

# NORTHWEST – CENTRAL BIRDING PERU TRIP

## 19 Days Birding Trip

(Private Tour)



From September 03th to September 22th, 2017

**BIRD GUIDE:** Jesus Cieza

**PARTICIPANTS:** Mr. Bob & Mrs. Marsha Rodrigues

### **BIRDING LOCATIONS:**

Lima (Santa Eulalia – Villa Marshes – Pucusana)

Ancash (Huascarán National Park – Conococha Lake - Yungay – Pueblo Libre)

Huanuco (Bosque Unchog – Carpish Tunnel – Patty Trail)

Junin (Junin Lake)

### **ALTITUDE AT BIRDING SITE:**

From sea level to 4600 m.a.s.l.

### **SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>**

We left Lima and took our own vehicle and drove pretty much the whole day moving according to our own pace, and having some stops along the highway including Conococha Lagoon. Of course we got some interesting birds as we ride and getting some cool landscape pictures as we bird. After this lovely ride we finally arrive to Yungay city, which is the closest little town to the main gate to Huascarán National Park. We stay at Rima Rima Hotel, a basic hotel with hot water and very nice people. We went to bed early to start our Ancash Birding Trip.

### **Birds seen from Lima to Yungay.**

- Variable Hawk, Giant Hummingbird, Rufous Naped Ground Tyrant (*Muscisaxicola Pallidiceps*), Crested Duck, Peruvian Sierra Finch, Mountain Caracara, American Kestrel, Austral Vermilion Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, West Peruvian Dove, Eared Dove, Long Tailed Mockingbird, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Chiguanco Thrush, Chilean Flamingo, Grove Billed Ani, Cream winged Cinclodes, Giant Coot, Silvery Grebe, Yellow Billed teal, Andean Goose & Ash Breasted Sierra Finch.



## SEPTEMBER 04<sup>TH</sup>

We started a little late 06:30 am but we managed to get the birds we wanted to see. We drove to the main gate of Huascarán National Park and we started our birding from there, gently walk along the National Park. Our general birding today was mainly along the road and some trails that takes you inside the Polylepis Forest. Nice view of the Cordillera Blanca and beautiful lakes right by Huascarán Valley. Nice day with some of the Ancash endemics and specialties. So today we just covered half of the the main road inside with good target birds.

### Birds of the Day:

- The Endemics birds such as *Plain Tailed Warbling Finch*, *Rufous Eared Brush Finch*, *Rusty Crowned Tit Spinetail* & *Striated Earthcreeper*. Then some more birds like *Tit Like Dacnis*, *Baron's Spinetail*, *Smoky Brown Woodpecker*, *Black Crested Warbler*, *Plain Colored Seedeater*, *Streak Backed Canastero*, *Tackzanowski Ground Tyrant*, *Rufous Webbed Bush Tyrant*, *Black Billed Shrike Tyrant*, *Hooded Siskin*, *Giant Conebill*, *Black Crowned Night Heron*, *Ruddy Duck*, *Great Thrush*, *Blue Mantled Thornbill*, *Bare Faced Ground Dove*, *Shining Sumbean*, *Blue and Yellow Tanager* & *Plumbeous Sierra Finch*.

## SEPTEMBER 05<sup>TH</sup>

Early departure for the rare Endemic *White Cheeked Cotinga*, for which we drove two and a half hours to reach this place, covered with Polylepis Forest. We tried hard for this bird but unfortunately we could not get it. After nice walk along this road and getting some other birds, we slowly started moving back and doing some stops as we headed back. The landscape was quite rewarding giving us nice angle and view for pictures, ending up with a little birding stop by the Control Post as we went out, where we got a nice view of the endemic *Bird Ancash Tapaculo*.

### Birds of the Day:

- *Ancash Tapaculo* (Endemic), *Striped Headed Antpitta* (*Grallaria andicolus*), many *Striped Canastero* (*Asthenes tackzanowskii*), *Yellow Billed Tit Tyrant*, *Rufous Chested Tanager*, *Andean Flicker* (*Colaptes cinereicapillus*), *Rusty Flowerpiercer*, *D'Orbigni's Chat Tyrant*, *Andean Tinamou*, *Spot Billed Ground Tyrant*, *Black Tailed Trainbearer* & *Hepatic Tanager*.

## SEPTEMBER 06<sup>TH</sup>

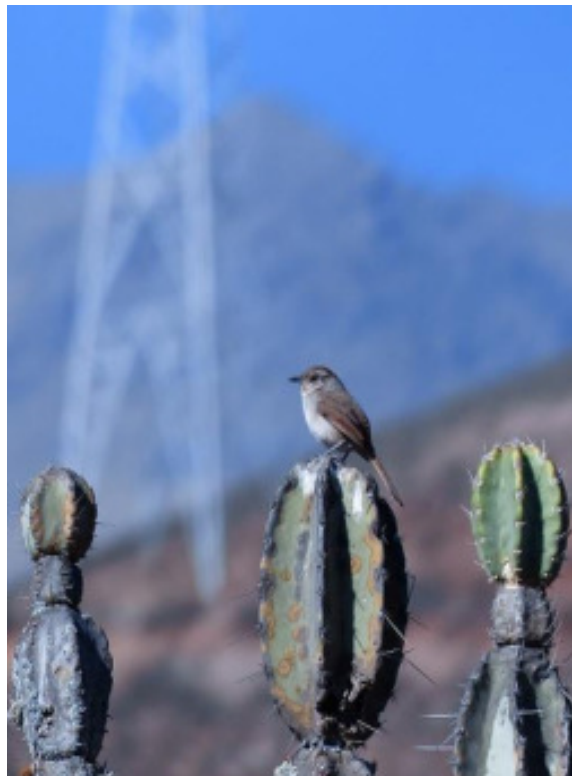
Another early start to visit Pueblo Libre area, for one undescribed sub-specie Canastero. At just 10 minutes from Yungay – Ancash, we found this interesting scrub dry cacti forest, with big variety of birds including some endemic birds. Then we headed further north to get to Huaylas, another small town for a very special high elevation *Inca Finch*. We have been lucky since we got what we wanted.

## Birds of the Day:

- The undescribed Canastero known as *Pale Tailed Canastero*, the Endemic *Rufous Backed Inca Finch*, a quick view of the Endemic *Raimondi's Yellow Finch*, plus *Black Chested Buzzard Eagle*, *Andean Swift* (*Aeronautes Parvulus*), *White Collared Swift*, *Band Tailed Sierra Finch*, *Collared Warbling Finch*, *Purple Collared Woodstart* & *Croacking Ground Dove*.



### Pale Tailed Canastero – North West – Ancash



## SEPTEMBER 07<sup>TH</sup>

Being this our last day at Yungay, we decided to go back for the Endemic and Rare *White Cheeked Cotinga*, so we started early again to visit the Polylepis Forest around Yanganuco Lagoon. So we slowly started looking for this special bird and guess what, We found it and we got a very good view of it. Since was just perched on top of the bushes by the Polylepis Forest right in front of the road. Since this was our target bird, we just then decided to get some photos from some of the common birds around and we got something even better, the other Ancash Specialty, a very great view with photo included of *Ancash Tapaculo*.

## Birds of the Day:

- The Endemic *White Cheeked Cotinga* and others like *Greenish Yellow Finch* & *Black Crested Tit Tyrant*.



## SEPTEMBER 08<sup>TH</sup>

We left Yungay and headed the Carretera Central for the Central Andes, a 06 hours car drive to get to our next destination with some stop on the getting some birds and taking some landscape pictures. We past some escenary and got some interesting for our Peru Bird List. We finally arrive to Huanuco in the afternoon got our rooms and went out for dinner in a very charming local restaurant.

### **Birds of Day:**

- *Aplomado Falcon & Black Faced Ibis.*

## SEPTEMBER 09<sup>TH</sup>

We went to bird Carpish Tunnel and have a look of how Patty Trail is, for our next day. We had a little morning rain so we did not get many birds, but we managed to do some birding after the rain stopped getting some cool birds from the Central Andes.

### **Birds of the Day:**

- *White Rumped Hawk, Peruvian Tyrannulet (Zimmerius Viridiflavus), White Collared Jay, Mountain Cacique, Yellow Bellied Seedeater, Lacrimose Mountain Tanager (Anisognathus Lacrymosus), Swallow Tailed Kite, Highland Elaenia, Masked Flowerpiercer, Slaty Brush Finch, Gray Browed Brush Finch, Violet Throated Startfronlet (Coeligena Dichroua), Barred Fruiteater, Amethys Throated Sunangel, Great Thrush, Mountain Velvetbreast (male) & a good view of Tschudi's Tapaculo.*

## SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>

We started around 6:00 am this time beacuse it was a Little rainy and cloudy. But Little by Little the weather got better and we could get some very cool & endemic birds. Nice Mix Species Flock right by the Carpish Tunnel. Then we move to the Road by the Tunnel getting some more bird species, we did not have sun today but we managed to have another great day.

### **Birds of the Day:**

- The Endemic birds such *Bay Antpitta, Peruvian Wren, Yellow Scarfed Tanager, Brown Flanked Tanager* plus a quick view of the other endemic *Large Footed Tapaculo*. After this special birds we could get some more bird species like, the uncommon *Buff Breasted Mountain Tanager & Powerful Woodpecker*. Some more birds like *Drab Hemispingus, Pearled Treerunner*, good view of *Short Tailed Hawk, Crimson Mantled Woodpecker, Black Capped Hemispingus, Streak Tuftedcheek, Graas Green Tanager, Bay Headed Tanager, Tufted Tit Tyran, Band Tailed Pigeon, Speckled Hummingbird, Sierran Elaenia, Cinnamon Flycatcher.*

## SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>

One more morning by the Carpish Tunnel getting some bird species and coming back to Huanuco Town to get some of the equipment and be ready for the following day at Bosque Unchog.

## Birds of the Days:

- *Smoky Bush Tyrant, Juvenile of Short Tailed Hawk, Female Mountain Velvetbreast, Crowned Chat Tyrant (Heard) & White Eared Solitaire.*



## SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>

Heading to the special Forest known as Bosque Unchog. Got our 4x4 car and went for this special área with really good Endemic Birds. It took us pretty much the whole day to get there since there were working and fixing the road. So was muddy and slippery, and eventually the truck got stuck in thick mud. And took a while to get of from it. We finally made it and arrive late to the place, so we set up our camping gear and went to bed since the temperature up there is quite cold and windy in the afternoon. But even with this bad road we managed to get some birds on the way there and they were new for the list.

## Birds of the Day:

- *Streak Throated Bush Tyrant & Fasciated Wren.*

## SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

Our first full day at Bosuqe Unchog, where we started early in the morning heading the Polylepis Forest and looking for our target birds. On the way we got some incredible scenary and different bird calls around us. We were so lucky this day that we got our Target Birds in less than a day, the wanted birds and some others that tend to move around. We were also lucky getting nice weather so we could not get any better. We walk over the Abra Unchog and got nice patches of Polylepis and nice Paramo Forest around.

## Birds of the Day:

- The Endemics *Golden Backed Mountain Tanager, Bay Vente Cotinga, Coppery Metaltail & Pardusco*. That day we also got some other birds like *Buff Breasted Mountain Tanager, Scarlet Bellied Mountain Tanager, Chesnut Bellied Mountain Tanager, Brown Backed Chat Tyrant, White Chinned Thistletail, Andean Lapwing, Yungas Pygmy Owl, White Throated Tyrannul*.

## SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>

Our last day we decided to look for our last target, which is another Endemic Bird to this area. So we started to look for his habitat and walked for more than an hour where we finally found the perfect spot and play the song and guest what? It came out right in fron us. We got some pictures and got a perfect view of this shy bird. Then we tried for some more birds to then moved back to Huanuco City.

## Birds of the Day:

- The Endemic *Rufous Browed Hemispingus*, the special *Undulated Antpitta, Sedge Wren*, the uncommon *Curve Billed Tinamou, Tyrian Metaltail, Ochraceous Breasted Flycatcher*.

## Rufous Browed Hemispingus

One of the Bosque Unchog Specialties Central Andes



### SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

We went to check Patty Trail for some missing species but the rain did not let us see much so we pretty much the whole day was raining y whole área got covered by mist. But even with this bad day we got some birds around this interesting trail.

#### **Birds of the Day:**

- *Flame Faced Tanager, Montane Woodcreeper, Slaty Backed Chat Tyrant, Black Capped Hemispingus.*

### SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>

We left Huanuco in the morning and drove for 04 hours to get to Junin Department, we arrive to this lovely place called Ondores and we spent the afternoon at Cesar's House. Very simple house but very nice family. Then we went for lunch at one of the local restaurants and right after that we went out for our birding around Junin Lake, getting amazing and Endemic Birds there. The afternoon was a little rainy but we could get some the target birds around this place.

#### **Birds of the Day:**

- *The Endemics Black Breasted Hillstart, Dark Winged Miner & Junin Rail. Then we got some more birds like Andean Avocet, Chilean Flamincos, Ornate Tinamou, Andean Swallow, Puna Teal, Bright Rumped Yellow Finch, Correndera Pipit & Aplomado Falcon getting his spray.*



## SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>

Early morning to go for one of the best targets around Junin Lake, we drove for 30 minutes around the lake to then take a motor boat and head to the middle of the lake, looking for this special endemic bird. We finally got to see two of them that came very close to our boat and got the chance to get some shots and videos. After this we just got back for lunch and headed to our next destination.

### **Birds of the Day:**

- *Junin Greebe, Puna Snipe, Junin Canastero, Variable Hawk, Silvery Greebe, Ruddy Duck, Cinammon Teal, Wilson Phalarop, Andean Gull, Cinereous Harrier, Sedge Wren, Cordilleran Canastero, Buff Breasted Earthcreeper.*

## SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>

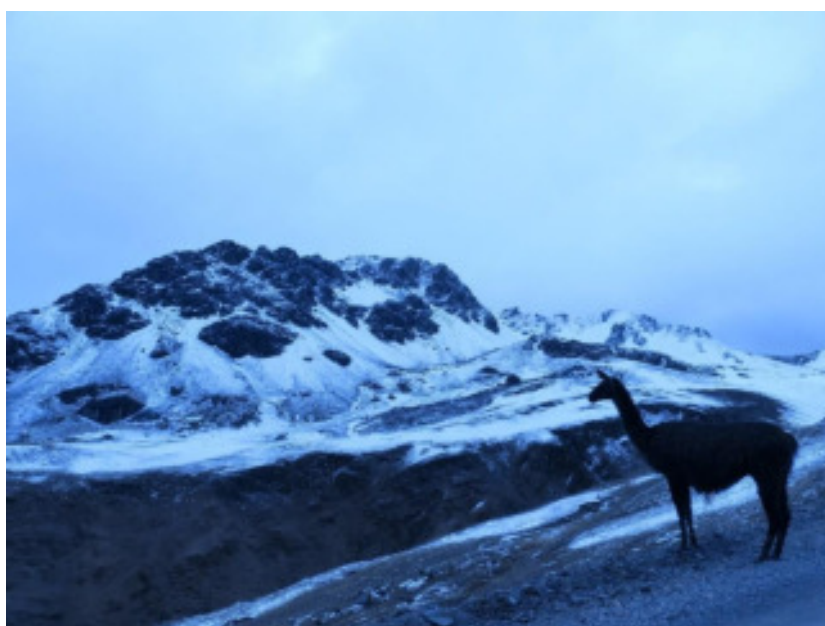
After spending the night by La Oroya Town, a very little town right by the Main Central Highway. We had a early departure to Santa Eulalia Route for the Endemic Birds along this road. We had a lucky day since as soon as we got to the place, we just walked a Little and we got what we were looking for right in front of the car. After getting our main Target Bird we slowly started descendant by the road getting some more birds to finally arrive to Santa Eulalia Town to spend the night there.

### **Birds of the Day:**

- *The Endemic White Bellied Cinclodes, White Winged Diuca Finch, Ochre Naped Ground Tyrant, White Fronted Ground Tyrant, Puna Ground Tyrant, Mourning Sierra Finch, Giant Hummingbird, Black Siskin & White Winged Cinclodes, Bare Faced Ground Dove, Black Winged Ground Dove, Gray Breasted Seedsnipe, Andean Swift.*

Beautiful Landscape at Santa Eulalia Canyon

Beginning of Central Andes





## SEPTEMBER 19TH

We started early in the morning to do some birding by the main route, getting some interesting & Endemic birds. We drove also to the highest part of the road looking for the special Diademed sandpiper plover getting some others species we had have seen already in Huanuco. Nice day with very cool temperature and of course good birds.

### **Birds of the Day:**

- The Endemics *Black Necked Woodpecker, Dark Winged Miner & White Bellied Cinclodes. Olivaceous Thornbill, Rufous Bellied Seedsnipe, Puna Snipe, Purple Collared Woodstart, Peruvian Sheartail, Red Masked Parakeet, Black Crowned Night heron, Streak Throated Canastero, Slender Billed Miner, Brown Crested Flycatcher, Peruvian Pygmy Owl, Scrub Blackbird, Blue and Yellow Tanager & Southern Beardless Tyrannulet.*

## SEPTEMBER 20TH

We left Santa Eulalia Valley to then headed to Pucusana Fishing port, on the way to this nice place we stopped at Villa Marshes to see some birds that inhabit this special marshes by the ocean and get some migratory birds as well. We spend few hours by this marshes getting some nice photos and new birds for our list. After this we moved to Pucusana where we spend our last night of the Central Andes Birding Trip.

### **Birds of the Day:**

- *Grassland Yellow finch, Peruvian Meadowlark, Many Colored Rush Tyrant, Amazilia Hummingbird, Bananaquit, Scrub Blackbird, Semipalmated Plover, Gray Gull, Kelp Gull, Black Bellied Plover, Sunderling, Kildeer, Wimbrell, Barn Swallow, Great Greebe, Harri's Hawk, Austral Vermilion Flycatcher, Gray Hooded Gull, Inca Tern, Peruvian Booby, Belcher Gull, Surfbird, Striated Heron, Little Blue Heron, Blue and White swallow. American oystercatcher, Least Sandpiper, Cinammon Teal.*

## SEPTEMBER 21TH

Nice day at Pucusana Fishing Port getting some of the highlight Birds, to get these birds we had to take a small motor boat to move around a rocky island where you get nice view and get the chance to photograph all the birdlife and animals that surround the island.

### **Birds of the Day:**

- The Endemic *Sea Sided Cinclodes* and others like *Humbolt Penguin, Peruvian Booby, Peruvian Pelican, Inca Tern, Red Legged Cormorant, Blackish Oystercatcher, Guanay Cormorant.*



Our Personal Birding Track on the way back.



#### The Animal List:

- Vizcacha
- Andean Fox
- South American Sea Lion
- Llama
- Vicuña