

BIRD-PHOTO TRIP AT NORTHERN PERU

19 DAYS / 18 NIGHTS



From 16th February to 05th March, 2020

BIRD GUIDE: Jesus Cieza

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Charly Sax

BIRD LOCATIONS:

TARAPOTO 356 masl (ACONABIHK RESERVE, CORDILLERA ESCALERA)

MOYOBAMBA 860 masl (WAQANKY LODGE)

FUNDO ALTO NIEVA 1900 masl

HUEMBO LODGE 2060 masl

JAEN CITY 729 masl (YANAHUANCA FOREST)

PIURA - ABRA PORCULLA PASS 2145 masl

CHICLAYO 27 masl (CHAPARRI LODGE & RESERVE)

FEBRUARY 16TH, LIMA ARRIVAL

We picked Charly up from the airport as usual. We welcome him to then go to our downtown Hotel in Miraflores. Nice dinner and give him details for the following days.

FEBRUARY 17TH, LIMA – TARAPOTO CITY & KOEPKE’S HERMIT RESERVE

Early departure from Lima to catch our first flight to Tarapoto City, start the day visiting our first birding spot along the Northern Route, and try to shoot as much as we can in order to maximize our bird shooting chances. Lucky day since we could get some of the species we were looking for.

BIRDS OF THE DAY:

The endemic *Koepcke’s Hermit* and some other good birds like *Green Honeycreeper*, *White Necked Jacobin*, *Gray Breasted Sabrewing*, *Fork Tailed Woodnymph*, *Hepatic Tanager*, *Black Faced Dacnis*, *Paradise Tanager*, *Fiery Capped Manakin*, *Masked Tityra*, *Red-legged Honeycreeper*, *Bay Headed Tanager*, *Masked Tanager*, *Gould’s Jewelfront*, *Golden Tailed Sapphire*, *Blue Fronted Lancebill*, *Clif Flycatcher*, *Purple Honeycreeper*, *Thick Billed Euphonia*, *Black Caracara*, *Palm Tanager*, *Yellow-Bellied Tanager*, *Yellow Backed Tanager*, *White-Eyed Parakeet*.

Photo Birding at Cordillera Escalera - Tarapoto



FEBRUARY 18TH, KOEPCKE'S HERMIT RESERVE & CORDILLERA ESCALERA ROUTE

Our third day along the Northern Route with very good photos opportunities, this time we started from Tarapoto City to then drive for 40 minutes and get to a nice private area where we could get some cool birds and extra hummingbirds. We spent the morning around this property to then move for our lunch to a very nice restaurant found along this road where you can have very good view from the mountains and the treetops plus a nice lunch variety.

BIRDS OF THE DAY:

The very localized *Dotted Tanager* and other species like *Golden Headed Manakin*, *Gilded Barbet*, *Lettered Aracari*, *White Tipped Swift*, *Spotted Tanager*, *Buff Throated Saltator*, *Blue Backed Manakin*, *Wedge Billed Woodcreeper*, *Carmioli's Tanager*, *Red Throated Caracara*, *Black-Throated Mango*, *Smooth Billed Ani*, *Yellow Tufted Woodpecker*, *Purple Throated Euphonia*.

FEBRUARY 19TH, TARAPOTO CITY – MOYOBAMBA CITY & WAQANKI LODGE

Early departure to drive for around 03 hours along the Mayo Valley with some bird stops for certain species to increase our bird list. We finally arrived in Moyobamba City with a little rain on the way and managed to be for lunch time at our new lodge for the following days. The afternoon we could spend it shooting the big variety of Hummingbirds visiting the beautiful property covered with many different flowers and bird feeders.

BIRDS OF THE DAY:

The endemic *Huallaga Tanager*, *Orange Bellied Euphonia*, *Rufous Crested Coquette*, *Brown Violetear*, *Great Billed Hermit*, *Oilbird*, *Dull Colored Grassquit*, *Varzea Thrush*, *Blue Tailed Emerald*, *Lafresnaye's Piculet*, *Chesnut Crowned Becard*, *Turquoise Tanager*, *Chesnut Bellied Seedfinch*, *Boat Billed Flycatcher*, *Amethys Woodstar*, *Common Tody-Flycatcher*, *Cobalt Winged Parakeet*, *Oriole Blackbird*, *White Bearded Hermit*, *Olivaceous Woodcreeper*.

Range Restricted - Dotted Tanager



FEBRUARY 20TH, WAQANKY LODGE FULL DAY

Nice day with very good weather and good birds. Better shots from Male Coquette and others, we also visited a nice little water spot for the uncommon Masked Duck and other species around Moyobamba City. Early walking around Waqanky property for extra birds that include species that are not seen very often.

BIRDS OF THE DAY:

The endemic *Mishana Tyrannulet* and others like *Fiery Throated Fruiteater*, *Foothill Antwren*, *Slaty Capped Flycatcher*, *Black and White Tody-Flycatcher*, *Black Banded Woodcreeper*, *White-Throated Woodpecker*, *Canada Warbler*, *Spot Winged Antbird*, *Chesnut Throated Spinetail*, *Streaked Flycatcher*, *Yellow Breasted Flycatcher*, *Short-Tailed Pygmy-Tyrant*, *Spot Backed Antbird*, *Uniform Antshrike*.

FEBRUARY 21TH, MIRADOR TAHUISHCO & WAQANKY LODGE

Another good day since we could get a good number of birds that were photographed with good light and distance. New bird species for Charly and of course nice shots and colors, the morning was spent at Mirador Tahuishco where you have a very good angle and view from the treetops plus the interesting view of Mayo River & Valley.

BIRDS OF THE DAY:

Yellow-Bellied Elaenia, *Blue Necked Tanager*, *Cream Colored Woodpecker*, *Little Woodpecker*, *Rufous Fronted Thornbird*, *Yellow-Crowned Tyrannulet*, *White Lined Tanager*, *Blackpoll Warbler*, *Swallow-Tailed Kite*, *Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl*, *Scarlet Tanager*, *Long-Tailed Tyrant*, *Tataupa Tinamou*, *Band Bellied Owl*, *Piratic Flycatcher*, *Pale Breasted Thrush*, *Burnished Buff Tanager*.

Peruvian Rackettail & Rufous Crested Coquette



FEBRUARY 22TH, MOYOBAMBA – ARENA BLANCA RESERVE

We had a rainy morning and we started a little late than usual; we drove for more than 2 hours until we reached Arena Blanca Reserve where we spent the rest of the day, shooting some new Hummingbirds for the trip and try the hide for Tinamous and other birds. At the end of the day, we walked along the main entrance of the Reserve where we try for a Toucannet, getting our last target.

BIRDS OF THE DAY:

Golden Collared Toucannet, Chesnut Bellied Seedeater, Orange Billed Sparrow, White Tipped Dove, Long-Billed Starthroat, Wire Crested Thorntail, White-Bellied Woodstar, Blue Black Grassquit, Rufous Collared Sparrow, Hauxwel's Thrush.

FEBRUARY 23TH, ARENA BLANCA RESERVE FULL DAY – LLANTERIA FEEDERS

Early breakfast to start another photo day trip, moving around Arena Blanca Reserve and the main highway. Very good weather and good birds, this time we had a good time shooting at llanteria hummingbird feeders for some specialties that visit this place plus a nice lunch we had at the restaurant owned by the locals.

BIRDS OF THE DAY:

Ecuadorian Piedtail, Green Hermit, Andean Emerald, Bronze Green Euphonia, Thrush Like Wren, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Mottle Backed Elaenia, Magpie Tanager, Peruvian Rackettail, Violet Fronted Brilliant, Black-Capped Donacobius, Spot Breasted Woodpecker, Crested Oropendola.

FEBRUARY 24TH, ARENA BLANCA RESERVE – ALTO NIEVA LODGE



We left Arena Blanca Reserve early in the morning to find good spots along the road on the way to Alto Nieva Lodge. Nice day and good birds came along this day having a nice breakfast in one of the local restaurants, where we had a nice piece of fresh fish for lunch. Right after that, we went straight to our next lodge and finish the afternoon shooting new hummingbirds.

BIRDS OF THE DAY:

The Endemic *Rusty Tinged Antpitta*, *Rufous Vented Whitetip*, *Fawn Breasted Brilliant*, *Ash Browed Spinetail*, *Spotted Tanager*, *Peruvian Tyrannulet*, *Blue Browed Tanager*, *Golden Tanager*, *Ashy Headed Bush Tanager*, *Green Jay*, *Golden Eared Tanager*, *Oranged Eared Tanager*, *Cinnamon Screech Owl*.

FEBRUARY 25TH, ALTO NIEVA FULL DAY – ANTPITTA & HUMMINGBIRD FEEDERS

One of the full days we have at this nice property where we could move and try to get the specialties that are found at this elevation. Good trails and forest for bird flocks and good food.

BIRDS OF THE DAY:

The endemics *Ochre Fronted Antpitta* & *Lulu's Tody-Flycatcher*, *Royal Sunangel*, *Bar Winged Wood Wren*, *Uniform Antshrike*, *Mottled Cheeked Tyrannulet*, *Pale Edge Flycatcher*, *Flame Faced Tanager*, *Silver Backed Tanager*, *Olivaceous Siskin*.

Endemic Ochre Fronted Antpitta





FEBRUARY 26TH, ALTO NIEVA FULL DAY – ALTO MAYO RESERVE

We had a rainy morning that stop around 9am, and then we decided to walk along a very old road with very good mix flock. We came back to the lodge for our good lunch and right after that, we went for a nice walk into the different trails around the property to try some more Bush birds.

BIRDS OF THE DAY:

The endemic Inca Flycatcher & Rufous Vented Tapaculo, White Capped Tanager, Deep Blue Flowerpiercer, Rufous Tailed Tyrant, Barred Antthrush, Streak Headed Antbird, Gray Mantled Wren

FEBRUARY 27TH, ALTO NIEVA FULL DAY – ABRA PATRICIA AREA

An early start to then head to a new hummingbird spot and some extra species, this time we visited Abra Patricia Reserve, a nice protected area along the main highway. We spent a nice day around this area by Owllet Lodge getting some cool birds to increase our bird list.

BIRDS OF THE DAY:

Sword Billed Hummingbird, Variable Antshrike, Streaked Tuftedcheek, Sierran Elaenia, Blue Capped Tanager, Black-Throated Tody-Tyrant, Grass Green Tanager, Lesser Violetear, Andean Guan, Brown Capped Vireo, Rufous Crested Tanager, Streaked Xenop, White-Sided Flowerpiercer, Green and Black Fruiteater, Collared Inca.

FEBRUARY 28TH, ALTO NIEVA – HUEMBO LODGE

We left the lodge early in the morning to then go for new and the start of the Northern Birding Route, Marvelous Spatuletail. On the way, we had some stops in order to try some good bird species but we also had some rain on the way; to avoid the rain we decided to continue with the road and stopped at a nice restaurant before Huembo Lodge, where we had a nice trout for lunch and the surprise was to find the special hummingbird just there by the garden.

The flowering tree at the restaurant had not only the main target bird, there were also some other birds and hummingbirds visiting the flower giving us a good afternoon with great shots.

BIRDS OF THE DAY:

Marvelous Spatuletail, Yellow Breasted Brush-Finch, Inca Jay, Little Woodstar, Lesser Elaenia, White Bellied Hummingbird, Green Fronted Lancebill.

FEBRUARY 29TH, HUEMBO LODGE FULL DAY

Nice full day at Huembo's property to get some more birds and increase our list. We had a little morning rain but we could manage to get the birds we were looking for. In the afternoon, we decided to come back to the restaurant we had the day before to get more shots from the famous Marvelous Spatuletail.



BIRDS OF THE DAY:

Rufous Winged Tyrannulet, Highland Elaenia, Buff Bellied Tanager, Golden Grosbeak, Chesnut Capped Brush-Finch, Mitred Parakeet, Green Tailed Trainbearer, Lesser Goldfinch.

The Uncommon Little Woodstart & Rufous Winged Tyrannulet



MARCH 01ST, HUEMBO LODGE - LLANAHUANCA FOREST - JAEN CITY

Early start to slowly move down and continue with the dry forest from the famous Marañon Valley Specialties. Lucky day having nice weather and good birds on the way. We had a nice lunch right at LLanahuanca forest where we spent the rest of the afternoon getting some of the most wanted birds at the Tumbesian dry forest.

BIRDS OF THE DAY:

The endemic Little *Inca Finch* and some other specialties like *Marañon Crescentchest, Marañon Spinetail, Chinchipe Spinetail, Drab Seedeater, Red Crested Finch, Marañon Pigeon, Tropical Gnatcatcher, Comb Duck, Savanna Hawk, Plain Breasted Ground-Dove.*

MARCH 02ND, JAEN CITY – ABRA PORCULLA – CHAPARRI LODGE

Our departure was at 4:00 am, to then drive for 3 hours until the lowest part of the Andean mountains 2100masl. We had a very nice breakfast at Abra Porculla area where we had a nice breakfast facing the western Andes. Great morning having the best birds found at this spot and nice weather.



BIRDS OF THE DAY:

The endemics *Piura Chat-Tyrant* and *Cinereous Finch*. Some more birds like *Black Cowled Saltator*, *Ash Breasted Sierra Finch*, *Parrot Billed Seedeater*, *Gray and Gold Warbler*, *Ecuadorian Piculet*, *Slaty Brush-Finch*, *Henna Hooded Foliage Gleaner*, *Gray and*, *White Tyrannulet*, *Short-Tailed Field Tyrant*, *Burrowing Owl*, *Aplomado Falcon*.

The Endemic Piura Chat Tyrant (Piura Region)

Photo Credit: Charly Sax



MARCH 03RD, CHAPARRI LODGE FULL DAY

Nice full day at the Tumbesian Dry Forest created by the Ocean currents along the Pacific Coast. The day was just beautiful giving us good day and birds, we could see the Hummingbirds taking a bath at the little creek found by the lodge to then go for a nice morning and afternoon walk plus nice owling to finish the day.

BIRDS OF THE DAY:

The endemic *White-Winged Guan* and *Tumbes Tyrant*. Some more good birds like *Elegant Crescentchest*, *Collared Antshrike*, *Tumbes Sparrow*, *Streaked Headed Woodcreeper*, *Scarlet Backed Woodpecker*, *Black and White Seedeater*, *Tumbes Hummingbird*, *Pacific Pygmy Owl*, *Pacific Hornero*, *WhiteTailed Jay*, *Harri's Hawk*, *Amazilia Hummingbird*.



MARCH 04TH, CHAPPARI LODGE FULL DAY

Another day at Chaparri Reserve with not rain and good bird activity. We spent the morning visiting the lower part of this protected area to then finish the day at the higher part shooting the smallest Woodstart in Peru.

BIRDS OF THE DAY:

Short-Tailed Woodstar, *White-Headed Brush-Finch*, *Sulphur Throated Finch*, *Pacific Parrotlet*, *Red Masked Parakeet*, *West Peruvian Screech Owl*, and *Snowy Throated Kingbird*.

Endemic Cinereous Finch – Specialty from the Dry Tumbesian Forest



MARCH 05TH, CHAPARRI LODGE – RAFAN – LIMA



Early breakfast to then go for our last Endemic to the Tumbesian Dry Forest. We had to drive for 03 hours to reach Rafan, a nice place located by the Pacific Ocean and the huge Peruvian desert covered by Carob Trees. We spent the morning looking for some specialties at this area and then headed to the Ocean where we had a nice lunch facing the sea. Later that day we took the plane back to Lima.

BIRDS OF THE DAY:

The endemics *Peruvian Plantcutter* and *Coastal Miner*. Some others like *Tumbesian Tyrannulet*, *Pearl Kite*, *Fasciated Wren*, *Guanay Cormorant*, *Peruvian Theecknee*, *Many Colored Rush Tyrant*, *Wren Like Rushbird*, *Chesnut Throated Seedeater*, *South American Tern*.

Endemic Tumbes Tyrant – Specialty from the Equatorial Dry Forest

