

**Bird & Mammal Trip Report**  
**Peru (October-December 2022)**



*Rob Jansen*  
photography



# Introduction

## About us

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

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

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



**Rob** next to *Puya raimondii*



**Romy** scanning the Marcopomacocha area

## Information and how to use this trip report

This trip report covers the country Peru. As we will travel through Peru again on our way back south, we decided to visit some locations in 2022 and others in 2023. This mainly has to do with better chances for good weather, as we try to visit places outside the rainy season (generally Nov-Mar). We understand that this trip report covers way too many locations to visit during one holiday. As we visited less known regions, and independent birding reports with coordinates were scarce, we still wanted to write about all the locations we visited. We set up this trip report focusing on regions, and will add specific regions and/or localities within a region in 2023. This way we hope to make a fairly complete overview of birding locations in Peru (instead of writing everything in the exact order we visited and making 2 different trip reports for 2022 and 2023). In this way you can scan this trip report for the regions you plan to visit and just read about those locations.

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

Species are highlighted in this trip report: **blue for birds**, **red for mammals** and **green for herpetofauna**. Target species which we missed at a specific spot are written in *italic*. This gives you an idea which species to pay extra attention to. All observations made by us in Peru can be found on Observation.org. We observed a total of about 556 bird species and 15 mammal species in Peru. Click here for the: [total bird list](#), [total mammal list](#) or [the total species list](#).

For more trip reports see our website: [www.robjansenphotography.com/trip-reports](http://www.robjansenphotography.com/trip-reports)

## Map and specific locations

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

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

[Amazonas](#)

[Ancash](#)

*Apurimac (not visited)*

*Arequipa (not visited)*

[Ayacucho](#)

[Cajamarca](#)

*Callao (not visited)*

[Cusco](#)

*Huancavelica (not visited)*

[Huanuco](#)

*Ica (not visited)*

[Junin](#)

[La Libertad](#)

[Lambayeque](#)

[Lima](#)

*Loreto (not visited)*

[Madre De Dios](#)

*Moquegua (not visited)*

[Pasco](#)

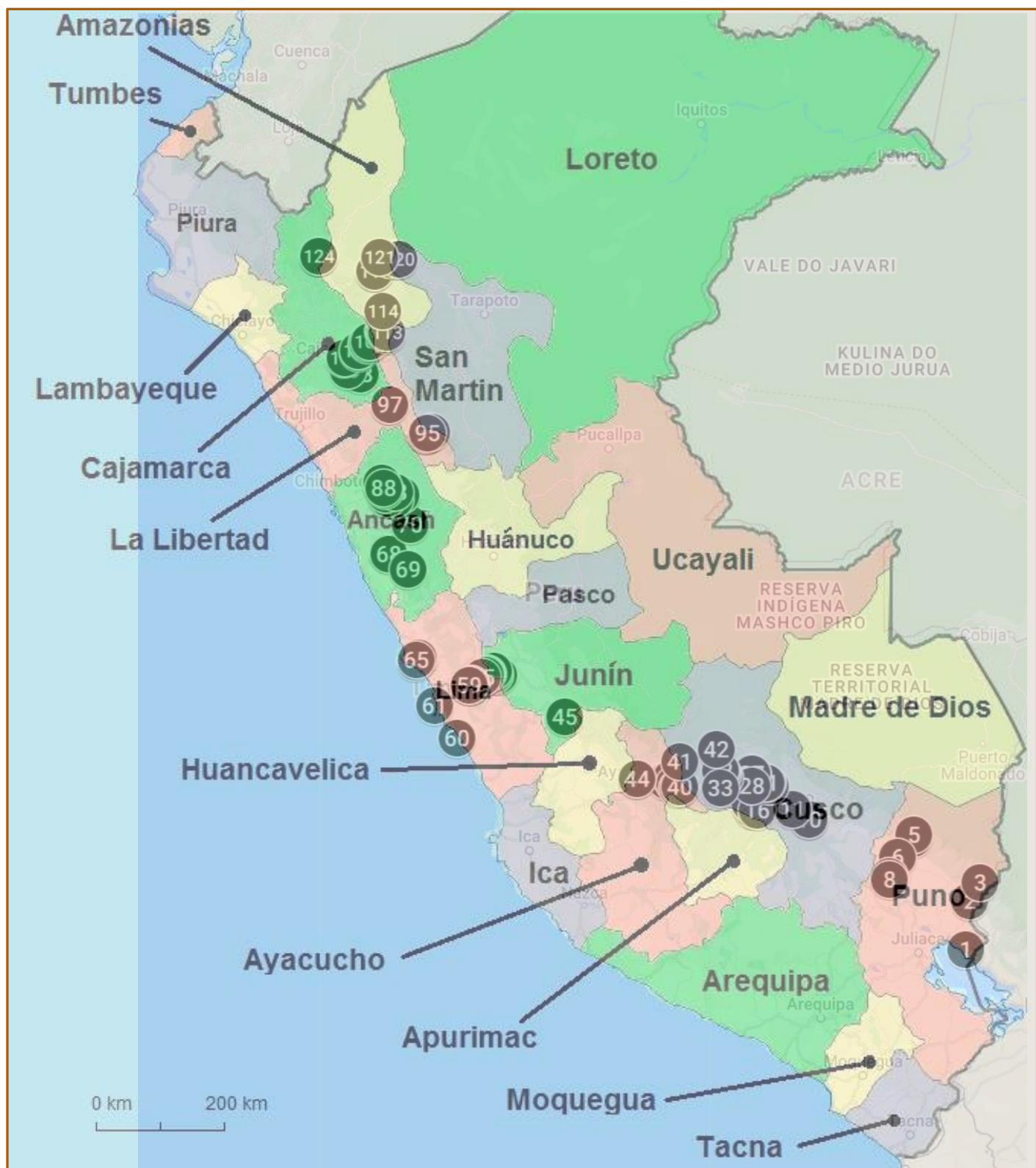
[Piura](#)

[Puno](#)

[San Martin](#)

*Tacna (not visited)*

*Tumbes (not visited)*





## Weather and timing

We visited Peru as part of our world travel from the 12<sup>th</sup> of October till the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The weather was generally really nice, without too much rain. Only in the last few weeks we had more rain, but nothing so terrible we couldn't at least bird a couple of hours. In the mountains it was generally quite warm during the days and cold during the nights (15-30 °C at daytime, up to freezing point at night). The coastal regions were obviously warmer (20-35 °C at daytime, 15-20 °C at night).

## Transportation

Our transportation in Peru was of course our Toyota 4Runner SR5 4.0 2010 (2x4) called 'Forrest'. We bought this car in Santiago (Chile) and got it converted so that we could sleep in it as well. Our 2x4 did well in Peru and we barely had any problems on the road. Roads are generally quite good, even the gravel ones, with a few exceptions where we needed high clearance/good shock absorbers. At locations where this is the case we mentioned it in the text.



Forrest on the Laguna Llaca road



Forrest at Bosque de Yanahuyanca in Jaén

## Literature

- Birds of Peru – Revised and Updated edition. Schulenberg *et al.*, Princeton Field Guides, 2010. A nice guide, with great drawings, even focussing on different subspecies. The guide does lack Spanish names next to the English names and the Index in the back is the worst I have ever seen! We even made our own [Quick Species Search Index](#), to print and glue in the back. Do yourself a favour if you are new in Peru and this book, and download and print it before you leave home!
- [Birds of Peru app](#). Very handy to have the exact same information as in the book on our mobile phone. It also includes sounds, but not of all species.
- Merlin app for the birds sound. Just amazing that this app is free. Most species have the sounds in there (except for e.g. Taczanowski's Tinamou), and it will suffice. You might need to download local accents from XenoCanto, as birds don't always respond to Venezuelan/Colombian songs.
- BirdNet app for recording the bird sounds. If you don't know all the sounds, BirdNet can give a possible ID. It helped us a few times when we were frustratingly searching for a bird we heard deep inside the shrubs. A sure ID of a bird from BirdNet saved us some time here and there ;)

- iOverlander app for camping places. *This app gives nice information on where to camp or buy stuff.*

## Equipment

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

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

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

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

## Use of cell phones in Peru

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

## Paying in Peru

Paying in Peru is often done in cash and cards are not accepted everywhere (lots of gas stations for example don't accept cards). Be sure to bring enough cash! BCP Bank was a bank that (mostly) didn't charge us a fee for a withdrawal and had the highest limit per withdrawal (700S instead of 400S as with most banks).

## Water-to-Go

To reduce plastic usage on our travels we bought Water-to-Go water bottles. Read about our experience with Water-to-Go on our website: [www.robjansenphotography.com/water-to-go](http://www.robjansenphotography.com/water-to-go). The bottle and filters are not too expensive, and you will have your investment back within one holiday. If you order with the voucher **RJANSEN15** you will get **15% discount** as well! Check the website here: [www.watertogousa.com](http://www.watertogousa.com) (United States of America, Canada), [www.watertogo.eu](http://www.watertogo.eu) (United Kingdom) or [www.watertogo.shop](http://www.watertogo.shop) (most countries in the EU).

# Visited sites

## Department of Puno

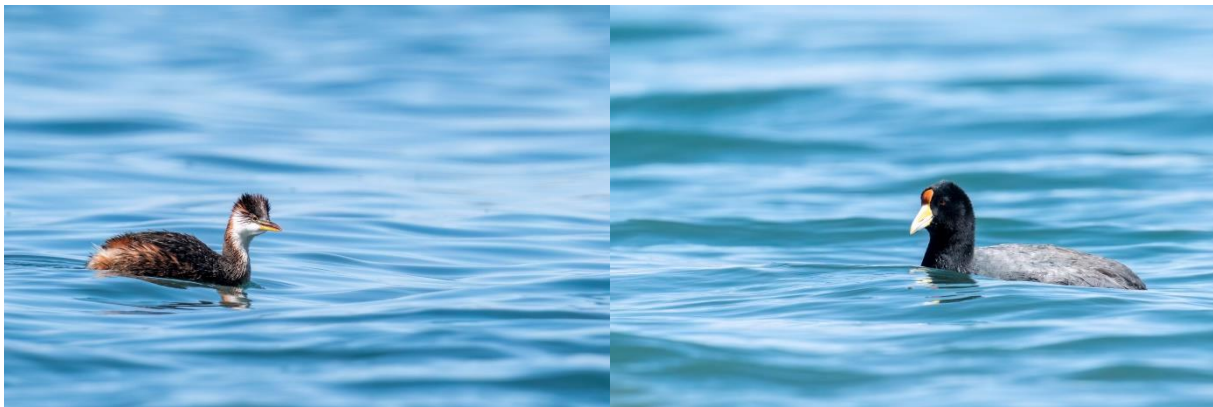
[-15.44422, -69.46321](#)

### Lake Titicaca

[-15.44422, -69.46321](#)

**Visited dates:** 12-13 October 2022

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



**Titicaca Grebe**

**Andean Coot**

## Sina

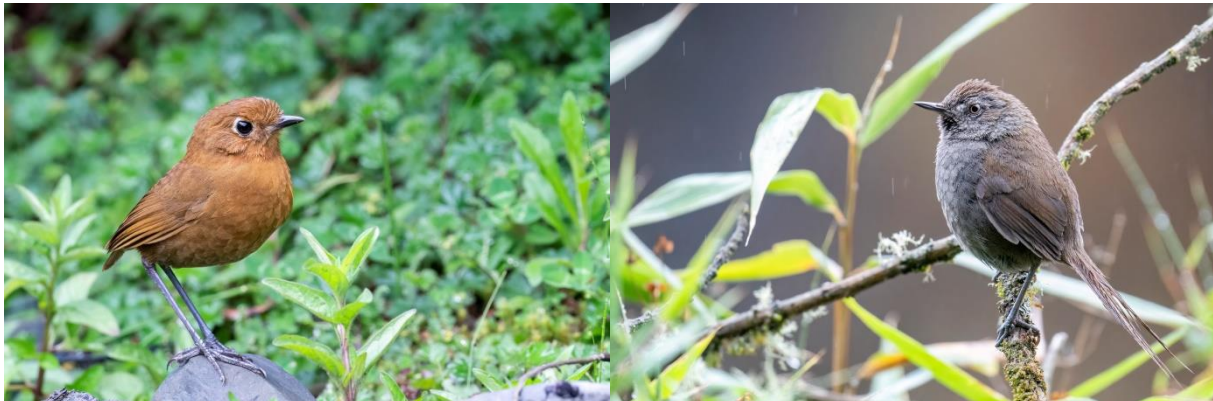
[-14.50286, -69.26325](#)

**Visited dates:** 13-14 October 2022

As we had just entered Peru on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October, the 13<sup>th</sup> was mostly filled with arranging a SIM-card, obtaining cash, doing groceries and afterwards driving towards Sina (along the PE-34L). The tarred roads are surprisingly good and coming from Bolivia that's an extra delight. Make sure to take the western road going towards Sina ([-14.75785, -69.41073](#)), after which the drive is about 50km on gravel along some steep roadsides (PU-109). We heard **Stripe-headed Antpitta** and saw **Northern Viscachas** at a boulder field (-14.5733, -69.3026). By the time we finally reached Sina there were many people blocking the street. Given our experience with indigenous people blocking streets in Paraguay, we figured they too were demanding something from the government by annoying drivers... So we pressed the horn quite long for a few times to make our point as well. It turned out

the Governor was giving a speech and had chosen the main road as his podium as opposed to the big square in town. The policemen that came up said we should have read about it in the local newspaper (duh). After an hour we were able to continue through Sina, going east into the valley (PU-595). It started raining, but we still managed to observe **Puna Thistletail** in a patch of bamboo around 3400m. At the end of the afternoon we finally managed to get our biggest target here, the **Puno Antpitta**. We got stunning views of a very obliging bird (-14.4988, -69.2729). Other nice birds encountered in this valley were **Scaled Metaltail**, **Diademed Tapaculo**, **Puno Tapaculo** and **Black-faced Brushfinch**. The next morning we visited the obliging Antpitta again and drove north of Sina to around 2800m. Multiple **Maroon-belted Chat-tyrants** and a couple of **Red-crested Cotingas** were seen. The third flock of **Spectacled Redstarts**, **Citrine Warblers** and **Black-faced Brushfinches** finally yielded our last target: the white-crowned morph of the **Light-crowned Spinetail**.

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

**Puno Antpitta****Puna Thistletail**

## Tayac Cucho & Tambillo

**-13.90049, -70.23529**

**Visited dates:** 14-16 October 2022

This location is more a mammal- than birdwatching destination. It is reached via the town Macusani over a very good tarmac road. A researcher had made many observations of Taruca/Northern Huemel near Tayac Cucho and Tambillo. In the observations he noted that people can contact him, so we did. Unfortunately we never got a reply, but still wanted to search for this rare deer species. A guard at a road barrier (**-13.90049, -70.23529**) asked us what our purpose was to enter the region. He then laughed and said that Tarucas had been just on the slopes above the guard house that



morning. He also said that there are 'bastante' further up in the valleys as well, which gave us good hopes to start our search. That afternoon we drove via Tayac Cucho towards Tambillo, and then drove up a valley north of Tambillo (PU-532). All good habitat, but no Tarucas to be found. We camped in the valley and continued our search early next morning. There was a huge colony of **Northern Viscachas** in this valley (mainly -13.84693, -70.21597 and a bit north in the same valley) and some of them were quite cooperative. Driving further, we scanned the valleys and mountains at every possible place, but didn't find any Tarucas. All people we asked knew about them, but all said they were high up in the mountains and could only be found by trekking to certain valleys behind the mountain tops. We continued driving towards Ituata, taking the main road (PU-100) back towards the guard post, as that place was our only concrete location with a sighting. Another guard was present and he also said the Tarucas were there that morning. Asking a bit more it turned out the Tarucas visited every morning around dawn and then disappeared behind the ridge when the first cars/dogs/humans would pass. We climbed the ridge, and the one after that, figuring they should be staying in the area if they visit every morning, but didn't see them. We visited the valley above Tambillo again, but there were less Viscachas out in the afternoon. Spotlighting yielded only two cars of the local 'vigilantes' who said it was dangerous and were also very surprised by our hobby. We then camped next to the road close to the guard house. Another guard was present, and he confirmed they were present every morning. The stories of the guards contradicted a bit, and I couldn't get a clear answer, but it seems like the Tarucas are coming year round, and in bigger numbers (8-10) when the crops are growing on the slope. The guard said they come around 06.00, so our alarm was at 05.30. I woke up before 05.00 and saw it was getting light already, so we decided to get out earlier. Scanning the hill we saw nothing, and the guard was already loudly talking to people at the barrier... Thinking that had ruined our chances I turned to Romy and then suddenly saw the silhouette of a **Taruca/Northern Huemel** through the fog on the hill just above our car! We climbed up the hill and were able to obtain better views of 2 individuals. A loud honking car made them go uphill, and we tried to go around to get closer. Later we found out they crossed our path and were more or less where we were before. They then crossed the second ridge. We went back to the car, drove the main road to look in the valley they went in but couldn't relocate them. Crazy, knowing they are there and not finding them, makes you wonder how low the chances were the day before!

**Northern Mountain Viscachas****Taruca/Northern Huemel**

Going to Cusco we took the gravel road going south from Macusani towards Santa Rosa (PU-100). This was quite a nice road and we were able to make some nice stops for birdwatching. On plains with short grass ([-14.155, -70.4542](#)) we observed **Tawny-throated Dotterels**, **Slender-billed Miner** and **Streak-throated Canastero**. Further south we encountered a big grove of Poleypsis Forest ([-14.4277, -70.5668](#)), an unthinkable sight coming from Bolivia. **Andean Tit-spinetails** and **Giant Conebills** were found here. We tried for **Royal Cinclodes** and **Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant**, but the valley is probably too dry for these species. Further south there is even more Polyepsis forest, but we didn't bird this. A lake ([-14.47097, -70.57588](#)) held many **Chilean Flamingo**, **Wilson's Phalarope** and the high altitude subspecies of **Many-colored Rush-tyrant**.

## Department of Cusco

[-13.48104, -71.96441](#)

### Huacapay Lake

[-13.62421, -71.72085](#)

**Visited dates:** 16-17 October 2022

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



**Giant Hummingbird**



**(Eastern) Bearded Mountaineer**

## Manu Road

**Visited dates:** TO BE ADDED IN 2023

## Cusco - Tambomachay

[-13.48104, -71.96441](#)

**Visited date:** 18 October 2022

We birded the ruins of Tambomachay from 06.00-08.30 in the morning. The site officially opens at 09.00, but locals go in and out all the time and nobody stopped us going in. The main target **Taczanowski's Tinamou** (ne) was quickly heard after about 200m on a slope with a mosaic of scrubby woodland and agricultural fields. We walked past the 'no entry'-signs but couldn't locate the bird. We did see 3 **Chestnut-breasted Mountain Finches** (e) in the shrubs. Towards the end of the official road we saw two **Andean Tinamous** walking in a recently ploughed field. In the shrubs close to the stream we observed the endemic **Creamy-crested Spinetail**, a **Rusty-fronted Canastero** (e) and a **Bearded Mountaineer** (e). We walked further into the grassy field, but couldn't locate a **Junin Canastero**.



**Aplomado Falcon**



**Creamy-crested Spinetail**

## Soraypampa

[-13.39618, -72.57371](#)

**Visited dates:** 18-20 October 2022

Driving uphill from the PE-3S towards Soraypampa we stopped a few kilometres after the entrance to the EcoCamp (the stay for birders visiting the region ([-13.49088, -72.5376](#))). Right next to where we parked our car ([-13.48177, -72.52926](#)) we already encountered our first **Apurimac Spinetails** (e) in the dense shrubs above the road. A **Crimson-mantled Woodpecker** was chopping away on a tree close by as well. Walking up the road we noticed an **Apurimac Brushfinch** (e) in the shrubs below the road. **Mountain Velvetbreasts** were relatively common, and we also encountered 2 **Shining Sunbeams**. Farther up the road we encountered another pair of Brushfinches and a **Creamy-crested Spinetail** (e). Just when we wanted to turn around and walk back again Romy noticed a **White-**



**rumped Hawk** flying by and diving into a bush, after which we saw it flying towards another tree. Before dusk we went to the entrance of the EcoCamp and waited for the first owls to call. At 18.10 the first **Koepcke's Screech-owl** (e) started to call, and we observed at least 3 individuals that evening. We didn't hear the **Buff-fronted Owl** that is observed as well around the camp. A stroll on the road yielded a **Band-tailed Nightjar** and an **Andean Fox**.



**Apurimac Brushfinch**



**Koepcke's Screech-owl**

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

We then walked to the valley going west ([-13.39618, -72.57371](#)). There we encountered another **Vilcabamba Tapaculo** (e) and a group of 4 **Apurimac Brushfinches** (e). A **White-tufted Sunbeam** (e) was sipping nectar from purple flowers and we got good views! Later that afternoon we walked into the valley again and spotlighted on our way back. Somebody had seen **Colocolo** about 1km into this valley, so we wanted to at least give it a try. Of course we didn't see it, but we did spotlight another **Peruvian White-tailed Deer** and a **Great Horned Owl**.



**White-tufted Sunbeam**



**Apurimac Spinetail**

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

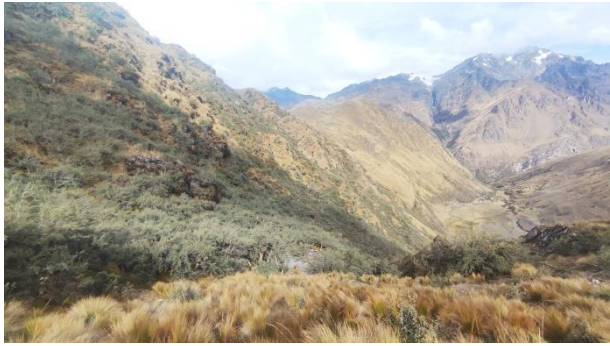
## Abra Malaga

[-13.14142, -72.29912](#)

**Visited dates:** 20-21 October 2022

Abra Malaga is well known as *the* site for the near-endemic Royal Cinclodes. One can park just before the top ([-13.14142, -72.29912](#)) and walk the trail on the opposite side of the street. There is a very clear path made, with stones on the sides and signs guiding you to the top of the ridge around 4400m. Behind that ridge there you find the first viewpoint (mirador) with a little shelter. From here you can see the beginning of the Polyopsis forest, with a thick layer of moss covering the ground. Following the path will lead into denser and older/higher forest, and this is where the main targets can be found. Don't be fooled by eBird day lists, stating the presence of many more species of lower altitudes. We birded the Polyopsis forest one windy afternoon and one morning. The afternoon was quiet, and only after the trail descends (after the second mirador) did we see **White-browed Tit-spinetail** (e) and **Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant**. A **Blue-mantled Thornbird** fed on some of the really small flowers hanging from the stones and moss. There was no sign of **Royal Cinclodes** unfortunately. We did see and hear quite many **Stripe-headed Antpittas**, as well as **Puna Tapaculos**. Suddenly we flushed a brown bird of the right size, but it flew away so quickly we can't be sure it was the Cinclodes... Climbing back up again we heard a **Junin Canastero** (e) near the 2<sup>nd</sup> mirador. We hoped the next morning would be better, and the weather was indeed. We recorded most of the same species as the afternoon before, with the exception of the Tit-tyrant. We heard some more **Junin Canasteros** as well as a **Streak-throated Canastero**. A hummingbird on a rock high up turned out to be an **Olivaceous Thornbird**, and to make the comparison complete a **Blue-mantled Thornbird** landed on top of a bush nearby. We now walked the trail totally down, where the Polyopsis gets smaller and thinner again. We did encounter **Tawny Tit-spinetails** at the bottom of the forest. Not wanting to walk all the way up again we decided to walk the rest of the trail (2km) down towards the road ([-13.15666, -72.28204](#)). There we hitched a ride back up to the top (but if you have a driver, let him meet you there). Two days later we heard from Peruvian birders that they did see 2 Cinclodes the very same morning we were there! They didn't go left at the sign (going towards the first mirador) but went straight ahead. They encountered them there near the first Polyopsis on a big mossy rock.



**Polypepsis at Abra Malaga****Stripe-headed Antpitta**

## PE-28B – Abra Malaga towards San Luis

**-13.11936, -72.33387**

**Visited dates:** 21-22 October 2022

We made several stops on the PE-28B west of Abra Malaga. It is not the most pleasant road-side birding with so much traffic and noise, but some good species can be found here. The first stop ([-13.11936, -72.33387](#)) we walked the road for about 700m till where the vegetation on the ridge becomes a bit high, and did this part a couple of times. We encountered multiple flocks, but none with the main target; Parodi's Hemispinghus. We did have a flock with the rufous-crowned morph of **Marcapata Spinetail ssp. *marcapatae*** (e). Otherwise the flocks yielded **White-browed Conebill**, **White-banded Tyrannulet**, **Tit-like Dacnis** and some more common birds. **Urubamba Antpitta** (e) was heard frequently here. We camped at this spot at night and heard **Undulated Antpittas** at dusk, and actually got short but great views of one the next morning.

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

**Urubamba Antpitta****Marcapata Spinetail ssp. *marcapatae***

The third stop ([-13.11438, -72.34639](#)) finally gave us a flock with the same species as above, but also including the main targets of this region and altitude; **Parodi's Hemispinghus** (e) and **Cuzco Brushfinch** (e), and we thought we heard an **Unstreaked Tit-tyrant** (e). A **Crowned Chat-tyrant** was also present



in the flock. More or less on the same spot as where the flock was we also observed **Sapphire-vented Puffleg (Coppery-naped) ssp. sapphiropygia** (a possible split) and **Inca Wren** (e). Next to the waterfall there was another **Undulated Antpitta** calling. Lower down the fog prevented any other birding stops, and with the main targets in the pocket we continued to the next destination.

## Valle Calquiña

[-13.00427, -72.5561](#)

**Visited dates:** 22-23 October 2022

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

The majority of the bird targets in the area however, can only be found higher up the hill. Therefore take the entrance from the main road ([-13.00427, -72.5561](#)) and drive all the way up. We walked uphill from our parking spot ([-12.9842, -72.553](#)) towards Mirador Diablo. Many species of hummingbird visited the flowering trees, amongst which **Green Hermit** and **Rufous-booted Racket-tail**. We turned left at the first option ([-12.98415, -72.54728](#)), and from there we walked all the way to the top ([-12.97465, -72.55727](#), turn right at the only junction halfway). Later on we parked higher up and we camped 2 nights somewhere halfway, mainly focussing on the higher parts of the trail, between the endemic hotspot ([-12.98223, -72.55266](#)) and the top. Just when we came to the endemic hotspot we heard **Masked Fruiteater** (e), and it turned out Paco was guiding a group and luring the bird in. An **Ocellated Piculet** landed shortly in a tree while we were observing the Fruiteater. **Creamy-bellied Antwren** (e) was found right below this spot, and according to Paco it's the only place to see this bird in the valley. **Inca Wren** (e) was heard here too, but this bird is quite common all along the road. The endemic hotspot is also where we observed **Scaled Antpitta** by crawling in the bushes just above the road. Farther up the road we heard **Black-streaked Puffbird**, but we couldn't get it to come into views. Again a bit higher up, a **White-rumped Hawk** did show well on all three days we were there. **Andean Cock-of-the-Rocks** were observed multiple times, and **Hooded Tinamou**, **Wattled Guan** and **Stripe-faced Wood-quail** were heard often. An **Unadorned Flycatcher** was observed high up in the canopy. Just after the top of the hill (one can drive and park here) we observed **Crimson-bellied Woodpecker**. Thanks to the advice from Paco we also heard **Olive Flycatcher** and **Ochre-breasted Antpitta** early the next morning here. Unfortunately we couldn't find the other endemic that is present in the valley; **Inca Flycatcher** (e).

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

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

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

**White-throated Quail-dove****Eastern Lowland Olingo**

## Machu Picchu

**-13.16502, -72.54353**

**Visited dates:** 23-25 October 2022

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

The birding was pretty similar to Ipalpilhua Valley, but a little bit less interesting. **Black-streaked Puffbird** was resting on the electricity wires of the train. **Andean Motmot** was common here too, as

was **Andean Cock-of-the-Rock**. Both **Tricolored Brushfinch** and **Chestnut-capped Brushfinches** were observed. We added **Chestnut-breasted Coronet** to our hummingbird list and saw **Green Hermit** again. We had an Agouti crossing the path very quickly, which might be **Kalinowski's Agouti**, but I couldn't find any good distributional or distinctive ID features to separate it from **Brown Agouti**. **Inca Wrens** (e) were common, even in Machu Picchu. Again we failed to observe **Inca Flycatcher** (e). Spotlighting yielded surprisingly little, except for one **Southern Black-eared Opossum** crossing the tracks and many arboreal rodents (**Arboreal Rice Rat spec?**).

**Machu Picchu****Andean Motmot**

## Via Kiteni

[-12.94029, -72.99352](#)

**Visited dates:** 26-27 October 2022

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

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



**Peruvian White-tailed Deer****Vilcabamba Thistletail**

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

We drove towards our last stop around 300m altitude, which is where we camped ([-12.94029, -72.99352](#)). We walked the road in the afternoon for about 1km and in the morning for about 2km downhill. In addition to the other Antpittas mentioned above we finally heard **Red-and-white Antpitta** (e), which calls often include a 4<sup>th</sup> note in the Vilcabamba region. This (undescribed) subspecies should even have some yellow tinges on the belly instead of white, but we couldn't confirm this as we didn't get to see them. Another target was heard in the afternoon and saw really well the next morning: **Lulu's Tody-flycatcher/Johnson's Tody-flycatcher** (e). This endemic occurs in the Marañon valley in the northwest of Peru, but Josh Beck discovered this population here in 2016. Different flocks yielded **Chestnut-bellied Mountain Tanager**, **Drab Hemispingus**, **Superciliaried Hemispingus**, **Marcapata Spinetail ssp. weiskii** (e, with the clear white crest) and a bit unexpectedly a species we had missed after Abra Malaga: 2 **Unstreaked Tit-tyrants** (e)! As expected we didn't find the endemic **Vilcabamba Brushfinch**. But if it still is somewhere, it could well be discovered on this road one day!

**Lulu's/Johnson's Tody-flycatcher****Yungas Pygmy Owl in the fog**

## Ccayara Chucuito/CU-100

-13.18725, -72.99724

**Visited dates:** 27 October 2022

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



**Vilcabamba Tapaculo**



**Royal Cinclodes**

## Department of Ayacucho

-13.0624, -74.1982

**Logistics:** To get to and from Chiquintirca and/or Rumichaca there are multiple options. The easiest would be to drive from Ayacucho to Tambo, from there towards the intersection (-13.08479, -73.77242) and then either to Chiquintirca or Rumichaca. Don't follow the navigation if it directs you via a shortcut between Quinua and San Miguel (thus avoiding Tambo); this shortcut road is one of the worst we've driven during our whole trip in South America! The road described above is all

paved, almost all the way to Chiquintirca. Although it didn't seem like much on the map, the winding roads towards Rumichaca took a long time. The road has more potholes in it as well, and the loose gravel in combination with a very steep cliff sides makes you want to take it slow. Calculate about 1,5-2 hours from the intersection to Rumichacha village.

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

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

## Chiquintirca

[-13.05002, -73.70682](#)

**Visited date:** 29 October 2022

We followed the example of Andrew Spencer and drove uphill near Chiquintirca, or actually Qollpa (get off the AY-101 here: [-13.05474, -73.70146](#)). A high clearance 2x4 is needed here to get to the birding spot ([-13.05002, -73.70682](#)). We quickly heard **Ayacucho Antpitta** (e), and by sitting and waiting in the shrubs we were able to see it hopping past us. **Ayacucho Thistletail** (e) and **Black-spectacled Brushfinch** (e) have been observed here too, but activity was low as it was already quite warm. If you are short on time, this place is (way) more easily reached than Rumichaca, but you might still want to drive in that direction for the Ampay Tapaculo/La Mar Tapaculo.

## Rumichaca

[-13.17513, -73.59354](#)

**Visited dates:** 29-30 October 2022

On the way to Rumichaca we made a stop at some puna/scrubby paramo ([-13.1299, -73.6616](#)). This is where we found a Tapaculo that for now is considered **Ampay Tapaculo** (e), but this might well be a new species (already called '**La Mar Tapaculo**' by some). It looks different from the Ampay Tapaculos further southeast. In fact, it looks more like an Ancash Tapaculo, but it does sound like an Ampay Tapaculo. **Northern Mountain Viscachas** were quite common here, these ones were beautifully



brownish-coloured on the back and yellow-cream on the belly. We also observed 3 **Andean Tit-spinetails**, **Streak-throated Canastero** and heard **Stripe-headed Antpitta**.



**Ampay Tapaculo/La Mar Tapaculo**



**Sword-billed Hummingbird**

Passing the hamlet that is Rumichaca the road gets worse, but luckily you're almost there. We parked the car ([-13.17513, -73.59354](#)) and immediately heard multiple **Ayacucho Antpittas** (e) calling from the surrounding shrubs. This bird turned out to be very common around here. We birded along the road and got good views of a stunning **Sword-billed Hummingbird** and heard a **Yungas Pygmy-owl**. We walked until the point where the road goes down quickly ([-13.16628, -73.58888](#)). This is where we found **Black-spectacled Brushfinches**. The next morning we walked this again, and took the road on the right side. This road zigzagged all the way up, where we walked the upper road back to Rumichaca, making a huge loop ending again at our car. The walk was quite uneventful, except for one more Brushfinch, a **Yellow-scarfed Tanager** (e) and a **Fire-throated Metaltail** (e). Even though we walked about 15km this way, we never heard or saw a single **Ayacucho Thistletail**! Sometimes we got a response which sounded like it, but was longer. At one point we got this response again, and it turned out to be **Trilling Tapaculos**, sounding almost the same sometimes. We were afraid we got the wrong tape, as it was quite surprising the Tapaculos responded many times. As we really wanted this endemic we decided to walk through the vegetation on the other side of the valley, a bit above the village ([-13.1803, -73.6230](#)). Others had seen the Thistletail there and called it "(fairly) common". This was certainly not the case for us, as we again walked for hours and many kilometres without hearing or seeing one. Only after a long time we finally heard a response one time. Not satisfied with hearing it we continued and much further we heard the call multiple times. We climbed up to where we heard it and then finally saw 2 **Ayachucho Thistletails** (e)!



Ayacucho Antpitta



Ayacucho Thistletail

## Mueso de sitio Wari

-13.0624, -74.1982

Visited date: 31 October 2022

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

## Department of Junín

-12.1875, -75.2376

### Huancayo

-12.1875, -75.2376

Visited date: 1 November 2022

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

TO BE ADDED IN 2023: The birding loop north/northeast of Huancayo and Junin lake

## Department of Lima

-12.02405, -77.11203

### Marcopomacocha area

-11.58047, -76.26208

Visited dates: 1-3 November 2022

Coming from Huancayo we first birded the Ticlio bog. We parked the car on the side of this busy road ([-11.60193, -76.19826](#)) and walked the fields northwest of here. Despite the harvesting of the top soil we still saw quite some birds hopping around. Most were **White-fronted Ground-tyrants**, but luckily there was also a **White-bellied Cinclodes** (e)! Later we flushed 2 **Grey-breasted Seedsnipes** and had big flocks of **White-winged Diuca-finch/Glaciars Finch**.

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

We then went to the bog known as Paso Marcopomacocha ([-11.58047, -76.26208](#)). Arriving late in the afternoon we quickly did a round through this high altitude bog. Although it seemed pretty dry we quickly found a **Diademed Sandpiper-plover** just before dusk. In the morning a group of Alpacas had taken over the bog, so the plover was gone. An **Olivaceous Thornbill** sat on a stone. We walked around the wet areas and followed the stream. At one moment we flushed a **Puna Snipe**. As it was still early we were able to locate it back with our Lahoux Spotter Elite V35 heat scope. We were glad that we got some great pictures, because the 2 other snipes we flushed later in this bog or later that day didn't wait to pose for a picture. We again found a **White-bellied Cinclodes** (e), this time farther away in the field. In the end we found 2 **Dark-winged Miners** (e) among some boulders northeast of the road.



**Dark-winged Miner**



**White-bellied Cinclodes**

After this we went towards the next bog, known as Pampa Curicocha ([-11.55977, -76.27649](#)). Like at the other bogs, overgrazing and peat harvesting evidently had an impact on the quality of the habitat. Still we quickly found 2 **White-bellied Cinclodes** (e) on the south side of the road and flushed another 3 **Puna Snipes** from along the streams. A couple of **Dark-winged Miners** (e) hopped on the boulders. **White-winged Cinclodes**, **Cream-winged Cinclodes** and **Plain-breasted Earthcreeper** were present on the big white stone piles surrounding the parking area. After lunch we walked all the way



down into the valley where there was an extensive wet area, which produced another 12 **Puna Snipes** and 2 **White-bellied Cinclodes** (e). The boulder field ([-11.54636, -76.27323](#)) on the other side of this valley produced 2 **Stripe-headed Antpittas**. During the strenuous walk back to our car we flushed a group of **Grey-bellied Seedsnipes**, a species we had heard already multiple times during the day.

**Puna Snipe****White-bellied Cinclodes**

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

**Stripe-headed Antpitta****Black-breasted Hillstar**

## Valle de Santa Eulalia

[-11.73995, -76.61684](#)

Visited dates: 3-5 November 2022

In the upper Valle de Santa Eulalia is a birding place known as Quebrada Yanac ([-11.62632, -76.43546](#)). On the south side of the road grows a Polyepsis groove on the hills, which can be reached

by following the trail on the right side of the waterfall. Already when we arrived we saw 2 **Rusty-bellied Brushfinches** (e) walking on the ground. 3 **Giant Conebills** chopped away on the few Polyepsis trees next to the waterfall. Climbing up and arriving at the big boulder we could oversee quite some of the forest, but there was barely any bird activity. Scanning all the tree tops and finding nothing we decided to climb all the way up on the other side, higher than the second waterfall. During this walk we only observed one **Rusty-crowned Tit-spinetail** (e). Scanning all the trees from high up, we saw absolutely nothing. We walked down again and when we came to the big boulder a bigger bird flew from one tree to another. Carefully scanning didn't yield anything, and just when we wanted to dismiss it as something else, a **White-cheeked Cotinga** (e) flew from this very tree! It took 2,5 hours, but we found the biggest target here!

As luck and time were on our side we already continued towards the upper part of the valley around San Pedro de Castra ([-11.73258, -76.58596](#)). The road towards here (from the north) was no joke, as there had been multiple landslides, the road was very small and the steep cliffs were dazzling high. From the given coordinates we walked the road going south. After 1 kilometre we found our next big target after we saw a Sparrow and a Brushfinch land in a bush way down from the road. Right after these two birds landed in that shrub, another bird landed in there which looked a bit like a seedeater from the back. The sunlight was strong, but when it turned around a bit we could clearly distinguish the orange on the belly and eyebrow, a **Rufous-breasted Warbling-finch** (e)! Not much later 2 more shortly landed in the shrub, before disappearing into the greener shrubs further up. Other birds encountered on this walk and the next morning, were **Rusty-crowned Tit-spinetail** (e), **Black-necked Woodpecker** (e), **Black Metaltail** (e), **Bronze-tailed Comet** (e) and the very cute **Pied-crested Tit-tyrant**.



**Pied-crested Tit-tyrant**



**Peruvian Pygmy-owl**

Later in the morning we birded the hairpin section of the road further down in the valley ([-11.74644, -76.60576](#)). A **Peruvian Pygmy-owl** started calling. Many birds came in to mock the owl, amongst which **Black Metaltail** (e) and **Rusty-crowned Tit-spinetail** (e). And then suddenly I shortly observed another **Rufous-breasted Warbling-finch** (e) before it flew down into the shrubs when a **Black-necked Woodpecker** (e) landed on the pile of branches it was sitting on. During the rest of the day

we observed many more **Rusty-bellied Brushfinches** (e), which are abundant here. Besides these we observed **Collared Warbling-finch**, **Oasis Hummingbird**, **Purple-throated Woodstar** and **Peruvian Sheartail** (only a female of the last one unfortunately).

Even further down into the valley we parked the car ([-11.73483, -76.60874](#)) and quickly after found 2 **Great Inca-finches** (e), and one more just a bit further up. The next morning we went here again and found 7 Inca Finches in total along a stretch of 1,5km.

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



**Great Inca-finch**



**Rusty-bellied Brushfinch**

## Pucusana

[-12.48307, -76.79953](#)

**Visited dates:** 5-7 November 2022

Pucusana is a small fishing town about 50km south of Lima. The town itself isn't that nice, maybe even a bit sketchy, but we stayed at a lovely affordable hotel on top of the hill: Cruz Del Sur. It can be reached by a steep and at one part very small road, by following the Leoncio Prado street towards the hotel ([-12.48307, -76.79953](#)). Prices are about 100-120S for a double with private bathroom, incl. breakfast. Calle, a Danish owner, can arrange tours or guide himself in Peru or even outside of Peru (note: he is not a bird guide). He can be contacted by email ([calle\\_granholm@yahoo.dk](mailto:calle_granholm@yahoo.dk)) or via WhatsApp (+51 988859199). It's via Calle that we arranged a private kind of 'pelagic'.

As we arranged it quite last minute, the boatsman had some trouble arranging enough fish offal. The boat was quite slow, and he didn't have a GPS so he first went parallel along the coast for too long. In the end we reached ±15km out of shore before we turned around. We managed to see **Elliot's Storm-petrel** (common), 3 **White-chinned Petrels**, 4 **Sooty Shearwaters**, 14 **Peruvian Diving-petrels** and a **Swallow-tailed Gull**. The better surprises didn't come in the form of birds, but whales! On the way out we got to see 2 (maybe 3) **Humpback Whales** quite close to the boat! On the way back we more or less passed that point and again saw a whale. It once came out with its head just enough to



see that it was huge, flat and had 3 ridges: a **Bryde's Whale**. So still 2 new species on this trip! The whole trip lasted from 05.30-10.30 and cost 550S, including the fish we did manage to get. Reserving in advance gives more time to get fish offal, prepare it with fish oil and/or lots of popcorn to get good quantities. We also gave this feedback to Calle, so next time he would be able to arrange a faster boat, going out further into sea, have more chum etc.

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

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

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

## Lomas de Lachay

**-11.37918, -77.37558**

**Visited dates:** 14-15 November 2022

Lomas de Lachay is located not far north of the capital Lima. To get all the targets you have to go to two locations in/around the park. We birded the first location outside/north of the park on the first

afternoon between 15.00-18.00. Get off the main road ([-11.35348, -77.33186](#)) and park the car. It used to be possible to drive all the way into the valley, but recently this has been made impossible by a large water gully. Already where we parked our car we heard a group of birds on the rocky hillside, and these turned out to be **Raimondi's Yellow-finches** (a species that was endemic until recently, as this nomadic species turned up in northern Chile and seems to have a population there now). Further up in the valley we arrived at the point where more cacti grow ([-11.34816, -77.35552](#)) and quickly we found our second target: **Cactus Canastero** (e). We observed 2 and heard another on the other side of the valley. Trying to observe that one as well, we heard a call from the **Greyish Miner** and were able to locate 2 of them.



**A big flock of Raimondi's Yellow-finches**



**Greyish Miner**

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



**Coastal Miner**



**Peruvian Thick-knee**

## Department of Ancash

[-9.10832, -77.68541](#)

### Quilcap/San Damian

[-9.88374, -77.7719](#)

**Visited date:** 16 November 2022

Don't go here! There are good alternatives to get these target species nowadays, like Sinsicap/Parrapos (-7.84962, -78.75046/-7.73636, -78.74475). Since 2021 someone discovered another location with the same target species one road south around Marca ([-10.10160, -77.49659](#)), which is also on route from Lima to Huaraz. At both alternative locations birding can be done from the road. We are not sure why nobody commented on the difficulty of the Quilcap valley in their eBird list. Just in case anybody is still very inclined to visit this place we write our experience:

The road from Huarmey is paved until Huamba, after which it turns into a single lane gravel road until Quilcap, which takes about 2-2,5h in total. After consulting the locals where the start of the valley trail was, we parked the car at the end of the village ([-9.88374, -77.7719](#)). Walking into the green valley we quickly had a pair of **Piura Chat-tyrants** (e). Not much later we observed 2 **Tumbes Pewees** and a bit further a **Bay-crowned Brushfinch**. So far the birding went pretty smooth, until we had to climb down the valley to the other side to continue. Not much later we hit a dry waterfall and couldn't continue no matter what we tried. We decided to go up the mountain on the north side and once we finally made it to the top (slipping many times) we found sort of a path. This path continued all the way to the point where the valley splits in two. The trail is sometimes very small with many loose stones, next to a steep valley, and we did slip a few times treacherously close to the edge. The only useful information anybody wrote in their eBird list was that they found the biggest target around 2175-2350m altitude. As we were only at 2000m, we decided to follow the valley to the right as much as possible. Here too we quickly encountered multiple barriers that were a bit difficult to circumvent. The plants which had all their branches covered in spines did not help either. Working our way through the shrubs and over the boulders we ended up at a sort of path again ([-9.8630, -77.7863](#)). We climbed this and soon after encountered two **Russet-bellied Spinetails** (e) around 2080m altitude. Very happy we got our target we had to do the whole way back, but this time we followed the path that we had encountered halfway. Suddenly Rob spotted another **Russet-bellied Spinetail** at 2000m altitude ([-9.8700, -77.7820](#)). We ended up on the mountain side above the village and didn't see a trail, so we worked our way down the steep agricultural fields. It's worth studying GoogleMaps satellite if you still intend to go here despite our warnings ;-). It seems best to bird the first part of the valley for the first targets and then walk another route for the Spinetail. Still we advise to visit one of the alternative locations where you can bird from the road! Even with all the targets in the pocket we don't feel the climb into the valley was worth the risks we took.



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

## Laguna Llaca road

[-9.46951, -77.46548](#)

**Visited dates:** 17-18 November 2022

This valley is reached from Huaraz in about 1 hour. Maps.me guides you there, but via some narrow village roads. The last 4km require a high clearance 2x4 or 4x4. There is a gate ([-9.46951, -77.46548](#)), which opens from 08.30-15.00. We got in at 14.30 and stayed till the next day. We told the man we were scientists, so it might have been an exception that we could overnight in the park ;-). The forest after the gate is officially part of Huascarán NP, but the entrance (30S) has to be paid at the ranger station near lake Llaca at the top (which we never reached).

We birded the forest along the road from the gate up to 2,5km farther (there is about 1km of good forest before this gate too, which we didn't bird). **Ancash Tapaculo** (e) was heard multiple times, and observed once near the end. **Tit-like Dacnis** was super common in this valley. We observed a **White-cheeked Cotinga** (e) on the cliff side. Other nice goodies observed were **Line-cheeked Spinetail** (near the gate), **Rufous-eared Brushfinch** (e, quite common), **Black Metaltail** (e) and **Blue-mantled Thornbill**. We missed out on **Plain-tailed Warbling-finch** (e), which has been seen here too. We didn't go all the way to the lake, but birds like **Green-headed Hillstar** (e), **Tawny Tit-spinetail**, **Black-crested Tit-tyrant** and **Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant** have all been seen there. A nice alternative to Huascarán NP further west, but in our opinion that is still the main bird location to go to.

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

## Huascarán NP

[-9.10607, -77.6834](#)

**Visited dates:** 18-21 November 2022

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



**Giant Conebill**



**Striated Earthcreeper**

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

The next morning we started at 07.00, more or less when the sun began to shine into the valley. We walked towards the lake, where there is a rocky hill with many Bromeliads on the northwest side ([-9.053705, -77.621218](#)). This is where we observed multiple **Green-headed Hillstars** (e) feeding on the Bromeliad flowers. In the afternoon we found quite many **Northern Mountain Viscachas** on the rocks here.





Huascarán NP



Green-headed Hillstar

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

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



White-cheeked Cotinga



Plain-tailed Warbling-finch



## Pueblo Libre/Rinconada/Tocash

[-9.08485, -77.79679](#)

**Visited date:** 21 November 2022

After we got our shock absorber replaced in Yungas we continued to Tocash/Rinconada, near Pueblo Libre. We parked the car ([-9.084851, -77.796799](#)) and immediately got a response from 2 **Creamy-breasted Canasteros** *ssp. dorbignyi*. This population is yet undescribed and for now lumped together with the Pale-tailed Canasteros, but might warrant a full species status, making it another endemic for Peru.



Huascaran NP



Creamy-breasted Canasteros *ssp. dorbignyi*

## Lago Parón

[-8.99918, -77.68466](#)

**Visited dates:** 21-22 November 2022

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

Driving up the road you pass along a lot of Polyepsis, which we didn't bird, but looks quite promising. The small patches of Polyepsis at the top already held 3 **White-cheeked Cotingas** (e), **Red-crested Cotinga**, **Rusty-crowned Tit-spinetail**, **Rufous-eared Brushfinch** (e), **Blue-mantled Thornbill** and much more.

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

## Carretera a Huaylas

**-8.87843, -77.87383**

**Visited date:** 22 November 2022

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

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

## Department of La Libertad

[-8.1844, -77.23399](#)

### Tayabamba/Utcubamba Valley

[-8.1844, -77.23399](#)

**Visited dates:** 23-28 November 2022

It took quite some time to reach this site. We drove about 4,5h/135km after the last stop for the Rufous-backed Inca-finches towards our camping place. A good place to overnight would be in Sihuas if you're driving this route and don't have a tent/motorhome. After this, the total 170km via PE-12A (good gravel road), followed by the PE-10C (42km asphalt going up is very good, the last 54km are quite bad) until the turn-off towards Utcubamba took just over 6h. From the turn-off towards the first birding spot via the LI-129 took another hour. The LI-129 is a gravel road, which turns into a more challenging ride after about 16km. The winding road up is very narrow with little room for oncoming cars/trucks to pass. High clearance is a must as well, and a 4x4 preferred, although we did it with a 2x4.

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



**Coppery Metaltail**



**Red-crested Cotinga**

#### 3400-3550m

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



the shrubs turned out to be a group of at least 8+ **Pardusco** (e). We took a road going up around the corner (starting: [-8.18276, -77.23342](#)). There was more bamboo here and we soon heard an Antpitta and after climbing onto the rocks into the bamboo patch Rob observed a 'Rufous Antpitta'. Considering the high altitude (3500m+), cloud forest/bamboo habitat and sound, this should be a **Chachapoyas Antpitta** (e). While we were trying to actually see the Antpitta, a rufous bird caught our eye. Soon we realised this was a **Rufous-mantled Softtail** (e) and no less than 3 came up to us after using playback. 5 days later we visited this area again, and the Spinetails were still there in the exact spot! A bit further we came to some shrubby paramo, where we heard **Neblina Tapaculo** (e), which was quite common. **Paramo Pipits** and **Grass Wrens** were observed in the same area. In one of the isolated forest patches we heard a **Tschudi's Tapaculo** (e). The last night we camped at this altitude. The alarm was at 05.00 because we hoped for special Snipes. As soon as Rob opened the door from the car we heard the characteristic sound from an **Imperial Snipe**! Luckily we didn't put our alarm any later, because 10 minutes later we didn't hear it again. **Jameson's Snipe** was also calling in the morning, as it did at dusk the evening before.

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

### 3300-3100m

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

to get a good look at it before it flew away: a male **Bay-vented Cotinga** (e)!! A very nice surprise! It did respond to playback later, but didn't come closer unfortunately. Before the road winded further down we observed a **Rufous Spinetail** in the bamboo. This is also where we had the 4<sup>th</sup> observation of a **Mountain Avocetbill** for Peru (in eBird), foraging very low on flowers along the roadside. While sitting out the rain in our car 3 **Unstreaked Tit-tyrants** (e) decided rain was no reason to stop birding and came to our car for a change :).



**Unstreaked Tit-tyrant**



**Slaty Brushfinch**

### 2900-2650m

We spent one afternoon and one morning focussing on this altitude. Only around 2900m the road stays at that altitude for a larger tract. The habitat right next to the road looked great for another special endemic, the **Pale-billed Antpitta** (e); lots of humid cloud forest with a lot of bamboo in the right altitude. Better yet, M. Robbins had observed up to 10 individuals one morning in October 1979 between these altitudes (2650-2850m). We played the tape multiple times at different locations, but didn't get a response unfortunately. We can't believe they aren't there anymore, so it's really worth coming another time of the year to try for this species here! We did have observations of **Grey-breasted Mountain-toucan**, **Plushcap**, **Rufous-capped Thornbill**, **Sword-billed Hummingbird**, a flock of rare **Golden-plumed Parakeets** (listen for the characteristic sound) and even a **Masked Saltator** in a mixed species flock. Driving up we saw some swallows going into a tree and flying out again. Finally we got some good looks at **Pale-footed Swallows**, a species we had only seen flying so far. At this altitude both **Trilling Tapaculo** and **Large-footed Tapaculo** (e) were heard.

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

### 2650-2100m

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

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

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



observed some more individuals of this spectacular species along the road. A nice range extension of the northerly population.

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



**Tricolored Brushfinch**



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

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

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

## Molino

**-7.75821, -77.77239**

**Visited dates:** 28-29 November 2022

The road from Tayabamba to Molino is terrible, and preferably driven with a sturdy, high clearance car with some good shock absorbers. It took us 8 hours to drive the 180km between the two towns. They say paving the road will start within 2 years, but it will probably take 5-10 years before they're done with the whole section. Somehow during the preparation for our travels we missed out on the fact that **Buff-bridled Inca-finch** (e) and **Great Spinetail** (e) can be found about 1,5h before Molino along this road. Be sure not to miss that amazing distraction from such a long days drive.

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

As real Dutchies we hoped that with such a name, the town would have at least one awesome windmill. Unfortunately there is none. However, luckily there is an amazing endemic bird species that can easily be found at Molino. Park your car along the road or take the turn-off ([-7.75821, -77.77239](#)) and park at the plant nursery. This road makes for easy walking and is a perfect place to see the quite abundant **Purple-backed Sunbeam** (e). As they cut down a lot of shrubs along the road for “safety reasons”, the Sunbeams were resting a bit further from the road, but we still got amazing views of them! Along the road we also observed **Yellow-breasted Brushfinch** and **Rufous-eared Brushfinch** (e). In the corner after the nursery there is a little stream. This is where we heard about 4 **Unicolored Tapaculos** (e) from different directions and were able to see 1 of them. While observing this Tapaculo, another bird flew into a nearby tree and turned out to be a **Jelski's Chat-tyrant**. We ran into Wilder, the man who runs the nursery and is the town's advocate for the hummingbird. He walked with us to his house ([-7.76468, -77.75999](#)), where you are able to camp as well (there is a hotel in town too). Along the way we observed **Rainbow Starfrontlet** besides the many Sunbeams. At Wilder's we also observed a **Swordbill Hummingbird**. The rest of the morning was mostly spend catching a cavy and preparing it for lunch after Wilder heard we never tried Cuy/Cavy before. Wilder is a very nice man who hopes to see many more tourists in town, as then the locals will see why they need to preserve the habitat of this amazing species!

**Purple-backed Sunbeam****Rob with his dinner**

## Department of Cajamarca

[-7.1077, -78.4242](#)

### San Marcos

[-7.31586, -78.18443](#)

**Visited date:** 30 November 2022

We passed San Marcos around 13.00 and it was scorching hot despite the strong wind. Not the best conditions to find the **Great Spinetail** (e), which is often seen along the winding roads west of town. We first walked the dry riverbed to both sides and then walked up the hill via the trail ([-7.31586, -78.18443](#)). This area is where the **Buff-bridled Inca-finch** (e) is sometimes seen. As nice as it was to be away from the busy road, we didn't observe the Spinetail or the Inca-finch. We did see many

**Spot-throated Hummingbirds** (e), **Fulvous-faced Pygmy-tyrants** and a couple of **Black-lored Yellowthroats**. We then decided to walk the road after all and bare the disturbance of the traffic. In total we searched for 2,5-3h but didn't see the Spinetail. We might have heard it once, but we weren't sure because of the strong wind. A bit disappointed with this location we decided to drive to our back-up location.

## Jesús

[-7.26062, -78.36387](#)

**Visited date:** 1 December 2022

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



**Great Spinetail**



**Buff-bridled Inca-finch**

## Cañon de Sangal/Rio Chonta

[-7.1077, -78.4242](#)

**Visited date:** 1 December 2022

After some groceries shopping we left Cajabamba for Rio Chonta/Cañon de Sangal for yet another very localized endemic bird. As it was already 13.30 and quite hot and windy, we decided this was a good a time as any for our breakfast. After this Rob went walking and scanned the shrubs and hillslopes for hummingbirds, and pretty quickly found a **Grey-bellied Comet** (e) on a steep cliff side near the river ([-7.1077, -78.4242](#)). Romy was still at the car and missed it, so we had to find at least another one. We tried at Cañon de Sangal ([-7.08566, -78.39957](#)) and scoured all the shrubs there, but couldn't find another Comet. We tried some other places, but found this species way more difficult



than we imagined. It might have been the time of day and windy conditions, but just in case try to plan to search for this species in the morning when the hummingbirds are more active. We then went back to the first place Rob had seen it and waited there in our chairs to see if it would come back. An hour or what later, it finally did and Romy got to see it as well.

## Cruz Conga/Antpitta Track

[-6.99411, -78.20189](#)

**Visited date:** 2 December 2022

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

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

## El Limon – Endemic Point

[-6.87713, -78.0884](#)

**Visited date:** 2 December 2022

Before the endemic point we made a quick stop ([-6.893821, -78.086853](#)) and got stunning views of a *Grey-winged Inca-finch* (e). After this we made our way to the famous Endemic Point ([-6.87713, -78.0884](#)). *Grey-winged Inca-finches* (e) were observed here too from the roadside just before the beginning of the path. Even though it was already getting quite hot (10.00am) we quickly connected with *Chestnut-backed Thornbird* (e), of which a total of 8 were observed later in the afternoon on our second round. *Marañon Thrush* and *Marañon Tyrannulet* were both found very easily. *Tumbes Pewee* was common and conspicuous. While standing in the vegetation of the canyon we got nice views of 2 *Buff-bellied Tanagers*. A single *Peruvian Pigeon* (e) flew out of a tree and granted short views, but this species was observed more often on the road down to Cañon Balsas.



Grey-winged Inca-finch



Tumbes Pewee

## Cañon Balsas

-6.85104, -78.05252

Visited date: 3 December 2022

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



Buff-bridled Inca-finch



Yellow-faced Parrotlet

## Jaén – Bosque de Yanahuyanca

[-5.68354, -77.63706](#)

**Visited dates:** 13-15 December 2022

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

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



**Little Inca-finch**



**Northern Slaty-antshrike**

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

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



## Department of Amazonas

-5.85638, -77.9842

### Abra Barro Negro

-6.71381, -77.85427

Visited dates: 3-4 December 2022

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



Chayapoyas Antpitta



Koepcke's Screech-owl

### Leymebamba

-6.72469, -77.79839

Visited date: 4-5 December 2022

We continued to Leymebamba, where we drove into the nice Cañon Condor (-6.758087, -77.802544). We birded the morning here and a bit of the afternoon, but winds got stronger again and only the morning was ok. We heard quite many *Hooded Tinamous*, heard and observed *Grey-breasted*

**Mountain-toucan** (quite abundant here too), **Golden-headed Quetzal** and were finally able to see a **Slaty-backed Nightingale-thrush**. We couldn't find any of our main bird targets that are sometimes seen here: **Red-hooded Tanager**, **Rufous-backed Treehunter** and **Rufous-winged Tyrannulet**.

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

## Amazilia Bioreserva

[-6.4139, -77.8694](#)

**Visited date:** 5 December 2022

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

## Huembo Lodge

[-5.85638, -77.9842](#)

**Visited dates:** 5-6 December 2022

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

As we arrived around noon, and it was way too hot to have any activity at the hummingbird feeders (40S p.p. at the Huembo Lodge). Santos was kind enough to tell us the male at the lodge only had one spatula, and it was better to visit the other feeders in the private 'Reserva Privada Santos Montenegro', which he owns as well. The set-up is a bit better at the latter, so we would advise to

visit that feeder. You still have to walk down to the Huembo Lodge to find Santos and pay the fee (30S p.p.). You then have to walk up (starting here: [-5.855641, -77.985211](#)) all the way to the feeders ([-5.854114, -77.984607](#)). We observed 1 amazingly cool looking male **Marvelous Spatuletail** (e), and a younger male with small tail feathers. Other hummers present were, in order of abundance: **Sparkling Violetear**, **Chestnut-breasted Coronet**, **White-bellied Hummingbird**, **Lesser Violetear**, **Purple-throated Sunangel**, **Bronzy Inca** and **Violet-fronted Hummingbird**.



Purple-throated Sunangel



Marvelous Spatuletail

## San Lorenzo Trail

[-17.89034, -63.17963](#)

Visited date: TO BE VISITED IN 2023

## La Esperanza/ Bosque del Toro

[-5.65458, -77.91425](#)

Visited dates: 9-13 December 2022

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



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

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

We will return next year and make sure to have 2 guides (who have cleaned the trail the day before) and a horse for our stuff for the long hike!

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

## Bosque Fundo Alto Nieva

-5.67081, -77.76299

**Visited date:** 7 December 2022

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

The **Rusty-tinged Antpitta** (e) was waiting at the feeding station, which was promising. Wilmer put all the worms there and within 1 minute the individual had come and gone, moving too much for a picture as it was just picking all the worms right away. There was no second chance as there were only a few worms left, which were for the next Antpitta. It took some time, but then we got astonishing views of one of the most incredible Antpittas, the **Ochre-fronted Antpitta** (e). This one took its time, which allowed for prolonged observations and photos. The Rusty-tinged Antpitta even came up to this feeding station, attracted by our voices and looking for another meal. Including the walking we were one hour in, and that was that for the guiding apparently, as Wilmer said he had things to do and left again to the farm.

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



**Rusty-tinged Antpitta**



**Ochre-fronted Antpitta**

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

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



**Peruvian Racket-tail**



**Golden-eyed Flowerpiercer**

## Llanteria

**Visited date:** TO BE VISITED IN 2023

## Bosque de Alto Mayo

**Visited date:** TO BE VISITED IN 2023

## Aguas Verdes – Arena Blanco feeders

**[-5.68354, -77.63706](#)**

**Visited date:** 8 December 2022

Reserve your visit via WhatsApp with the owner Norbil (+51 925 702 580, Spanish/some English). You are then welcome between 06.00-18.00 and the price is 50S p.p. To get there turn off the main road in the village and turn left ([-5.68509, -77.63254](#)) going over a small concrete plate serving as a bridge. Then continue straight until you reach the entrance of the garden ([-5.68354, -77.63706](#)). As we visited Fundo Alto Nieva the day before, it was nice to have such a nice reception for a decent price here. What a difference! The gate was open well before 06.00, and one of the sons was already waiting at the corn feeders when we walked in. He sat us down (if you photograph, don't go up but be sure to take the ground level) and put the corn in. We waited for about half an hour before a



**Little Tinamou** with a chick walked up. Some **Grey-fronted Doves** and **White-tipped Doves** joined the party, and not much later they were all chased away by a group of **Rufous-breasted Wood-quails**. The **Cinereous Tinamou** only called in the distance and also didn't show at the Tanager feeder in the back of the yard, where it sometimes shows too.

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

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

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



Rufous-breasted Wood-quail



Rufous-crested Coquette

## Department of Piura

TO BE VISITED IN 2023

## Department of Lambayeque

TO BE VISITED IN 2023

## Department of San Martin

TO BE VISITED IN 2023

## Department of Huánuco

TO BE VISITED IN 2023

## Department of Pasco

TO BE VISITED IN 2023

## Madre de Dios

TO BE VISITED IN 2023

### You made it! Thank you for reading 😊

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

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All observations made by us in Peru can be found on Observation.org. We observed a total of about 556 bird species and 16 mammal species in Peru. Click here for the: [total bird list](#), [total mammal list](#) or [the total species list](#).

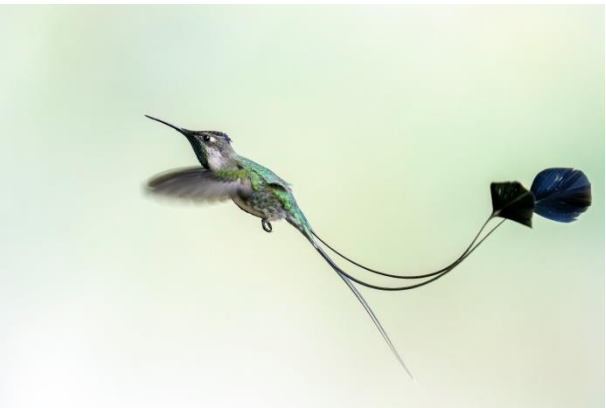
Our Top 10	Birds	Mammals
1	Marvelous Spatuletail	Humpback Whale
2	Long-whiskered Owlet	Bryde's Whale
3	Buff-fronted Owl	Taruca
4	Rufous-crested Coquette	Eastern Lowland Olingo
5	Ochre-fronted Antpitta	Bicolor-spined Porcupine
6	Wire-crested Thorntail	Andean Saddle-back Tamarin
7	Buff-bridled Inca-finch	Black Agouti
8	Johnson's Tody-flycatcher	Vicugna
9	Peruvian Racket-tail	Northern Mountain Viscacha
10	White-cheeked Cotinga	White-tailed Deer

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**Sparkling Violetear**



**Marvelous Spatuletail**



**American Kestrel**



**Ochre-fronted Antpitta**



**Puno Antpitta**



**Andean Cock-of-the-Rock**