

CENTRAL PERUVIAN ENDEMIC: THE HIGH ANDES

Jun 1, 2012 to Jun 17, 2012
Dan Lane



Crisp mountain air, rugged Andean landscapes, and sweeping vistas add up to some spectacular scenery on this tour. Here the group is scanning the lake at Conococha. (Photo by guide Dan Lane)

It is thanks to the efforts of Romney that this group was compiled and we enjoyed this departure of the Central Peruvian Andes tour this year. The tour had its ups and downs--in fact, it had nearly 5000m change in elevation (har!). It's amazing to think we were gasping for breath, watching a flock of Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe grazing on a mountain slope at 4700m one day, then enjoying an oxygen cocktail watching pelicans, boobies, cormorants, etc. along the coast the next! Such an incredible juxtaposition is just one of the amazing features of this lovely country: Peru! The present tour only covered a "small area" (if you look at a map), but by road it certainly felt like a large region! We visited the coast and mountains around Lima, the unique Cordillera Blanca (named for its extensive glaciers, and home of Peru's tallest mountain, and the sixth tallest in the Western Hemisphere: Huascarán [6746m]), the Carpish massif around Huanuco (including two nights of camping at Unchog), Lago Junin (the second-largest lake in Peru; higher than Titicaca), and back over the highest highway pass in the world (Ticlio, at 4718m) and down to Lima again. So (if you hadn't already noticed) we spent an inordinate amount of time at high elevations, but happily everyone weathered it well!

Among the many highlights of the tour were, first and foremost, the company! What a fun bunch you all were; I really enjoyed myself! Others included: the many Peruvian Sheartails that mobbed us the first morning; the foggy Peruvian Martins at Lomas de Lachay (and being overwhelmed by flocks of Least Seedsnipe at the same time!); the ease (after a bit of a walk) of seeing the undescribed canastero below Yungay; that hour along the road from Llanganuco lakes to Abra Portachuelo when we saw one good bird after another (Giant Conebill, Plain-tailed Warbling-Finch, Thick-billed Siskin, D'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrant, etc.); the White-cheeked Cotinga that showed so well; the Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrants that fluttered around, flashing their white tails; the Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager and Plushcap that sang boldly in our faces at Carpish; the flock with the Yellow-scarfed and Golden-collared tanagers, Pardusco, and various other birds at Unchog; the Large-footed Tapaculo that took little coaxing to bring in; the surprised look on the faces of those Bay-vented Cotingas when they popped up in front of us; the experience out on the middle of Lake Junin with a group of Junin Grebes so close and seemingly unafraid of us; great views of the family of Diademed Sandpiper-Plovers followed shortly by a fine male Olivaceous Thornbill and then a seedsnipe double-whammy on the road to Marcapomacocha; and those are but a few!

I sincerely hope you all enjoyed the tour as much as I did. I also hope that you agree with me that Peru is an amazing birding destination. Perhaps I'll see you there again in the future! Meanwhile, keep them binoculars near at hand! Saludos y hasta la proxima!

--Dan

For more information about this tour, including future departures, visit our website at www.fieldguides.com. And to see this same triplist online, go to <http://www.fieldguides.com/triplists/cpe12LIST.pdf> and you will find the list in its entirety.

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*) [*****]

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

ANDEAN GOOSE (*Chloephaga melanoptera*) – We saw a lot of these attractive 'sheldgeese' on this this tour, with particularly large concentrations at Conococha and Lago Junin.

CRESTED DUCK (*Lophonetta specularioides*) [**N**]

TORRENT DUCK (*Merganetta armata*) – Several seen as we drove from Huascarán to Huanuco. Particularly, a pair seen near La Unión.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Anas discors*) – Cheers to Carolyn for spotting a fine male at Lago Junin on day 13, which we relocated the following day! A North American migrant, they are rare in Peru, but the previous winter saw many North American ducks in South America, so this may have been part of that phenomenon. [**b**]

CINNAMON TEAL (*Anas cyanoptera*) – One male found by John at Junin (only a duck's sneeze away from the Blue-winged Teal!) was another rare record for this site. They were far more common on the coast our final day.

WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL (*Anas bahamensis*) – Several seen (including a mother with ducklings) at Ventanilla. [**N**]

YELLOW-BILLED PINTAIL (*Anas georgica*)

PUNA TEAL (*Anas puna*)

YELLOW-BILLED TEAL (*Anas flavirostris*)

RUDDY DUCK (ANDEAN) (*Oxyura jamaicensis ferruginea*)

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

WHITE-TUFTED GREBE (*Rollandia rolland*) – Very similar to our Eared Grebe, this species is nevertheless in a different genus (shared with the Titicaca Flightless Grebe).

GREAT GREBE (*Podiceps major*) – Several seen at Ventanilla.

SILVERY GREBE (*Podiceps occipitalis*) – Seen well at Conococha and later at Junin, where they greatly outnumber the similar Junin Grebe.

JUNIN GREBE (*Podiceps taczanowskii*) – We saw at least five on our skiff outings onto Lago Junin. This critically endangered larger version of a Silvery Grebe seems to require deeper water to forage, and are endemic to this one lake. How will they weather mining practices? [**E**]



Endemic to Lago Junin, at over 4000 meters above sea level, the flightless Junin Grebe is critically endangered due in large part to declining water quality in the lake. We were fortunate to see as many as 5 of these rare birds, about 2% of the entire population.
(Photo by guide Dan Lane)

Phoenicopteridae (Flamingos)

CHILEAN FLAMINGO (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*) – Several seen on Conococha, and about 250 on Lago Junin.

Sulidae (Boobies and Gannets)

BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY (*Sula nebouxii*) – Perhaps better known from the Galapagos, this species breeds on offshore islands along much of the coast of Peru.

PERUVIAN BOOBY (*Sula variegata*)

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) – The only freshwater cormorant in South America.

RED-LEGGED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax gaimardi*) – A lovely 'shag' of the coast that we saw quite well our last day.

GUANAY CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax bougainvillii*) – The most abundant oceanic cormorant, we saw some good sized groups along the coast our last day. This, Peruvian Pelican, and Peruvian Booby are the sources of the guano that

was such an important source of income for Peru in the previous century.

Pelecanidae (Pelicans)

PERUVIAN PELICAN (*Pelecanus thagus*)

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*)

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula thula*)

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*) – For a bird we often think of as 'subtropical' (at Sanibel Island, for example), it's a bit of a shock to see it over 4000 meters in the arctic-like conditions at Lago Junin!

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)

STRIATED HERON (*Butorides striata*)

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

PUNA IBIS (*Plegadis ridgwayi*)

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*)

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*)

ANDEAN CONDOR (*Vultur gryphus*) – Two seen our first full day at Santa Eulalia, another two or so seen on the Marcapomacocha road our penultimate day.

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (*Elanoides forficatus*) – A few of these lovely, graceful raptors seen our day at Carpish.

BLACK-CHESTED BUZZARD-EAGLE (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus*) – Seen on several days, but the tame youngster at Lomas de Lachay was perhaps the most memorable.

CINEREOUS HARRIER (*Circus cinereus*) – A small, smartly-patterned harrier that we enjoyed at Junin and again at Lomas de Lachay.

HARRIS'S HAWK (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) – One seen as we entered Lima our penultimate day. The provenance of these birds is questionable. They are native to the Peruvian coast, but a raptor enthusiast friend of mine tells me that he is certain the Lima birds are the offspring of escaped falconers' birds.

ROADSIDE HAWK (*Buteo magnirostris*) – A common lowland species that we encountered only at Carpish.

WHITE-RUMPED HAWK (*Buteo leucorrhous*) – A high overflying bird at Paty Trail.

WHITE-THROATED HAWK (*Buteo albigula*) – An amazingly tame perched bird allowed us some great views at Huascarán, where the species is rare.

VARIABLE HAWK (*Buteo polyosoma*) – Presently comprises Red-backed and Puna hawks, we saw both (mostly Puna on this tour, although Red-backs were common at Lachay).

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

MOUNTAIN CARACARA (*Phalcoboenus megalopterus*) – The raven of the Andes, but a bit more colorful!

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*)

APLOMADO FALCON (*Falco femoralis*) – Carolyn's sharp eyes spotted one perched bird along the highway from Junin to La Oroya.

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

BLACK RAIL (SOUTHERN SOUTH AMERICA) (*Laterallus jamaicensis murivagans*) – Although we only heard one growl, it was nice to hear this reclusive species at all! Subspecies *murivagans* is endemic to the Peruvian coast, but is similar vocally to the other two South American subspecies (*tuerosi* and *salinesi*). [*]

PLUMBEOUS RAIL (*Pardirallus sanguinolentus*) – Great views of this colorful rail at Junin.

COMMON GALLINULE (*Gallinula galeata*) – Recently split by the AOU from the Old World Common Moorhen, and it's older American name restored. we saw both lowland *pauxilla* and highland *garmani*.

GIANT COOT (*Fulica gigantea*) – Truly a giant representative of the genus, and we saw a good number of them at Conococha, perhaps the best place in Peru to see them.

SLATE-COLORED COOT (*Fulica ardesiaca*) – Also called 'Andean Coot', but present equally as much along the Pacific

coast. This species has rather variable colors on its bill and shield.

Burhinidae (Thick-knees)

PERUVIAN THICK-KNEE (*Burhinus superciliaris*) – Nice views of this rather odd-looking 'shorebird' at Ventanilla.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

ANDEAN LAPWING (*Vanellus resplendens*) – A striking Andean plover with white and gray plumage set off pleasantly with dark green and lavender. If only they weren't so darned loud!

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*) – Three lingering birds were at Ventanilla. [b]

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) – A pretty good-sized group at Ventanilla. [b]

KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*) – This is a resident coastal subspecies (*peruvianus*).

DIADEMED SANDPIPER-PLOVER (*Phegornis mitchellii*) – Kudos to John for spotting the downy young (!) that then led to finding the pair of adults as they supervised the chick's outing. Great views of an impressive bird! [N]

TAWNY-THROATED DOTTEREL (*Oreopholus ruficollis*) – A flock of about eight birds were at the entrance to Lachay. [a]

Haematopodidae (Oystercatchers)

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus palliatus*) – We had both oystercatchers from one of the overlooks along the 'Serpentine' highway.

BLACKISH OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus ater*)

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus*) – Lima is in the blending zone between 'black-necked' and 'white-backed' stilts (presently considered conspecifics). We saw a few such hybrids.

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

GREATER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa melanoleuca*) – More common than the next species on our tour (found both at highland and coastal wetlands). These were overwintering birds. [b]

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa flavipes*) [b]

WHIMBREL (AMERICAN) (*Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*) – A few flybys as we were departing Ventanilla. [b]

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*Limosa haemastica*) – Two basic-plumaged birds at Ventanilla were a nice surprise! The species is a regular migrant and rare wintering species along the Peruvian coast (the bulk winter in southern Patagonia), and apparently some overwinter occasionally. [b]

RUDDY TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*) – A large flock at Ventanilla was nice. [b]

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (*Calidris bairdii*) – A single bird on the beach at Ventanilla was a surprise! I'm more used to seeing them at elevation in the Andes than on the coast. [b]

STILT SANDPIPER (*Calidris himantopus*) [b]

PUNA SNIPE (*Gallinago andina*) – Cal spotted a bird on the first boat trip on Junin, and Romney spotted a second on the south end of Junin later that day. Nice work!

ANDEAN SNIPE (*Gallinago jamesoni*) – Heard by some at dawn over our camp. [*]

WILSON'S PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus tricolor*) – Three birds in breeding plumage at Ventanilla were nice. [b]

Thinocoridae (Seedsnipes)

RUFOUS-BELLIED SEEDSNIPE (*Attagis gayi*) – A flock of 14 buzzed the bus just shy of the ridgetop at Marcapomacocha... happily, Cal's sharp eyes picked them out above us shortly thereafter.

GRAY-BREASTED SEEDSNIPE (*Thinocorus orbignyianus*) – Cal (again!) spotted a pair of these tricky short-billed shorebirds below the road as we were searching for the Rufous-bellied. A Seedsnipe sweep (sweepsnipe?).



*To some folks, the feeling about *Scytalopus tapaculos* is, 'You've seen one, you've seen them all!' While it's true that many of them look alike, there's still something special about seeing such a localized, endemic species as this Ancash Tapaculo so very well! (Photo by guide Dan Lane)*

LEAST SEEDSNIPE (*Thinocorus rumicivorus*) – Hundreds of birds were on the entrance road into Lomas de Lachay. Their haunting hooting sing was one of the few sounds in the mist there!

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

ANDEAN GULL (*Chroicocephalus serranus*) – Almost daily on the tour.

GRAY-HOODED GULL (*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*)

GRAY GULL (*Leucophaeus modestus*) [a]

LAUGHING GULL (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) – A real surprise was a first year bird (with a broken leg) at the south end of Lago Junin! How'd it get there?

BELCHER'S GULL (*Larus belcheri*)

KELP GULL (*Larus dominicanus*) – Happily, unlike North America, there are few other large gulls to confuse with this one on the Peruvian coast.

INCA TERN (*Larosterna inca*) – Lots in flight, but a few perched birds allowed us good views of their gaudy bills and facial plumes.

BLACK SKIMMER (*Rynchops niger*) – A few birds at Ventanilla probably were from the Amazonian population which, as far as anyone can tell, fly over the Andes to the coast in the winter!

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) [H]

SPOT-WINGED PIGEON (*Patagioenas maculosa*) – A surprisingly low bird was at San Pedro de Casta on the Santa Eulalia road.

BAND-TAILED PIGEON (*Patagioenas fasciata*)

WEST PERUVIAN DOVE (*Zenaida meloda*)

EARED DOVE (*Zenaida auriculata*)

CROAKING GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina cruziana*) – I can think of more accurate names than 'croaking', but they probably are not as 'proper'...

BARE-FACED GROUND-DOVE (*Metriopelia ceciliae*)

BLACK-WINGED GROUND-DOVE (*Metriopelia melanoptera*) – One drinking from a puddle near our lunch spot the first day was a nice view.

WHITE-TIPPED DOVE (*Leptotila verreauxi*)

Psittacidae (Parrots)

GOLDEN-PLUMED PARAKEET (*Leptosittaca branickii*) [*]

MOUNTAIN PARAKEET (*Psilopsiagon aurifrons*) – One of the few parrots on the dry Pacific slope; we got nice scope views.

BARRED PARAKEET (*Bolborhynchus lineola*) – Mostly heard, but a small collection of black dots in the sky at one point were our 'view'.

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

SMOOTH-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga ani*) – On the Amazonian slope.

GROOVE-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) – On the Pacific slope.

Strigidae (Owls)

PERUVIAN PYGMY-OWL (*Glaucidium peruanum*) – A nice gray-brown morph bird came up to inspect us just before lunch the day we drove from Lima to Huaraz.

BURROWING OWL (*Athene cunicularia*) – We saw two forms: nanodes at Lachay (a small, coastal form) and juninensis at (drum roll!) Lago Junin (a large highland form). Howdya like them apples?

Apodidae (Swifts)

CHESTNUT-COLLARED SWIFT (*Streptoprocne rutila*)

WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)

ANDEAN SWIFT (*Aeronautes andecolus*) – Nice views at Santa Eulalia, but birds along the Rio Huallaga below Huanuco were a surprise!

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

GREEN VIOLETEAR (*Colibri thalassinus*) – Romney spotted this smaller violetear while on the Paty Trail.

SPARKLING VIOLETEAR (*Colibri coruscans*)

AMETHYST-THROATED SUNANGEL (*Heliangelus amethysticollis*)

BRONZE-TAILED COMET (*Polyonymus caroli*) – A fine male perched for quite a while allowing us looks just around lunch time our first day. [E]

ANDEAN HILLSTAR (GREEN-HEADED) (*Oreotrochilus estella stolzmanni*) – After a few 'near misses', a lovely male perched for us to gawk for as long as we pleased the day we drove the Puya road at Huascarán NP.

BLACK-BREASTED HILLSTAR (*Oreotrochilus melanogaster*) – We enjoyed a few nice views by the mirador, but in the afternoon, a staggering male responded well at the shore of Junin! [E]

OLIVACEOUS THORNBILL (*Chalcostigma olivaceum*) – A much-desired bird by Romney, whose wishes were (I suspect) fulfilled by the lovely male that foraged near us on the miniature *Gentianella* flowers in the bog at Marcapomacocha.

TYRIAN METALTAIL (*Metallura tyrianthina*)

COPPERY METALTAIL (*Metallura theresiae*) – Apparently, the common hummingbird at Unchog! [E]

BLACK METALTAIL (*Metallura phoebe*) – Several seen well; the bird that hung around the entrance gate to Huascarán was particularly friendly. [E]

SHINING SUNBEAM (*Aglaeactis cupripennis*)

COLLARED INCA (*Coeligena torquata*) – Cal and Carolyn spotted this one... I'm not sure who else saw it.

VIOLET-THROATED STARFRONTLET (*Coeligena violifer*) – A nice view of this large hummer was had at Carpish.

GREAT SAPPHIREWING (*Pterophanes cyanopterus*) – One of these world's second largest hummers was at treeline at Unchog.

FAWN-BREASTED BRILLIANT (*Heliodoxa rubinoides*) [*]

GIANT HUMMINGBIRD (*Patagona gigas*) – More likely to be called a swift than a hummingbird by the uninitiated, we enjoyed several nice views our first few days.

PURPLE-COLLARED WOODSTAR (*Myrtis fanny*) – A great male showing off his turquoise and violet gorget at Santa Eulalia was a nice!

PERUVIAN SHEARTAIL (*Thaumastura cora*) – If this had to be the 'trash hummer' at the Santa Eulalia... well, I guess we'd be able to handle that!

WHITE-BELLIED WOODSTAR (*Chaetocercus mulsant*) – John spotted a male of this diminutive hummer as it perched in the high snags at the start of the Paty Trail.

SPOT-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*Leucippus taczanowskii*) – The common hummer around the undescribed canastero site below Yungay.

WHITE-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia chionogaster*) – This is the nominate subspecies *chionogaster*, which we enjoyed in the desert scrub around Huanuco.

AMAZILIA HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia amazilia*)

Trogonidae (Trogons)

GOLDEN-HEADED QUETZAL (*Pharomachrus auriceps*) [*]

MASKED TROGON (*Trogon personatus*) [*]

Ramphastidae (Toucans)

GRAY-BREASTED MOUNTAIN-TOUCAN (*Andigena hypoglauca*) – Seen at a distance at Carpish.

Picidae (Woodpeckers)



Easily the most handsome and distinctive of all the cinclodes, the White-bellied Cinclodes is yet another unique endemic species found only in the high Andes of Central Peru. (Photo by guide Dan Lane)

- SMOKY-BROWN WOODPECKER** (*Picoides fumigatus*) – Mostly a brown flash as it passed over us in response to playback... at 4100m (much higher than what is stated in Birds of Peru! Who were the jokers who wrote that book, anyway?).
- CRIMSON-MANTLED WOODPECKER** (*Colaptes rivolii*) – Always a crowd pleaser that we enjoyed just before the crowd caught up to us at Carpish!
- BLACK-NECKED WOODPECKER** (*Colaptes atricollis*) – An endemic flicker that we saw well at Santa Eulalia. [E]
- ANDEAN FLICKER** (*Colaptes rupicola*) – It took us a while to see this 'Wood'pecker well, but our views around Junin were great, including that weird episode where one bird attacked another while perched on the adobe building.
- Furnariidae (Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers)*
- COASTAL MINER** (*Geositta peruviana*) – Seen well on the entrance to Lachay. [E]
- COMMON MINER** (*Geositta cunicularia*) – In the flats around Junin.
- SLENDER-BILLED MINER** (*Geositta tenuirostris*) – Seen well both at Huascarán and Junin.
- DARK-WINGED MINER** (*Geositta saxicolina*) – Several showed well on the rocky slopes above Junin and also on the Marcapomacocha road. [E]
- THICK-BILLED MINER** (*Geositta crassirostris*) – A responsive pair at Lachay demonstrated their love for boulders. [E]
- STRIATED EARTHCREEPER** (*Geocerthia serrana*) – Great looks at Huascarán. [E]
- PLAIN-BREASTED EARTHCREEPER** (*Upucerthia jelskii*) – After a few so-so views, one at the mirador at Junin put on a good show.
- CREAM-WINGED CINCLODES** (*Cinclodes albiventris albiventris*) – Formerly part of the Bar-winged Cinclodes (and so called in the Birds of Peru), that species has been split into several.
- WHITE-WINGED CINCLODES** (*Cinclodes atacamensis*) – A species that I think gets overreported by overzealous birders. We had great views of a pair at Conococha.
- WHITE-BELLIED CINCLODES** (*Cinclodes palliatus*) – What an impressive bird! Our views in the cold frosty morning at Ticlio were par for the course! [E]
- WREN-LIKE RUSHBIRD** (*Phleocryptes melanops*) – Seen well around Junin.
- RUSTY-CROWNED TIT-SPINETAIL** (*Leptasthenura pileata*) – One seen very well as we waited for the Ancash Tapaculo to show was a nice diversion. [E]
- STREAKED TIT-SPINETAIL** (*Leptasthenura striata*) – A pair passed in front of our vehicle and continued down the hillside as we left Huascarán, allowing distant views once we got out of the bus.
- AZARA'S SPINETAIL** (*Synallaxis azarae*) – A common mid-elevation spinetail we saw well at Carpish just as that large group of hikers passed us.
- RUFOUS SPINETAIL** (*Synallaxis unirufa*) – A more range-restricted spinetail we also saw well at Carpish.
- WHITE-BROWED SPINETAIL** (*Hellmayrea gularis*) – Heard only at Unchog, and from great distance. This is subspecies ochrogaster, which seems to sound distinct from more northerly birds. [*]
- BARON'S SPINETAIL** (*Craniroleuca baroni*) – Sometimes lumped with Line-cheeked Spinetail, there is an LSU student presently studying this complex, so a better answer to what's going on taxonomically should be forthcoming. We enjoyed good views at Huascarán and on the drive up to Unchog. [E]
- CREAMY-BREASTED CANASTERO (ANCASH)** (*Asthenes dorbignyi* ssp nov) – This taxon is undescribed. After having sat for about thirty years, it is likely that something may finally happen here. Whether it will be described as a subspecies of Creamy-breasted, of Pale-tailed (presently still lumped with Creamy-breasted) or as a species unto itself remains to be seen. After a nice walk, we had a great, if brief, view of one bird, then were able to return to the bus for breakfast in a timely manner (despite the washed-out bridge!). Whew!
- LINE-FRONTED CANASTERO** (*Asthenes urubambensis huallagae*) – A curious bird showed well one afternoon as we returned to camp from the lower valley at Unchog. A second showed well the following morning for those who missed the first.
- MANY-STRIPED CANASTERO** (*Asthenes flammulata taczanowskii*) – Seen by some at Huascarán, then again at Unchog. Has a clearer throat, and less orange on the chin, than northern birds (such as in Ecuador).
- JUNIN CANASTERO** (*Asthenes virgata*) – After putting up a good fight, one bird finally succumbed and showed well just after breakfast on the Marcapomacocha road. [E]
- STREAK-BACKED CANASTERO** (*Asthenes wyatti*) – Seen well our last day at Huascarán and again on the Marcapomacocha road.
- STREAK-THROATED CANASTERO** (*Asthenes humilis*) – Seen our last day at Huascarán and after lunch at Junin.

- CANYON CANASTERO** (*Asthenes pudibunda*) – A brief view of a very frustrating bird on the upper Santa Eulalia road.
- WHITE-CHINNED THISTLETAIL** (*Asthenes fuliginosa plengei*) – At first reluctant, but eventually, it came out to play our first evening at Unchog.
- CACTUS CANASTERO** (*Pseudasthenes cactorum*) – Great views of this local Peruvian endemic at Lachay. [E]
- RUSTY-WINGED BARBTAIL** (*Premnornis guttuligera*) – A pair feeding nestlings (although we could not find the nest!) below the lunch spot on the Paty Trail. [N]
- PEARLED TREERUNNER** (*Margarornis squamiger*) – A striking bird we enjoyed in Huanuco.
- STREAKED TUFTEDCHEEK** (*Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii*) – Good views of a pair at the top of the Paty Trail.
- BUFF-BROWED FOLIAGE-GLEANER** (*Syndactyla rufosuperciliata*) – A pair responded well on the Paty Trail, but were a bit skulky.

Thamnophilidae (Typical Antbirds)

- LONG-TAILED ANTBIRD** (*Drymophila caudata*) – Good views on the Paty Trail.

Grallariidae (Antpittas)

- UNDULATED ANTPITTA** (*Grallaria squamigera*) [*]
- STRIPE-HEADED ANTPITTA** (*Grallaria andicolus andicolus*) – The only antpitta we all saw well, thanks to Cal!
- BAY ANTPITTA** (*Grallaria capitalis*) – Heard well, but I think only Romney got a glimpse. [E]
- RUFOUS ANTPITTA** (*Grallaria rufula obscura*) – John and Carolyn got a glimpse of a rufous shape, but the rest of us just heard the bird.
- CHESTNUT ANTPITTA** (*Grallaria blakei*) – Several heard well at Carpish, but at best a brief glimpse of a shape moving was all we got. [E]
- RUSTY-BREASTED ANTPITTA (SOUTHERN)** (*Grallaricula ferrugineipectus leymebambae*) – Chris and Ken caught a glimpse of this antpitta on the Paty Trail.

Rhinocryptidae (Tapaculos)

- TRILLING TAPACULO** (*Scytalopus parvirostris*) [*]
- LARGE-FOOTED TAPACULO** (*Scytalopus macropus*) – Great views of this largest of the *Scytalopus* at the stream at Unchog! Woo-hoo! [E]
- RUFOUS-VENTED TAPACULO** (*Scytalopus femoralis*) – One seen briefly by some at Paty Trail. [E]
- NEBLINA TAPACULO** (*Scytalopus altirostris*) [E*]
- ANCASH TAPACULO** (*Scytalopus affinis*) – Great views of this local endemic. Even good photos were had! [E]
- TSCHUDI'S TAPACULO** (*Scytalopus acutirostris*) – A bird played hide and seek with us at Unchog. [E]

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

- SOUTHERN BEARDLESS-TYRANNULET** (*Camptostoma obsoletum*)
- WHITE-TAILED TYRANNULET** (*Mecocerculus poecilocercus*)
- WHITE-BANDED TYRANNULET** (*Mecocerculus stictopterus*)
- WHITE-THROATED TYRANNULET** (*Mecocerculus leucophrys*)
- BLACK-CRESTED TIT-TYRANT** (*Anairetes nigrocristatus*) – A family group showed well as we ascended to Unchog. Another was at La Quinoa.
- PIED-CRESTED TIT-TYRANT** (*Anairetes reguloides*) – Seen well at Santa Eulalia.
- ASH-BREASTED TIT-TYRANT** (*Anairetes alpinus*) – A great view of a very responsive pair just over Abra Portachuelo at Huascarán! Nice!



Antpittas are generally a tricky bunch to see well, and they proved especially elusive this trip, but at least this beautiful Stripe-headed Antpitta played nice. (Photo by tour participant Ken Havard)

YELLOW-BILLED TIT-TYRANT (*Anairetes flavirostris*) – Seen well (even a fledgeling on the nest) on the Santa Eulalia road. [N]

TUFTED TIT-TYRANT (*Anairetes parulus*) – Good views as we ascended to Unchog and again at La Quinua.

UNSTREAKED TIT-TYRANT (*Anairetes agraphia*) – Great views, thanks to Cal, at Carpish. [E]

WHITE-CRESTED ELAENIA (*Elaenia albiceps*)

SIERRAN ELAENIA (*Elaenia pallatangae*)

INCA FLYCATCHER (*Leptopogon taczanowskii*) – A pair showed well at the top of the Paty Trail. [E]

PERUVIAN TYRANNULET (*Zimmerius viridiflavus*) – Seen high overhead near the bottom of the Paty Trail. Tour highlight anyone? [E]

MANY-COLORED RUSH TYRANT (*Tachuris rubrigastra*) – Good views of this colorful tyrannulet along the shore of Junin.

RUFOUS-HEADED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Pseudotriccus ruficeps*) – Several birds were along the Carpish trail, eventually allowing everyone a good view!

TAWNY-CROWNED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Euscarthmus meloryphus*) – Common in the scrub along coastal river valleys.

CINNAMON FLYCATCHER (*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus*)

OCHRACEOUS-BREASTED FLYCATCHER (*Nephelomyias ochraceiventris*) – A regular member of flocks at Unchog.

BLACK PHOEBE (*Sayornis nigricans*)

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)

ANDEAN NEGRITO (*Lessonia oreas*) – Common on Lago Junin.

TACZANOWSKI'S GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola griseus*) – The most frequently seen of the ground-tyrants on this tour.

PUNA GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola juninensis*) – Seen at Conococha.

CINEREOUS GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola cinereus*) [a]

WHITE-FRONTED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola albifrons*) – The gargantuan ground-tyrant we saw on bogs.

OCHRE-NAPED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola flavinucha*) – Seen best near the seedsnipe site at Marcapomacocha. [a]

RUFOUS-NAPED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola rufivertex*)

DARK-FACED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola maclovianus*) – One seen at Lachay. [a]

WHITE-BROWED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola albilora*) – Seen with other species at Huascarán.

BLACK-BILLED SHRIKE-TYRANT (*Agriornis montanus*)

STREAK-THROATED BUSH-TYRANT (*Myiotheretes striaticollis*) – A pair seen well on the Santa Eulalia road.

SMOKY BUSH-TYRANT (*Myiotheretes fumigatus*) – A pair seen well at Carpish.

RED-RUMPED BUSH-TYRANT (*Cnemarchus erythropterygius*) – Fantastic! A pair of this outstanding bird were seen on two days at Unchog!

RUFOUS-WEBBED BUSH-TYRANT (*Polioptila rufipennis*) – Great views of a pair at Huascarán.

GOLDEN-BROWED CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca pulchella*) – A bird responded well at Carpish.

SLATY-BACKED CHAT-TYRANT (MAROON-BELTED) (*Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris angustifasciata*) – Fantastic views of a pair beside the road below the Paty Trail entrance.

RUFOUS-BREASTED CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca rufipectoralis*)

BROWN-BACKED CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca fumicolor*) – At Unchog.

D'ORBIGNY'S CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca oenanthoides*) – At Huascarán.

WHITE-BROWED CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca leucophrys*) – Interestingly, I find that John Zimmer described a form



What is currently known as Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant is sometimes split into three species, with the one found in Central Peru known as Maroon-belted Chat-Tyrant, for obvious reasons! (Photo by guide Dan Lane)

called 'interior' from the Huanuco-Pasco area (right where we saw those yellow-bellied birds!). I'll have to investigate further...

SHORT-TAILED FIELD TYRANT (*Muscigralla brevicauda*) – Several seen at Lachay. I think this is the only passerine that has featherless tarsi above the 'ankle joint.'

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) – The highland subspecies *atriceps* was at the start of the Paty Trail.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)

Cotingidae (Cotingas)

BARRED FRUITEATER (*Pipreola arcuata*) [*]

WHITE-CHEEKED COTINGA (*Zaratornis stresemanni*) – Fantastic views of this local Peruvian endemic! We actually had to walk away from *it* to eat lunch! [E]

BAY-VENTED COTINGA (*Doliornis sclateri*) – Another Peruvian endemic we saw well at Unchog. [E]

RED-CRESTED COTINGA (*Ampelion rubrocristatus*)

Tityridae (Tityras and Allies)

BARRED BECARD (*Pachyramphus versicolor*)

BLACK-AND-WHITE BECARD (*Pachyramphus albogriseus*) – It took a while, but we eventually coaxed this highland becard into view.

Vireonidae (Vireos)

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

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

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

PALE-FOOTED SWALLOW (*Orochelidon flavipes*) – More restricted to temperate cloudforest than the previous species, and usually seen only as it zips by just over the treetops at high speeds. We saw some perched (briefly), which was a treat!

BROWN-BELLIED SWALLOW (*Orochelidon murina*)

ANDEAN SWALLOW (*Orochelidon andecola*) – Seen beside the highway near La Oroya.

PERUVIAN MARTIN (*Progne murphyi*) – Well, a mixed blessing: a rare bird (new for me!), but hardly the kind of view we'd want... mostly silhouettes of a group of eight in fog as they flew by Lachay.

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

FASCIATED WREN (*Campylorhynchus fasciatus*) – After a few failed attempts, we all saw these well downstream from Huanuco.

PERUVIAN WREN (*Cinnycerthia peruana*) – Good views, including one with white on the face, at Carpish. [E]

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*)

MOUNTAIN WREN (*Troglodytes solstitialis*)

SEDGE WREN (*Cistothorus platensis*) [*]

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

Poliptilidae (Gnatcatchers)

TROPICAL GNATCATCHER (WHITE-BROWED) (*Poliptila plumbea bilineata*)

Cinclidae (Dippers)

WHITE-CAPPED DIPPER (*Cinclus leucocephalus*) – Cal spied a pair at Huascarán which most got to see.

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

ANDEAN SOLITAIRE (*Myadestes ralloides*)



It's hard not to feel guilty when you find you have to walk away from such an awesome bird as this endemic White-cheeked Cotinga, but some birds are just way too cooperative. We're not complaining, though! (Photo by tour participant Ken Havard)

WHITE-EARED SOLITAIRE (*Entomodestes leucotis*) [*]

GREAT THRUSH (*Turdus fuscater*)

CHIGUANCO THRUSH (*Turdus chiguanco*)

Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)

LONG-TAILED MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus longicaudatus*)

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

YELLOWISH PIPIT (*Anthus lutescens peruvianus*) – Seen best our second visit to Lachay, when Chris noticed one right in front of us!

PARAMO PIPIT (*Anthus bogotensis*) – Nice views on a fencepost!

Parulidae (New World Warblers)

CITRINE WARBLER (*Myiothlypis luteoviridis striaticeps*)

BLACK-CRESTED WARBLER (*Myiothlypis nigrocristatus*)

RUSSET-CROWNED WARBLER (*Myiothlypis coronatus*)

SPECTACLED REDSTART (*Myioborus melanocephalus*)

Thraupidae (Tanagers and Allies)

BLACK-CAPPED HEMISPINGUS (WHITE-BROWED) (*Hemispingus atropileus auricularis*) – Seen well at Carpish.

SUPERCILIARIED HEMISPINGUS (*Hemispingus superciliaris*) – Gray-bellied birds at Carpish.

OLEAGINOUS HEMISPINGUS (*Hemispingus frontalis*) – Carolyn spotted this one at Paty Trail.

RUFOUS-CHESTED TANAGER (*Thlypopsis ornata*) – First seen at Santa Eulalia by Cal, then 'cleaned up' by another John spotted at the Carpish.

BROWN-FLANKED TANAGER (*Thlypopsis pectoralis*) – A pair on the ascent to Unchog, followed by nice views at our breakfast spot the day we drove from Huanuco to Junin. [E]

PARDUSCO (*Nephelornis oneilli*) – Named for my mentor and friend John O'Neill, we enjoyed some good views of this less-than-spectacular tanager. [E]

CINEREOUS CONEBILL (*Conirostrum cinereum*)

BLUE-BACKED CONEBILL (*Conirostrum sitticolor*)

CAPPED CONEBILL (*Conirostrum albifrons*)

GIANT CONEBILL (*Oreomanes fraseri*) – A snazzy bird that we enjoyed muchly at Huascanan.

TIT-LIKE DACNIS (*Xenodacnis parina*) – Another bird that is often a tough one, but which is downright easy at Huascanan!

PLUSHCAP (*Catamblyrhynchus diadema*) – Great views at Carpish!

BLUE-GRAY TANAGER (*Thraupis episcopus*) – This and the next species were at the floor of the Huallaga valley near Huanuco.

PALM TANAGER (*Thraupis palmarum*)

BLUE-CAPPED TANAGER (*Thraupis cyanocephala*)

BLUE-AND-YELLOW TANAGER (*Thraupis bonariensis*)

HOODED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Buthraupis montana saturata*) – Seen by some at Carpish.

LACRIMOSE MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Anisognathus lacrymosus*)

SCARLET-BELLIED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Anisognathus igniventris*) – This eye-candy was not difficult at Unchog.

GRASS-GREEN TANAGER (*Chlorornis riefferii*) – A flashy species we enjoyed at Carpish.

BUFF-BREASTED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Dubusia taeniata stictocephala*) – Another Carpish bird that we saw well. This subspecies is quite distinctive. I suspect we'll see it split in the future.

CHESTNUT-BELLIED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Delothraupis castaneiventris*)

GOLDEN-COLLARED TANAGER (*Iridosornis jelskii*) – This and the next were in the same flock at Unchog. That was a nice flock!

YELLOW-SCARFED TANAGER (*Iridosornis reinhardti*) [E]

SAFFRON-CROWNED TANAGER (*Tangara xanthocephala*)

FLAME-FACED TANAGER (*Tangara parzudakii*) – Great views of this very lovely tanager at the Paty Trail.

BERYL-SPANGLED TANAGER (*Tangara nigroviridis*)

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

GOLDEN-BILLED SALTATOR (*Saltator aurantiirostris*) – Poorly seen at best.

Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows and Allies)

PERUVIAN SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus punensis*) – Pretty common at Huascarán.

MOURNING SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus fruticeti*) – Not colorful, but still an attractive finch... until it opens its bill!

PLUMBEOUS SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus unicolor*)

ASH-BREASTED SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus plebejus*)

BAND-TAILED SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus alaudinus*) – Our best view was at the Ancash canastero spot.

WHITE-WINGED DIUCA-FINCH (*Diuca speculifera*)

GREAT INCA-FINCH (*Incaezpiza pulchra*) – Nice views of several at Santa Eulalia. [E]

RUFOUS-BACKED INCA-FINCH (*Incaezpiza personata*) – Carolyn quickly cut our expedition into the brush short by spotting this bird nearly as soon as we left the road! Sheesh! Where's the fun in bushwacking when the spotters are on the ball like that?! [E]

PLAIN-TAILED WARBLING-FINCH (*Poospiza alticola*) – One bird seen well on day five at Huascarán, but a trio seen even better the next day on the other side of Portachuelo was a great experience! [E]

COLLARED WARBLING-FINCH (*Poospiza hispaniolensis*) – A male showed well along the Santa Eulalia road.

BLUE-BLACK GRASSQUIT (*Volatinia jacarina*)

BLACK-AND-WHITE SEEDEATER (*Sporophila luctuosa*)

CHESTNUT-THROATED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila telasco*) – A male was at the spot we parked before walking in to the Cactus Canastero spot.

BAND-TAILED SEEDEATER (*Catamenia analis*)

PLAIN-COLORED SEEDEATER (*Catamenia inornata*) – Good views at Huascarán.

SLATY FINCH (*Haplospiza rustica*) – A very responsive male was at the top of the Carpish trail.

MOUSTACHED FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa mystacalis*)

BLACK-THROATED FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa brunneiventris*)

RUSTY FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa sittoides*) – One at the lunch spot on the Santa Eulalia road.

MASKED FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa cyanea*)

BRIGHT-RUMPED YELLOW-FINCH (*Sicalis uropygialis*)

GREENISH YELLOW-FINCH (*Sicalis olivascens*) – A bird singing along the Santa Eulalia road was doing some mimicry, something I'd never noticed them do before.

GRASSLAND YELLOW-FINCH (*Sicalis luteola*) – Flybys at Ventanilla.

GRAY-BROWED BRUSH-FINCH (*Arremon assimilis*) – With the splitting of the Stripe-headed Brush-Finch (*A. torquatus*), this is now the species found along the Andes from Colombia to southern Peru.

TRICOLORED BRUSH-FINCH (*Atlapetes tricolor*) [*]

RUFOUS-EARED BRUSH-FINCH (*Atlapetes rufigenis*) – Some good views in the Polylepis at Huascarán. [E]

SLATY BRUSH-FINCH (*Atlapetes schistaceus taczanowskii*) – Common, and singing everywhere at Carpish.

RUSTY-BELLIED BRUSH-FINCH (*Atlapetes nationi*) – Good views on the Santa Eulalia road. [E]

RUFOUS-COLLARED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia capensis*)

COMMON BUSH-TANAGER (*Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*) – These were at Carpish. The taxon here is one of the northern yellow-breasted forms, *hiaticolus*.



Peru has a good diversity of finches, and a bunch of endemics; about a dozen finchy things are found in no other country, including this Plain-tailed Warbling-Finch that we saw at Huascarán. (Photo by guide Dan Lane)

Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)

HEPATIC TANAGER (*Piranga flava*) – Some (for example, the IOC) have split this species into two or three. If you go that route, this is the 'Highland Hepatic' or 'Tooth-billed' Tanager (*P. lutea*).

GOLDEN-BELLIED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus chrysogaster*)

Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

PERUVIAN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella bellicosa*) – Pretty snazzy for a meadowlark!

SCRUB BLACKBIRD (*Dives warszewiczi*)

Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

THICK-BILLED SISKIN (*Spinus crassirostris*) – Thanks to Cal for spotting that group foraging in the Polylepis at Huascarán. A tough bird!

HOODED SISKIN (*Spinus magellanicus*)

BLACK SISKIN (*Spinus atratus*) – A very lovely-looking siskin. Too bad it's always so high up!

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*) – It may not be very impressive to most of you, but trying to document the colonization of this species in South America is actually interesting! I think they hitch rides in tractor-trailers to cross the Andes. [I]

MAMMALS

CAPE HARE (*Lepus capensis*) – This species has been introduced into the Altiplano in Argentina and Bolivia, and I suspect it is what we saw at Junin, too.

GUINEA PIG (*Cavia aperea*) – The ancestral 'cavy' that has been domesticated to cuy (for eating) and guinea pigs (for pets). We saw them along the edge of Junin.

NORTHERN MOUNTAIN VISCACHA (*Lagidium peruanum*) – A few in the rocks at Santa Eulalia. Looks like a squirrel crossed with a rabbit.

VICUNA (*Vicugna vicugna*) – Nice views of this native camelid between Junin and La Oroya.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Mouse-like critter: seen on days 14 and 15 around Lago Junin.

Totals for the tour: 312 bird taxa and 4 mammal taxa