

SHORT EXTENSION TO THE AMAZON RAINFOREST & CUSCO



06 Days Birding Trip

From June 21th to June 26th, 2018

BIRD GUIDE: Jesus Cieza

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Paul Bennett & Mrs. Marina Bennett

BIRDING LOCATIONS:

Madre de Dios – Tambopata: 280m

Cusco – Limatambo: 3400m

Cusco - Huacarpay Lake: 3200m

JUNE 21TH

I went to pick Paul & Marina up from the airport to go straight to our Jungle Lodge. Nice lodge located right by Tambopata National Reserve, a beautiful place with private buildings surrounded by nice Gauda Bamboo and the interesting Tambopata River. By the time we arrive we just spent the rest of the afternoon birding the lodge around, getting some cool birds and a nice troop of Colombian Red Howler Monkeys. After lovely dinner we then went to bed since we had to get up early the following morning.

Birds of the Day:

Blue Headed Parrot, Broad Billed Motmot, Yellow Browed Sparrow, Yellow Rumped Caciue, Olive Oropendola, Russet Backed Oropendola, Speckled Chachalaca, Yellow Crowned Parrot, Black Fronted Nunbird, Olive Backed Foliage Gleaner.

Colombian Red Howler Monkey spotted by the Lodge



JUNE 22TH

Early start to visit the world's largest Macaw Clay Lick and to get there we had to take a boat for a bit more than an hour along Tambopata River, on the way we could see some animals like Capibaras known to be the world's largest rodents. Some Caimans lying down along the Sandy beaches. We finally arrive to our bird spot and found a spot where we had to wait for the activity to come out. After some time waiting for the show, we then saw numbers of birds coming flying over the trees and we could see the birds we wanted to see.

Right after this we then came back to the lodge for lunch, after this we went for a walk in order to get forest birds taking different forest types.

Birds of the Day:

Large Headed Flatbill, Yellow Billed Nunbird, Yellow Breasted Warbling Antbird, Bluish Slate Antshrike, Peruvian Recurbill, Rufous Tailed Foliage Gleaner, Chesnut Tailed Antbird, Rufous Motmot, Plain Winged Antshrike, Scarlet Macaw, Blue Headed Macaw, Cobalt Winged Parakeet, Chesnut Fronted Macaw, White Eyed Parakeet, Dusky Headed Parakeet, Blue and Yellow Macaw, Mealy Parrot, Epaulet Oriole, Crested Oropendola, Channel Billed Toucan, White Throated Toucan.

Macaws on the dirt wall at Tambopata River



JUNE 23TH

We took the car back to Puerto Maldonado, to then visit Sandoval Lake. A beautiful place with very nice vegetation around and a nice walk. We spent one night at one of the local lodges owned by local people. The lake is just amazing since is quite in the afternoon while you are on a paddle boat moving around the lake, we had a lucky afternoon since we found the playful pack of Giant River Otters. Cool birds around plus the giant Black Caimans. Great time around this lake and of course really good birds.

Birds of the Day:

Sungreebe, Hoatzin, Sunbittern, Green Ibis, Greater Yellow Headed Vulture, Amazon Kingfisher, Green and Rufous Kingfisher, Drab Water Tyrant, Great Black Hawk, Band Tailed Antbird, Gray Cowled Wood Rail, Pale Vented Pigeon, Paradise Tanager, Black Faced Dacnis, Band Tailed Manakin, Plumbeous Antbird, Gilded Barbet, Black Tailed Trogon, Rufescent Tiger Heron, Cocoi Heron, Red Bellied Macaw, Red Capped Cardinal, Ringed Kingfisher.

American Pygmy Kingfisher – at Sandoval Lake



JUNE 24TH

Since our flight was the last one to Cusco, which gave us enough time to have an extra morning by the lake and get some extra bird species. Early breakfast and we started moving slowly back to Puerto Maldonado enjoying the sunrise and getting some more cool birds.

We arrived to town for lunch to then go to the airport and flight to Cusco.

Birds of the Day:

Short Tailed Pygmy Tyrant, Silvered Antbird, And Little Tinamou, White Browed Antbird, Elegant Woodcreeper, White Shouldered Tanager, Horned Screamer, Reddish Hermit.

JUNE 25TH

Another early start to visit Chonta, a small village located at 3500m, place where we could see Condors and some others birds. To get there we had to drive for 03 hours to then walk for 01 hour paralel to Apurimac River with a great view. After spending good time up in the mountain and with a great view of ausangate snow peak, we then moved back to for lunch and avoid the Cusco traffic.

Birds of the Day:

Rusty Fronted Canastero, Rusty Crowned Tit Spinetail, Andean Tit Spinetail, Black Billed Shrike Tyrant, Streak Fronted Thornbird, Aplomado Falcon, Black Throated Flowerpiercer, Andean Swift, Blue and Yellow Tanager, White Throated Hawk, Variable Hawk, White Winged Black Tyrant, Creamy Crested Spinetail, Puna Ground Tyrant, Rufous Naped Ground Tyrant, Slender Billed Miner, Andean Condor, Mountain Velvetbreast.



JUNE 26TH

Our last day in Cusco and we visited a beautiful lake at only 01 hour from Cusco, Huacarpay Lake. This excellent place for high Andean marsh birds has some good bird points for endemic species and bird diversity, so we walked around the lake getting our targets plus enjoying the lake. Marina wanted to do something easy and fun so we gave her a bike to enjoy the lake.

Birds of the Day:

The endemic Bearded Mountaineer and some others like White Tufted Greebe, Plumbeous Rail, White Crested Elaenia, Chiguanco Thrush, Yellow Winged Blackbird, Yellow Billed Pintail, Rusty Flowerpiercer, Band Tailed Seedeater, Giant Hummingbird, Green Tailed Trainbearer, Puna Ibis, Cinereous Harrier, Andean Flicker.

The endemic Bearded Mountaineer at Huanbutio - Cusco

