

ITINERARY
**PERU'S MAGNETIC NORTH:
SPATULETAILS, OWLET LODGE & MORE**
June 15 - 27, 2024



The Long-whiskered Owlet is found only in a few places near Abra Patricia, Peru. We've had very good views of these unusual owls on recent tours. Photograph by participant Robert McNab.

We include here information for those interested in the 2024 Field Guides Peru's Magnetic North: Spatuletails, Owlet Lodge & More tour:

- a general introduction to the tour
- a description of the birding areas to be visited on the tour
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day's birding outings

These additional materials will be made available to those who register for the tour:

- an annotated list of the birds recorded on a previous year's Field Guides trip to the area, with comments by guide(s) on notable species or sightings (may be downloaded from our web site)
- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

Marvelous Abra Patricia is situated in one of the loveliest areas of Peru's northern Andes. One is ineluctably drawn to these knife ridges even if never having experienced their distinct pleasures—just consider the many intriguing exploratory narratives that have originated in this area alone! Since 2006 Field Guides has offered birders the opportunity to get to the departments of Amazonas and San Martin to experience the beauty and excitement of an astonishing array of fabulous birds—surely the most marvelous of which (among the most likely ones) is—well, the Marvelous Spatuletail,

Loddigesia mirabilis, the most outlandishly ornamented of hummingbirds! Frequenting the semi-humid montane scrub on the west side of the east slope, an adult male *Loddigesia* is truly a wonder.

Unlike other portions of the Peruvian Andes, we will not be at high elevations here (chances are you will not need to worry about altitude sickness, unless you are especially susceptible even at elevations around 8000 feet). Yet the rolling beauty of these mountains, most of them unmolested as they fall away to the east, is captivating. The temperature is often perfect, and at this time of year we should experience the best the dry season has to offer in terms of pleasant birding and passable trails. After a night in Lima and two in Moyobamba, we'll be headquartered at the (Long-whiskered) Owllet Lodge—yes, you read that correctly!

Birds are plentiful here in this Important Bird Area, an impressive variety of which are endemic, threatened, or recently described (within the past 40 years) and a preponderance of which are scarce or lovely—or both. That of course makes the area thrilling. Species we'll target during our week-long sample include such legendary ones as Royal Sunangel, Ecuadorian Piedtail, Speckle-breasted Piculet, Equatorial Graytail, Ochre-fronted, Chestnut, and Rusty-tinged antpittas, Bar-winged Wood-Wren, Yellow-scarfed Tanager, and Johnson's (Lulu's) Tody-Flycatcher. We even have an excellent chance of hearing, and a reasonable chance of seeing, the bizarre Long-whiskered Owllet, that mythical denizen of stunted montane forest that was first mist-netted on the night of August 23, 1976 and seen only in 2007 for the first time outside a mist-net. On multiple recent trips we have had unbelievably good looks at a bird less than 15 feet away! These were some of the most electrifying birding experiences for everyone. Seeing it again will depend on a number of variables—weather, moon, responsiveness, strategy, etc.—so although we may well miss seeing it, missing rarities on this tour will never distract us since there are many more widespread species to enchant us, gaudy birds such as Golden-headed and Crested quetzals, Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, Scaled Fruiteater, Andean Cock-of-the-rock, and Red-hooded, Vermilion, White-capped, Grass-green, Orange-eared, Yellow-throated, and Yellow-scarfed tanagers.

Based on our experience the past several years, we continue to include areas near Tarapoto and Moyobamba that have an array of additional species, some of which are especially interesting, like the recently described Mishana Tyrannulet, the recently-described Painted Manakin (part of the Striped Manakin complex), the scarce Blackish Pewee, and the seldom-seen Dotted Tanager.

This tour may be combined with the Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru I tour that takes place from June 26 – July 5, 2024.



The other main player on this tour is the Marvelous Spatuletail. This tiny bird with the extravagant tail-plumes is found in a small area of Peru, and we will visit one of the best places to see it. Photograph by participant Sid England.

We want to be sure you are on the right tour! Below is a description of the physical requirements of the tour. If you are concerned about the difficulty, please contact us about this and be sure to fully explain your concerns. We want to make sure you have a wonderful time with us, so if you are uncomfortable with the requirements, just let us know and we can help you find a better fitting tour! Field Guides will not charge you a change or cancellation fee if you opt out within 10 days of depositing.



Many of the trails we'll take are steep, and could be muddy. This group is on the Monkey Trail at Waqanki Lodge.
Photograph by participant Cliff Hensel.

About the Physical Requirements & Pace:

- **TRAILS:** *This tour involves a great deal of hiking.* Near Owlet Lodge, we will hike three miles in a morning at an easy pace at moderate elevation (8000 ft). Rain is always possible, and trails may be muddy. Much of the tour will be walking along roads with moderate traffic; this is unavoidable, but we will try to minimize our exposure to traffic as much as possible. We will also spend time standing and waiting for birds to come in, so be prepared to be on your feet quite a bit. **You must be in reasonably good shape to do this tour.**
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** There are some steep trails in the mountains here, as well as uneven footing or slippery rocks. We will be owling, and this may require walking such trails in the dark. Be sure to bring your flashlight!
- **PACE:** Most days, we will have breakfast at 5:00 a.m., but some days will start by 4:00 a.m., and on a few days, after owling, we may not reach our lodging until as late as 10:00 p.m. We will have several afternoons when we'll have time for a siesta.
- **ELEVATION:** We will reach altitudes of more than 8000 feet on this tour, but most of our birding will be below 7500 feet.
- **WEATHER:** The climate in the lowlands is warm and humid near Tarapoto and Moyobamba, with mid-day temperatures in the 80s or 90s °F. The temperature in the Andes varies with altitude and weather, ranging from the 80s °F at midday on a sunny day at Afluente to the upper 40s °F at dawn or on cloudy days at the higher altitudes. We are likely to encounter rain on the east slope of the Andes.
- **VEHICLE SEATING:** So that each participant has equal opportunity during our travel, we employ a seat rotation system on all tours. Participants will need to be flexible enough to maneuver to the back of the vehicle on occasion. Those who experience motion sickness will need to bring adequate medication for the duration of the tour, as we are not able to reserve forward seats for medical conditions.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** Proper bathrooms are limited to our lodges and a few select stops at birding sites on certain days. When not near these, participants must be prepared to make comfort stops in nature.

- **OPTING OUT:** Where we are staying multiple days in the same lodging, participants can easily opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day. This will not be possible on days when we are changing locations, however, but on those days there is the option of remaining on the bus.

If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don't hesitate to contact our office. If they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with one of the guides.

The number one priority is announced in the tour title: Marvelous Spatuletail. We want everyone to see that bird well. Currently the best site for the Spatuletail is the ECOAN-administered Spatuletail Center at Huembo, at about 7200 feet. There, Santos Montenegro—the Peruvian who discovered the first lek of these hummers—maintains feeders for the Spatuletail as well as 14 other species (to date).

Our more general purpose is for all to see well and enjoy a rich diversity of species. Emphasis will be given to rare and endemic birds special to the Peruvian east slope (especially the Long-whiskered Owllet) and to learn about representative groups of Neotropical birds, such as hummingbirds (a potential list of 59 species!). This trip does not require birding expertise, but given the incredible diversity of difficult groups such as tyrant flycatchers and furnariids, some previous Neotropical birding experience is helpful. But with the expanse of intact montane forest we enjoy, part of the purpose is simply to see marvelous Abra Patricia in an enjoyable birding format.

About the Principal Birding Area



Mayo Valley—Our home for the first two days of birding. We'll be based out of a basic, but comfortable, lodge near the town of Moyobamba. This is a region set about 3000 feet elevation in the very pleasant broad valley of the Mayo River, which flows southeast into the Huallaga, one of the three main tributaries of the Amazon. This valley is high enough to have comfortable temperatures overnight, but is home to a rather Amazonian avifauna with elements of Andean foothill species sprinkled in. We will visit a locally-managed forest reserve at the foot of an isolated peak jutting up from the floor of the valley, Morro de Calzada, on one day to see nightbirds and also explore a patch of white sand forest and "campo rupestre" type habitat that is home to several open country birds such as Rusty-backed Antwren, Cinereous-breasted Spinetail, Yellow Tyrannulet, and Stripe-necked and Pearly-vented tody-tyrants. Our lodge, Waqanki, has become quite renowned for its fine hummingbird feeders and trails through some taller foothill forest where rare species such as Chestnut-throated Spinetail, Fiery-throated Fruiteater, and Black-and-white Tody-Flycatcher may be found. Nearby, rice fields and marshes along blackwater streams may provide birds such as Spotted Rail, Limpkin, Black-billed Seed-Finch, and the rare and local Pale-eyed Blackbird.

Humid Forests of the Eastern Andes—Our route takes us over the eastern cordillera near its northern end, cresting at Abra Patricia at the relatively low elevation of 7600 feet. While areas along the road have been deforested, sizable areas of forest do remain adjacent to the road, whereas untouched slopes and valleys extend for miles in some areas.

The most distinctive habitat is the stunted cloudforest along knifelike ridges on the east slope. This is the home of relatively few species, but these include the Long-whiskered Owllet (just to bird in the area haunted by this bizarre little owl is a megathrill; to sleep in the area is virtually heaven!), Cinnamon Screech-Owl, Royal Sunangel, Bicolored Antvireo (unlikely), Ochre-fronted Antpitta, Cinnamon-breasted Tody-Tyrant (these guys can be really tough!), and Bar-winged Wood-Wren (this one is usually easy). Upslope, in the area of taller forest, specialties include the recently described Johnson's (Lulu's) Tody-Flycatcher, Yellow-scarfed Tanager, and three additional antpittas (we have a fighting chance): Rusty-tinged, Chestnut, and Rusty-breasted (the taxon *leymebambae*, disjunct and quite distinctive by voice from the nominate population). Speckle-chested Piculet and Inca Flycatcher occur over a wider range of elevation, while the rare

Chestnut-crowned Gnateater has been seen on several of our tours. Rufous-vented, White-crowned, and Trilling tapaculos and Chestnut-breasted Wrens call from the dense understory, challenging us to lure them out. Black-bellied (Huallaga) Tanager is spreading into the foothills and occurs right along the road near Aguas Verdes (even up to Afluente), where we have also seen the lovely Yellow-crested Tanager. Happily, there will be some relaxed visits to hummingbird feeders where we can sit and wait for the action to come to us.

While we will have our minds on the above species, we will be spending much time simply birding in beautiful forest habitat. Some of the species we have seen here over our cumulative trips to the area include Torrent Duck, Black-and-chestnut Eagle, Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle, Orange-breasted Falcon, Many-spotted and Sword-billed hummingbirds, Ecuadorian Piedtail, Wire-crested Thorntail, Emerald-bellied Puffleg, Amethyst Woodstar, Versicolored Barbet, Chestnut-tipped Toucanet, Black-mandibled Toucan, Lanceolated Monklet, Tyrannine, Strong-billed, and Tschudi's woodcreepers, Black-and-white and Black-throated tody-tyrants, Ecuadorian Tyrannulet, Olive-chested Flycatcher, Rufous-tailed Tyrant, Yellow-cheeked Becard, Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, Andean Cock-of-the-rock, Amazonian Umbrellabird, Chestnut-crested Cotinga, Scarlet-breasted and Scaled fruit eaters, Golden-winged Manakin, Yellow-breasted and Rufous-rumped antwrens, Equatorial Graytail (rare), Black-billed Treehunter, Gray-mantled Wren, White-eared Solitaire, (Andean) Slaty Thrush, Pale-eyed Thrush, Chestnut-breasted and Blue-naped chlorophonias, Drab and Black-eared hemispingus, White-capped, Red-hooded, Vermilion, Golden-eared, Blue-browed, Metallic-green, Green-throated (Straw-backed), and Yellow-throated tanagers, Golden-collared Honeycreeper, and Scarlet-rumped (Subtropical) and Mountain caciques.



The Speckle-faced Parrot is found along the Andes from Venezuela to Bolivia, but within this large range it is uncommon. We've seen it well in previous years. Photograph by participant Bob Speare.

Utcubamba slopes—Toward the end of the tour we'll spend a day in Spatuletail country, on the upper flank of the Utcubamba drainage, which flows into the Marañón River to the west. Much of the habitat we seek is the ecotone between the humid forests to the east and the drier scrubland of the rainshadowed Utcubamba, and happily, we can easily reach it from the highway; this hummer occurs in small patches of disturbed forest and at the Huembo Center feeders. At first it is hard to believe that the racquets are all part of one bird, but then the happy reality sets in. Although the forest in the Rio Chido drainage is degraded and remnant on the drier slope, there are some other nice birds in the vicinity, such as Speckle-faced Parrot, Purple-throated Sunangel, Little, White-bellied, and Purple-collared woodstars, Rufous-capped Antshrike, and Baron's Spinetail. The Huembo Spatuletail Center perched above the Rio Chido features a number of hummingbird feeders; we will visit this site in hopes of seeing an adult male Spatuletail "con cola" and numerous other species of hummers as well.

Cordillera Escalera—We reach the region by way of the airport in the city of Tarapoto, which sits much lower than other sites on this tour route. Above the city one can see a low, but steep, mountain range that separates Tarapoto from the

Amazon Basin proper, the Cordillera Escalera ("Staircase Range"). This ridge is an outlier of the Andes, and as such is home to an avifauna rather distinct from that we will have just seen farther west. We'll have a morning to explore this avifauna, and hope to catch up with species such as Koepcke's Hermit, Cliff Flycatcher, Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo, White-breasted Wood-Wren, and the very local Dotted Tanager and Plumbeous Euphonia. We will visit a small reserve with hummingbird feeders and a fine trail into some virgin foothill forest before having a picnic lunch and returning to Tarapoto to pack and prepare for our flight to Lima.

One could spend weeks in this area and not exhaust its potential; we have selected an amount of time that we believe gives us a good chance of seeing many terrific birds. *Your checklist is just short of comprehensive in order to give you an idea of the remarkable number of possibilities the area holds.* However, in studying for the trip, you would do best to study the species that we encountered the last four years, as noted on the triplists for those tours, the specialties of the area, and the species you are especially interested in. For another source, you might consult Thomas Valqui's helpful book, *Where to Watch Birds in Peru* (2004), mentioned on our tour reference list. His area lists are useful at highlighting some of the more significant species. And by all means, take advantage of having available the *Birds of Peru* (2007; revised 2010) to prepare for the trip!



The Rusty-tinged Antpitta is a range-restricted endemic from the same area where the Long-whiskered Owlet is found. We'll hope to find this shy forest-dweller and get a look as good as we have had on recent tours.
 Photograph by participant Myles McNally.

Itinerary for Peru's Magnetic North: Spatuletails, Owlet Lodge & More

Note: Although it is difficult to be flexible with a tour, especially a short one, we will try where possible to make changes depending on our birding success, to allow more time where it can be best spent. Thus, we might end up emphasizing one area more than another. Whatever we do, it will be close to the following:

Day 1, Sat, 15 Jun. Arrival in Lima. Flights to Lima typically depart from the US late afternoon or evening and arrive into Lima from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. Because these flights arrive late and our flight to Tarapoto may require an early departure (depending on flight schedules, as early as a 6:00am flight), we urge you to select a flight that arrives early or else come a day early in order to rest up before our flight tomorrow morning. Our office can help you with reservations for air and hotel. Please be sure we know your arrival plans if you book your own flights.

You will get your passport stamped at Immigration, claim your luggage, and proceed through Customs. You can exit the baggage area and push your own luggage cart to the Wyndham Costa del Sol Hotel within the airport complex (ask any one of a number of English-speaking airport information assistants for directions). As you check into the hotel, please submit your passport for copying (a requirement of most hotels in Peru) and ask if there is a message waiting for you regarding the plan for tomorrow (if there is no message when you check in, the guide will reach you by phone). The guide will inform you of our plans for our flight to Tarapoto in the morning and of what time to be ready.

If you have come a day early and are already at the hotel, your guides will contact you about plans. Night at the Wyndham Costa del Sol Hotel, Lima International Airport.

Day 2, Sun, 16 Jun. Flight to Tarapoto. Your guides will meet you in the hotel lobby, if not at the buffet breakfast, and we'll go together to check in to our flight. Today will be a travel day; we will fly from Lima to Tarapoto on a morning flight, meet up with our bus and crew, and grab lunch in town. After lunch, we'll head northwest to the town of Moyobamba. Along this route, we'll make a brief stop at a canyon under the highway where there is a colony of Oilbirds before arriving in Moyobamba, situated on a large plain with rice fields and remnant moriche palm savanna but with the foothills of the Andean east slope in sight from our lodge. Tropical Screech-Owls usually serenade us on the grounds. Night in Moyobamba.

Day 3, Mon, 17 Jun. The Mayo Valley. This morning we will bird the Río Mayo valley, a broad plain at about 2500 feet elevation that has rather a unique avifauna. We'll likely begin before dawn to try for some nightbirds such as Rufous and Spot-tailed nightjars, with a chance for other species such as Blackish and Little nightjars and Striped Owl. The avifauna in the Mayo valley is mostly similar to lowland Amazonia, but with some open country elements (such as Black-faced Tanager, Russet-crowned Crane, Stripe-chested Tody-Tyrant, among others). The valley has a white sand soil, home to relict white sand forests (although it can be tough to find an intact stand) and there are many marshes. We know of some sites for the rare and local Black-billed Seed-Finch and Pale-eyed Blackbird (which is very poorly known in northern Peru) here. We'll also visit some woodland around Moyobamba, where an exciting mix of species awaits. High on the list of targets today will be the endemic Mishana Tyrannulet and the recently-described (2017!) Painted Manakin, but there are many lower foothill species to see here. We'll have lunch, and be sure to enjoy the amazing hummingbird feeders of our lodge, Waqanki. Night birding in the area can be spectacular, so we'll take full advantage as the weather, moon, and our energy permit! Night in Moyobamba.



The Mishana Tyrannulet might be passed off as just another "little flycatcher", but it is a Peruvian endemic that was only recently described, thus it is an important bird for us to find. We've had good luck with them near Moyobamba. Photograph by guide Jesse Fagan.

Day 4, Tue, 18 Jun. Mayo Valley and up to Abra Patricia. We'll have one more morning to enjoy the rich diversity of the amazing Mayo valley, probably walking the trails around Waqanki at a comfortable pace or visiting a site or two we didn't see yesterday. Our departure time from Waqanki will dictate if we will be able to stop to bird en route to our next lodge. Night at the Owlet Lodge.

Days 5-9, Wed-Sun, 19-23 Jun. Cloudforests of San Martin and Amazonas. Five days here will allow us to visit all the areas described in the itinerary, but the sequence will not unfold in necessarily the order given here due to the weather. We will remain flexible in order to maximize our possibilities and work the area allowing the weather and flock activity to direct our birding. We may put off taking a trail, for example, or choose to change the evening we'll tentatively select to visit Garcia Ridge because the night sky is cloudy or the moon is not right. All our humid east slope birding is planned out of the lodge. Late on our last day at the lodge, we'll head to Pomacochas. Nights at the Owlet Lodge.

Abra Patricia. This *abra* (Quechua for "a pass") is the ridge on which our lodge perches, separating the drainages of the Utcubamba River to the west from the Mayo River to the east, as well as the departments of Amazonas (west) from San Martin (east). We'll spend two mornings birding the upper forest (from road and by trails) and down the east slope as far as the stunted ridgetop forest (6400 feet) and possibly lower (depending on unpredictable weather). Some days, we'll concentrate on the highest elevations around the pass, weather permitting, and explore a couple of forest trails that will give us our best chance for antpittas and other interior forest species. We'll always have the flexibility of returning for lunch or having lunch along the roadside. One or more evenings (and/or early mornings) we'll want to try for the Long-whiskered Owlet, White-throated Screech-Owl, Rufous-banded Owl, and perhaps Lyre-tailed Nightjar. Finally, our lodge has clusters of hummingbird feeders around most of the buildings, and we will be sure to check them for the likes of Sword-billed Hummingbird, White-bellied Woodstar, Emerald-bellied Puffleg, and others.



Little Tinamou is one of the species we should see in the Aguas Verdes area. We'll visit a private reserve where these shy birds and others come to feeders. Photograph by participant Myles McNally.

Aguas Verdes. This area is basically the transition from the floor of the Mayo Valley to the foothills of the main Andes. The bridge over the Rio Aguas Verdes is a major landmark and a great place to start as we explore the birdlife of this zone. The river under the bridge is fast-running here and is home to White-capped Dippers and Torrent Ducks, its slopes above the bridge sometimes frequented by a pair of Orange-breasted Falcons. The habitat along the road is excellent for fruiteaters, hummingbirds, the endemic Black-bellied (Hualлага) Tanager, Andean Cock-of-the-rock, and many birds that move in mixed-species flocks. Nearby is a private reserve called Arenas Blancas ("white sands", and

indeed, it is home to a rather unique forest on white sand), which has only recently been established by an enthusiastic local who has crafted a blind for watching Little and Cinereous tinamous, Rufous-breasted Wood-Quail, Gray-cowled Wood-Rail, and Orange-billed Sparrows, as well as a fantastic hummingbird garden, with his own two hands! We'll be sure to spend a full morning here.

Afluente. We'll leave early one morning to bird the extremely rich area known as Afluente, San Martin's foothill cloudforest. This may be one of everybody's favorite sites to bird, the diversity is so great and the "mega-flocks" so stunning. We'll be looking to see Ecuadorian Piedtail, Equatorial Graytail, Rufous-rumped, Yellow-breasted, and Ash-throated antwrens, Scaled Fruiteater, Gray-mantled Wren, Golden-collared Honeycreeper, Vermilion and Orange-eared tanagers, and Versicolored Barbet to mention a few, but possibilities are immense and include numerous mixed-species flocks. Chances are, you'll suffer a sore neck from looking up at these active, overwhelming flocks by the end of the day! A recently established hummingbird feeding station has been a great place to see rarities such as Ecuadorian Piedtail, Many-spotted Hummingbird, and occasionally Tawny-bellied Hermit.



The Bar-winged Wood-Wren has a small range in the mountains of northern Peru and southern Ecuador. Alto Nievo is one of the places where we'll likely see this little sprite. Photograph by participant Nancy Buck.

Alto Nieva. In the subtropical zone of the road—the magical area around 5600 feet—is an area previously known to birders as “Garcia,” where Long-whiskered Owlet and Ochre-fronted Antpitta were first found, and still is a great place to see them both! This area offers species both more subtropical in their haunts as well as species that prefer the stunted forest along the ridgelines. This is the area where we'll see some of the high priority birds such as Rusty-tinged Antpitta, Cinnamon-breasted Tody-Tyrant (tough), and Bar-winged Wood-Wren. In this atmospheric habitat of white sand stunted forest festooned with moss and epiphytic growth, the flocks have a different makeup from those lower down and include such birds as Spotted Barbtail, Blue-winged Mountain-, Vermilion, and White-capped tanagers. The establishment of an excellent hummingbird feeding station here has upped the chances of seeing some of the more difficult species such as Royal Sunangel, Greenish Puffleg, and Rufous-vented Whitetip, among other species. The Alto Nieva area has become one of the most reliable spots to see the owlet, but we may also luck upon the scarce Cinnamon Screech-Owl, and other mysterious creatures of the night.

Huembo. Huembo is the most accessible area for the Spatuletail. We will depart after an early breakfast and drive the 45 min to the reserve. Here, we will spend part of this day looking for the “spats,” and particularly a fine adult male Spatuletail, along with a variety of additional montane species of somewhat drier habitats than we've seen at Abra Patricia. The male Spatuletail has only four tail feathers, two of which are rackets that bob in an animated fashion on the ends of long, bare shafts—truly a sight to behold! We will also stop at the shores of the impressive lake Pomacochas

("Lake of the Puma"), which forms a fine backdrop to the dusty little town of Florida de Pomacochas. Here, we hope to add a few species to the list such as Plumbeous Rail, Andean Lapwing, Pantanal Snipe, Rufous-capped Antshrike, Little Ground-Tyrant, Torrent Tyrannulet, Red-breasted Meadowlark, and perhaps Grassland Yellow-Finch. We'll return to our lodge in the late afternoon for dinner.

Day 10, Mon, 24 Jun. From Abra Patricia to Tarapoto. We'll bird our way back to the Tarapoto area today, planning our daily activities based on any birds we may have missed in the area. Most likely, we will head down into the Mayo Valley to visit some wetlands and open habitats for a suite of rare species to be found there: Spotted Rail, Rufous-sided Crake, Pale-eyed Blackbird, and Black-billed Seed-Finch, among others. After a picnic lunch, we will drive on to Tarapoto, where we'll explore the area in the evening for birds of interest. Night in Tarapoto.



Koepcke's Hermit is not as flashy as many of the hummingbirds we will see, but this is a Peruvian endemic found in scattered locations along the lower elevations of the Andes. We will visit an area near Tarapoto where we may be able to find this rarity, as well as many other interesting birds. Photograph by participant Becky Hansen.

Day 11, Tue, 25 Jun. Cordillera Escalera. This morning we'll leave early to visit an outlying ridge known as the Cordillera Escalera on the road to Yurimaguas. This is the ridge visible to the northeast of Tarapoto, and the road has only recently been paved. We will ascend to about 3000 feet, where there is a tunnel, and bird both sides as dawn breaks. Here we have a chance of seeing a wide variety of species, including Golden-collared Toucanet, Dusky-chested and Cliff flycatchers, Blackish Pewee, and Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo, among many others. A reserve dedicated to the Koepcke's Hermit, and with an impressive hummingbird garden, is on our route and we'll spend several hours watching the feeders, walking the trails through the foothill forest (some steep bits!) to search for mixed-species flocks and Golden-headed Manakin leks, and finally enjoying our picnic lunch here. After lunch, we will visit a stunted white sand scrub ridge to see if we can lure in Mishana Tyrannulet (if we haven't already seen it), Short-billed Honeycreeper, Dotted Tanager, or Plumbeous Euphonia. We'll return to our lodge in the afternoon where we can explore the grounds some more. Night in Tarapoto.

Day 12, Wed, 26 June. Huallaga Valley and flight to Lima. This morning we will head south along the mighty Huallaga River and bird a side-track in semi-deciduous woodland. After as many hours of birding as our afternoon flight permits, we'll return to Tarapoto where we'll check in for our flight back to Lima. Participants may continue tonight on late evening flights home or spend the night in Lima (at an extra cost), and fly home the morning of Day 13. *If you need a room for this*

night, let us know since it's not included in the tour fee, please contact our office; the tour manager will be happy to book any extras for you. Night in Lima or en route home.

Day 13, Thu, 27 Jun. Arrival home. ¡Que les vaya bien!

About Your Guides

Dan Lane, the “Barbet,” was barely out of diapers when his love for birds manifested itself. He was an active birder in his home state of New Jersey until he graduated from college in 1995 and moved to Louisiana to pursue a master's studying Neotropical birds at Louisiana State University. By 1999, he'd received his degree and participated in three LSU expeditions to Peru and Ecuador, discovering a new species of bird (Scarlet-banded Barbet) along the way. His increasing experience with the Peruvian avifauna, coupled with having the luck of being "in the right place at the right time," landed Dan coauthorship on the recently published *Birds of Peru*—alongside his childhood heroes Ted Parker and John O'Neill. Meanwhile, his continuing fieldwork has resulted in uncovering additional new species to science (although writing these up, sadly, takes far more time than finding the birds, and Dan's way behind schedule).

Dan's interests in birds also include illustration, bird vocalizations, and bird biogeography and evolution. He's pleased to be working with Field Guides and enjoys the friendship and fun the Field Guides family provides. His favorite areas are largely in tropical Latin America, but on occasion he has led tours to other corners of the globe and of course (somewhat) regularly birds near his home in Louisiana.

Jesse Fagan (a.k.a. the Motmot or just "Mot") has been passionate about birds since his teens, when he had an encounter with a flying Pileated Woodpecker.

He has birded extensively throughout North America and in 2016 published the [*Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Northern Central America*](#) (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) with co-author Oliver Komar and illustrators Robert Dean and Peter Burke. In addition, Mot has experience in many other areas of Central and South America, Europe, and Africa. He likes to think he can bird anywhere at any time and still show you the birds, but most importantly, a good time.

Jesse holds a B.S. and an M.S. in mathematics from Texas Tech University. He is currently living in Lima, Peru with his wife, Rocio.

*“Dan Lane is superior in all aspects as a guide—excellent recognition of bird sounds, patient in drawing birds in for views, able to relate to group members with relaxed courtesy and helpfulness. We rate Field Guides the highest.”
J.N. & E. H., Amazonian Ecuador:
Sacha Lodge*

*“Jesse is a fantastic guide. He really knows calls, infinitely patient in getting everyone on the difficult birds, fun to be with.” L. F.
Colombia: Bogota, the Magdalena Valley, and Santa Marta.*

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for complete tour schedules for any of the guides; just click on a photo.

Financial Information

FEE: \$6675 from Lima

DEPOSIT: \$675 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: December 18, 2023

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$625 (Some single rooms are available at the Owlet Lodge, but singles share a spacious bathroom with a double.)

LIMIT: 12

All participants will be required to confirm they will have completed a full COVID vaccination course at least two weeks prior to the tour (which includes a booster for those eligible to have one). Note too, that many travel destinations may still require proof of vaccination for entry to bypass testing delays or quarantine, and that entry requirements for a destination can change at any time. Proof of a booster shot, too, may be a requirement for some travel destinations.

Other Things You Need to Know

TOUR MANAGER: The manager for this tour is Christine Boilard. Christine will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact her!

ACCOMMODATIONS: Our lodging will be in pleasant hotels (all with private baths, with the exception of the Owlet Lodge), the nicest to be found in the area. At the Abra Patricia ECOAN Lodge, or Owlet Lodge, there are three bungalows, each divided into two units, each of these with two rooms (a double and a single) that share one large, lovely bathroom with a hot-water shower. We will spend five nights at this lodge, right inside the reserve.

A NOTE ON ALTITUDE: We will reach altitudes of around 8000 feet on this tour, birding at that elevation throughout much of several different days. The highest hotel is Owlet Lodge, at about 7400 feet (five nights). We always bird at a measured pace at the higher elevations.

DOCUMENTS: A **passport** is necessary for US citizens to enter Peru. We recommend that your passport be valid for at least 6 months beyond the dates of your visit, as regulations vary from country to country, and are subject to change. Peru has replaced the former tourist card with an electronic visa, so you shouldn't have to worry about a loose paper anymore.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Peruvian consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. Some countries require a blank page for their stamp and as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: Field Guides is a full service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees.

Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.

LUGGAGE: **Limit your luggage to one medium-sized suitcase or duffel and a carry-on.** Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is **\$6675** for one person in double occupancy from Lima. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 11 (The Lima hotel on the night of Day 12 is not included in the tour fee, so please request an extra night if you do not plan to depart until Day 13.), all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through dinner on Day 12, the flights from Lima to Tarapoto and return, all ground transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Peru, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the tour is **\$625**. Six single rooms are available at the Owlet Lodge, but singles are required to share a common bathroom with the double sharing the unit. If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour

fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

TOUR LIMITS: Our limits are firm and we don't exceed the limit by one to accommodate a couple when only one space remains open.

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, please contact us at fieldguides.com/contact-us/. Our office will be in touch with you by email by the next business day (Mon-Fri) with instructions on how to complete our new electronic registration form and medical questionnaire. (We are no longer accepting the paper version.)

Please mail your **deposit of \$675** per person, or see <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/> for our Payment Options. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due **180 days** prior to departure, or **by December 18, 2023**. **We will bill you for the final payment at either 180 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.** Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

SMOKING: Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. If you smoke, please be sensitive to the group and refrain from smoking at meals, in vehicles, and in proximity to the group on trails and elsewhere.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Refund of deposit and payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 180 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 179 and 90 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable and non-transferable.

Our cancellation policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of that insurance is not refundable, so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airline's restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure. In most such cases, full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. Note this exception, however: If you have been advised pre-tour that there is a non-refundable portion of your tour fee no matter the reason for Field Guides cancellation of the tour, that portion will not be refunded. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE: We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, you acknowledge and agree that we will not issue a refund when cancellation occurs outside of our cancellation policy as published in the itinerary (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

US citizens will receive information from us regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance prior to, or within 24 hours of making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights and in some cases, other arrangements), pre-existing conditions are covered. You may purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/> and clicking the link to CSA. The CSA webpage also includes a contact number.

Currently we are unable to offer CSA insurance policies to residents of New York and Hawaii. We have had clients provide positive feedback after acquiring insurance thru InsureMyTrip (<https://www.insuremytrip.com/>) in the past, and would suggest that company as an alternative. When purchasing insurance with a company other than CSA,

you will want to understand whether the timing of your purchase will affect coverage before paying your first deposit. Insurance purchase requirements can vary from company to company, and such requirements could limit your options if you do not look into this until making your final payment for your tour. Please let us know if you have any questions about this.

Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

RESPONSIBILITY: For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. You acknowledge and agree that Field Guides Incorporated is not responsible for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

NCP 7/2020

01/23 DFL; peg; 1/23NC, peg

07/23 JFF; peg 11/23