



Field Guides Tour Report

CENTRAL PERUVIAN ENDEMICS: THE HIGH ANDES 2018

May 31, 2018 to Jun 16, 2018

Dan Lane & Dave Stejskal

For our tour description, itinerary, past triplists, dates, fees, and more, please [VISIT OUR TOUR PAGE](#).



One of the most-wanted birds of the tour was the Golden-backed Mountain-Tanager. This Peruvian endemic is found in a small area of high forest in the eastern Peruvian Andes, including Bosque Unchog. We had great looks at this beauty at a spot very near our camp. Photo by guide Dave Stejskal.

Field Guides has been guiding birding tours to Peru since our inception. Indeed, the first tour ever run at Field Guides back in June of 1985 was to Peru! Since then, we've set up quite a number of diverse offerings to this wonderful, rich country over the years, from the border with Ecuador in the north, south to the Bolivian border, and east into the wilds of western Amazonia. Our most popular offerings seem to be in the northern Andes and the southern Andes (think Marvelous Spatuletail/Long-whiskered Owlet and Machu Picchu/Abra Malaga), but the vast central Andes region has been relatively neglected all of these years. This expansive region in Peru (in Ancash, Huánuco, Pasco, and Junín departments) holds a high percentage of the total number of Peruvian endemics, a number of which can't be seen anywhere else in the world! But you've really got to want to see these birds in the intensely scenic, high Andean settings where they're found, in order to get through the high elevation hiking, camping (only two nights), and cold temperatures that are endemic to this itinerary. The physical demands of this tour necessitate our offering it less than annually. 2018 was the first time that we've run this tour in several years and, for me at least, it was certainly worth the wait!

Looking back at our tour together, I've come to the realization that I would retrace our steps on this tour for the scenery alone. Parque Nacional Huascarán was far more dramatic and beautiful than I had imagined. Even a couple of months removed from the trip, my mind is still swimming with our vistas of the Cordillera Blanca and the alpine habitats that surround it. And I doubt that I've been anywhere more beautiful than the Bosque Unchog area in Huánuco. The landscapes of Junín were only slightly less impressive.

Amidst these breathtaking places were the birds. Our time in Huascarán brought us a number of seldom-seen specialties, maybe foremost among them the local and scarce endemic White-cheeked Cotinga – which we saw incredibly well! Other birds in this park including such endemics as Black Metaltail, Ancash Tapaculo, Striated Earthreeper, Rusty-crowned Tit-Spintail, Plain-tailed Warbling-Finch, Rufous-backed Inca-Finch, and Rufous-eared Brushfinch. Non-endemics like Stripe-headed Antpitta, Giant Conebill, and Tit-like Dacnis added to our thorough enjoyment of this park.

Huánuco Department promised a lot of richness and diversity, and it delivered, despite some degradation to some of the accessible habitats that we visited. Our two days in the famous Carpish Tunnel/Paty Trail area on the eastern slope of the Andes east of the city really boosted our triplist – it was the first forest that we birded on the tour that wasn't Polylepis! Birds were plentiful, and we enjoyed some nice flock encounters, especially at the start of

the Paty Trail. We picked up a few more Central Peru endemics in the form of Bay and Chestnut antpittas, and Tschudi's and Rufous-vented tapaculos, Peruvian Tyrannulet, Unstreaked Tit-Tyrant, Inca Flycatcher, Peruvian Wren, and Yellow-scarfed Tanager. Then it was on to Bosque Unchog.

After seeing a Maricopa Audubon Society chapter program on the birds of Bosque Unchog presented by Ted Parker back when I was in high school in Phoenix in the 70's, I vowed that I had to get to this remote location in Peru to see those birds. It took me over 40 years to get here, but I certainly wasn't disappointed! We had close to two full days to hike the main trail and look for the several special birds found here, and I think we did quite well. Our one full day was excellent, scoring on Pardusco, Bay-vented Cotinga, and the stunning Golden-backed Mountain-Tanager in the same flock a couple of kilometers from our base camp! A short morning hike after breakfast produced our only brief looks of the rare Rufous-browed Hemispingus (or Mountain-Finch, actually) before we had to pack up camp and depart.

Junín Department was our last major venue of the tour and the clear highlight during our stay was Critically Endangered Junín Grebe. A larger boat than what we've used in the past certainly made this trip onto the lake more enjoyable for everyone – and so did a hot breakfast (with bacon!) back on shore once we landed again! We saw quite a bit in addition to the grebe in this high Andean basin, but nothing more memorable than our pre-dawn encounter with the local endemic race of Black Rail! Our trip back to Lima the following day was punctuated with endemics like Dark-winged Miner, White-bellied Cinclodes, and Junín Canastero as well as the likes of Diademed Sandpiper-Plover (with chicks!) and Gray-breasted Seedsnipe.

Our final full day was a welcome contrast to the chilly, thin air of the mountains when we visited Lomas de Lachay and the beautiful coastal environs of Paraiso north of Lima. A pair of Surf Cinclodes at the latter site provided our final Peruvian endemic!

With all of the high-elevation birding and hiking, chilly temps, plus a couple of nights of outfitted high-elevation camping at Bosque Unchog (can you really imagine doing it any other way?!), this great tour qualifies as one of our most 'adventurous' offerings in South America. The 'adventure' was undeniably mitigated by the attention and hard work of our dotting cooking/driving crew, to whom we should all be eternally grateful! Dan and I are also grateful to all of you who signed up for this special tour. We had a lot of fun birding and traveling with all of you, sharing all of that wonderful scenery and those birding memories of this seldom-visited sector of Peru. We hope that we can share another fabulous birding tour experience with all of you soon! Cheers, Dave

KEYS FOR THIS LIST

One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

BIRDS

Tinamidae (Tinamous)

BROWN TINAMOU (*Crypturellus obsoletus*) – Heard at breakfast at the start of the Paty Trail. [*]

ANDEAN TINAMOU (*Nothoprocta pentlandii*) – Dan and I thought that our chances of seeing this one at Lomas de Lachay were good - given the intel that we got from Dan's friend in Lima - but we had no idea that they'd be THAT common there!

CURVE-BILLED TINAMOU (*Nothoprocta curvirostris*) – A few lucky folks got this one briefly at the edge of a corn field on the ride up to Bosque Unchog.

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

ANDEAN GOOSE (*Oressochen melanopterus*) – Common at the high altitude wetlands throughout.

CRESTED DUCK (*Lophonetta specularioides*) [N]

TORRENT DUCK (*Merganetta armata*) – Most saw a few pairs of these along the river as we drove up into Pasco from Huanuco.

PUNA TEAL (*Spatula puna*)

BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Spatula discors*) – A single eclipse male along the shore of Lago Junin. [b]

CINNAMON TEAL (*Spatula cyanoptera*) – Unlike the above Blue-winged Teal, the birds that we saw were residents.

WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL (*Anas bahamensis*) – Only on our final day along the coast at Paraiso.

YELLOW-BILLED PINTAIL (*Anas georgica*) – Superficially similar to the next species, but the head and body of this one are concolor.

YELLOW-BILLED TEAL (OXYPTERA) (*Anas flavirostris oxyptera*) – Very common in the highland wetlands, the head of this one is much darker than the rest of the plumage. This and the next race to the south (nominated *flavirostris*) come into contact in n. Argentina; this contact zone might be worth some study since they seem to segregate and pair with their own 'race' there.

RUDDY DUCK (ANDEAN) (*Oxyura jamaicensis ferruginea*) [N]

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

WHITE-TUFTED GREBE (*Rollandia rolland*) – We found this one at both PN Huascarán and at Lago Junin.

GREAT GREBE (*Podiceps major*) – Dozens at Paraiso on our final day of the tour along the coast.

SILVERY GREBE (ANDEAN) (*Podiceps occipitalis juninensis*) – Seeing this one nearby on our Lago Junin boat trip day was certainly helpful when trying to pick out the next species!

JUNIN GREBE (*Podiceps taczanowskii*) – YESSSS!!!! One of the last major targets of this tour was this Critically Endangered endemic, flightless grebe (Jim's last grebe!!). Recent estimates put the adult population of this one somewhere south of 300 birds. Considering the multiple and ongoing threats that this grebe faces, its future isn't very bright, sadly. [E]

Phoenicopteridae (Flamingos)

CHILEAN FLAMINGO (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*) – From the coast up to the highest wetlands in the Andes.

Spheniscidae (Penguins)

HUMBOLDT PENGUIN (*Spheniscus humboldti*) – A couple of distant birds were scoped from the beach at Paraiso on the final day.

Sulidae (Boobies and Gannets)

PERUVIAN BOOBY (*Sula variegata*) – A few flybys on the final day along the coast.

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags).

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

Pelecanidae (Pelicans).

PERUVIAN PELICAN (*Pelecanus thagus*) – Only a few along the coast on the final day of birding.

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns).

COCOI HERON (*Ardea cocoi*) – One bird at Paraiso was a surprise there; it's quite rare along the coast of Peru.

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*)

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula thula*)

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*) – Including a couple of adults at Lago Junin.

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*) – Including a few high-elevation individuals.

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills).

PUNA IBIS (*Plegadis ridgwayi*) – Common in all of the highland wet areas, as well as along the coast at Paraiso.

BLACK-FACED IBIS (BRANICKII) (*Theristicus melanopis branickii*) – Several high-flying birds late in the afternoon at Conococha as we headed to our hotel in Carhuaz.

Cathartidae (New World Vultures).

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*)

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*)

ANDEAN CONDOR (*Vultur gryphus*) – Leslie spotted our first above Santa Eulalia on our first day of birding. Surprisingly scarce on this tour.

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (*Elanoides forficatus*) – Lovely.

CINEREOUS HARRIER (*Circus cinereus*) – We didn't see this one until we got to Lago Junin, which surprised me.

ROADSIDE HAWK (*Rupornis magnirostris*)

HARRIS'S HAWK (*Parabuteo unicinctus*)

VARIABLE HAWK (*Geranoaetus polyosoma*) – Many (most?) of the birds that we saw at high elevation were the old "Puna" Hawk.

BLACK-CHESTED BUZZARD-EAGLE (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus*) – Several good looks, including those close birds at Lomas de Lachay on the final day.

WHITE-THROATED HAWK (*Buteo albigula*) – We had a couple of these austral migrant raptors along the way.

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots).

BLACK RAIL (JUNIN) (*Laterallus jamaicensis tuerosi*) – WOWWW!!! That sure worked better than I had anticipated! I think we'll include that little exercise in future itineraries.

PLUMBEOUS RAIL (*Pardirallus sanguinolentus*) – A few excellent looks at this distinctive rail.

COMMON GALLINULE (*Gallinula galeata*)

GIANT COOT (*Fulica gigantea*) – At a few of our high-elevation lakes on the tour. [N]

SLATE-COLORED COOT (*Fulica ardesiaca*) – Especially abundant at Paraiso along the coast on our final day of birding.

Burhinidae (Thick-knees).

PERUVIAN THICK-KNEE (*Burhinus superciliaris*) – We found these along one stretch of the lower Lomas de Lachay entrance road on both of our visits there.

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets).

BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

Haematopodidae (Oystercatchers).

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus palliatus*)

BLACKISH OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus ater*) – A few birds mixed in with the more common American Oystercatchers at Paraiso on the final day.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

ANDEAN LAPWING (*Vanellus resplendens*)

PUNA PLOVER (*Charadrius alticola*) – A couple of birds at our picnic breakfast spot on the shore of Lago Junin were the only ones that we found.

SNOWY PLOVER (*Charadrius nivosus*) – At Paraiso on the final day.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) – A surprising number attempting to summer along the coast.

KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*) – At Paraiso only. The race here, *C.v. peruvianus*, is endemic to the west coast of S. America.

DIADEMED SANDPIPER-PLOVER (*Phegornis mitchellii*) – Some careful scanning of the bofedal at Marcapomacocha yielded some decent views of a couple of adults and at least two nearly-grown chicks.

Thinocoridae (Seedsnipes).

GRAY-BREASTED SEEDSNIPE (*Thinocorus orbignyianus*) – A few of these strange, cryptic shorebirds were spotted on our return drive from the pass above Marcapomacocha.

LEAST SEEDSNIPE (*Thinocorus rumicivorus*) – A few males at Lomas de Lachay provided some entertainment for the group.

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies).

WHIMBREL (HUDSONIAN) (*Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*)

RUDDY TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*)

SURFBIRD (*Calidris virgata*) – Impressive numbers for June were found on our last day at Paraiso.

SANDERLING (*Calidris alba*)

PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*Calidris melanotos*) – Most folks saw a pair of birds flush from near the boardwalk at Paraiso. An odd June record for the locale.

JAMESON'S SNIPE (*Gallinago jamesoni*) – Heard displaying pre-dawn both days at Bosque Unchog. [*]

PUNA SNIPE (*Gallinago andina*) – That first bird right next to the bus in Huascarán was an incredible sight!

WILSON'S PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus tricolor*) – A single adult female was out of place at Paraiso.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa melanoleuca*)

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa flavipes*)

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

ANDEAN GULL (*Chroicocephalus serranus*) – Almost daily in the highlands.

GRAY-HOODED GULL (*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*) – This species, and all of the other gulls and terns on the list after this one, were seen at Paraiso on our final day of birding.

GRAY GULL (*Leucophaeus modestus*)

FRANKLIN'S GULL (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) – A few over-summering here.

BELCHER'S GULL (*Larus belcheri*)

KELP GULL (*Larus dominicanus*)

INCA TERN (*Larosterna inca*)

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*) – Several among the more common Elegant Terns.

ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna paradisaea*) – A single bird was picked out on the beach and in flight with the other terns.

SOUTH AMERICAN TERN (*Sterna hirundinacea*) – A few adult birds on the beach.

ROYAL TERN (*Thalasseus maximus*) – Fairly regular here, according to the eBird data.

ELEGANT TERN (*Thalasseus elegans*)

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) [I]

SPOT-WINGED PIGEON (*Patagioenas maculosa*) – A single flyby at the Brown-flanked Tanager spot in Pasco.

CROAKING GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina cruziana*) – Mostly in the Lima area.

BARE-FACED GROUND-DOVE (*Metriopelia ceciliae*) – Several on our first day above Lima.

BLACK-WINGED GROUND-DOVE (*Metriopelia melanoptera*) – Only around Santa Eulalia on the first day at near Lago Junin. Surprisingly scarce.

WHITE-TIPPED DOVE (*Leptotila verreauxi*)

WHITE-THROATED QUAIL-DOVE (*Zentrygon frenata*) [*]

WEST PERUVIAN DOVE (*Zenaida meloda*)

EARED DOVE (*Zenaida auriculata*)

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

GROOVE-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) – Only in the Lima area.

Strigidae (Owls)

PERUVIAN PYGMY-OWL (*Glaucidium peruanum*) – A single bird on our first morning of birding.

BURROWING OWL (*Athene cucularia*) – At Lomas de Lachay on both visits there.

RUFIOUS-BANDED OWL (*Ciccaba albitarsis*) – Heard nightly at Bosque Unchog. [*]

SHORT-EARED OWL (*Asio flammeus*) – What a thrill it was to spot this one in the beams of the bus headlights as we made our way to the shore of Lago Junin early one morning!

Apodidae (Swifts)

ANDEAN SWIFT (*Aeronautes andecolus*) – Some great looks – but surprisingly scarce.

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

LESSER VIOLETEAR (*Colibri cyanotus*) – Only at the bottom of the Paty Trail.

SPARKLING VIOLETEAR (*Colibri coruscans*) – Stunning!

AMETHYST-THROATED SUNANGEL (*Heliangelus amethysticollis*) – Great views of this one along the Carpish Tunnel road.

SPECKLED HUMMINGBIRD (*Adelomyia melanogenys*)

LONG-TAILED SYLPH (*Aglaiocercus kingii*) – Nice looks along the Paty Trail.

BRONZE-TAILED COMET (*Polyonymus caroli*) – After a lot of searching, we finally found a responsive female high on the Santa Eulalia road on the first day! [E]

ANDEAN HILLSTAR (GREEN-HEADED) (*Oreotrochilus estella stolzmanni*) – The most remarkable sighting was seeing a male battling it out with a few Black-breasted Hillstars on the slopes above Lago Junin. There are very few records in eBird for this species in the Lago Junin basin.

BLACK-BREASTED HILLSTAR (*Oreotrochilus melanogaster*) – Fabulous looks at this endemic hummer at Lago Junin! [E]

BLACK-TAILED TRAINBEARER (*Lesbia victoriae*) – For some on one of our hikes in PN Huascarán.

GREEN-TAILED TRAINBEARER (*Lesbia nuna*) – A few in the northern sector of PN Huascarán.

OLIVACEOUS THORNBILL (*Chalcostigma olivaceum*) – Jim's good look at that close flyby at Marcapomacocha convinces me that this is what we saw.

TYRIAN METALTAIL (*Metallura tyrianthina*)

COPPERY METALTAIL (*Metallura theresiae*) – Our best looks were on the hike at Bosque Unchog into the Golden-backed Mountain-Tanager territory. [E]

BLACK METALTAIL (*Metallura phoebe*) – Mostly at PN Huascaran. [E]
EMERALD-BELLIED PUFFLEG (*Eriocnemis alina*) – A brief look for some of a bird visiting a trailside flower along the Paty Trail.
SHINING SUNBEAM (*Aglaeactis cupripennis*)
COLLARED INCA (*Coeligena torquata*) – Only along the Paty Trail.
VIOLET-THROATED STARFRONTLET (*Coeligena violifer*) – A couple of birds along the Carpish Tunnel road.
GIANT HUMMINGBIRD (*Patagona gigas*) – Only on the first half of the tour this year.
PURPLE-COLLARED WOODSTAR (*Myrtis fanny*) – I'm not sure that we ever laid eyes on a male this trip.
OASIS HUMMINGBIRD (*Rhodopis vesper*) – A couple of birds on the day that we left Lima for Carhuaz.
PERUVIAN SHEARTAIL (*Thaumastura cora*) – We ended up seeing several males of this fancy near-endemic hummer in the dry valley above Lima.
SPOT-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*Leucippus taczanowskii*) – Good looks of a perched bird or two in the dry valley near Pueblo Libre. Another near-endemic hummer.
WHITE-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia chionogaster*)
AMAZILIA HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia amazilia*) – A couple of birds on our way to Carhuaz from Lima.

Trogonidae (Trogons)

GOLDEN-HEADED QUETZAL (*Pharomachrus auriceps*) [*]
MASKED TROGON (*Trogon personatus*) – A single male at the start of the Paty Trail.

Ramphastidae (Toucans)

GRAY-BREASTED MOUNTAIN-TOUCAN (*Andigena hypoglauca*) [*]

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

GOLDEN-OLIVE WOODPECKER (*Colaptes rubiginosus*) [*]
CRIMSON-MANTLED WOODPECKER (*Colaptes rivolii*) – Fantastic looks at the start of the Paty Trail during breakfast.
BLACK-NECKED WOODPECKER (*Colaptes atricollis*) – We had several nice studies of this endemic flicker early on. [E]
ANDEAN FLICKER (*Colaptes rupicola*) – In the treeless highlands throughout.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

MOUNTAIN CARACARA (*Phalacrocorax megalopterus*) – We saw many, but none more memorable than the one that Rose Ann Rowlett herself pointed out to us from the recording that Dan played for the Inca-Finch!
AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*)
PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*)

Psittacidae (New World and African Parrots)

MOUNTAIN PARAKEET (*Psilopsiagon aurifrons*) – A couple of small groups on the first day above Lima.
SCALY-NAPED PARROT (*Amazona mercenarius*) – High-flying birds overhead at the Paty Trail.

Thamnophilidae (Typical Antbirds)

STREAK-HEADED ANTBIRD (*Drymophila striaticeps*) – A recent split from the old "Long-tailed" Antbird; great views along the Carpish Tunnel road.

Grallariidae (Antpittas)

UNDULATED ANTPITTA (*Grallaria squamigera*) [*]
STRIPE-HEADED ANTPITTA (*Grallaria andicolus andicolus*) – We had several great encounters with this one at PN Huascaran. Not the skulker that so many of its relatives are!
BAY ANTPITTA (*Grallaria capitalis*) – It wasn't optimal viewing conditions, but some of us did get a quick look as it crossed the small forest opening a few times above the Paty Trail. [E]
RUFIOUS ANTPITTA (NORTH PERUVIAN) (*Grallaria rufula obscura*) – Heard a few times and seen by some just off of the Bosque Unchog trail. An antpitta that's ripe for some splitting!
CHESTNUT ANTPITTA (*Grallaria blakei*) – Again, viewing conditions were tight and sub-optimal, but a few folks did get a look at this skulking endemic antpitta along the Paty Trail. [E]
RUSTY-BREASTED ANTPITTA (LEIMEBAMBA) (*Grallaricula ferruginepectus leymbambae*) – We had a couple of shots at this one along the Carpish Tunnel road and along Paty Trail – with mixed results.

Rhinocryptidae (Tapaculos)

ASH-COLORED TAPACULO (*Myornis senilis*) – Briefly for some in the Chusquea bamboo along the Carpish Tunnel road.
TRILLING TAPACULO (*Scytalopus parvirostris*) [*]
LARGE-FOOTED TAPACULO (*Scytalopus macropus*) – Good looks for those of us who elected to shun the horses and walk back along the Bosque Unchog trail – right where we had tried so hard to see it earlier in the day! [E]
RUFIOUS-VENTED TAPACULO (*Scytalopus femoralis*) – We found a very responsive bird along the Paty Trail. [E]
NEBLINA TAPACULO (*Scytalopus altirostris*) [E*]
ANCASH TAPACULO (*Scytalopus affinis*) – We had a good spot for this one in the Polylepis at PN Huascaran. [E]
TSCHUDI'S TAPACULO (*Scytalopus acutirostris*) – Sometimes, you just gotta use that Bluetooth speaker... [E]
TAPACULO (NEW SPECIES) (*Scytalopus* sp. nov. 1) – I think all of us heard this bird – which is likely an undescribed species – and some actually got a decent view at the edge of the forest low on the Bosque Unchog trail.

Furnariidae (Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers)

COASTAL MINER (*Geositta peruviana*) – We had dozens of these foraging on the barren ground on the lower stretches of the Lomas de Lachay entrance road on the first day that we visited. [E]

SLENDER-BILLED MINER (*Geositta tenuirostris*) – Probably the miner that we saw the poorest on this tour.

COMMON MINER (*Geositta cucularia*) – Several birds along the shore of Lago Junin were the only ones that we saw.

THICK-BILLED MINER (*Geositta crassirostris*) – One of the great finds that first day of birding above Lima was this scarce endemic. [E]

GRAYISH MINER (*Geositta maritima*) – This one prefers rockier soil than the similar Coastal Miner.

DARK-WINGED MINER (*Geositta saxicolina*) – Our last miner of the tour was this local endemic at Marcapomacocha on the penultimate day. [E]

MONTANE WOODCREEPER (*Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*) [*]

STREAKED XENOPS (*Xenops rutilans*) – Briefly for some at the start of the Carpish Tunnel road.

STREAKED TUFTEDCHEEK (*Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii*) – A beautiful pair of these showed themselves to the group just before our picnic breakfast at the top of the Paty Trail.

WREN-LIKE RUSHBIRD (*Phleocryptes melanops*) – Maybe seen briefly in flight by some folks at Lago Junin. [*]

STRIATED EARTHCREEPER (*Geocerthia serrana*) – We had a little trouble with that first one, but we all eventually had multiple great views of this endemic earthcreeper at PN Huascarán. [E]

BUFF-BREASTED EARTHCREEPER (*Upucerthia validirostris*) – All of these north of the Argentina-Bolivia border used to be split out as Plain-breasted Earthcreeper, but the two were lumped several years ago.

CREAM-WINGED CINCLODES (*Cincludes albiventris albiventris*) – I think all of us used to call this one Bar-winged Cinclodes when we started birding in South America.

WHITE-BELLIED CINCLODES (*Cincludes palliatus*) – What an experience it was to see these big endemic cinclodes in the snow just below the highest highway pass in the world! [E]

WHITE-WINGED CINCLODES (*Cincludes atacamensis*) – Not as common or widespread as many birders believe, since they often confuse the similar Cream-winged Cinclodes for this larger species. You really need to get a good look at that bright white tail-tipping before you call this one.

SURF CINCLODES (*Cincludes taczanowskii*) – Our last Peruvian endemic of the tour (we recorded 39 currently recognized Peruvian endemics this year!) was this unique cinclodes along the coast at Paraiso. [E]

BUFF-BROWED FOLIAGE-GLEANER (*Syndactyla rufosuperciliata*) – Brief looks along the Paty Trail.

RUFOUS-BACKED TREEHUNTER (*Thripadectes scrutator*) [*]

PEARLED TREERUNNER (*Margarornis squamiger*)

TAWNY TIT-SPINETAIL (*Leptasthenura yanacensis*) – A couple of birds at one of our last *Polylepis* stops on the other side of Portachuelo Pass at PN Huascarán.

RUSTY-CROWNED TIT-SPINETAIL (*Leptasthenura pileata*) – Some good views of this one in the *Polylepis* at PN Huascarán. [E]

WHITE-BROWED SPINETAIL (RUFIVENTRIS) (*Hellmayrea gularis rufiventris*) – Maybe the highlight of the trip for Dan was actually getting a look at this very different taxon along the Bosque Unchog trail.

CREAMY-BREASTED CANASTERO (ANCASH) (*Asthenes dorbignyi* ssp. nov.) – This form, that we saw well near Pueblo Libre in Ancash, has been known for years, but it awaits a formal description. It's likely to be described as a new species and not as a subspecies of Creamy-breasted Canastero.

LINE-FRONTED CANASTERO (*Asthenes urubambensis huallagae*) – We really worked hard to get looks at the first ones, but then we were treated to a close, confiding individual farther down the Bosque Unchog trail.

MANY-STRIPED CANASTERO (*Asthenes flammulata taczanowskii*) – Nicely on the other side of Portachuelo Pass.

JUNIN CANASTERO (*Asthenes virgata*) – We almost gave up on this endemic canastero after hearing it and getting a fleeting glimpse earlier, but we tried one more spot... [E]

STREAK-THROATED CANASTERO (*Asthenes humilis*) – Excellent views at PN Huascarán.

CORDILLERAN CANASTERO (*Asthenes modesta*) – One above Lago Junin was being harassed by a House Wren!

CANYON CANASTERO (*Asthenes pudibunda*) – We eventually got the looks that we wanted at PN Huascarán. Another near-endemic.

WHITE-CHINNED THISTLETAIL (*Asthenes fuliginosa plengei*) – Great looks – eventually – at Bosque Unchog for most.

BARON'S SPINETAIL (*Cranioleuca baroni*) – Dan says we're all going to lose this one to a lump with Line-cheeked Spinetail, so enjoy the 'tick' while you can! [E]

CACTUS CANASTERO (*Pseudasthenes cactorum*) – What a habitat for this endemic! [E]

AZARA'S SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis azarae*) [*]

RUFOUS SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis unirufa*) – Nicely in the *Chusquea* bamboo along the Carpish Tunnel road.

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

SOUTHERN BEARDLESS-TYRANNULET (*Camptostoma obsoletum*)

WHITE-TAILED TYRANNULET (*Mecocerculus poecilocercus*) – Good looks along the Paty Trail.

WHITE-BANDED TYRANNULET (*Mecocerculus stictopterus*) – We found a few of these along the Carpish Tunnel road.

WHITE-THROATED TYRANNULET (*Mecocerculus leucophrys*)

BLACK-CRESTED TIT-TYRANT (*Anairetes nigrocristatus*) – Another near-endemic, it barely gets into extreme s. Ecuador. Nice looks at PN Huascarán.

PIED-CRESTED TIT-TYRANT (*Anairetes reguloides*) – This fancy little tyrant was seen extremely well on our first day of birding above Lima.

YELLOW-BILLED TIT-TYRANT (*Anairetes flavirostris*) – A brief encounter at PN Huascarán.

TUFTED TIT-TYRANT (*Anairetes parulus*) – This is the widest-ranging tit-tyrant, occurring from s. Colombia south to Tierra del Fuego!

UNSTREAKED TIT-TYRANT (*Uromyias agraphia*) – Once these endemic tit-tyrants came in, they wouldn't leave! Great looks along the Carpish Tunnel road. [E]

WHITE-CRESTED ELAENIA (*Elaenia albiceps*)

TORRENT TYRANNULET (*Serpophaga cinerea*) – Dan and Sally were the only ones to get on this one on our drive to Huanuco.

INCA FLYCATCHER (*Leptopogon taczanowskii*) – Nice looks – albeit briefly – at this endemic *Leptopogon* at the start of the Paty Trail. [E]

PERUVIAN TYRANNULET (*Zimmerius viridiflavus*) – After hearing a few of these call in the distance, we brought one in for a look low on the Paty Trail. [E]

MANY-COLORED RUSH TYRANT (*Tachuris rubrigastra*) – The rushes along the shoreline of Lago Junin were loaded with these beautiful little tyrants.

TAWNY-CROWNED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Euscarthmus meloryphus*) – Not an easy one to coax out of the bushes!

CINNAMON FLYCATCHER (*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus*)

SMOKE-COLORED PEWEE (*Contopus fumigatus*)

BLACK PHOEBE (*Sayornis nigricans*)

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)

ANDEAN NEGRITO (*Lessonia oreas*) – At several of the high elevation lakes we visited.

SPOT-BILLED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola maculirostris*) – Our first ground-tyrant of the trip was seen well on the first day above Lima.

TACZANOWSKI'S GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola griseus*) – Many of the ground-tyrants that we saw well enough to i.d. in PN Huascarán turned out to be this species.

CINEREOUS GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola cinereus*) – We had a couple of encounters with this austral migrant – even as far north as PN Huascarán in Ancash. [a]

WHITE-FRONTED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola albifrons*) – The largest and one of the most distinctive of the many ground-tyrants that we saw.

OCHRE-NAPED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola flavinucha*) – Another big one, with a diagnostic buffy-yellow patch on the crown. Seen nicely at PN Huascarán. [a]

RUFOUS-NAPED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola rufivertex*) – At least a couple of these were seen in the pasture above the lakes at PN Huascarán. [a]

DARK-FACED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola maclovianus*) – We found one of these with the numerous Coastal Miners at the lower end of the Lomas de Lachay entrance road – then the numbers really jumped up on our next visit with 20+ being seen at one point. [a]

BLACK-BILLED SHRIKE-TYRANT (*Agriornis montanus*) – I was a little surprised that we saw so few of these on this tour.

STREAK-THROATED BUSH-TYRANT (*Myiotheretes striaticollis*) – Big and conspicuous.

RUFOUS-WEBBED BUSH-TYRANT (*Polioptila rufipennis*) – We watched a couple of these hawk for insects in the abundant open country up high.

JELSKI'S CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca jelskii*) – This one just wouldn't respond! [*]

GOLDEN-BROWED CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca pulchella*) – Great, close views of a responsive bird on the Carpish Tunnel road.

SLATY-BACKED CHAT-TYRANT (MAROON-BELTED) (*Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris angustifasciata*) – I think we only had this one from the back, so we never saw that maroon belt.

RUFOUS-BREASTED CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca rufipectoralis*) – More of an open-country species than the others.

BROWN-BACKED CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca fumicolor*) – Usually at higher elevations than most of the other chat-tyrants.

D'ORBIGNY'S CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca oenanthoides*) – The endemic race here, *O.o. polionota*, is much more richly-colored below than the nominate race to the south.

WHITE-BROWED CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca leucophrys*) – Our first was on the first day of birding above Lima. Peru's a great place for chat-tyrants!

SHORT-TAILED FIELD TYRANT (*Muscigralla brevicauda*) – Strangely uncooperative.

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)

TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)

Cotingidae (Cotingas)

BAND-TAILED FRUITEATER (*Pipreola intermedia*) [*]

BARRED FRUITEATER (*Pipreola arcuata*) – Great looks at a family group of these as we descended the Bosque Unchog trail.

WHITE-CHEEKED COTINGA (*Zaratornis stresemanni*) – YESSSS!!!! I really was hoping that our first brief encounter wasn't going to be our only encounter with this fantastic high-elevation endemic! Dan's spot proved to again be the best spot for this one along our route, giving all of us memorable and repeated views right next to the road! [E]

BAY-VENTED COTINGA (*Doliornis sclateri*) – Our mountain-tanager spot at Bosque Unchog proved to be a great spot for just about everything we were looking for there, including this scarce endemic cotinga. [E]

RED-CRESTED COTINGA (*Ampelion rubrocristatus*) – A couple of fine views at PN Huascarán.

CHESTNUT-CRESTED COTINGA (*Ampelion rufaxilla*) – Jim spotted this one perched high above the highway at the Carpish Tunnel soon after we arrived there.

Tityridae (Tityras and Allies)

BARRED BECARD (*Pachyrhamphus versicolor*) – A furtive family group along the Paty Trail.

Vireonidae (Vireos, Shrike-Babblers, and Erpornis)

RUFOUS-BROWED PEPPERSHRIKE (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) [*]

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

WHITE-COLLARED JAY (*Cyanolyca viridicyanus*) – A brief, but great, look at this one at our picnic breakfast spot at the start of the Paty Trail.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

BLUE-AND-WHITE SWALLOW (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*)

BROWN-BELLIED SWALLOW (*Orochelidon murina*)

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*) – A single bird on the final day at Paraiso was out of season.

CHESTNUT-COLLARED SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon rufocollaris*) – Excellent views of this regional specialty on our final day of birding.

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*)

MOUNTAIN WREN (*Troglodytes solstitialis*) – Nicely on the Carpish Tunnel road.

SEDGE WREN (*Cistothorus platensis*) – The race of the birds that we saw at Unchog were likely *C.p. graminicola*, but that may not be settled.

PERUVIAN WREN (*Cinnycerthia peruana*) – A couple of groups of these wrens were seen working in the Chusquea bamboo along the Carpish Tunnel road. Part of a 3-way split of the old Sepia-brown Wren. [E]

GRAY-BREASTED WOOD-WREN (*Henicorhina leucophrys*) [*]

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

WHITE-EARED SOLITAIRE (*Entomodestes leucotis*) – Seen distantly, but well, at the start of the Paty Trail after hearing several before that.

GREAT THRUSH (*Turdus fuscater*)

CHIGUANCO THRUSH (*Turdus chiguanco*) – Generally in drier habitats than the similar Great Thrush.

Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)

LONG-TAILED MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus longicaudatus*)

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

YELLOWISH PIPIT (PERUVIAN) (*Anthus lutescens peruvianus*) – Just like we said during the tour, this form is now split from Yellowish Pipit and is now called Peruvian Pipit (*A. peruvianus*). Great looks on the final day of the tour.

SHORT-BILLED PIPIT (*Anthus furcatus*)

PARAMO PIPIT (*Anthus bogotensis*) [*]

Parulidae (New World Warblers)

CITRINE WARBLER (PERUVIAN) (*Myiothlypis luteoviridis striaticeps*) – A couple of sightings in Huanuco.

BLACK-CRESTED WARBLER (*Myiothlypis nigrocristata*) – Good looks at the lower end of PN Huascanan.

RUSSET-CROWNED WARBLER (*Myiothlypis coronata*) [*]

SPECTACLED REDSTART (*Myioborus melanocephalus*) – Only in the Carpish Tunnel/Paty Trail area.

Thraupidae (Tanagers and Allies)

BLACK-CAPPED HEMISPINGUS (WHITE-BROWED) (*Kleinotheraupis atropileus auricularis*) – The race we saw along the Carpish Tunnel road is endemic to e. Peru.

OLEAGINOUS HEMISPINGUS (*Sphenopsis frontalis*) – A responsive pair along the Paty Trail.

SUPERCILIARIED HEMISPINGUS (*Thlypopsis superciliaris*) – These odd gray and white birds are found only in Peru – with yellow-bellied, green-backed birds both to north and south!

RUFIOUS-CHESTED TANAGER (*Thlypopsis ornata*) – Present most mornings at the lower gate at PN Huascanan.

BROWN-FLANKED TANAGER (*Thlypopsis pectoralis*) – Dan had a good spot for these in Pasco and everyone eventually got a good look at this very local endemic tanager. [E]

PLAIN-TAILED WARBLING-FINCH (*Microspingus alticola*) – Our best looks were on the other side of Portachuelo Pass in PN Huascanan. Taken out of the genus *Poospiza* just last year. [E]

PARDUSCO (*Nephelornis oneilli*) – The most common of the 'Big 4' that we were searching for at Bosque Unchog. This species, along with the Golden-backed Mountain-Tanager and the Rufous-browed Hemispingus, were unknown to science before the early to mid-70's. [E]

HOODED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Buthraupis montana saturata*) – A single distant bird at Bosque Unchog for some.

GOLDEN-BACKED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Cnemathraupis aureodorsalis*) – YESSSS!!!! Probably the Numero Uno target species on most folks' target lists, we had some unbelievable looks at three birds working at the edges of a forest clearing pretty low on the main Unchog trail late one morning. Gorgeous!! It's been on my 'Most Wanted' list for 40 years! [E]

LACRIMOSE MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Anisognathus lacrymosus*) – Several in the Carpish Tunnel/Paty Trail area.

SCARLET-BELLIED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Anisognathus igniventris*) – Several really memorable looks at this fancy mountain-tanager.

CHESTNUT-BELLIED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Dubusia castaneiventris*) – One of these at our picnic breakfast spot above the Paty Trail really performed for us!

GOLDEN-COLLARED TANAGER (*Iridosornis jelskii*) – A few with the mixed flocks at Bosque Unchog.

YELLOW-SCARFED TANAGER (*Iridosornis reinhardti*) – Our best views were at the start of the Paty Trail just as we sat down for breakfast. [E]

BLUE-AND-YELLOW TANAGER (*Pipraeidea bonariensis*) – Scarce on this trip.

BLUE-CAPPED TANAGER (*Thraupis cyanocephala*) – Only in the Carpish Tunnel/Paty Trail area.

BLUE-AND-BLACK TANAGER (*Tangara vassorii*)

BERYL-SPANGLED TANAGER (*Tangara nigroviridis*) – Nice views of all three of our fancy Tangara tanagers for the trip at the start of the Paty Trail.

FLAME-FACED TANAGER (*Tangara parzudakii*)

GIANT CONEBILL (*Conirostrum binghami*) – Easily seen at PN Huascanan.

BLUE-BACKED CONEBILL (*Conirostrum sitticolor*)

CAPPED CONEBILL (*Conirostrum albifrons*)

CINEREOUS CONEBILL (*Conirostrum cinereum*)

TIT-LIKE DACNIS (*Xenodacnis parina*) – Common and conspicuous at high elevations with abundant *Gynoxys* and *Polylepis* in PN Huascanan.

MOUSTACHED FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa mystacalis*) – The most common of the flowerpiercers up at treeline on this trip.

BLACK-THROATED FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa brunneiventris*) – We had this one daily in PN Huascanan.

MASKED FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa cyanea*)

PLUSHCAP (*Catamblyrhynchus diadema*) – This fancy little aberrant tanager was finally seen well at our breakfast spot at the start of the Paty Trail.

PERUVIAN SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus punensis*) – Our breakfast companion at PN Huascanan.

MOURNING SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus fruticeti*) – Only on our first day in the dry canyons above Lima.

- BAND-TAILED SIERRA-FINCH** (*Phrygilus alaudinus*) – Mostly seen at Pueblo Libre when we tried for the undescribed 'Creamy-breasted' Canastero.
- WHITE-WINGED DIUCA-FINCH** (*Idiopsar speculifer*) – Quite common high above treeline at PN Huascarán.
- PLUMBEOUS SIERRA-FINCH** (*Geospizopsis unicolor*) – Not as common or widespread as the next species.
- ASH-BREASTED SIERRA-FINCH** (*Geospizopsis plebejus*)
- GREAT INCA-FINCH** (*Incapiza pulchra*) – The first of our two Inca-finches on the tour. Despite the name, this one's actually smaller than the next species! [E]
- RUFOUS-BACKED INCA-FINCH** (*Incapiza personata*) – It took us a couple of tries for this one at the entrance to PN Huascarán, but we all eventually saw it well – on a telephone wire no less! [E]
- DRAB HEMISPINGUS** (*Pseudospingus xanthophthalmus*) – It was tough pulling people away from that Golden-backed Mountain-Tanager for this one...
- GRAY-HOODED BUSH TANAGER** (*Cnemoscopus rubrirostris*) – The black-billed race here, *C.r. chrysogaster*, is endemic to Peru.
- RUFOUS-BROWED HEMISPINGUS** (*Poospiza rufosuperciliaris*) – Thanks to Jim's sharp eyes, several of us got onto this scarce endemic in one of the first patches of forest on the right side of the trail at Unchog on our final morning there. Woo Hoo!!! Despite the common name, this one's been found to be more closely related to the mountain-finches in the genus *Poospiza*. [E]
- RUFOUS-BREASTED WARBLING-FINCH** (*Poospiza rubecula*) – We spent quite a bit of time on this one above Lima that first day, but we did come away with some pretty good looks of a streaky juvenile bird (a plumage that's rarely ever seen!) and quick looks of an adult. One of the tougher Peruvian endemics to track down, so consider yourselves lucky! [E]
- COLLARED WARBLING-FINCH** (*Poospiza hispaniolensis*) – Nicely north of Lima near our picnic lunch spot on Day 2.
- BRIGHT-RUMPED YELLOW-FINCH** (*Sicalis uropygialis*) – We had a few in and around PN Huascarán, then a few more around Lago Junín.
- GREENISH YELLOW-FINCH** (*Sicalis olivascens*) – This one occurs lower in elevation than the Bright-rumped.
- GRASSLAND YELLOW-FINCH** (*Sicalis luteola*) – On our final day of birding north of Lima.
- BLUE-BLACK GRASSQUIT** (*Volatinia jacarina*)
- CHESTNUT-THROATED SEEDEATER** (*Sporophila telasco*) – A bunch of drab, non-breeding birds on Day 2.
- BLACK-AND-WHITE SEEDEATER** (*Sporophila luctuosa*) – Nice looks at the start of the Paty Trail.
- BAND-TAILED SEEDEATER** (*Catamenia analis*)
- PLAIN-COLORED SEEDEATER** (*Catamenia inornata*)
- STREAKED SALTATOR** (*Saltator striatipectus*) – A distant singing bird near Lomas de Lachay on Day 2. The race here (*S.s. immaculatus*) completely lacks streaking in the plumage.
- GOLDEN-BILLED SALTATOR** (*Saltator aurantiirostris*) – This one doesn't get north of the lower Marañón Valley.
- Passerellidae (New World Buntings and Sparrows).*
- COMMON CHLOROSPINGUS (NORTHERN ANDES)** (*Chlorospingus flavopectus hiaticolus*)
- YELLOW-BROWED SPARROW** (*Ammodramus aurifrons*) – A disappointing voice to hear at the bottom of the Paty Trail. [*]
- GRAY-BROWED BRUSHFINCH** (*Arremon assimilis*) – Now split from the old Stripe-headed Brushfinch, this one occurs from the Venezuelan Andes south to s. Peru.
- RUFOUS-COLLARED SPARROW** (*Zonotrichia capensis*)
- RUFOUS-EARED BRUSHFINCH** (*Atlapetes rufigenis*) – Easy to track down in the *Polylepis* woodland at PN Huascarán. [E]
- TRICOLORED BRUSHFINCH** (*Atlapetes tricolor*) – We called in a group of these along the Paty Trail for some decent views. Ours was the endemic nominate race *tricolor*.
- SLATY BRUSHFINCH (TACZANOWSKI'S)** (*Atlapetes schistaceus taczanowskii*) – Seen well along the Carpish Tunnel road. The endemic race here is appreciably disjunct from the other races north of the Marañón R.
- RUSTY-BELLIED BRUSHFINCH** (*Atlapetes nationi*) – Nice looks at a pair of these in the arid canyon above Lima on Day 1. [E]
- Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies).*
- GOLDEN GROSBEAK** (*Pheucticus chrysogaster*) – Called Southern Yellow-Grosbeak or Golden-bellied Grosbeak elsewhere.
- Icteridae (Troupials and Allies).*
- PERUVIAN MEADOWLARK** (*Sturnella bellicosa*) – Singing up a storm at Lomas de Lachay on our final day.
- DUSKY-GREEN OROPENDOLA** (*Psarocolius atrovirens*) [*]
- SCRUB BLACKBIRD** (*Dives waczewiczii*) – Only on the first two days of the tour near Lima.
- Fringillidae (Finches, Euphonias, and Allies).*
- HOODED SISKIN** (*Spinus magellanicus*)
- BLACK SISKIN** (*Spinus atratus*) – Nicely in flight for most at our picnic lunch spot in Pasco.
- Passeridae (Old World Sparrows).*
- HOUSE SPARROW** (*Passer domesticus*) [H]

MAMMALS

- GUINEA PIG** (*Cavia aperea*) – Visible in a hole in the grass near Lago Junín for some.
- NORTHERN MOUNTAIN VISCACHA** (*Lagidium peruanum*) – Most had super views of this one on a rock at PN Huascarán on Day 4.
- VICUNA** (*Vicugna vicugna*) – A few in PN Huascarán and more farther south in Junín.
- WHITE-TAILED DEER** (*Odocoileus virginianus*) – Deftly spotted by Aurelio from the bus at PN Huascarán.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Totals for the tour: 315 bird taxa and 4 mammal taxa