

Northwest - Central Andes &  
The Magical Machupicchu  
20 Days Birding Trip



From May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**BIRD GUIDE:** Jesus Cieza

**PARTICIPANTS:** Mr. Paul Bennett & Mrs. Marina Bennett

**BIRDING LOCATIONS:**

Conococha Lake (Ancash): 4200m

Huascarán National Park (Ancash): 4400m

Bosque Unchog (Huanuco): 4200m

Carpish Tunnel (Huanuco): 2700m

Junin Lake (Junin): 4080m

Santa Eulaia Canyon (Lima): 4600m

Pucusana Fishing Port (Lima): Sea Level

Villa Marhes (Lima): Sea Level

Lomas De Lachay Reserve (Lima): 3500m

Machupicchu (Cusco): 2400m

Abra Malaga (Cusco): 4200m

Huacarapay Lake (Cusco): 3200m

**MAY 30<sup>TH</sup>**

Arrival day to Lima - Peru, I went to pick up Mr. Paul Bennett from the airport to then take him to our Hotel in Miraflores, Downtown Lima. After leaving luggage at the Hotel, we went for nice dinner around to set up detail for the following day.

## MAY 31<sup>TH</sup>

Early breakfast to then start our bird adventure into the North Central Andes, Ancash. Nice driving from sea level to the High Andes at Conococha Lake at 4200m. Being our first birding stop, nice bird location with cool birds and beautiful scenery. After this short bird stop, we continued our driving to finally get to Yungay City, where we got our hotel & local dinner.



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

*Cordilleran Canastero, Ornate Tinamou, Silvery Grebe, Giant Coot, Bright Rumped Yellow Finch, Ash Breasted Sierra Finch, White Winged Cinclodes, Crested Duck, Long Tailed Mockingbird, Sparkling Violetear, Croaking Ground Dove, American Kestrel, Black Vulture, Creamy Winged Cinclodes, Mountain Caracara, Puna Ibis, Groove Billed Ani & Chilean Flamingo.*

### **View of Conococha Lake - Mandatory bird stop on the way to Yungay City**



## JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>

We left our Hotel at 5.00 am, to then drive up to the main park gate, being lucky since we got an Owl & a Nightjar. Nice view of these two Bird Species that inhabit the High Andes. After this good views we just walk around by the Control Post to see some birds and continue with a great day since we got most of our Target Birds (Enedemics). Beautiful patches of Polylepis Forest and nice view of the Highest Snow Peak in Peru (6,768 m).

## Birds of the Day:

The Endemics like *White Cheeked Cotinga*, *Rufous Eared Brush Finch*, *Plain Tailed Warbling Finch*, *Striated Earthcreeper*, and *Rusty Crowned Tit Spinetail* & *Ancash Tapaculo*. Some more birds like *Black Crested Warbler*, *Band Winged Nightjar*, *Great Horned Owl*, *Andean Flicker*, *Blue Mantled Thornbill*, *Jelki's Chat Tyrant*, *Giant Hummingbird*, *Peruvian Sierra Finch*, *Plumbeous Rail*, *Line Cheeked Spinetail*, *Puna Ground Tyrant*, *Tit Like Dacnis*, *Rufous Chested Tanager*, *Tyrian Metaltail*, *Brown Bellied Swallow*, *House Wren*, *Cinereous Conebill* & *Great Thrush*.



## Polylepis Forest around Huascarán National Park



## JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup>

Another early start in order to visit Huascarán National Park one more time and get better views and photograph the endemic species we already saw plus getting the bird species we were missing. This time was beautiful and not too cold like the day before, so we scanned the Polilepys forest around the Llanganuco Lake looking one more time for the Endemic Cotinga. Lucky day, we got what we were looking for, then we birded the trails around to get some extra species but Paul, my Guest did not feel well and we had to return earlier than usual to the Hotel.

## Birds of the Day:

*Tawny Tit Spinetail, Stripe Headed Antpitta, Black Throated Flowerpiercer, Black Crested Tit Tyrant, Giant Conebill, Red Crested Cotinga, Andean Swallow, Rufous Breasted Chat Tyrant & White Browed Chat Tyrant.*



## JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup>

Today was a long driving day since we had to go from Yungay City (Ancash) to Huanuco City. But before this long driving we visited two beautiful bird spots near Yungay City, for two Bird Species that are special around this area. Right after getting our target birds then we started moving to our next bird destination, Huanuco City. Along this interesting road we could also do some stops on the way to get some bird pictures and enjoy the scenery as we drove.

## Birds of the Day:

*Pale Tailed Canastero & the endemic Rufous Backed Inca Finch.* Some other species like *Peruvian Meadowlark, Hooded Siskin, Bare Faced Ground Dove, Andean Swift, Austral Vermilion Flycatcher, Variable Hawk & Mountain Parakeek.*

### Pale Tailed Canastero at Pueblo Libre site



## JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>

We left Huanuco city heading to Bosque Unchog, where we spent one night up there, in order to get the specialties that are only found up there. The day was a little rainy so we had some troubles driving up, but our stay up there was worth it.



### **Bird of the Day:**

*Gray Browed Brush Finch, Black and White Seedeater, Rufous Browed Peppershrike, White Throated Hawk, Golden Billed Saltator, Black Throated Flowerpiercer, Band Tailed Pigeon, Golden Grossbeak & Curve Billed Tinamou.*

## JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup>

Our full day around Bosque Unchog, having a nice day with all the targets we wanted, all the Bird Species from early morning until 3:00 pm, then coming back to Huanuco City.

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

Endemic Birds like *Bay Vente Cotinga, Pardusco, Tschudis Tapaculo, Coppery Metaltail, and Rufous Browed Hemispingus & Golden Backed Mountain Tanager.* Some other Bird species like *Red Rumped Bush Tyrant, Many Striped Canastero, Sedge Wren, Chesnut Bellied Mountain Tanager, Ochraceous Breasted Flycatcher, Pearled Treerunner, Moustached Flowerpiercer, Yungas Pygmy Owl, Citrine Warbler, Masked Trogon, and Streak Throated Bush Tyrant & Fasciated Wren.*

### **Bay Vented Cotinga - Endemic specie from Bosque Unchog - Huanuco**





## JUNE 6TH

Another early start to visit Carpish Tunnel for some of the special birds that move around this nice area. We had a nice sunny day and we could get some of the Target Bird Species we were looking for. Our birding area was around 2700m. Nice bird flocks with amazing landscape plus lovely lunch in a local restaurant having a really good Trout.

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

The Endemics *Brown Flanked Tanager*, *Yellow Scarfed Tanager*, *Peruvian Wren & Unstreaked Tit Tyrant*. Some others like *Crimson Mantled Woodpecker*, *Violet Fronted Startfronlet*, *Gray Browed Brush Finch*, *Rufous Headed Pygmy Tyrant*, *Yellow Billed Cacique*, *White Banded Tyrannulet*, *Barred Becard*, *Amethys Throated Sunangel*, *Lacrimose Mountain Tanager*, *Mountain Wren*, *Streak Headed Antbird*, *Slaty Brush Finch*, *Tufted Tit Tyrant*, *Spectacled Redstart*, *Smoky Bush Tyrant*, *Grass Green Tanager*.

## JUNE 7TH

We drove through Carpish Tunnel to then get to Senda Patty. A hard birding walk since you have to walk down hill, on a local path with big bird variety and then walk up, to take the car back, all this combine with considerable elevation. But very good birds!

After this nice tiring walk we then found a lovely local restaurant where we could enjoy one more time Local Food.

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

The Endemics like *Chesnut Antpitta*, *Bay Antpitta*, *Rufous Vented Tapaculo*, and *Masked Fruiteater*. Some others like *Flavescent Flycatcher*, *White Tailed Tyrannulet*, *Smoke Colored Pewee*, *Barred Fruiteater*, *White Eared Solitaire*, *Lont Tailed Sylph*, *Wedge Billed Hummingbird*, *Collared Inca*, *Capped Conebill*, *Tricolored Brush Finch*, *Montane Woodcreeper*, *Uniform Antshrike*, *Rufous Backed Treehunter*, *Pale Legged Warbler*, *Road Sided Hawk*.

## JUNE 8TH

Since this was our last day in Huanuco, we decided to go back to Carpish Tunnel to try one more time for one of the species we were missing, so we started early as usual, getting a nice view of the sunrise around Carpish Tunnel. Then we went for a bird walk and look for this target bird. Unfortunately we could not get it but we got some extra birds as we searched for this target and right after this we drove back to Huanuco to then go straight to Junin Department and spent the night at Ondores, which is a quite and nice little town, where we spent the night at Cesar's House.

Something very cool this night was that we went to see the Endemic Rail at night, which was an incredible experience for my guest since we got many Junin Rails walking around us, right by our feet. Highly recommended experience.



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

*The Endemic Junin Black Rail and some other species like Andean Teal, Andean Geese, Cinereous Harrier, Andean Negrito, Buff Breasted Earthcreeper, Crowned Chat Tyrant, Black Siskin, and Spot Winged Pigeon.*

## **Birding around the Majestic Junin Lake – Junin Department**



### **JUNE 9TH**

Early start at Junin Lake, looking for the special Greebe and some more birds around. Beautiful day with great views of this endangered species, plus magical scenery with the sunrise. Right after getting the Greebe we then went for some other target birds around the lake.

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

*The endemics like Junin Greebe, Black Breasted Hillstart, and Junin Canastero. Some other specialties like Puna Plover, Ornate Tinamou, Correndera Pipit, Short Billed Pipit, Common Miner, Spot Billed Ground Tyrant, Black Winged Ground Tyrant, Black Billed Shrike Tyrant, Streak Backed Canastero, and Andean Swallow.*

## The Endemic Junin Canastero – around Junin Lake



### JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup>

We left Junin Lake at 4:00 a.m., to go straight to Santa Eulalia Canyon, for the Endemic species along this beautiful area. 3 hours driving with an interesting coffee stop at 4800m before our high elevation bird stop.

Nice day with many birds and a very good weather since the temperature was not too bad, having sunny windy day. After this cool birdy day we spent the night at San Juan De Iris, nice little place with a comfortable hotel at 3400m.

### Birds of the Day:

The Endemics like *White Bellied Cinclodes*, *Dark Winged Miner*, and *Black Necked Woodpecker* & *Rusty Bellied Brush Finch*. Some more birds like *Mourning Sierra Finch*, *Giant Hummingbird*, *Greenish Yellow Finch*, *Gray Breasted Seedsnipe*, *Olivaceous Thornbill*, *Cinereous Ground Tyrant*, *White Fronted Ground Tyrant*, *White Winged Diuca Finch*.

### White Bellied Cinclodes at the Highest Part of Santa Eulalia Canyon





## JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup>

Another early start to continue birding along the Canyon and getting the rest of the target species to then end up in Lima City. Since we walked down to sea level the hot temperature was quite early but at least let us do and get the bird we were looking for.



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

The Endemics *Great Inca Finch & Rusty Crowned Tit Spinetail*. Some other birds like *Canyon Canastero, Black Chested Buzzard Eagle, Purple Collared Woodstart, Peruvian Sheartail, Peruvian Pygmy Owl, West Peruvian Dove, Dusky Capped Flycatcher, Yellow Billed Tit Tyrant, Southern Beardless Tyrannulet, and Scrub Blackbird*.

### **Diademed Sandpiper Plover - Target Bird at Santa Eulalia Canyon**



## JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup>

One of the last day around Lima, to get some more target birds for our Peru Birding List. Almost 02 hours driving from Lima Downtown to reach a very special hábitat with cool birds. Lomas de Lachay, a very interesting desert cacty mountains hábitat with good chances for some endemic birds.

After walking around this area we then moved to Paraiso Lagoon, another beautiful coastal marsh with cool sea birds to increase our bird list.

## Birds of the day:

The endemics like *Thick Billed Miner*, *Coastal Miner* & *Raimondis Yellow Finch*. Some others like *Peruvian Pipit*, *Snowy Plover*, *Kildeer*, *Black Necked Stilt*, *South American Tern*, *Andean Tinamou*, *Purple Collared Woodstart*, *Greater Yellowlegs*, *Grassland Yellowfinch*, and *Turkey Vulture*.



## JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup>

Our main day for coastal marshes & sea birds. Early breakfast to go to Villa Marshes for our first birding stop, after doing this birdy area we then drove to Pucusana Fishing port, for a nice boat trip and get our last target birds and photography.

## Birds of the Day:

The endemic *Peruvian Sea Sided Cinclodes* and some more cool birds like *Humbolt Penguin*, *Guanay Cormorant*, *Red Legged Cormorant*, *Inca Tern*, *Gray Gull*, *Kelp Gull*, *Belchers Gull*, *Surfbird*, *Peruvian Pelican*, *Willet*, *Blackish Oystercatcher*, *Groove Billed Any*, *Amazilia Hummingbird*, *Bananaquit*, *Shiny Cowbird*, *Harri's Hawk*, *Austral Vermilion Flycatcher*.

## The Special Inca Tern at Pucusana Fishing Port



## JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>

We decided to take a city tour since Paul's wife wanted to know the area around and learn about our culture. So we took a car and we went to visit Lima Downtown and some Churches, right after this short but interesting tour around Lima Center we took the plane to Cusco for the southern Andes Birds.

## JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup>

Early departure to take the train at Poroy Station and headed to Aguas Calientes Town. We arrived early to Aguas Calientes having time to some birding along Urubamba River.



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

*Russet Crowned Warbler, Rufous Breasted Coronet, Dusky Green Oropendola, Brown Capped Vireo, Capped Conebill, Sclater's Tyrannulet, Blue Necked Tanager, Long Tailed Sylph, Andean Guan, Andean Cock of the rock, Andean Motmot, Slate Throated Redstart, Speckled Faced Parrot, Collared Inca, Torrent Tyrannulet, Torrent Duck.*

## JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup>

Early breakfast to visit the Peru's Highlight, MACHUPICCHU. A little foggy morning, but we managed to get some birds around to then eventually get a nice view from the magical Magical Incas Ruin. After having a good time up in Machupicchu, then we decided to walk down instead of taking the bus, this way we could enjoy the landscape and at the same time get some more birds. Nice lunch at Aguas Calientes Town to then take the train back to Ollantaytambo Town.

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

The Endemics *Inca Wren & Green and White Hummingbird*. Some more birds like *Ocellated Piculet, Mottled Cheeched Tyrannulet, Oleaginous Hemispingus, Streaked Xenops, Hepatic Tanager, Dull Colored Grassquit, Andean Parakeet, Peruvian Racketail, Saffron Crowned Tanager, White Winged Black Tyrant, Highland Elaenia, Rust and Yellow Tanager, Amethys Woodstart, White Tipped Swift, Golden Bellied Euphonia, Ashy Headed Tyrannulet, Tropical Parula, Spectacled Redstart.*

### **Machupicchu & the LLamas**



## JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup>

Another early start to go to Abra Malaga pass at 4200m. Interesting place with great localized birds and some endemics. Driving for 01 hour to then have our first stop and get the birds we were looking for. Very nice and tiring day since we had to walk on a mountain covered by ice in order to get our target birds.



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

The endemics *White Browed Tit Spinetail*, *Rusty Fronted Canastero*, *White Tufted Sunbeam* & *Creamy Crested Spinetail*. Some more birds like *Ash breasted Tit Tyrant*, *Tawny Tit Spinetail*, *Andean Hillstart*, and *Puna Tapaculo*.

### **The Endemic White Tufted Sunbeam at Peñas Site**

#### **On the way to Abra Malaga Pass**



## JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup>

Another visit to the other side of Abra Malaga, to see a bit more of Paramo Forest and Elfin Forest, we got some good birds but we had to come back since Paul was not feeling well, anyways we had a great morning with some cool mix flocks. After this we had lunch at Urubamba Town on the way back to Cusco to then finish our 20 days' bird trip.



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

The endemic *Marcapata Spinetail* and other birds like, *Sapphire Vented Puffleg*, *White Browed Conebill*, *Glossy Black Thrush*, *Scaled Metaltail*, *Bronzy Inca*, *Crowned Chat Tyrant*, *Three Striped Hemispingus*, *Drab Hemispingus*, *Paramo Pipit*.

### **Resting at Abra Malaga Pass - 4200 m.**

