tale broken eye ring. Perhaps most surprising find was a pair of Pygmy Antwrens, which, with the aid of playing their calls, eventually deemed to show above us after being first heard at some distance. At the entrance, Chivi Vireo could be seen well, before we headed off again.

Tonchima Paddy Fields

This place is ostensibly a huge area of paddies, where the rough track bisecting them can be driven for a small fee. So no walking involved for once! Overall, the open paddy fields offered most of the expected birds in a limited number of species, in particular herons (Cattle, Snowy, & Great White Egrets and Little Blue Heron), but there is always potential for rails/crakes – although not on this occasion! Smooth-billed Anis were patrolling the shores, where a handful of Wattled Jacanas waded in the growing rice. As we were leaving, a Red-capped Cardinal flew from in front of the car to a nearby bush.



Wattled Jacana

Humedal de Indane (small pool near Moyobamba)

Along a rough track from the main Moyobamba road, there is a small pool reputed to be one of the best spots to pick up Masked Duck. Unfortunately, there had been some burning of the surrounding grasses, so omens didn't look good. An early Purple Gallinule adding to the more obvious Common Gallinules was nice, and we tried to lure out a calling Rufous-sided Crake. We did spend some time scouring the small expanse of water and surrounding limited reed beds, until a half hidden female Masked Duck was seen briefly in the reed edges. More time and more scouring ensued, until eventually the male popped up near the reed edge and stayed put for some time. The female could again be seen just behind him in the reeds.



Waqanki Lodge

After yet another filling lunch at the lodge (whole tilapia) the main aim of the afternoon was to frequent the hummingbird feeders on the premises. What we didn't take account of was that one or two of the more than notable species much preferred the small flowers in the gardens between the restaurant and our rooms, and so of course time had to be spent on them in situ. This began when a Rufous-crested Coquette was seen buzzing around said flowers after lunch, so we spent some time on this bird. We thought it had gone and returned when closer examination unveiled a second diminutive species – Amethyst Woodstar – feeding in a similar way. The two didn't seem to occupy this area at the same time, so when another small hummer appeared at the same time as the Coquette, we paid attention – the third actor on the stage had arrived in the guise of Blue-tailed Emerald.



With a good portion of hugely enjoyable time devoted to the three magnificent sprites, we made our way through the orchid garden to the steps leading up to the feeding station. However, we diverted the few metres to a small pond, and this proved yet another good decision. With time, it was obvious that this was an excellent spot for some different species. Most odd of all was a Lafresnaye's Piculet perched on an open branch also occupied by a couple of Paradise Tanagers. One or two Amazonian Grosbeaks, which unfortunately showed well for only a short amount of time, caused a bit of discussion. Omar had called out Blue-black Grosbeak, which seems not to occur in Peru. The answer lay in the fact the two had been split from each other, and Omar was still referring to the previous nomenclature. A Green-backed Trogon within the nearby forest was much more obliging, showing off the white underside of its tail. Across the pond, on a dead branch, was a single Piratic Flycatcher, with a Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch perched on a thin horizontal branch. As we were about to leave, a regular but flighty Violet-headed Hummingbird returned to its favoured flowers – it seemed to shun the feeders – and went the extra mile by perching for some time while we gorged on views.

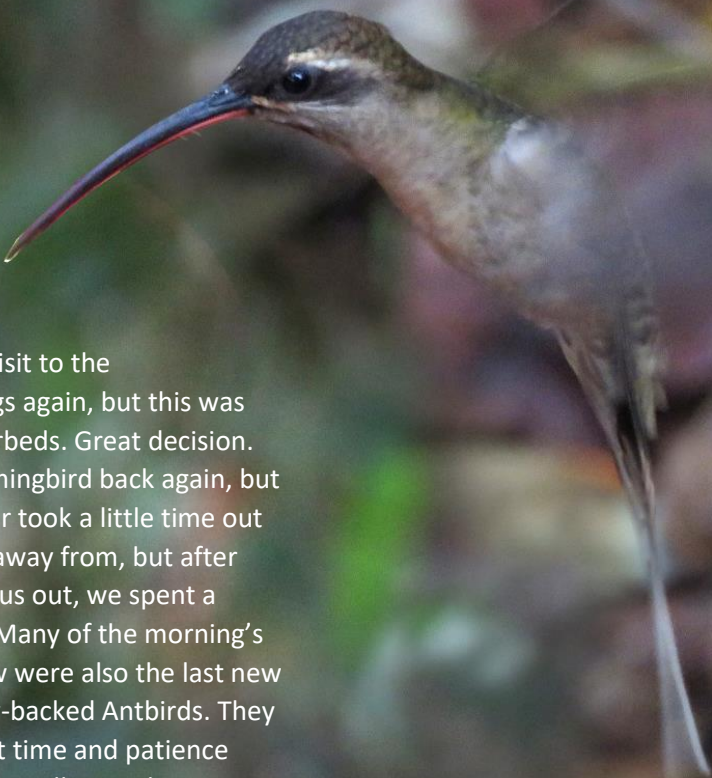


Chestnut-bellied Seed-finch



We eventually tore ourselves away from this extra feast, to begin the energy sapping ascent of the steps to the feeders. Once there, we were encountered with a similar setup to yesterday – a three storey hide erected with the forest and nectar feeders liberally scattered throughout. The mayhem of chattering hummers could be heard from the approach, and as usual they seemed to be everywhere. The usual suspects were there in good numbers – Jacobin, Woodnymph, Sabrewing, and Golden-tailed Sapphire. However, this spot was supposed to be prime for Rufous-crested Coquette, and despite a male and female passing through in cameo roles, a much better experience was had in the gardens. Great-billed Hermit (*image below*) was another story. It visited regularly and seemed to like to have a bit of a tour of different feeders. A couple of Sparkling Violetears did what they did best – bully and noisily tear around harassing other birds. A single dull Sapphire-spangled Emerald at times was confused with the Many-spotted Hummingbirds. In the opposite direction, at the tops of nearby trees, biggest prize was a pair of Gilded Barbets which entertained for some time.

Great-billed Hermit



Rounding off the day was planned to be a revisit to the outside of the lodge to scour the smallholdings again, but this was predictably put off with a return to the flowerbeds. Great decision. Not only were all three species of small hummingbird back again, but this time both the Coquette and the Woodstar took a little time out to pose on perches. This was difficult to tear away from, but after Omar had managed to pilfer a gate key to let us out, we spent a fruitful short time around the smallholdings. Many of the morning's species were still there, but star/s of the show were also the last new species of the day to be seen – a pair of Rusty-backed Antbirds. They were initially picked up at a little distance, but time and patience were rewarded with very close views, including calling male.



Violet-headed Hummingbird



Fork-tailed Woodnymph

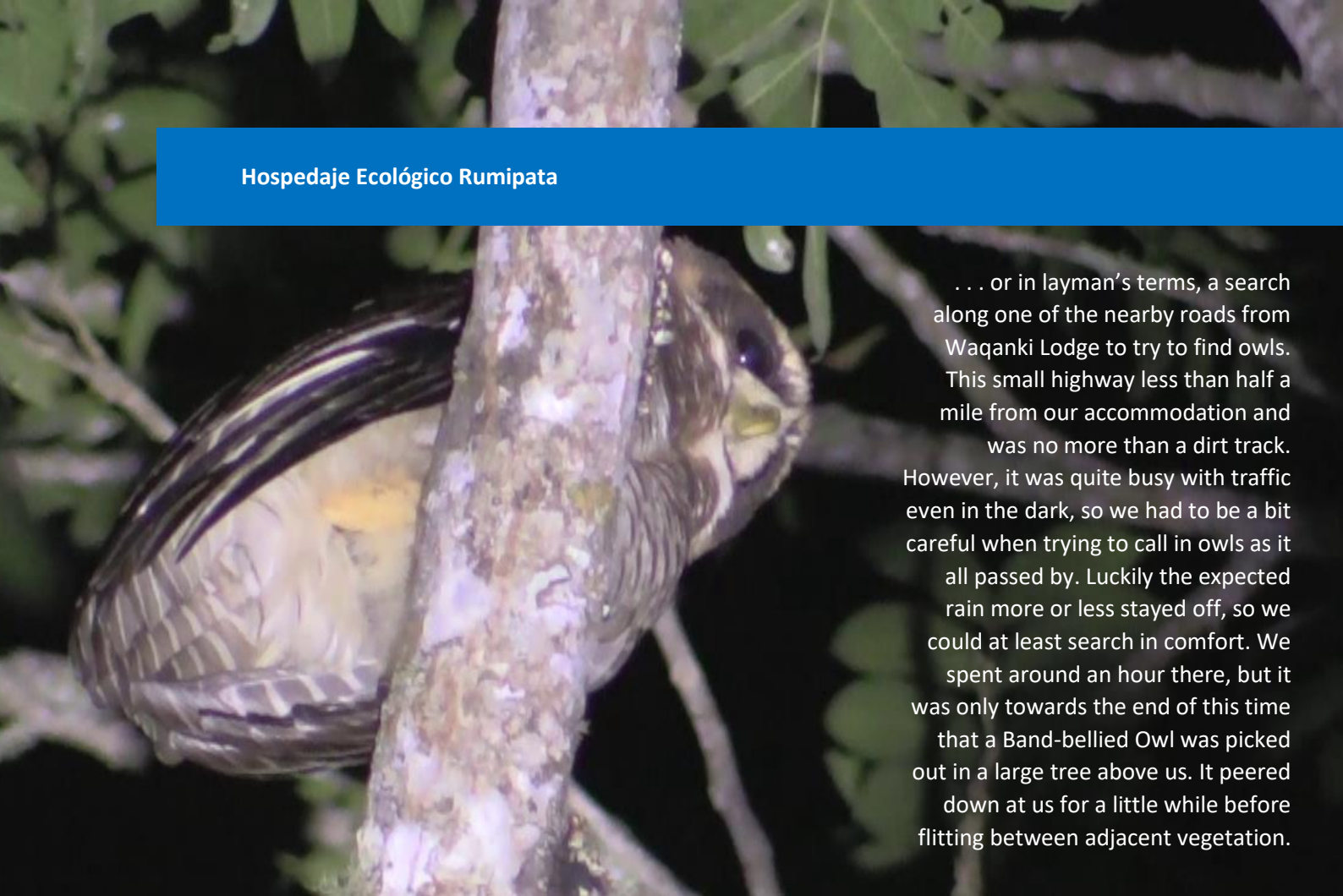


Lesser Violetear



Many-spotted Hummingbird

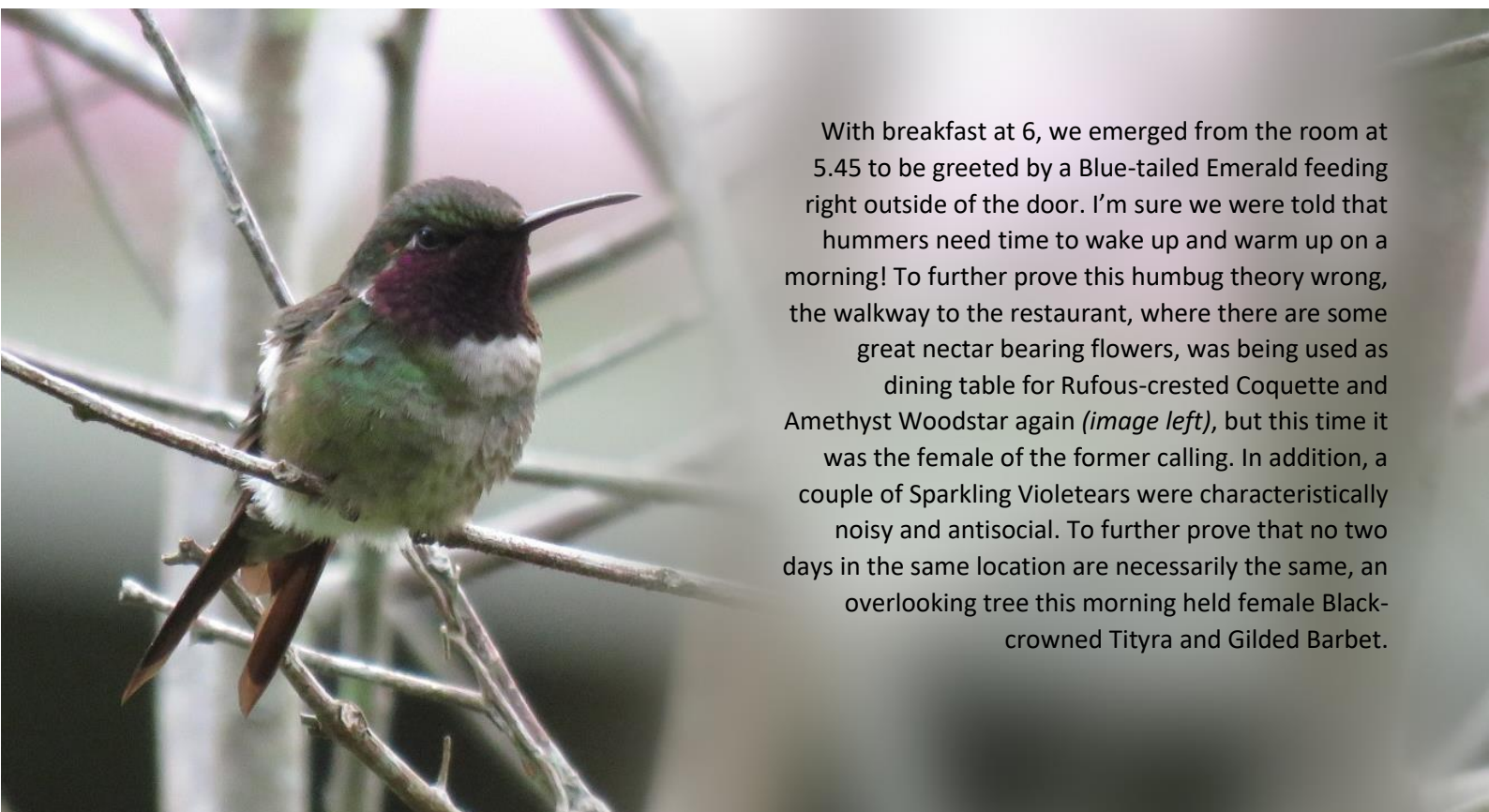
Hospedaje Ecológico Rumipata



... or in layman's terms, a search along one of the nearby roads from Waqanki Lodge to try to find owls. This small highway less than half a mile from our accommodation and was no more than a dirt track. However, it was quite busy with traffic even in the dark, so we had to be a bit careful when trying to call in owls as it all passed by. Luckily the expected rain more or less stayed off, so we could at least search in comfort. We spent around an hour there, but it was only towards the end of this time that a Band-bellied Owl was picked out in a large tree above us. It peered down at us for a little while before flitting between adjacent vegetation.

Day 3 Moyobamba to Pomacochas

Waqanki Lodge



With breakfast at 6, we emerged from the room at 5.45 to be greeted by a Blue-tailed Emerald feeding right outside of the door. I'm sure we were told that hummers need time to wake up and warm up on a morning! To further prove this humbug theory wrong, the walkway to the restaurant, where there are some great nectar bearing flowers, was being used as dining table for Rufous-crested Coquette and Amethyst Woodstar again (*image left*), but this time it was the female of the former calling. In addition, a couple of Sparkling Violetears were characteristically noisy and antisocial. To further prove that no two days in the same location are necessarily the same, an overlooking tree this morning held female Black-crowned Tityra and Gilded Barbet.



Breakfast scoffed and it was to be another look around the smallholdings outside of the lodge grounds before setting off. Of course, a quick look at the flower beds was again fruitful (no pun intended, etc) with the Amethyst Woodstar found perched right in front of us. While this was being further studied by others, a Sapphire-spangled Emerald was briefly on flowers behind us. As we passed through the gates, our first Woodpeckers were spotted together – Yellow-tufted. The variation during this morning compared to yesterday started to grow. Blue-black Grassquits were the constant, again in good numbers but this time with many of the males doing their strange “hot coals” dance. Streaked Flycatchers were an early addition, but a quartet of Smooth-billed Anis (*image below*) seemed to watch an explosion as a field full of White-eyed Parakeets took to the air in front of them, no doubt feeding on the farmer’s hard grafted crops. Singles of Yellow-bellied & White-crested Elaenias were nearer the forest edge, along with a Rufous-fronted Thornbird, Buff-throated Saltators and Black-faced Tanager. In the distance a trio of Giant Cowbirds were perched on the top of a high dead tree. Time to leave, but not before a Riparian Parrotlet was picked out near to our parked car, perched atop a smallish telegraph pole.



Arena Blanca

After a couple of hours drive towards the mountains, we arrived at a town called Agua Verde and turned from the highway on to one of its back roads in the centre of town. This wasn’t the best surface, but the rough track we then took was shaky in the literal sense, taking its toll on the suspension. A little way along here was the entrance to this small reserve. It seems to have three different aspects/hide areas to it – for tinamous, hummingbirds and tanagers. Through the entrance and the wet stony walkway mirrored the track, but we did come across the first hide in no time. This was the one dedicated to tinamou type watching, and we were left here for a few minutes while Omar went to seek out the owner. They both returned in no time with the advice that this hide was best earlier in the morning, so off we toddled to



the third hide, which was an open area baited with bananas. Through the small round portholes we had a great view, and over an hour or so had a good if small selection of tanagers. Magpie Tanagers probably stole the show a little, with their impressive size and plumage. Not to be outdone, the tanager ensemble was filled with White-lined (pair of course), Huallaga, Blue-grey & Palm Tanagers. A pair of Masked Tanagers were more like party poopers since they were only seen in the trees as we were leaving. However, that was not all here. A superbly rufous Hauxwell's Thrush came back a few times, and Orange-bellied Euphonia was joined by a pair of White-lored Euphonias. Buff-throated Saltators seemed to shine a bright olive on their backs in the light. Not to be outdone, a Peruvian Warbling Antbird put in an appearance, if brief, after calling repeatedly but not showing for some time beforehand. The twist in the tale shortly before we were going to switch hides was that a cheeky Tufted Capuchin darted in and made off with a couple of the provided bananas under his arms. A real smash and grab. Shortly after, a female with a baby more surreptitiously crept in and made off with another banana.



Hauxwell's Thrush

Buff-throated Saltator



Magpie Tanager



We literally had to drag ourselves away from here to the hummingbird feeders, but what a well-timed drag away it was. The predictable raised platform hide looked over not just a few random feeders, but also a very useful line of purple Verbinacea bushes. These were the same type which were so successful with the tiny hummers in the Waqanki Lodge grounds, and it transpired that the birds here found these also at least if not more attractive than the feeders. This was particularly the case with the star of the reserve – an unbelievable Wire-crested Thorntail (*image left*) which appeared regularly but only on a couple of favoured plants right in front of the hide where we were stood. A couple of Sapphire-spangled Emeralds and very brief female Rufous-crested Coquette similarly only fed on these. A Blue-fronted Lancebill (*image below*) was to be found on its frequent visits to the feeders themselves, and also thankfully had a seat reserved on a nearby leaf, which it seemed to like much more than the usual perch. The more common hummingbirds here which we had seen at other spots were Grey-breasted Sabrewing, Fork-tailed Woodnymph, aggressive Golden-tailed Sapphires, and almost equally tetchy Many-spotted Hummingbirds. Then off we went to lunch back in Agua Verde, but not before a Cinereous Tinamou passed across the path some distance away not to be seen again.



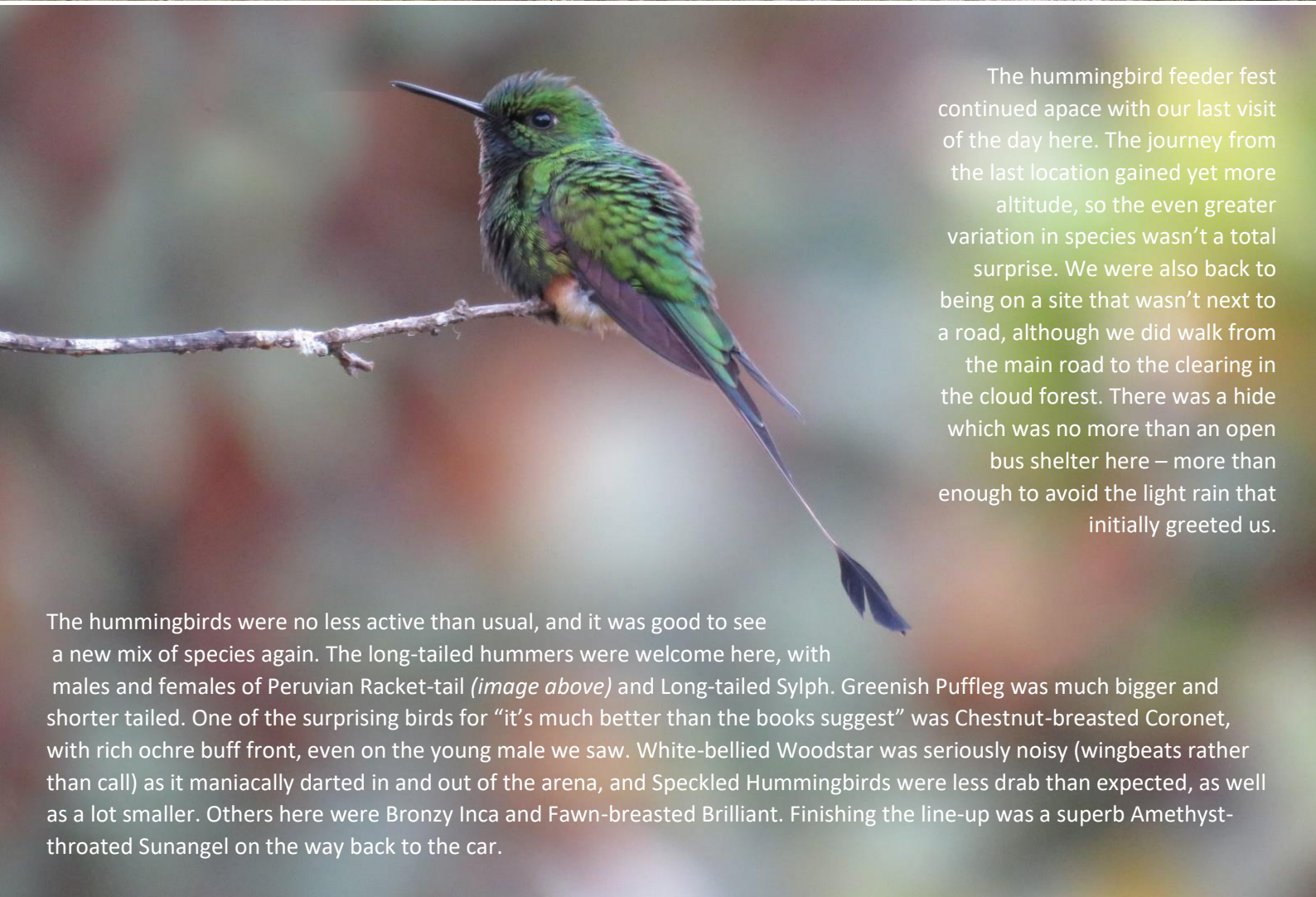
La Llanteria



So far, the feeder sites we had visited were in forested locations, which you would expect. This one however was directly above the main road, and there were road works to boot. We only had to ascend a set of steps to be at the appointed viewing area housing four feeding stations, which were to be fair at the base of the cloud forest. We had climbed some altitude from the last location, so as is usual with hummingbirds, there was a different clientele to be seen again this time. There are a few specialties to be seen here, including Ecuadorian Piedtail (*image below right*) and Green Hermit (*image right*), both of which attended the feeders many times. The change in altitude was also demonstrated by the presence of Little Woodstar, which only came in twice briefly, Violet-fronted Brilliant (male and female – *image of male below left*) and Peruvian Racket-tail (male and female), again all of which spent some time with us on and off. The resident guide, however, was most excited to shout out the presence of Napo Sabrewing, which was there regularly, but always seeming to change feeders often and very actively. The supporting cast seen elsewhere included female Wire-crested Thorntail, Violet-headed Hummingbird, Fort-tailed Woodnymph and Golden-tailed Sapphire. When we were due to leave, the road works had closed in our direction for minutes or thereabouts, so we decided to walk ahead and pick the car up later. This resulted in a surreal walk down a silent road with beautifully and recently painted (minutes ago!) yellow lines, while picking out both Ornate Flycatcher and Slate-throated Whitestart.



Alto Nieva



The hummingbird feeder fest continued apace with our last visit of the day here. The journey from the last location gained yet more altitude, so the even greater variation in species wasn't a total surprise. We were also back to being on a site that wasn't next to a road, although we did walk from the main road to the clearing in the cloud forest. There was a hide which was no more than an open bus shelter here – more than enough to avoid the light rain that initially greeted us.

The hummingbirds were no less active than usual, and it was good to see a new mix of species again. The long-tailed hummers were welcome here, with males and females of Peruvian Racket-tail (*image above*) and Long-tailed Sylph. Greenish Puffleg was much bigger and shorter tailed. One of the surprising birds for “it's much better than the books suggest” was Chestnut-breasted Coronet, with rich ochre buff front, even on the young male we saw. White-bellied Woodstar was seriously noisy (wingbeats rather than call) as it maniacally darted in and out of the arena, and Speckled Hummingbirds were less drab than expected, as well as a lot smaller. Others here were Bronzy Inca and Fawn-breasted Brilliant. Finishing the line-up was a superb Amethyst-throated Sunangel on the way back to the car.

In addition to the hummingbirds, tanagers put in cameo appearances. First group contained Burnished-buff, Saffron-crowed & Yellow-throated Tanagers, with Flame-faced & Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager later. A Golden-eyed Flowerpiercer made a quick call on the way through the clearing. Overhead were two pairs of Scaly-naped Amazons and a single Russet-backed Oropendola.



Day 4 Pomacochas and Huembo Lodge

Huembo Lodge

There are many birding locations around the world that, aside from quality of birds present, are just stunning due to their various unique settings. And then there is Huembo Lodge perched above the slopes of the Andes with spectacular views as a backdrop. Outside of the birds here, this place is out of this world. Then there is the potential of Marvellous Spatuletail, this being one of the prime places to try to find them. There are relatively fewer species of hummingbird here than some of the other locations we had been to, and the pace seems a lot slower, but the whole experience is not to be missed. The buildings are being developed and can now accommodate overnight stays. These buildings offer partial shelter from the elements with a slight overhang of the roof, but not the weatherproofing that we had elsewhere. This was pertinent judging by the threatening storm clouds that seemed to be heading our way before we left for lunch back in town (we had a serviceable if not boring hotel in Pomacochas placed ideally for the visit today).



Since the place is famous for Marvellous Spatuletail (*image below*) more of that first. Despite 4 different birds being seen, they were more of a Reasonable Spatuletail awaiting an upgrade. Two separate young males visited one of the feeders, one with a partial tail feather, the other with neither. One of the two females preferred the Verbena flowers to feeders briefly, the last of the 4 another female seen even more briefly in the nearby forest feeders.



Favouring the Verbena flowers was also a habitat of the smaller hummingbirds here, with repeated and often manically brief flirtations by Purple-collared, Little & White-bellied Woodstar, as well as female Green-tailed Trainbearer. Earlier Sparkling and later Lesser Violetears patrolled in their usual vociferous and antisocial ways. Other regular visitors here were numerous White-bellied Hummingbirds, and less frequent Andean Emerald, Bronzy Inca and Violet-fronted Brilliant. Non-hummingbird avians were a few tanagers attracted to the bananas on a feeder – regular Silver-backed & later brief male Hepatic Tanager here. A Sierran Elaenia was bush bound early on. In the nearby forest where coffee was being grown, a pair of Inca Jays were elusive yet vocal. In the valley below, a pair of White-throat Toucanets were perched on a bare tree and around the valley were occasional Band-tailed Pigeons.

A feeding station about 200m from the centre was also visited. This was the location for the fourth Spatuletail but was a better place to see Chestnut-breasted Coronet and an occasional Speckled Hummingbird, as well as regular Violet-fronted Brilliant and Bronzy Inca. What was likely to be a Highland Elaenia was seen higher up in the canopy, but not totally satisfactory views.



Sierran Elaenia

Laguna Pomacochas



After a hearty meal of dry and tough chicken in Pomacochas town, the rain clouds were looking threatening over the mountains but not so bad around the lake area in town. Thusly, a nice diversion for a short time here was in order. There are some open meadows either side of the approach to the lake, and the sight of a pair of Andean Lapwings to one side forced a stop to proceedings. We stationed ourselves in a bush shelter type of structure and had a good skeg at these. At which time we heard at least two Peruvian Meadowlarks calling. This should have then been an easy location job, with decent sized birds dabbled with shocking pink in a field of reasonably low grass. No such luck. We scanned for some time before a pair were seen flying at the top of the meadows on the town side, and were located after a short while behind cows, emerging from the long grass every now and again. We then made our way to the lake car park, paid the entry fee, and walked towards a covered boardwalk which went a little way over the water. This is obviously a touristy area (for locals) judging by the canteens and youths jumping into the water. However, a little patience and a Striated Heron later revealed a couple of Plumbeous Rails plodding along at the water's edge, occasionally dipping back into the reeds. Shortly after, a Puna Snipe was located near to the base of the boardwalk, with the rain just starting to fall and putting an end to the cameo session.

Andean Lapwing



Plumbeous Rail

Huembo Lodge

The rain had started to come down in earnest as we left Pomacochas to returned to Huembo. We had planned an all day visit here anyway, since the birding and ambience were so good. In addition, while we had had some views of Marvellous Spatuletail in the morning, word was out via the owner of the property that full males were more likely at a feeding station further up the slopes, one at which he needed to accompany us. When we arrived at the entrance gate, the rain was falling heavily, so putting on macs and protection for equipment was a bit of a task with a full car. We trudged down to the lodge area splashing through the recently formed puddles and sheltered underneath the overhang of the buildings. Strangely, the hummers didn't seem to mind a great deal about the adverse weather, and there was no let-up in their activity. Glancing at the banana table also found a male Hepatic Tanager. The rain didn't take too long to ease off, so back up the rocky path we went. Tired limbs were groaning as we neared the lodge entrance but were assuaged when movements in the trees to the right of us unearthed singles of Streaked Flycatcher and Golden Grosbeak. The path to the feeders was across the road and then some way up a zigzag path. When we had gained 100 or so metres in altitude, we came across a single feeder hung above the path. No hide, no shelter (rain was likely again) and no particular standing area. However, a female Spatuletail briefly visited aforementioned feeder, but perhaps even more pleasing was a Buff-bellied Tanager overhead, and a squeaking Speckle-breasted Piculet which led us a dance for a while before being teased out of the canopy.

Moving on and more altitude gained, we reached our new destination which was a shelter with spaced out feeders in a semicircle. The shelter was a godsend, since heavy rain did fall during the 3 hours or so we spent there, which again didn't seem to affect the activity of the hummingbirds. Making their presence known as usual, Sparkling & Lesser Violetears were more than obvious with usual antics, and Bronzy Inca almost a constant. Another female Spatuletail made a brief appearance at one of the feeders, desperate to elevate its name from Reasonable to perhaps Decent Spatuletail. The presence of a rather stunning Purple-throated Sunangel distracted us from this. Despite its size, it seemed to be pushed around by some of its smaller congeners, but it did conform somewhat by occasional perching next to the feeder. It was an excellent day, although a full male Spatuletail would have iced the cake, yet the light was fading meaning we had to start down again while we could do so safely. We called for five more minutes just in case, and unbelievably a full male (now reinstated to Marvellous again) Spatuletail graced one of the feeders very briefly with an appearance. Not long but certainly more than long enough for attendant celebrations. In essence we had been at the reserve 8 hours during the morning and afternoon, with an underlying hope that we would see a full male with decent views, and it took until minutes before we left to achieve our unsaid goal!

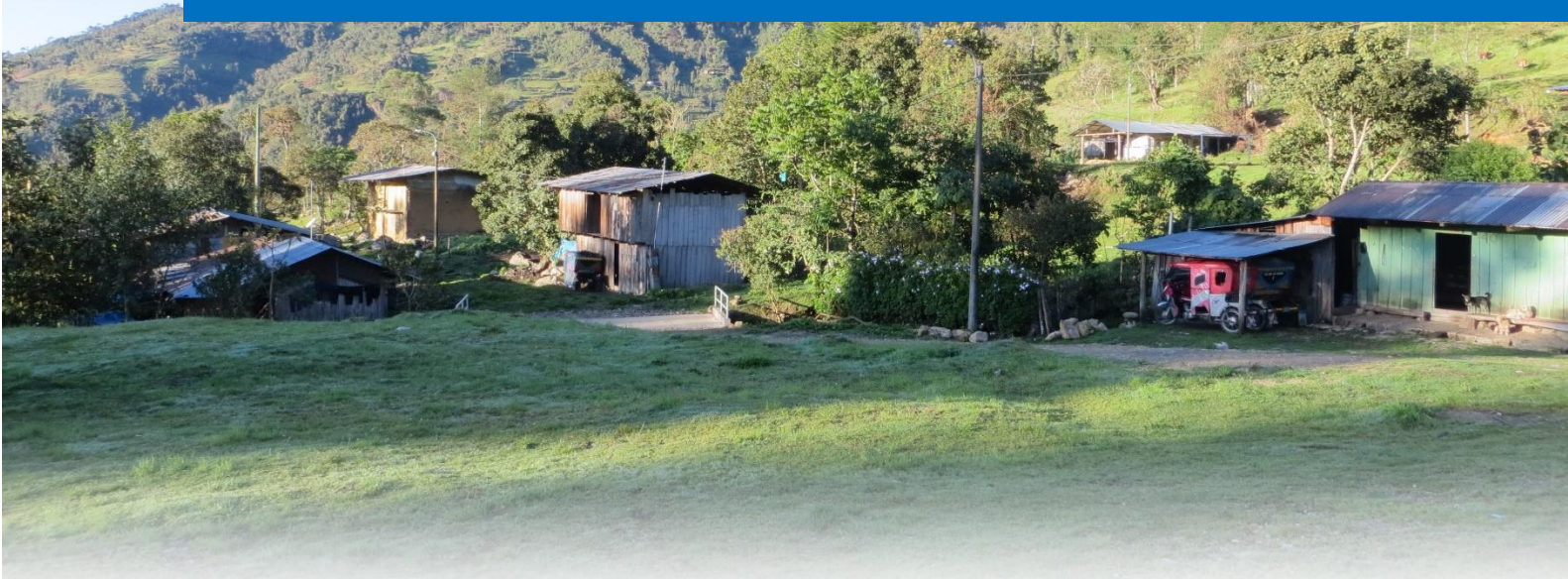


Hepatic Tanager



Speckle-chested Piculet

San Lorenzo



After yesterday's on and off rainfall, it was good to be back in strong sunshine and overlooking the open slopes of the Andes with more stunning scenery served up. We had foregone the opportunity to do the San Lorenzo trail yesterday in favour of a well-timed full day at Huembo, but this morning's descent on foot through open cloud forest back to the main road was different birding yet again. The village is set at 2500 metres and is picturesque. The birding here also began very early with numerous Spectacled Whitestarts and fewer but regular Silver-backed Tanagers, with a Blue-and-Black Tanager early on. The walk from here was down a relatively well-built road (better than some of the main roads!) with constant small birding parties encountered. Chief among these were Black-crested Warbler and White-banded Tyrannulets, with a sprinkling of Great Thrush and Yellow-breasted Brushfinch. Blue-capped Tanager popped up every now and again, with a pair of White-sided Flowerpiercers early on. Some way down, a clump of flowering bushes offered hummingbirds, including Green-tailed Trainbearer and Bronzy Inca. Most startling event of the morning was a Little Woodstar, which seemed to have spotted us then hovered above us, watching from a short distance like a spy drone. It bounced up and down in the air as if vying for a better glimpse of us, before eventually correctly assuming we were of little or no interest and buzzed off.



Spectacled Whitestart

Once we picked up the stream next to the road, the birding changed again. We had joked about Torrent Duck but felt the fast flowing and rocky stream was a bit too narrow. Wrong! A family of 5 was at a particularly swift bend in the river. The three ducklings were picked out regularly, and generally stayed faithful to the spot where we had found them, but the parents showed only briefly a few times. Not only this, but another pair were below the main road bridge at the end of the walk, swimming downstream and out of site. Torrent Tyrannulets were frequent, but we also had other passerine interest with Smoke-coloured Pewee and Cinnamon Flycatchers on the slopes above us. The stream was generally hidden behind the trees, so long stretches could be heard but not seen from the road. White-capped Dipper had been spotted but evaded the close searches of the rocky edges of the water that could be seen.



Immature Torrent Ducks

Laguna Pomacochas



After the wonders of the mountains, a shortish session was taken on the town side of the lake which we visited yesterday. This was a lot busier today with being Sunday, but on we ploughed. The track we took was a couple of hundred metres up from the lake and overlooked the meadows we had scanned before – so no surprise when we re-found what were probably the previous day’s Peruvian Meadowlarks, but much closer this time. They were fairly well marked on the breast but looked like juveniles. We then took off along a tree lined track, which seemed to be quiet apart from the odd common species. We then turned off here to a smaller track through some thin woodland, and came across at first Blue-capped Tanager, then a new bird for us in Rufous-chested Tanager. While watching this and trying to get good views, another Little Woodstar attempted the drone manoeuvre on us but at a little more distance this time. The route turned out to be circular, so we cut across the top again to go through an urban area and searched some of the gardens. A Sierran Elaenia was followed in the same premises by a real treat (in terms of range) – a Little Ground-Tyrant (*image left*). These are apparently a seasonal migrant, and unusual outside of that range, but good images helped us in ID. As we completed the circuit and approached the car a Line-cheeked Spinetail was spotted. We tried for good views but it was just as active as an earlier Azara’s Spinetail in the mountains.



Rufous-chested Tanager

Peruvian Meadowlark

Owlet Lodge

This lodge and reserve is set in the Abra Patricia area, which is a district within the cloud forest of the eastern Andes. The grounds of the lodge are surrounded by the rain forest, so they have provided hummingbird feeders, a 16 metre high tower for canopy watching, and numerous trails through the forest. However, we didn't go straight here from Pomacochas, instead stopping a few hundred metres short on the main road to view the forest edges from the busy road itself. One of the main targets here is Lulu's Tody-flycatcher, which we failed to attract, but a Montane Woodcreeper was adequate compensation. Defining markings were seen from some distance, but it clinched itself by responding to playback. The only other species at this point was Cinnamon Flycatcher.

Once we reached the gates of Owlet Lodge, all of our luggage was left with the car to be taken to the room, while we were reluctantly dragged to the reception area and its attendant feeders. This one had the usual covering for table and chairs to comfortably view the hummingbirds, but also had magnificent views of the Andes as well. This was a benefit not only for the views, but also was where a single Peruvian Tyrannulet was seen. The feeders here were unusually dominated by Chestnut-breasted Coronets, which were not only present in numbers but also busy arguing amongst themselves and other species. Other regulars here were both of the Violetear species and diminutive Speckled Hummingbirds. Strangely, a tiny White-bellied Woodstar totally ignored any commotion and fisticuffs around it when at the feeders.

Star of the show was possibly the Sword-billed Hummingbird which only popped in briefly twice, but the Long-tailed Sylphs which were much more frequent might have had an alternative proposal for this. Colours and shape were outstanding and they did sit for some time with patience. A furtive Emerald-bellied Puffleg was decidedly favouring the flowering bushes on its brief and short visits.



Long-tailed Sylph



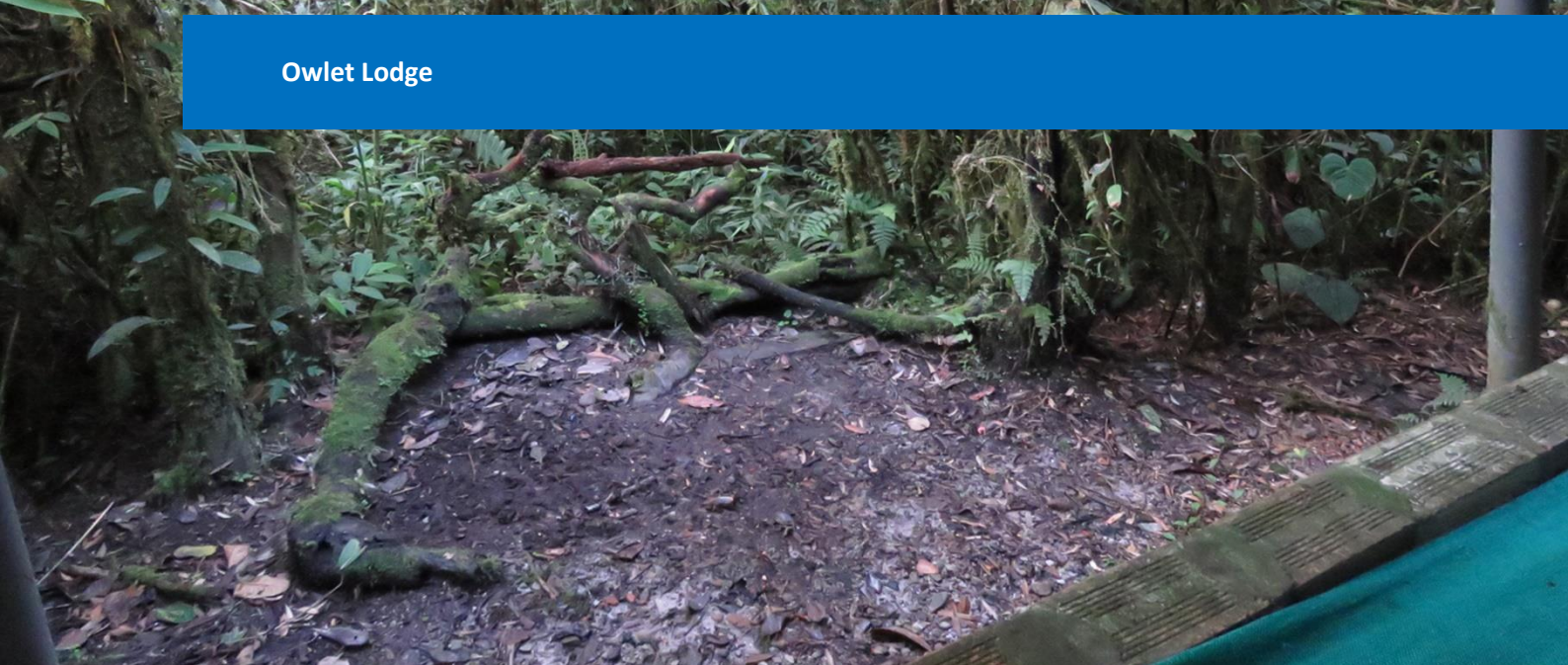
White-bellied Woodstar

Chestnut-breasted Coronet

We then decided to finish the day with a short walk into the forest and climb up the 16 metres high observation tower. What a great decision, since the first bird we stumbled on was a huge Golden-headed Quetzal, found perched at a comfortable distance in front of us. We gorged for some time before it decided to leave the scene, closely followed by a second bird. It was only around 200 metres to the tower, and it's not for the faint-hearted/slightly vertiginous folk to take with ease. However, the views from the top of the cloud forest and Andes in the distance are worth the climb and the unease. This was good enough, but when the first bird in the guise of Tyrannine Woodcreeper climbed up to the apex of a nearby tree, it added to sense of achievement. It was followed by a Masked Flowerpiercer a little way back and topped with a group of vociferous Common Bush-Tanagers, calling constantly from the surrounding canopy. We did follow up with an owl search after dinner but without success this time.



Owlet Lodge



Early morning was THE morning for antpittas. The owner here has been successfully feeding them for some time, and it is a first thing in the morning venture. Not that a 6am breakfast is difficult with poor sleeping patterns, and the resultant 6.30am start at the first site was easy. Even easier than expected in fact since the feeding station (*image above*) is directly behind the lodge buildings. A simple shelter has been erected, probably large enough to accommodate 6 or so people comfortably, with a small bare area and a few logs placed right in front of here. No sooner had we assumed positions than the worms that were put out had the immediate effect of attracting in a pair of Chestnut Antpittas. They didn't seem too bothered by our presence, although we did keep movement and sound to a minimum. They must have been in an out for half an hour, usually spending decent periods of time in view.



Once we had gorged on this, it was mentioned that there was a chance of Rusty-tinged Antpitta on the way to the tower. Apparently, they have been gradually habituating one for 6 weeks or so, and it had been coming to the feeding area more regularly. The spot for this was right next to the tower track, with the feeding area about 20 metres into the forest. No shelter here though, and more than 3 or 4 people would have been difficult to ensure comfortable viewing. After a patient wait the rather larger than expected Rusty-tinged Antpitta made two appearances. It was a lot more skittish than the Chestnut congeners and didn't stay for long. While waiting for its third and final appearance before departing, a White-throated Quail-Dove very briefly almost entered the feeding area.



Sword-billed Hummingbird

Then it was time for some true forest birding. This usually has certain characteristics. Neck breaking. Patience sapping. Long quiet periods. Yet when it happens it really happens. That was exactly the case during our session. We set off along the Trocha-Tino trail, which is not far off 2km long and generally downhill. This was at first reasonably quiet, save for a brief White-capped Tanager and elusive Green-and-black Fruiteater (slightly better if not great views of one on the return climb). After some descent we came across the first and probably busiest bird party. They generally came through quite quickly and often within cover, but amongst the participants we picked out were Inca Flycatcher, Citrine Warbler, Grass-green, Beryl-spangled, Flame-faced, Metallic-green & Grey-hooded Bush-Tanager. Much more accommodating was at first a female Masked Trogon in the open, then the male in a little more cover, both stationery for some time. A Montane Woodcreeper showed better than the previous day's bird but was all too brief. More descent, and a couple of Russet-crowned Warblers preceded the terminus of our walk before returning, which was where Omar had previously seen Lulu's Tody-Flycatcher. We spent some time waiting to no avail. The return journey back to the lodge had been planned as a more direct but steeper route. This was a "Sliding Doors" moment. Omar felt it looked a little poorly managed, so decided we should climb back up the way we had come. Not 50 metres further on, we picked up at least 2 Lulu's Tody-Flycatchers, and spent some time getting brief but satisfying views of this stunning bird. Not only that, but a Tawny-breasted Hermit landed on a plant right in front of us for seconds. The rest of the journey back was fairly quiet, save for adding Andean Solitaire near to the beginning of the track.



Masked Trogon

Cinammon Flycatcher

Road from Owlet Lodge to Alta Nueva

As a breather we had a couple of hours after lunch in front of the feeders. Outside of the usual species we had already seen, a Collared Inca put in an appearance for the first time. Sword-billed Hummingbird also visited all too briefly a few times, and the female White-bellied Woodstar was accompanied by another female and a male for the first time.

Following this, the intention was to drive to Alto Nueva to search for Long-whiskered Owlet, since it is supposed to be an easier walk than at Owlet Lodge. Along the way, we stopped at various spots along the road and searched for roadside birds while avoiding the huge and regular trucks. It was slow going at the first walk, with a Great Thrush all that we had to show for our initial efforts. It did get more interesting when a Montane Foliage-gleaner was seen briefly, but really hotted up when at least 3 Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrants were studied for some time right in front of us.

At the next stop, we overlooked a stretch of river, and missing out yesterday on White-capped Dipper was made sweeter when a pair fed just upriver from where we were. Walking from here, a group of Yellow-throated Bush-Tanagers were relatively obliging. Perhaps best stop for numbers was our penultimate one, when the low trees next to the road held quite a variety – Streak-necked Flycatcher, Bronze-green Euphonia, Silver-backed, Saffron-crowned & Beryl-spangled Tanagers. For quality if not best views our last stop was opposite a slope where flowers favoured by Royal Sunangel grew. We watched and listened for some time, and eventually pinned one down in the centre of the bush. We then headed to Alto Nueva – the damned place was CLOSED.



Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant

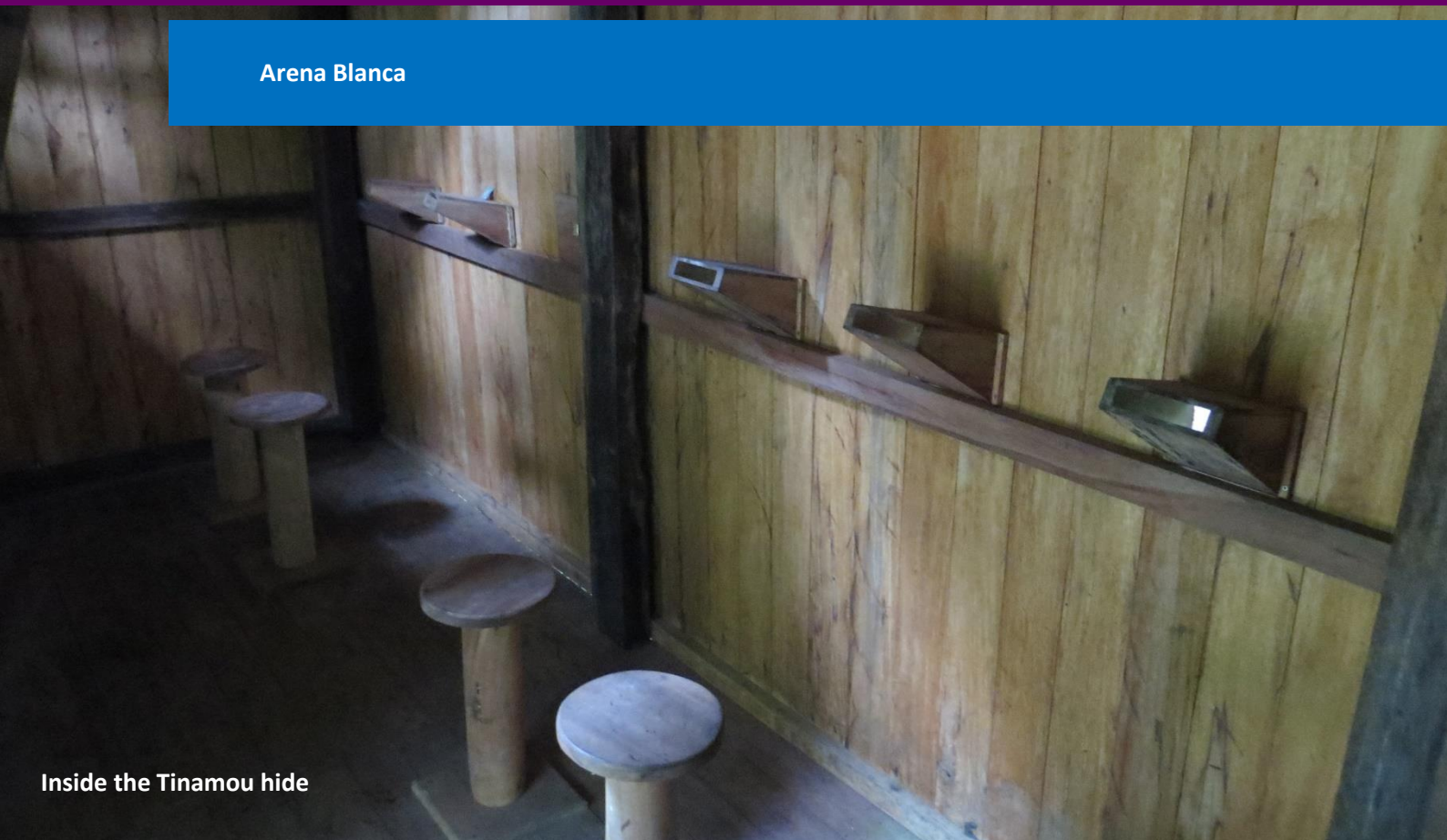
Owlet Lodge



As a backup plan, we excitedly (!?) decided to hare back to Owlet Lodge and tackle the 5km round trip to try for their Owlets. This is not a walk for the feint-hearted or sofa-surfers. The walk is mainly down a steep hill for 2.5km, then obviously back up again for the same – and the last few hundred metres are very steep. We did reach the allotted area for the owlets, and while we didn't see one, there were at least two calling quite close by, although they decided by quorum perhaps not to bother letting us see them this night. However, for keen snake watchers like ourselves, the finding of a Snail-eating Snake (possibly *Dipsas peruana*) on the path on the way back devouring a snail more than made up for this. And while the walk back was tiring, it didn't seem as bad as we thought it might have been.

Day 7 Owlet Lodge to Tarapoto

Arena Blanca



Inside the Tinamou hide



Last full day and a drop in altitude with a second visit to Arena Blanca. There was an obvious sense of déjà vu as we approached the first hide, but the calling tinamous in the forest alerted us to the fact it was first thing in the morning, and more their time of day to be seen. The lookouts at this hide are rather strange, being designed for the camera and not the viewer, but still allowed plenty of scope to see the visitors. Early on, a single Orange-billed Sparrow preceded a group of half a dozen Grey-fronted Doves, which hung around for quite a while, before a group of 6 adult and 3 immature chick Rufous-breasted Wood-Quail suddenly appeared at the feeding area. A clever contraption of basically a long pipe allows corn to be delivered here without disturbing the birds, and they fed heartily on the offering. They stayed quite a while, uttering their soft bubbling call throughout, before ghosting back into the forest. A short while later a single Little Tinamou entered stage left, also spending some time at the corn, before trying to scratch out other morsels in the dirt.





Then it was back to the tanager feeders again initially, then to the hummingbird area. There seemed to be a smaller variety of tanagers than the previous time, but a young male Napo Sabrewing on flowers to the front was certainly different. In the skies over were a couple of Pale-rumped Swifts, and a pair of White-lored Euphonias (*image above*) sampled the fruit. The trees alongside had brief Masked Tanager. One of the most unexpected displays was a quartet of Lafresnaye's Piculets (*image right*), which were squabbling within the canopy to start with and eventually alighted on bare tree trunks in front of us. The hummingbird feeders also offered a similar menu of hummingbirds to previously, but the Rufous-crested Coquette and Wire-crested Thorntail hung around a little longer.



Manor Restaurant, Moyobamba

During the long trip back to Tarapoto, we stopped off for lunch at this place. It looked like a weekend recreation area for the locals, with swimming pool and adjacent large restaurant. Omar had mentioned there might be a chance of kingfishers here, but it certainly looked too pristine and so highly unlikely. Yet while we were chewing on lunch, quite a few species did actually appear, starting with common ones such as Great Kiskadee, Tropical Kingbird and Social Flycatcher from the tyrant flycatcher family, and Blue-headed Parrot and Cobalt-winged Parakeet the parrots. In the distance, was a Yellow-tufted Woodpecker at the top of a tree, still the only member of its family bar piculets that we had seen so far. And then the surprise – a Striated Heron was followed over the pond by a Green Kingfisher. Potential indeed. Yellow-rumped Cacique followed closely, and it was obvious that Chestnut-bellied Seedeaters were quite common here. Overhead were a few Fork-tailed Palm Swifts, Smooth-billed Anis plying backwards and forwards, and a Sapphire-spangled Emerald was sipping nectar from the planted flowering bushes. Last species to be added before departing was a Southern Beardless Tyrannulet on wires, which had at first been thought of as Yellow-bellied Elaenia.





Southern Beardless Tyrannulet

Chestnut-bellied Seedeater

Laguna Recuricocha



Rather than head straight for Tarapoto at the end of our journey, we bypassed the town to take a track to this lake. It is a rather attractive lake surrounded in some parts by reeds and other vegetation. It is marred somewhat from a birding point of view from its development as a bit of a play area, with manicured grass expanses and restaurant, but still offers some excellent birding, particularly if in the Tarapoto area with a bit of time on hands. The birding started on the rough track from the main road which eventually ends at the lake. A Green-and-rufous Kingfisher kicked things off nicely at a small flooded area of overgrown field, and a Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl which was hanging around made the other resident passerines more than unhappy. This gave us a great chance not just to see the owl, but also some of the other aggressors as well. Among them were Common Tody-Flycatcher, Great Kiskadee, Social Flycatchers and Saffron Finch. A few vociferous hummingbirds also put in their two pennyworth (or farthingworth if weight for weight!). Overhead and away from the circling vultures was a single soaring Hook-billed Kite, one of the few raptors to be seen overall.

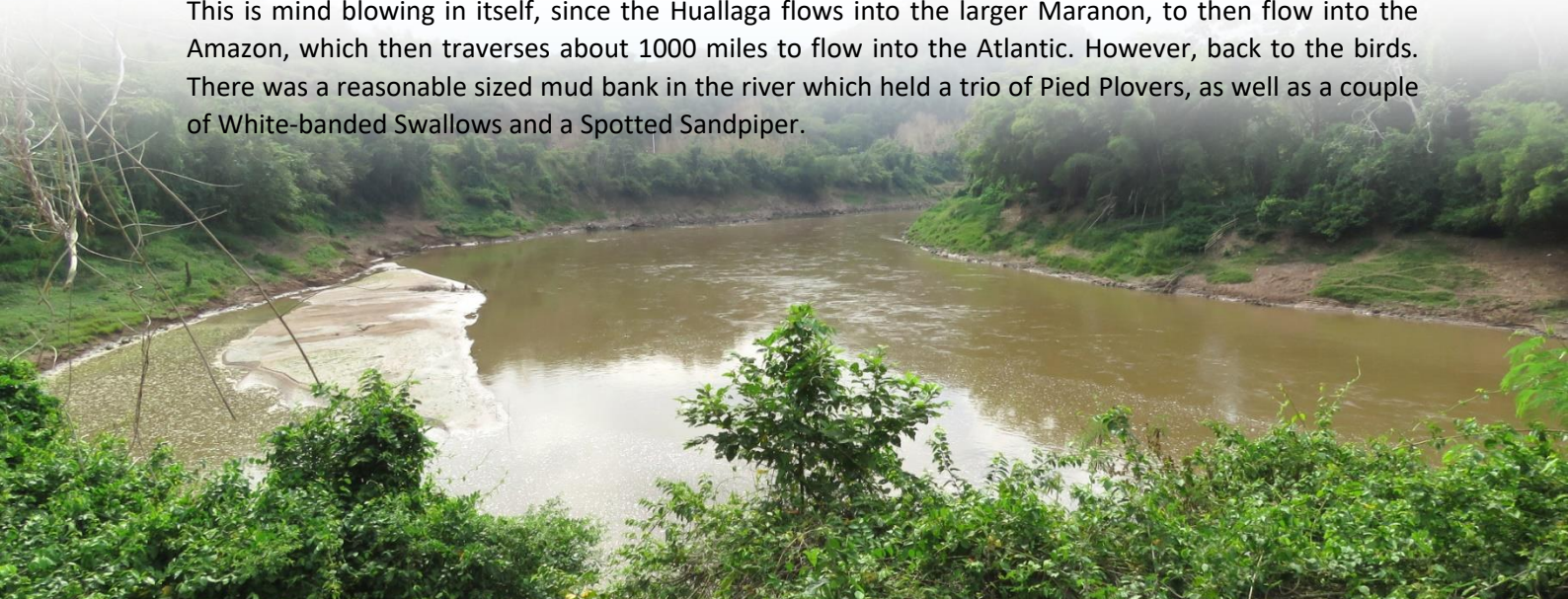


Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl

Once at the lake, we headed towards the shoreline, then turned left away from the day trippers. It might be that it's a good idea to give the place a miss on the weekend or holidays! Evident straight away were the amount of *hirundines*. Brown-chested Martins were in very good numbers, closely followed by Barn Swallows and a few White-winged swallows. Common & single Purple Gallinules were near or at the water's edge, with a trio of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks perched in a bare tree. Three adult Wattled Jacanas were also along this area, with a juvenile feeding on lilies. The bare tree turned out to be quite a spot – in addition to the common Palm & Blue-Grey Tanagers, it also hosted Red-capped Cardinal, then Oriole Blackbird later. An Osprey was perched on a dead tree on the opposite bank (some distance away), and raptors completed with a Swallow-tailed Kite. A Cocoli Heron mirrored its flight path shortly after.

Day 8 River Huallago & River Mayo confluence

On many reports it seems you have to be in a canoe in the heart of the Amazon or a some similarly remote river location to see Hoatzin. Yet here we were, only 20 minutes or so from the centre of Tarapoto, watching a group of 4 Hoatzin from the road (granted not a main highway, but certainly a busy thoroughfare) on the opposite side of the River Mayo. The quartet behaved as they should and alighted on large branches over the river for some time before moving along. This was our last morning of the trip, and we had wanted to check this site out before we left, since it's not a great distance from the airport. And here they are, the prehistoric oddities at their best. The river itself is wide here and joins on at the meeting with the River Huallaga close by (we drove down there, to find an even wider expanse of water!). This is mind blowing in itself, since the Huallaga flows into the larger Marañon, to then flow into the Amazon, which then traverses about 1000 miles to flow into the Atlantic. However, back to the birds. There was a reasonable sized mud bank in the river which held a trio of Pied Plovers, as well as a couple of White-banded Swallows and a Spotted Sandpiper.





Black-fronted Nunbird



Once we had gorged on the Hoatzin, it was evident that there were plenty of other species to look for in the trees surrounding the road. A Squirrel Cuckoo was in branches lower down from a trio of Violaceous Jays, and a single Black-fronted Nunbird was stationary for some time. Just after a pair of Bluish-fronted Jacamars were spotted sharing a branch, at least 4 Blue-crowned Trogons were calling in the open within a small triangle – one female between 3 males.

We then used the car to drive the mile or so further along the road to the Mirador (viewpoint) overlooking the meeting of the two rivers. A shelter from the sun had been kindly provided here, and as well as the view of the river confluence, we also had a good variety of birds from the same spot. Tyrant Flycatchers were represented by Short-crested, Boat-billed & Social Flycatchers, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, and a tiny Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet actually showed off its yellow marker before flying off after a brief stay. Chivi Vireos and a single Rufous-browed Peppershrike were on and off, with Purple-throated outnumbering Thick-billed Euphonias. We did return to the location where we had seen the Hoatzin earlier, but it was now considerably hotter and there was little sign of life over the river.

Bluish-fronted Jacamar



Blue-crowned Trogon



LIST OF SPECIES

BIRDS

Cinereous Tinamou

Crypturellus cinereus

16 Sept Reserva Arena Blanca (1)

We had hoped these would appear at the "tinamou hide" on the early visit, but the only one seen was briefly across the track on exit

Little Tinamou

Crypturellus soui

20 Sept Reserva Arena Blanca (1)

In front of the tinamou hide

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

Dendrocygna autumnalis

20 Sept Laguna Ricuricocha (7)

Torrent Duck

Merganetta armata

18 Sept San Lorenzo (7)

A family group of 5 including adults could be seen from the track below San Lorenzo. A further pair downriver indicated an easily accessible spot for them

Masked Duck

Nomonyx dominicus

15 Sept Humedal de Indañe (1 pair)

Apparently the only "predictable" place in Peru to see this elusive species - some time and patience was needed here

Speckled Chachalaca

Ortalis guttata

14 Sept Cañón Quiscarrumi (2)

15 Sept Waqanki Lodge (2)

Rufous-breasted Wood-Quail

Odontophorus speciosus

20 Sept Reserva Arena Blanca

Oilbird

Steatornis caripensis

14 Sept Cañón Quiscarrumi (~50)

Probably one of the most easily accessible colonies anywhere - they are beneath a busy road bridge and seen easily in the half light of the canyon below

White-collared Swift

Streptoprocne zonaris

20 Sept Cañón Quiscarrumi (~100)

Pale-rumped Swift

Chaetura egregia

20 Sept Reserva Arena Blanca (2)

Pale rump of these small Chaetura swifts seemed quite easy to see in flight

Fork-tailed Palm Swift

Tachornis squamata

16 Sept Waqanki Lodge (4)

15 Sept Waqanki Lodge (10)

20 Sept Milan Restaurant, Moyobamba (4)

White-necked Jacobin*Florisuga mellivora*

- 14 Sept** Aconabikh, Cordillera Escalera (10)
- 15 Sept** Morro de Calzada (1)
- 15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (5)
- 20 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (1)

Green Hermit*Phaethornis guy*

- 16 Sept** La Llanteria (1)

Tawny-bellied Hermit*Phaethornis syrmatophorus*

- 19 Sept** Owlet Lodge (1)

Koepcke's Hermit*Phaethornis koepckeae*

- 14 Sept** Aconabikh, Cordillera Escalera (2); Paraiso Verde Restaurant, Cordillera Escalera(1)

Great-billed Hermit*Phaethornis malaris*

- 15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1)

Blue-fronted Lancebill*Doryfera johannae*

- 14 Sept** Aconabikh, Cordillera Escalera (2)
- 16 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (1)

Lesser Violetear*Colibri cyanotus*

- 17 Sept** Reserva Huembo (1; 4)
- 18 Sept** Owlet Lodge (2)
- 19 Sept** Owlet Lodge (2)

Sparkling Violetear*Colibri coruscans*

- 15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (2)
- 16 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (2)
- 17 Sept** Reserva Huembo (2; 3)
- 18 Sept** San Lorenzo (1); Owlet Lodge (1)

Black-throated Mango*Anthracothorax nigricollis*

- 14 Sept** Aconabikh, Cordillera Escalera (1)
- 15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1)

Amethyst-throated Sunangel*Heliangelus amethysticollis*

- 16 Sept** Alto Nieva (1)

Purple-throated Sunangel*Heliangelus viola*

- 17 Sept** Reserva Huembo (2)

Royal Sunangel*Heliangelus regalis*

- 19 Sept** Road from Owlet Lodge to Alto Nieva (1)

The favoured feeding bushes of this species had been pointed out by Omar, and after some searching one was found perched in the centre of one of the bushes

Wire-crested Thorntail*Discosura popelairii*

- 16 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (1); La Llanteria (1)
- 20 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (1)

Superb views of feeding male at Arena Blanca on both visits. They preferred the flowering Verbena bushes to the feeders

Black-bellied Thorntail*Discosura langsdorffi*

- 14 Sept** Aconabikh, Cordillera Escalera (1)

Rufous-crested Coquette*Lophornis delattrei*

15 Sept Waqanki Lodge (3)
16 Sept Waqanki Lodge (1); Reserva Arena Blanca (1)
20 Sept Reserva Arena Blanca (1)

Best views on flowering Verbena bushes at Waqanki Lodge

Ecuadorian Piedtail*Phlogophilus hemileucurus*

16 Sept La Llanteria (1)

Speckled Hummingbird*Adelomyia melanogenys*

16 Sept Alto Nieva (3)
17 Sept Reserva Huembo (1)
18 Sept Owlet Lodge (2)
19 Sept Owlet Lodge (2)

Smaller than expected and has distinctive hermit like ear patch

Long-tailed Sylph*Agelaiocercus kingii*

16 Sept Alto Nieva (3)
18 Sept Owlet Lodge (3)
19 Sept Owlet Lodge (4)

Green-tailed Trainbearer*Lesbia nuna*

17 Sept Reserva Huembo (1)
18 Sept San Lorenzo (1)

Both sightings were of females

Greenish Puffleg*Haplophaedia aureliae*

16 Sept Alto Nieva (1)

Emerald-bellied Puffleg*Eriocnemis aline*

18 Sept Owlet Lodge (2)
19 Sept Owlet Lodge (1)

Marvelous Spatuletail*Loddigesia mirabilis*

17 Sept Reserva Huembo (3; 3)

Repeated sightings at Huembo, but all were too brief. Only 1 male with full spatules was seen early evening. Lekking time may be better for viewing males - November to April

Bronzy Inca*Coeligena coeligena*

16 Sept Alto Nieva (1)
17 Sept Reserva Huembo (2; 2)
18 Sept San Lorenzo (1)
19 Sept Owlet Lodge (1)

Collared Inca*Coeligena torquata*

19 Sept Owlet Lodge (1; 1)

Sword-billed Hummingbird*Ensifera ensifera*

18 Sept Owlet Lodge (1)
19 Sept Owlet Lodge (1)

Chestnut-breasted Coronet*Boissonneaua matthewsii*

16 Sept Alto Nieva (2)
17 Sept Reserva Huembo (3; 2)
18 Sept Owlet Lodge (12)
19 Sept Owlet Lodge (4)

Peruvian Racket-tail*Ocreatus peruanus*

16 Sept La Llanteria (1); Alto Nieva (2)

Gould's Jewelfront*Heliodoxa aurescens***14 Sept** Aconabikh, Cordillera Escalera (3)**Fawn-breasted Brilliant***Heliodoxa rubinoides***16 Sept** Alto Nieva (1)**18 Sept** Owllet Lodge (1)**Violet-fronted Brilliant***Heliodoxa leadbeateri***16 Sept** La Llanteria (2); Alto Nieva (4)**17 Sept** Reserva Huembo (1)**Amethyst Woodstar***Calliphlox amethystina***15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1)**16 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1)

Best views on flowering Verbena bushes at Waqanki Lodge, rather than feeders

Purple-collared Woodstar*Myrtis fanny***17 Sept** Reserva Huembo (1)**White-bellied Woodstar***Chaetocercus mulsant***16 Sept** Alto Nieva (1)**17 Sept** Reserva Huembo (1)**18 Sept** Owllet Lodge (1)**19 Sept** Owllet Lodge (3)**Little Woodstar***Chaetocercus bombus***16 Sept** La Llanteria (1)**17 Sept** Reserva Huembo (1)**18 Sept** San Lorenzo (1); Laguna Pomacochas (1)**Blue-tailed Emerald***Chlorostilbon mellisugus***15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1)**16 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1)

Best views on flowering Verbena bushes at Waqanki Lodge rather than feeders

Violet-headed Hummingbird*Klais guimeti***15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1; 1)**16 Sept** La Llanteria (1)**Grey-breasted Sabrewing***Campylopterus largipennis***14 Sept** Aconabikh, Cordillera Escalera (6)**15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge(6)**16 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (2)**20 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (2)**Napo Sabrewing***Campylopterus villaviscensio***16 Sept** La Llanteria (1)**20 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (1)**Fork-tailed Woodnymph***Thalurania furcata***14 Sept** Aconabikh, Cordillera Escalera (5)**15 Sept** Morro de Calzada (1); Waqanki Lodge (3)**16 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (1); La Llanteria (1)**20 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (1)

Many-spotted Hummingbird*Taphrosphilus hypostictus*

- 14 Sept** Aconabikh, Cordillera Escalera (2)
- 15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (2)
- 16 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (4); La Llanteria (1)
- 20 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (2)

Andean Emerald*Uranomitra franciae*

- 17 Sept** Reserva Huembo (1; 2) Can be quite similar to White-bellied Hummingbird, but Andean in this locality usually shows blue head in male and blue ear coverts to mid neck in female

Golden-tailed Sapphire*Chrysuronia oenone*

- 14 Sept** Aconabikh, Cordillera Escalera (6)
- 15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (6)
- 16 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (3); La Llanteria (1)
- 20 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (2)

Sapphire-spangled Emerald*Chionomesa lactea*

- 14 Sept** Aconabikh, Cordillera Escalera (1)
- 15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1)
- 16 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1); Reserva Arena Blanca (2)
- 20 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (2); Milan Restaurant, Moyobamba (1)
- 21 Sept** Rio Huallaga--Rio Mayo (1)

White-bellied Hummingbird*Elliotomyia chionogaster*

- 17 Sept** Reserva Huembo (4; 1)
- 18 Sept** Laguna Pomacochas (1)
- 19 Sept** Owlet Lodge (1)

Smooth-billed Ani*Crotophaga ani*

- 14 Sept** Cordillera Escalera tunnel area (3)
- 15 Sept** Tonchima paddy fields (25)
- 16 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (4)
- 20 Sept** Milan Restaurant, Moyobamba (5)

Squirrel Cuckoo*Piaya cayana*

- 21 Sept** Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (1)

Band-tailed Pigeon*Patagioenas fasciata*

- 17 Sept** Reserva Huembo (5)

Ruddy Ground Dove*Columbina talpacoti*

- 15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (2); Tonchima paddy fields (1); Humedal de Indañe (3)
- 16 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (6)
- 20 Sept** Laguna Ricuricocha (8)

Blue Ground Dove*Claravis pretiosa*

- 15 Sept** Morro de Calzada(4)

Grey-fronted Dove*Leptotila rufaxilla*

- 20 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (6) Grey forecrown in the birds we saw was well delineated giving easy separation from White-tipped Dove

White-throated Quail-Dove*Zentrygon frenata*

- 19 Sept 2022** Owlet Lodge (1) Only briefly while waiting for Rusty-tinged Antpitta at Owlet Lodge

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| Plumbeous Rail | <i>Pardirallus sanguinolentus</i> |
| 17 Sept Laguna Pomacochas (2) | Red base to bill obvious in the ones we saw cf Blackish Rail |
| Common Gallinule | <i>Gallinula galeata</i> |
| 15 Sept Humedal de Indañe (2) | |
| 17 Sept Laguna Pomacochas (6) | |
| 20 Sept Laguna Ricuricocha (2) | |
| Purple Gallinule | <i>Porphyrio martinica</i> |
| 15 Sept Humedal de Indañe (1) | |
| 20 Sept Laguna Ricuricocha (1) | |
| Black-necked Stilt | <i>Himantopus mexicanus</i> |
| 15 Sept Tonchima paddy fields (1) | |
| Andean Lapwing | <i>Vanellus resplendens</i> |
| 17 Sept Laguna Pomacochas (2) | |
| Pied Plover | <i>Hoploxypterus cayanus</i> |
| 21 Sept Rio Huallaga/Mayo (3) | On exposed wide muddy bank in bend of Mayo River |
| Wattled Jacana | <i>Jacana jacana</i> |
| 15 Sept Tonchima paddy fields (10) | |
| 20 Sept Laguna Ricuricocha (4) | |
| Puna Snipe | <i>Gallinago andina</i> |
| 17 Sept Laguna Pomacochas (1) | |
| Spotted Sandpiper | <i>Actitis macularius</i> |
| 21 Sept Rio Huallaga--Rio Mayo (1) | |
| Black-crowned Night Heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> |
| 21 Sept Tarapoto (1) | |
| Striated Heron | <i>Butorides striata</i> |
| 17 Sept Laguna Pomacochas (1) | |
| 20 Sept Milan Restaurant, Moyobamba (1); Laguna Ricuricocha (1) | |
| Western Cattle Egret | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> |
| 15 Sept Tonchima paddy fields (~100) | |
| 17 Sept Laguna Pomacochas (6) | |
| 21 Sept Rio Huallaga/Mayo (10) | |
| Cocoi Heron | <i>Ardea cocoi</i> |
| 20 Sept Laguna Ricuricocha (1) | |
| Great Egret | <i>Ardea alba</i> |
| 15 Sept Tonchima paddy fields (8) | |
| Little Blue Heron | <i>Egretta caerulea</i> |
| 15 Sept Tonchima paddy fields (18) | |
| Snowy Egret | <i>Egretta thula</i> |
| 15 Sept Tonchima paddy fields (4) | |

Hoatzin*Opisthocomus hoazin***21 Sept** Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (4)

Very accessible viewings from the road near Rivers Mayo/Huallaga confluence. Predictably all 4 birds were in trees adjacent to the river

Black Vulture*Coragyps atratus***17 Sept** Reserva Huembo (6)**21 Sept 2022** Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (20+)**Turkey Vulture***Cathartes aura***14 Sept** Paraiso Verde Restaurant, Cordillera Escalera (~20)**15 Sept** Morro de Calzada (1)**20 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (~14)**21 Sept** Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (30+)**Osprey***Pandion haliaetus***20 Sept** Laguna Ricuricocha (1)**Hook-billed Kite***Chondrohierax uncinatus***20 Sept** Laguna Ricuricocha (1)

Flight views showing pinched wings and double tail bar. One of the few raptors we saw

Swallow-tailed Kite*Elanoides forficatus***14 Sept** Cordillera Escalera tunnel area (2); Paraiso Verde Restaurant, Cordillera Escalera (3)**20 Sept** Laguna Ricuricocha (1)**21 Sept** Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (1)**Plumbeous Kite***Ictinia plumbea***15 Sept** Morro de Calzada (2)**Roadside Hawk***Rupornis magnirostris***15 Sept** Morro de Calzada (1)**21 Sept** Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (1)**Ferruginous Pygmy Owl***Glaucidium brasilianum***20 Sept** Laguna Ricuricocha (1)

This calling bird drew a lot of attention from other mobbing species

Tropical Screech Owl*Megascops choliba***14 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1)

Found in the grounds of the lodge on an evening owl hunt

Band-bellied Owl*Pulsatrix melanota***15 Sept** Route 100 near Waqanki Lodge (1)

Seen along an avenue of trees outside of the Waqanki village area on an evening owl hunt

Golden-headed Quetzal*Pharomachrus auriceps***18 Sept** Owlet Lodge (2)**Green-backed Trogon***Trogon viridis***15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1 male)**Blue-crowned Trogon***Trogon curucui***15 Sept** Morro de Calzada (1 pair)**21 Sept** Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (3 males, 1 female)

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|---|--|
| Masked Trogon | <i>Trogon personatus</i> |
| 19 Sept Owlet Lodge (1 pair) | |
| Green Kingfisher | <i>Chloroceryle americana</i> |
| 20 Sept Milan Restaurant, Moyobamba (1) | |
| Green-and-rufous Kingfisher | <i>Chloroceryle inda</i> |
| 20 Sept Laguna Ricuricocha (2) | |
| Bluish-fronted Jacamar | <i>Galbula cyanescens</i> |
| 14 Sept Aconabikh, Cordillera Escalera (1) | |
| 15 Sept Morro de Calzada (1) | |
| 21 Sept Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (1 pair) | |
| Black-fronted Nunbird | <i>Monasa nigrifrons</i> |
| 21 Sept Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (1) | |
| Gilded Barbet | <i>Capito auratus</i> |
| 15 Sept Waqanki Lodge (2) | |
| 16 Sept Waqanki Lodge (1) | |
| White-throated Toucanet | <i>Aulacorhynchus albivitta</i> |
| 17 Sept Reserva Huembo (2) | |
| Chestnut-eared Aracari | <i>Pteroglossus castanotis</i> |
| 14 Sept Cañón Quiscarrumi (1) | |
| Lafresnaye's Piculet | <i>Picumnus lafresnayi</i> |
| 15 Sept Waqanki Lodge (1) | A group of 4 at Arena Blanca were playful and eventually confiding |
| 20 Sept Reserva Arena Blanca (4) | |
| Speckle-chested Piculet | <i>Picumnus steindachneri</i> |
| 17 Sept Reserva Huembo (1) | |
| Yellow-tufted Woodpecker | <i>Melanerpes cruentatus</i> |
| 16 Sept Waqanki Lodge (2) | |
| 20 Sept Milan Restaurant, Moyobamba (1) | |
| Black Caracara | <i>Daptrius ater</i> |
| 15 Sept Morro de Calzada (7) | |
| Cobalt-winged Parakeet | <i>Brotogeris cyanopectera</i> |
| 15 Sept Waqanki Lodge (3) | Probably undercounted since they regularly passed over |
| 16 Sept Waqanki Lodge (~30) | |
| 20 Sept Milan Restaurant, Moyobamba (4) | |
| Blue-headed Parrot | <i>Pionus menstruus</i> |
| 20 Sept Milan Restaurant, Moyobamba (1) | |
| Scaly-naped Amazon | <i>Amazona mercenarius</i> |
| 16 Sept Alto Nieva (4) | |

Riparian Parrotlet*Forpus crassirostris***16 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1)

The range of observations seems sparse and restricted to northern Peru but has been seen a few times in the Moyobamba area

White-eyed Parakeet*Psittacara leucophthalmus***14 Sept** Cañón Quiscarrumi (~40)**15 Sept** Morro de Calzada (2)**16 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (~18)**20 Sept** Laguna Ricuricocha (9)**Olivaceous Woodcreeper***Sittasomus griseicapillus***15 Sept** Morro de Calzada (1)**Tyrannine Woodcreeper***Dendrocincla tyrannina***18 Sept** Owlet Lodge (1)**Montane Woodcreeper***Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger***18 Sept** Owlet Lodge (1)**19 Sept** Owlet Lodge (1)**Montane Foliage-gleaner***Anabacerthia striaticollis***19 Sept** Road from Owlet Lodge to Alto Nieva (1)**Rufous-fronted Thornbird***Phacellodomus rufifrons***15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (3)**16 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1)

We saw only a nest during a trip to Brazil, so finally seeing the architect was a long awaited treat

Line-cheeked Spintail*Cranioleuca antisimensis***18 Sept** Laguna Pomacochas (1)**Azara's Spintail***Synallaxis azarae***18 Sept** San Lorenzo (1)**Pygmy Antwren***Myrmotherula brachyura***15 Sept** Morro de Calzada (2)

Playback called pair in from some distance away

Rusty-backed Antwren*Formicivora rufa***15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1 pair)**Dusky-throated Antshrike***Thamnomanes ardesiacus***14 Sept** Aconabikh, Cordillera Escalera (3 together)**Peruvian Warbling Antbird***Hypocnemis peruviana***16 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (1)**Rusty-tinged Antpitta***Grallaria przewalskii***19 Sept** Owlet Lodge (1)

Owlet Lodge have recently set up a habituation site on the premises

Chestnut Antpitta*Grallaria blakei***19 Sept** Owlet Lodge (2)

Habituated and fairly predictable early morning at Owlet Lodge

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet*Tyrannulus elatus***15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1)**21 Sept** Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (1)

First bird at top of tree showed characteristic shape with small bill. Second bird on showed yellow crown

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| Forest Elaenia | <i>Myiopagis gaimardii</i> |
| 15 Sept Morro de Calzada (1) | |
| Yellow-bellied Elaenia | <i>Elaenia flavogaster</i> |
| 15 Sept Waqanki Lodge (1) | |
| 16 Sept Waqanki Lodge (1) | |
| 21 Sept Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (1) | |
| White-crested Elaenia | <i>Elaenia albiceps</i> |
| 15 Sept Morro de Calzada (2) | |
| 16 Sept Waqanki Lodge (2) | |
| Sierran Elaenia | <i>Elaenia pallatangae</i> |
| 17 Sept Reserva Huembo (1) | |
| 18 Sept Laguna Pomacochas (2) | |
| 18 Sept Owlet Lodge (1) | |
| White-banded Tyrannulet | <i>Mecocerculus stictopterus</i> |
| 18 Sept San Lorenzo (1) | White rather than buff wing bars useful in separating from similar and nearby White-tailed Tyrannulet. Some birds weren't seen well enough to separate the two |
| 19 Sept Owlet Lodge (2) | |
| Torrent Tyrannulet | <i>Serpophaga cinerea</i> |
| 18 Sept San Lorenzo (3) | Predicted presence on fast flowing stream/river on ascent to San Lorenzo village |
| Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet | <i>Phaeomyias murina</i> |
| 15 Sept Waqanki Lodge (2) | |
| Yellow Tyrannulet | <i>Capsiempis flaveola</i> |
| 14 Sept Cañón Quiscarrumi (2) | |
| Mishana Tyrannulet | <i>Zimmerius villarejoi</i> |
| 15 Sept Morro de Calzada (1) | A plainish bird which is then obvious, mainly due to white eye, when seen |
| Peruvian Tyrannulet | <i>Zimmerius viridiflavus</i> |
| 18 Sept Owlet Lodge (1) | Separated recently from Golden-faced Tyrannulet, the different more subtle face pattern is obvious when seen |
| Streak-necked Flycatcher | <i>Mionectes striaticollis</i> |
| 19 Sept Road from Owlet Lodge to Alto Nieva (1) | |
| Inca Flycatcher | <i>Leptopogon taczanowskii</i> |
| 19 Sept Owlet Lodge (2) | |
| Ornate Flycatcher | <i>Myiotriccus ornatus</i> |
| 16 Sept La Llanteria (1) | |
| Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant | <i>Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer</i> |
| 15 Sept Waqanki Lodge (1) | |
| Lulu's Tody-Flycatcher | <i>Poecilotriccus luluae</i> |
| 19 Sept Owlet Lodge (2) | |

Common Tody-Flycatcher*Todirostrum cinereum*

15 Sept Waqanki Lodge (1)
20 Sept Laguna Ricuricocha (1)

Cinnamon Flycatcher*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus*

18 Sept San Lorenzo (2); Owlet Lodge (1)
19 Sept Owlet Lodge (1; 1)

Cliff Flycatcher*Hirundinea ferruginea*

14 Sept 2022 Cordillera Escalera tunnel area (2)

Black Phoebe*Sayornis nigricans*

18 Sept San Lorenzo (7, including immatures)

Smoke-coloured Pewee*Contopus fumigatus*

18 Sept San Lorenzo (1)

Little Ground Tyrant*Syrtidicola fluviatilis*

18 Sept Laguna Pomacochas (1) Ground-tyrants are unusual on the eastern Andes, so we took care with photo evidence, ID support, and range maps which indicated occasional birds in Pomacochas

Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant*Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris*

19 Sept Road from Owlet Lodge to Alto Nieva (group of 3)

Piratic Flycatcher*Legatus leucophaeus*

15 Sept Waqanki Lodge (1)

Social Flycatcher*Myiozetetes similis*

14 Sept Aconabikh, Cordillera Escalera (2); Paraiso Verde Restaurant, Cordillera Escalera (2); Cañón Quiscarrumi (1)
15 Sept Waqanki Lodge (2); Morro de Calzada (1); Humedal de Indañe (2)
16 Sept Waqanki Lodge (2)
20 Sept Milan Restaurant, Moyobamba (1); Laguna Ricuricocha (6)
21 Sept Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (1)

Great Kiskadee*Pitangus sulphuratus*

14 Sept Aconabikh, Cordillera Escalera (2); Paraiso Verde Restaurant, Cordillera Escalera (2)
15 Sept Tonchima paddy fields(2); Humedal de Indañe (1)
16 Sept Waqanki Lodge (1)
20 Sept Milan Restaurant, Moyobamba (2); Laguna Ricuricocha (2)
21 Sept Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (2)

Streaked Flycatcher*Myiodynastes maculatus*

16 Sept Waqanki Lodge (2)
17 Sept Reserva Huembo (2)

Boat-billed Flycatcher*Megarynchus pitangua*

15 Sept Waqanki Lodge (2)
16 Sept Waqanki Lodge (1)
21 Sept Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (1)

Eastern Kingbird*Tyrannus tyrannus*

15 Sept Morro de Calzada (1)

Tropical Kingbird*Tyrannus melancholicus*

- 14 Sept** Cordillera Escalera tunnel area (6); Cañón Quiscarrumi (1)
15 Sept Waqanki Lodge (7); Morro de Calzada (2); Tonchima paddy fields (4)
16 Sept Waqanki Lodge (3)
17 Sept Laguna Pomacochas (2)
18 Sept Laguna Pomacochas (2)
20 Sept Milan Restaurant, Moyobamba (2)
21 Sept Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (2)

Dusky-capped Flycatcher*Myiarchus tuberculifer*

- 15 Sept** Morro de Calzada (1)

Short-crested Flycatcher*Myiarchus ferox*

- 14 Sept** Paraiso Verde Restaurant, Cordillera Escalera (1)
21 Sept Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (3)

Green-and-black Fruiteater*Pipreola riefferii*

- 19 Sept** Owlet Lodge (1 brief female)

Golden-headed Manakin*Ceratopira erythrocephala*

- 14 Sept** Aconabikh, Cordillera Escalera (5) Probably the only known lekking site is near Tarapoto. We saw males present in correct area, but weren't actively displaying

Black-crowned Tityra*Tityra inquisitor*

- 16 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1)

Masked Tityra*Tityra semifasciata*

- 15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1)

White-winged Becard*Pachyramphus polychopterus*

- 15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1)

Rufous-browed Peppershrike*Cyclarhis gujanensis*

- 21 Sept** Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (1)

Chivi Vireo*Vireo chivi*

- 15 Sept** Morro de Calzada (1) The few birds we saw were surprisingly easy to separate from
21 Sept Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (2) the likely overlap of brighter, red-eyed relatives

Violaceous Jay*Cyanocorax violaceus*

- 21 Sept** Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (group of 3)

Inca Jay*Cyanocorax yncas*

- 17 Sept** Reserva Huembo (2)
18 Sept San Lorenzo (1)

White-winged Swallow*Tachycineta albiventer*

- 20 Sept** Laguna Ricuricocha (2)

White-banded Swallow*Atticora fasciata*

- 21 Sept** Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (2)

Blue-and-white Swallow*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*

- 14 Sept** Cordillera Escalera tunnel area (10)
- 17 Sept** Reserva Huembo (2)
- 18 Sept** Laguna Pomacochas (2)
- 20 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (1)

Southern Rough-winged Swallow*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*

- 14 Sept** Cordillera Escalera tunnel area (1)
- 15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (2)
- 21 Sept** Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (1)

Brown-chested Martin*Progne tapera*

- 20 Sept** Laguna Ricuricocha (~30)

Grey-breasted Martin*Progne chalybea*

- 17 Sept** Laguna Pomacochas (1)
- 20 Sept** Milan Restaurant, Moyobamba (1)

Barn Swallow*Hirundo rustica*

- 20 Sept** Laguna Ricuricocha (~12)

House Wren*Troglodytes aedon*

- 15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (4); Morro de Calzada (2)
- 16 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (2)
- 18 Sept** San Lorenzo (1)
- 20 Sept** Milan Restaurant, Moyobamba (1)

Andean Solitaire*Myadestes ralloides*

- 19 Sept** Owlet Lodge (1)

Great Thrush*Turdus fuscater*

- 18 Sept** San Lorenzo (2)
- 19 Sept** Owlet Lodge (1); Road from Owlet Lodge to Alto Nieva (1)

Black-billed Thrush*Turdus ignobilis*

- 15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (31;15) Morro de Calzada (2)
- 16 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (20)

Hauxwell's Thrush*Turdus hauxwelli*

- 16 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (1)

White-capped Dipper*Cinclus leucocephalus*

- 19 Sept** Road from Owlet Lodge to Alto Nieva (1 pair)

Plenty of suitable stone strewn rivers in the uplands with potential where this species was predicted and did appear

House Sparrow*Passer domesticus*

- 14 Sept** Tarapoto Airport (3)

Plumbeous Euphonia*Euphonia plumbea*

- 14 Sept** Paraiso Verde Restaurant, Cordillera Escalera (1)

A lucky sighting of a female was during lunch at a restaurant at the centre of the few records of this elusive species. Almost unique to Venezuela and Brazil, a small population exists in the Mayo Valley around the Tarapoto area, which is where this restaurant is placed

Purple-throated Euphonia*Euphonia chlorotica*

15 Sept Waqanki Lodge (2); Morro de Calzada (2)
16 Sept Waqanki Lodge (2)
21 Sept Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (6)

Head pattern of males (yellow crown) usually required to separate from Orange-bellied Euphonia

White-lored Euphonia*Euphonia chrysopasta*

16 Sept Reserva Arena Blanca (2)
20 Sept Reserva Arena Blanca (2)

Care needed when juvenile Thick-billed Euphonias were present or suspected

Thick-billed Euphonia*Euphonia laniirostris*

14 Sept Aconabikh, Cordillera Escalera (1); Paraiso Verde Restaurant, Cordillera Escalera (1)
15 Sept Morro de Calzada (6)
21 Sept Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (3, including juvenile resembling White-lored Euphonia above)

Orange-bellied Euphonia*Euphonia xanthogaster*

14 Sept Cordillera Escalera tunnel area (2)
16 Sept Reserva Arena Blanca (1)

Bronze-green Euphonia*Euphonia mesochrysa*

19 Sept Road from Owlet Lodge to Alto Nieva (1)

Yellow-throated Bush Tanager*Chlorospingus flavigularis*

19 Sept Road from Owlet Lodge to Alto Nieva (group of 3)

Common Bush Tanager*Chlorospingus flavopectus*

18 Sept Owlet Lodge (3 from tower hide)

Yellow-browed Sparrow*Ammodramus aurifrons*

14 Sept Cordillera Escalera tunnel area (2)

Orange-billed Sparrow*Arremon aurantirostris*

20 Sept Reserva Arena Blanca (from tinamou hide)

Rufous-collared Sparrow*Zonotrichia capensis*

16 Sept Alto Nieva (1)
17 Sept Reserva Huembo (1)
18 Sept Laguna Pomacochas (1); Owlet Lodge (1)

Yellow-breasted Brushfinch*Atlapetes latinuchus*

18 Sept San Lorenzo (2)

Peruvian Meadowlark*Leistes bellicosus*

17 Sept Laguna Pomacochas (2)
18 Sept Laguna Pomacochas (2)

Yellow-billed Cacique*Amblycercus holosericeus*

14 Sept Cañón Quiscarrumi (1)

Russet-backed Oropendola*Psarocolius angustifrons*

14 Sept Cañón Quiscarrumi (3)
15 Sept Waqanki Lodge (4)
16 Sept Waqanki Lodge (4); Alto Nieva (1)

Yellow-rumped Cacique*Cacicus cela*

14 Sept Paraiso Verde Restaurant, Cordillera Escalera (1); Cañón Quiscarrumi (~12)
20 Sept Milan Restaurant, Moyobamba (1)

Giant Cowbird*Molothrus oryzivorus*

14 Sept Cañón Quiscarrumi (1)
16 Sept Waqanki Lodge (3)

Oriole Blackbird*Gymnomystax mexicanus*

20 Sept Laguna Ricuricocha (1)

Tropical Parula*Setophaga pitiaiyumi*

15 Sept Morro de Calzada (1)

Citrine Warbler*Myiothlypis luteoviridis*

19 Sept Owlet Lodge (3)

Black-crested Warbler*Myiothlypis nigrocristata*

18 Sept San Lorenzo (2)

Russet-crowned Warbler*Myiothlypis coronata*

19 Sept Owlet Lodge (2)

Slate-throated Whitestart*Myioborus miniatus*

16 Sept La Llanteria (1)

Spectacled Whitestart*Myioborus melanocephalus*

18 Sept San Lorenzo (10)

Hepatic Tanager*Piranga hepatica*

17 Sept Reserva Huembo (1 male on feeding table)

Carmioli's Tanager*Chlorothraupis carmioli*

14 Sept Aconabikh, Cordillera Escalera (2 in forest)

Golden Grosbeak*Pheucticus chrysogaster*

17 Sept Reserva Huembo (1)

Amazonian Grosbeak*Cyanoloxia rothschildii*

15 Sept Waqanki Lodge (2) Recently separated from Blue-black Grosbeak

White-capped Tanager*Sericossypha albocristata*

19 Sept Owlet Lodge (1)

Green Honeycreeper*Chlorophanes spiza*

15 Sept Morro de Calzada (4); Waqanki Lodge (1)

Swallow Tanager*Tersina viridis*

14 Sept Cordillera Escalera tunnel area (2 males and a female)
15 Sept Morro de Calzada (2)

Purple Honeycreeper*Cyanerpes caeruleus*

15 Sept Morro de Calzada (5)

Blue Dacnis*Dacnis cayana***14 Sept** Cordillera Escalera tunnel area (2)**15 Sept** Morro de Calzada (1)**Black-faced Dacnis***Dacnis lineata***15 Sept** Morro de Calzada (3)**Buff-throated Saltator***Saltator maximus***15 Sept** Morro de Calzada (1)**16 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (3); Reserva Arena Blanca (2)**20 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (1)**Bananaquit***Coereba flaveola***15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1)**16 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (2)**20 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (4)**Dull-coloured Grassquit***Asemospiza obscura***15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (3; 1)**Blue-black Grassquit***Volatinia jacarina***15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1; 6); Tonchima paddy fields (1)**16 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (8)

Males performing dances from perches outside of Waqanki Lodge

White-lined Tanager*Tachyphonus rufus***15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (2)**16 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (2); Reserva Arena Blanca (2)**20 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (2)**21 Sept** Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo

Invariably seen as a pair

Red-shouldered Tanager*Tachyphonus phoenicius***15 Sept** Morro de Calzada (1)

Red shoulder not always obvious

Huallaga Tanager*Ramphocelus melanogaster***15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1)**16 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (1pair)**20 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (1)**Silver-beaked Tanager***Ramphocelus carbo***14 Sept** Cordillera Escalera tunnel area (4)**Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch***Sporophila angolensis***15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1)**16 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1)

Can be similar in colour to Seedeater below, but bill is much more massive

Chestnut-bellied Seedeater*Sporophila castaneiventris***20 Sept** Milan Restaurant, Moyobamba (3)**Grey-hooded Bush Tanager***Cnemoscopus rubrirostris***19 Sept** Owlet Lodge (2)**Buff-bellied Tanager***Thlypopsis inornata***17 Sept** Reserva Huembo (1)

Rufous-chested Tanager*Thlypopsis ornata***18 Sept** Laguna Pomacochas (2)**Saffron Finch***Sicalis flaveola***20 Sept** Laguna Ricuricocha (1)**Golden-eyed Flowerpiercer***Diglossa glauca***16 Sept** Alto Nieva (1)**Masked Flowerpiercer***Diglossa cyanea***18 Sept** Owlet Lodge (1)**White-sided Flowerpiercer***Diglossa albilatera***18 Sept** San Lorenzo (1 pair)**Yellow-throated Tanager***Iridosornis analis***16 Sept** Alto Nieva (2)**Blue-capped Tanager***Sporathraupis cyanocephala***15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (2)**18 Sept** San Lorenzo (3); Laguna Pomacochas (2)**Grass-green Tanager***Chlorornis riefferii***19 Sept** Owlet Lodge (1)**Blue-winged Mountain Tanager***Anisognathus somptuosus***16 Sept** Alto Nieva (1)**Magpie Tanager***Cissopis leverianus***16 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (4)**Black-faced Tanager***Schistochlamys melanopis***15 Sept** Morro de Calzada (1)**16 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (1)**Red-capped Cardinal***Paroaria gularis***15 Sept** Tonchima paddy fields (1)**20 Sept** Laguna Ricuricocha (1)**Blue-grey Tanager***Thraupis episcopus***14 Sept** Paraiso Verde Restaurant, Cordillera Escalera (1)**15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (~30; 4)**16 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (3); Reserva Arena Blanca (5)**17 Sept** Reserva Huembo (2)**18 Sept** Laguna Pomacochas (1)**20 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (8); Laguna Ricuricocha (2)**21 Sept** Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (2)

Form in Northern Peru has obvious white wing bars

Palm Tanager*Thraupis palmarum***15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (12); Morro de Calzada (6)**16 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (4); Reserva Arena Blanca (3)**20 Sept** Milan Restaurant, Moyobamba (3); Laguna Ricuricocha (4)

Silver-backed Tanager*Stilpnia viridicollis*

- 17 Sept** Reserva Huembo (2)
18 Sept San Lorenzo (6); Owlet Lodge (1)
19 Sept Road from Owlet Lodge to Alto Nieva (2)

Blue-necked Tanager*Stilpnia cyanicollis*

- 15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (3)
16 Sept Waqanki Lodge (2)

Masked Tanager*Stilpnia nigrocincta*

- 16 Sept** Reserva Arena Blanca (2)
20 Sept Reserva Arena Blanca (1)

Burnished-buff Tanager*Stilpnia cayana*

- 16 Sept** Alto Nieva (1)

Blue-and-black Tanager*Tangara vassorii*

- 18 Sept** San Lorenzo (1)

Beryl-spangled Tanager*Tangara nigroviridis*

- 19 Sept** Owlet Lodge (2); Road from Owlet Lodge to Alto Nieva (1)

Metallic-green Tanager*Tangara labradorides*

- 19 Sept** Owlet Lodge (1)

Bay-headed Tanager*Tangara gyrola*

- 14 Sept** Cordillera Escalera tunnel area (2)

Saffron-crowned Tanager*Tangara xanthocephala*

- 16 Sept** Alto Nieva (2)
19 Sept Road from Owlet Lodge to Alto Nieva (1)

Flame-faced Tanager*Tangara parzudakii*

- 16 Sept** Alto Nieva (1)
19 Sept Owlet Lodge (2)

Turquoise Tanager*Tangara mexicana*

- 15 Sept** Morro de Calzada (2)
16 Sept Waqanki Lodge (1)

Paradise Tanager*Tangara chilensis*

- 15 Sept** Waqanki Lodge (3; 2)

MAMMALS

Common Opossum

Didelphis marsupialis

14 Sept Waqanki Lodge (2 on evening owl hunt)

Brown-mantled Tamarin

Saguinus fuscicollis

14 Sept Aconabikh (3 in forest)

21 Sept Rio Huallaga/Rio Mayo (1)

Tufted Capuchin

Cebus apella

16 Sept Arena Blanca (3 Inc baby raiding bananas at feeder)

Junín Red Squirrel

Sciurus pyrrhinus

14 Sept Aconabikh (1 in forest)

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Peruvian Snail-Eater

Dipsas peruana

19 Sept Owlet Lodge (1)

This is currently the closest ID according to South American experts based on images. There is potential that it could actually be a new species or one not seen in this area before, but in hand examination would have been required [Peter Uetz and Alejandro Arteaga from The Reptile Database]

Three-striped Poison Dart Frog

Ameerega trivittata

14 Sept Aconabikh (1 in forest)

