

Peru - Macaws & Machu Picchu

Naturetrek Tour Report

14 - 30 October 2012



Andean Cock of the Rock



Blue and Yellow Macaw



Machu Picchu



Sunbittern

Report compiled by Jose Antonio Padilla
Images courtesy of Stephen Berry



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Day 1

Wednesday 14th October

The group arrived in Lima on schedule in the early evening, and were met by Giovanna our local guide and transferred to the comfortable Hotel Hacienda in the fashionable suburb of Miraflores for the night.

Day 2

Thursday 15th October

After a leisurely breakfast, we drove to the Pantanos de Villa marshland reserve on the southern limits of the sprawling Lima conurbation. Like with the September group we stopped in the way and had great views of Peruvian Thick-Knees. In a short time we saw a wide range of birds. Next we drove south along the coast to the small fishing village of Pucusana. Here we took a short boat ride around the harbour and enjoyed excellent views of hundreds of Inca Terns, Peruvian Boobies and Peruvian Pelicans, etc, and several impressive South American Sea Lions. After a nice seafood lunch by the harbour, we continued on the Pan-American Highway south of Lima. A stop at the Pantanos de Viejo marshes added some more good coastal birds. During the afternoon we continued south along the desert coast on the highway, marvelling both at the abject barrenness of much of the landscape as well as at the remarkable range of crops that are grown in the oasis valleys. We pushed on to Paracas where we arrived a little after sunset and settled in for a two-night stay.

Birds seen today:

*Peruvian Endemic

White-Checked Pintail	Cinnamon Teal
Andean Ruddy Duck	Pied-billed Grebe
Great Grebe	Humboldt Penguin
Blue-winged Teal	Peruvian Pelican
Peruvian Bobby	Blue-footed Bobby
Neotropic Cormorant	Guanay Cormorant
Red-legged Cormorant	Great Egret
Little-Blue Heron	Snowy Egret

Cattle Egret	Striated Heron
Black-Crowned Night Heron	Puna Ibis
Black Vulture	Turkey Vulture
Osprey	Harris's Hawk
American Kestrel	Peregrine Falcon
Plumbeous Rail	Azure Gallinule
Common Moorhen	Andean Coot
Blackish Oystercatcher	American Oystercatcher
Black-necked Stilt	Peruvian Thick-knee
Killdeer	Whimbrel
Greater Yellowlegs	Spotted Sandpiper
Ruddy Turnstone	Surfbird
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Least Sandpiper
Wilson's Phalarope	Baird's Sandpiper
Band-tailed (Belcher's) Gull	Kelp Gull
Grey-headed Gull	Franklin's Gull
Gray Gull	Inca Tern
Elegant Tern	Black Skimmer
Rock Dove	West Peruvian Dove
Croaking Ground Dove	Groove-billed Ani
Mountain Parakeets	Burrowing Owl
Lesser Nighthawk	Surf Cinclodes*
Wren-like Rushbird	Many-coloured Rush-Tyrant
Vermilion Flycatcher	Grey Breasted Martin
Blue-White Swallow	Sand Martin
Barn Swallow	House Wren
Long-tailed Mockingbird	Grassland Yellow-Finch
Cinereous Conebill	Yellow-hooded Blackbird
Peruvian-Red Breasted Meadowlark	Shiny Cowbird
House Sparrow	

Total 75 species

Day 3

Friday 16th October

Early this morning before breakfast, we gathered outside our beautiful hotel in Paracas for a walk, and got some extraordinary birds along the beach, including a large flock of Chilean Flamingos. Also on the other side of the beach we encountered a couple of Marbled Godwit, a lifer for me! Thank you Tony and John, for spotting it! The rest of the day was spent around Ica, where some people took the flight over the Nazca Lines, while others went in search of the special birds of Peru's coastal desert and oases. We were pleased to see one of the local feral populations of Pacific Parrotlets. Amazilia and Oasis Hummingbirds and Purple-collared Woodstar were also around, and a Peruvian Sheartail came to feed in some local flowers. After picking up the people that did the flight over the lines, we went to Huacachina Lake, an oasis in the middle of the desert. We enjoyed a delicious lunch here overlooking sand-dunes which was well deserved after an excellent and exciting morning.

In the afternoon we went to the Dunas Hotel, the best place around to look for the Peruvian endemic Black-necked Woodpecker, and right after we stopped at the entrance of the hotel, the woodpecker came and perched right in front of us on a tree that was in front of the van! Another reason to celebrate later back to the hotel...

New birds today

*Peruvian Endemic

Chilean Flamingo	Black-bellied (gray) Plover
Semipalmated Plover	Snowy (Kentish) Plover
Willet	Sanderling
Marbled Godwit, seen for the first time in Paracas National Reserve	Royal Tern
Peruvian Tern	Scarlet Fronted Parakeet
Pacific Parrotlets	Amazilia Hummingbird
Oasis Hummingbird	Peruvian Sheartail
Purple Collared Woodstar	Black-necked Woodpecker*
Coastal Miner*	Tropical Kingbird
Rufous Collared Sparrow	Saffron Finch
Scrub Blackbird	Hooded Siskin

Total 22 species

Day 4

Saturday 17th October

What a morning this was! Before breakfast we went for a second walk along the beach just outside the hotel, nothing really new but we spotted some Bottlenose Dolphins, there were at least 4 swimming in front of the hotel, what a show they gave us! Breakfast was back at the hotel, and then we went to the quay, to catch our boat for the Ballestas Islands. We passed the Candelabra geoglyph, etched into a coastal desert headland, and on to the remarkable, bird-laden islands. On our way out we scanned the sea for Diving-Petrels and Storm-Petrels.

Once at the Ballestas Islands we found Humboldt Penguins and Inca Terns and above them on the slopes were many thousands of Peruvian Boobies, and on the islands' flat tops were unimaginable numbers of Guanay Cormorants. Here and there were Red-legged Cormorants and Surf Cinclodes, while beneath the water line, visible when the swell falls, were millions of mussels and their predators: shocking orange starfish and dusky sunstars. We also had amazing views of Southern Sea Lions.

Before lunch we visited an area with a small population of Huarango trees, a type of South American Acacia, where we found and had great views of Slender-billed Finches and Short-tailed Field-Tyrants. Then we went to the Paracas National Reserve and the Bay of Lagunillas where a Royal Tern fished, a Wandering Tattler flew across the flat blue sea, a Snowy Plover stood sentinel on a rocky platform and a Surfbird picked through the seaweed with a posse of Ruddy Turnstones.

In the afternoon before we headed back to Lima, we stopped in some agricultural fields where we got some coastal specialities, after that we returned to Lima, and got ready for our journey to Amazonia the following day.

New birds seen today:

***Peruvian Endemic**

Wilson's Storm Petrel
 South American Tern
 Bran-Coloured Flycatcher
 Blue-backed Grassquit
 Parrot-billed Seed eater

Wandering Tattler
 Sandwich Tern
 Short-Tailed Field Tyrant
 Slender-billed Finch
 Chestnut-throated Seed eater

Total 10 species

Day 5**Sunday 18th October**

We flew this morning to Puerto Maldonado to catch our boat for Tambopata. Here we were met by our excellent local guides Oscar and Fernando. We drove a short distance out of town, to the office just to repack for our days in the jungle. We drove along the dirt road to the native community of Infierno, stopping a few times to look at some birds. Then we took our motorized canoe along the Tambopata River, eating lunch from banana leaf plates on the way, and enjoying the splendid selection of common Amazon critters to be seen. Flocks of Chestnut-fronted Macaws were overhead, Capped Herons crouched under overhanging trees, high above were Black and Turkeys Vultures, and Fork-tailed Palm-Swifts strafed the river. At Posada Amazonas birds were everywhere. After we'd checked into our rooms we watched Yellow-billed Nunbirds in a nearby Cecropia tree by the dining room. As dusk fell they were joined by the sound of Speckled Chachalacas, and a great chorus of frogs and insects.

New birds seen today:

***Peruvian Endemic**

Great Tinamou
 Orinoco Goose
 Spix's Guan
 Plumbeous Kite
 Red Throated Caracara
 Pied Lapwing
 Gray-fronted Dove
 Red and Green Macaw
 Dusky headed Parakeets
 Blue-headed Parrot
 Greater Ani
 Tawny-bellied Screech Owl
 White-collared Swift
 Black-fronted Nunbird
 Chestnut-eared Araçari
 Buff-throated Woodcreeper
 Boat-billed Flycatcher
 Great Kiskadee
 White-banded Swallows

Horned Screamer
 Muscovy Duck
 Capped Heron
 Roadside Hawk
 Bat Falcon
 Ruddy Ground-Dove
 Blue and Yellow Macaw
 Chestnut-fronted Macaw
 Cobalt-winged Parakeets
 Squirrel Cuckoo
 Smooth-billed Ani
 Ladder-tailed Nightjar
 Short-tailed Swift
 Yellow-billed Nunbird
 Lineated Woodpecker
 Drab-water Tyrant
 Streak Flycatcher
 Violaceous Jay
 Southern Rough-winged Swallow

Black-billed Thrush
 Blue – Grey Tanager
 Yellow-browed Sparrow
 Chestnut-bellied Seedeater
 Crested Oropendula
 Giant Cowbird

Silver-beaked Tanager
 Palm Tanager
 Double-Collared Seedeater
 Grayish Saltator
 Russet-backed Oropendula

Total 49 species

Day 6

Monday 19th October

Early this morning we took to the water on a raft, to visit a serene oxbow lake called "Tres Chimbadas". Before we reached the lake the forest was full of birds, and a bamboo area on the way allowed us to get some bamboo specialists. Walking along the trail, Oscar pointed out the roosting place for a Common (Grey) Potoo. What fantastic camouflage, we watched it for a while as it was sleeping. Once we got to the lake, Hoatzins wheezed from the trees, and swimming on the lake we were delighted to see a Sungrebe. Meanwhile clumsy Pale-vented Pigeons clung to lake-side trees and Blue-headed Parrots flapped overhead. Unfortunately, we didn't get to see the Giant Otters that inhabitant the lake - you know nothing is guaranteed in the jungle!

In the afternoon we journeyed further up river, into the forest, to Tambopata Research Centre. The further we went the more exciting the wildlife-watching became; White-winged and White-banded Swallows skimmed the water's surface, Pied Lapwings patrolled the beaches, Cocoli Herons and splendid Horned Screemers stood at the top of the trees, and overhead we started to see large macaws: mainly Scarlets and Blue-and-Yellows. A family of Orinoco Geese on the way up river was a surprise. The mammals were good too: Capybaras were on the beaches, and licking clay from a steep bank was an absurdly tame family of Red Howler Monkeys. Stayed overnight at Tambopata Research Centre. Another fantastic day in the jungle!

New birds seen today

*Peruvian Endemic

Anhinga
 Greater Yellow-headed Vulture
 Swallow-Tailed Kite
 Black-Hawk Eagle
 Sungrebe
 Collared Plover
 Large-billed Tern
 Scarlet Macaw
 White-eyed Parakeet
 White-bellied Parrot
 Mealy Parrot
 Common Potoo
 Black throated Mango
 White-chinned Sapphire
 Collared Trogon

Cocoli Heron
 King Vulture
 Roseate Spoonbill
 Black Caracara
 Wattled Jacana
 Yellow-billed Tern
 Pale-vented Pigeon
 Blue-headed Macaws
 Rose-fronted Parakeet
 Yellow-crowned Parrot
 Hoatzin
 Sand-Coloured Nighthawks
 Fork-tailed Woodnymph
 Long-billed Starfront
 Ringed Kingfisher

Amazon Kingfisher	Green Kingfisher
Blue-crowned Motmot	Broad-billed Motmot
Swallow-wing	Gilded Barbet
Lemmon throated Barbet	Emerald Toucanet
Yellow-tufted Woodpecker	Little Woodpecker
Cream-colored Woodpecker	Rufous-headed Woodpecker
Red-necked Woodpecker	Cinnamon throated Woodcreeper
Warbling Antbird	White-lined Antbird
Chestnut-tailed Antbird	Goeldi's Antbird
Black-faced Antthrush	Forest Elaenia
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Eastern Kingbird
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	Masked Tityra
Crested Becard	Dwarf-tyrant Manakin
Purplish Jay	White-winged Swallow
Black-capped Donacobius	Thrush-like Wren
Moustached Wren	Magpie Tanager
Opal-crowned Tanager	Red-capped Cardinal
Yellow-rumped Cacique	

Total 65 species

Day 7

Tuesday 20th Oct

Before dawn we walked through the forest, by the river, onto a river island, and settled into pole-position seats for watching the breathtaking spectacle of the colpa. There were of course plenty of parrots to see: lots of Blue-and-Yellow and a few Scarlet Macaws, White-bellied Parrots (wonderful!) and Blue-headed Parrots, and countless Mealties, Yellow-crowned, screeching Red-bellied Macaws and Chestnut-fronted. Later on Blue-headed Macaws arrived first on the trees and then onto the clay lick, just amazing! After this spectacle we were ready for a walk in to the forest. We decided to split the group in two, the "birders" and I went into a nice, old, primary forest reaching at the end a nice patch of bamboo. Here we got a bunch of very good birds, including the Amazonian Royal Flycatcher, and also found a nice troop of Peruvian Spider Monkeys on the way. Back at the lodge we had lunch, and got ready for a final afternoon walk into the forest. In the afternoon we were rewarded with a magnificent Scarlet-hooded Barbet, and White-necked Puffbird on a lookout point by the clay lick, what a fantastic bird for the end of our stay at TRC.

New birds seen today:

*Peruvian Endemic

Grey Tinamou	Specked Chachalaca
Blue-throated Piping Guan	Razor-billed Curassow
Pale-winged Trumpeter	Plumbeous Pigeon
Red-bellied Macaw	Orange-checked Parrot
Fork-tailed Palm Swift	White-bearded Hermit
Black-tailed Trogon	Bluish-fronted Jacamar
White-necked Puffbird	White-fronted Nunbird
Scarlet-hooded Barbet	White-throated Toucan

Channel-billed Toucan	Red-stained Woodpecker
Crimson-crested Woodpecker	Olivaceous Woodcreeper
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	Elegant Woodcreeper
Pale-legged Hornero	Plain Xenops
Bamboo Antshrike	Spot-winged Antshrike
Dusky-throated Antshrike	Bluish-slate Antshrike
Plain-throated Antwren	White-eyed Antwren
White-flanked Antwren	Long-winged Antwren
Dot-winged Antwren	Striated Antbird
White-browed Antbird	Black-faced Antbird
Silvered Antbird	Plumbeous Antbird
Rufous-capped Antthrush	Gray-crowned Flycatcher
Golden-crowned Spadebill	Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher
Swainson's Flycatcher	Crowned Slaty Flycatcher
Social Flycatcher	Cinereous Mourner
Sirystes	Bare-necked Fruitcrow
Band-tailed Manakin	Blue-crowned Manakin
Red-eyed Vireo	Dusky-capped Greenlet
Musician Wren	Swainson's Thrush
Lawrence's Thrush	White-necked Thrush
White-winged Shrike-Tanager	White-shouldered Tanager
Red-crowned Ant-Tanager	Masked-Crimson Tanager
Turquoise Tanager	Paradise Tanager
Green-Gold Tanager	Green Honeycreeper
Olive Oropendula	

Total 65 species

Day 8

Wednesday 21st October

Like yesterday we split the group again, the clay lick was so amazing the day before that some people wanted to repeat the show! As for the rest of us, we went for our final walk in the jungle. Back at the lodge for breakfast we all shared experiences about our morning activities, we were all very glad to have done what we did. After breakfast we got ready to leave Tambopata Research Center and later in the morning we moved downriver to Refugio Amazonas, and enjoyed a welcome drink before going to the rooms. In the afternoon we explored the nice terra firme forest here and ended up in the splendid canopy tower which was a fine end to the day.

New birds seen today

*Peruvian Endemic

Great Black Hawk	Gray Hawk
Ruddy Quail-Dove	Gould's Jewelfront
Blue-crowned Trogon	American Pygmy Kingfisher
Rufous Motmot	Ivory-billed Araçari
Curl-crested Araçari	Brown-rumped Foliage Gleaner
Fasciated Antshrike	Royal Flycatcher
Greyish Mourner	Pink-throated Becard

Black-tailed Tityra
Tawny-crowned Greenlet

Screaming Piha
Buff-rumped Warbler

Total 18 species

Day 9

Thursday 22nd October

This morning's aim was to reach Cusco - so, delighted to have seen so much spectacular wildlife, we said good-bye to our brilliant friends Oscar & Fernando and left Amazonia. The way back to Puerto Maldonado allowed us to see only few new birds, including great views of a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl perched on a snag right in the middle of open farmland. We were met in Cusco by a local guide, Arturo. In the afternoon we toured the Inca city with him, while I went to leave clothes for the laundry. They all admired the Korikancha Palace and the Plaza de Armas, where some local activities were taking place. Chiguanco Thrush and a Rufous-collared Sparrow (bizarrely in the Plaza de Armas) were added to our list this afternoon.

New birds seen today:

*Peruvian Endemics

Sunbittern

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl

Great Potoo

Golden-collared Toucanet

White throated Antbird

White-bellied Tody Tyrant

Chiguanco's Thrush

Black-throated Flowerpiercer

Total 8 species

Day 10

Friday 23rd October

Cusco, the capital of the Inca Empire, is located in the middle of the Peruvian Andes at 3,300 meters above sea level. Today we did an interesting tour going to see the highlights of the Inca's legacy and of course to see some of the Andean birds that are found around. We started birding along a nice Eucalyptus forest just outside the city. Some very good birds were around including some Peruvian endemics like: Creamy-crested Spinetail, Chestnut-breasted Mountain-finch and Rusty-fronted Canastero. What an excellent start...Later we got ready to visit the Inca site of Sacsayhuaman, a nice Inca fortress, built using huge stones, used by the Incas to protect the city when the Spanish were trying to invade Cusco. Arturo was excellent at explaining the facts of this site. Due to the high altitude, we took it easy, and everyone was able to enjoy that walk.

After that we continued our way to the Sacred Valley of the Incas, a fertile valley where the locals are still farming the way they did many hundreds of years ago. We more specifically headed down to the Andean town of Pisac, where amongst other things we went to the local market and bought some crafts. After some leisure time in the market we headed up to the Inca site of Pisac, a site where mummies were found. After another excellent explanation from Arturo, we went for some birding - where there were some nicotiana shrubs, better known as tobacco plant, we got the fantastic Peruvian endemic "Bearded Mountaineer" a hummingbird considered one of the most beautiful in the world. Picnic lunch was awaiting for us, which was delicious and after lunch we started to head down to the Andean Lake known as "Huacarpay", a marshy area located only 45 minutes away from Cusco. We got there in the afternoon and of course the activity was also good. A fantastic sunset marked the end of another beautiful day.

New birds seen today

*Peruvian Endemic

Torrent Duck	Speckled Teal
Yellow-billed Pintail	Puna Teal
White-tufted Grebe	Black-faced Ibis
Mountain Caracara	Andean Lapwing
Andean Gull	Spot-winged Pigeon
Andean Swift	Shinning Sunbeam
Giant Hummingbird	Black-tailed Trainbearer
Bearded Mountaineer	Andean Flicker
Bar-winged Cinclodes	Creamy-crested Spinetail
Rusty-fronted Canastero	Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant
White-browed Chat-Tyrant	Blue & Yellow Tanager
Peruvian Sierra Finch	Mourning Sierra Finch
Ash-breasted Sierra Finch	Chestnut-breasted Mountain Finch
Greenish Yellow-Finch	Band-tailed Seed eater
Golden-billed Saltator	Yellow-winged Blackbird

Total 30 species

Day 11

Saturday 24th October

We set off from Cusco shortly after dawn and began the long journey across the mountains to the Manu Valley. After a while we began to climb and our route took us steadily upwards until eventually we found ourselves on high puna grassland, deserted save for occasional remote farmsteads and herds of llamas and sheep. This was a marginal place, cold and bleak, but a series of short stops brought us sightings of a range of high altitude birds. Once over the first pass we dropped back down into more inhabited zones and by one small village we found Rufous-webbed Ground-Tyrant at the roadside and a group of Spot-winged Pigeons, whilst at our lunch spot by a stream in a scrubby valley we saw Chestnut-breasted Mountain Finch.

Continuing on through the afternoon, we dropped down to the town of Paucartambo before climbing again to the high Acjanaco Pass. This was the gateway to Manu and in a matter of a few hundred metres, as we breasted the pass itself, we passed from the arid western side of the Andes to the humid east. We left behind the dry inter-Andean valleys and entered lush, forested mountains and hills largely hidden in cloud, dropping away to the Amazonian lowlands far below. A spectacular view and a stunningly abrupt transformation!

A short walk here in the scrub and elfin forest below the Pass produced Brown-backed Chat-Tyrants and lovely Moustached Flowerpiercers. We finished the afternoon winding our way down the Manu road through apparently endless forested hairpins and enjoyed wonderful views of a number of very exciting new birds en-route. We finally arrived at Cock of the Rock Lodge a little after dark – it had been a long but hugely interesting and rewarding day.

New birds seen today

*Peruvian Endemic

Andean Guan	Black-chested Buzzard Eagle
Bare-faced Ground-Dove	Lyre-tailed Nightjar
Chestnut Collared Swift	Violet-throated Starfrontlet
Blue-banded Toucanet	Azara's Spinetail
Pearled Treerunner	White banded Tyrannulet
Torrent Tyrannulet	Cinnamon Flycatcher
Smoke-coloured Pewee	Black Phoebe
Rufous-breasted Chat-tyrant	Brown-backed Chat-tyrant
Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant	Rufous-webbed Tyrant
Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrant	Andean Negrito
Brown-bellied Swallow	Andean Swallow
Cliff Swallow	Great Thrush
Black-capped Hemispingus	Black-eared Hemispingus
Hooded Mountain Tanager	Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager
Moustached Flowerpiercer	Masked Flowerpiercer
Black-faced Brush-Finch	Band-tailed Sierra Finch
Spectacled Redstart	Citrine Warbler
Dusky-Green Oropendula	

New 35 species

Day 12

Sunday 25th October

We were up and breakfasting with the hummingbirds again at first light and with breakfast completed we set off but got distracted in the parking area by a mixed feeding flock, with excellent birds in it. Eventually we headed up the valley to explore some higher altitude forest. We made various stops and had one lengthy walk down the road and encountered an excellent variety of birds in consistently beautiful surroundings. A large mixed flock kept us occupied for some time – not bad for a morning!

After lunch, a siesta, and some nice views of a Speckled Hummingbird in the garden, we set off again, this time on foot. We covered a fair distance strolling gently up the valley and had a fine time with a close pair of Green Jays, a distant troop of Woolly Monkeys making their way through the trees on the other side of the valley and, outstandingly, a superb male Crested Quetzal, perched up in full view right by the road, eating tiny little wild avocados.

New Birds seen today

*Peruvian Endemic

Solitary Eagle	Band-tailed Pigeon
Scaly-naped Parrots	Sparkling Violetear
White-crested Thorntail	Speckled Hummingbird
Booted Racket-tail	Long-tailed Sylph
White-bellied Woodstar	Crested Quetzal
Highland Motmot	Golden-olive Woodpecker

Yellow-breasted Antwren	Slaty-capped Flycatcher
Bolivian Tyrannulet	Scaled-crested Pygmy Tyrant
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Western Wood-Pewee
Lemmon-browed Flycatcher	Andean Cock of the Rock
Green Jay	Grey-breasted Wood Wren
Andean Solitaire	Hauxwell's Thrush
Bananaquit	Orange-bellied Euphonia
Orange-eared Tanager	Golden Tanager
Spotted Tanager	Blue-necked Tanager
Deep-blue Flowerpiercer	Tropical Parula
Slate-throated Redstart	Three-striped Warbler
Olivaceous Siskin	
Total: 35 species	

Day 13

Monday 26th October

Our day began at dawn with sensational views of leking Cock-of-the-Rocks just a few hundred yards from the lodge. It continued over breakfast with a range of Hummingbirds, including the fantastic Wire-crested Thornail that visits the garden. We spent much of the rest of the day driving down the valley to the town of Pilcopata and then back up again, with stops and short explorations at various altitudes. It eventually became hot and bird activity was subdued but a variety of notable birds were seen nonetheless. We finished the day back at Cock of the Rock Lodge under a dark, brooding sky. Some went back to the road to try to find more birds on their own, whilst others explored closer at hand. Both groups had good success, with wonderful views in particular of a lovely mixed flock of tanagers. Another satisfying day...

New birds seen today

*Peruvian Endemic

Green-fronted Lancebill	Golden-tailed Sapphire
Fine-barred Piculet	Dark-breasted Spinetail
Cabani's Spinetail	Montane Foliage Gleaner
Chestnut-backed Antshrike	Striped-Chested Antwren
Mottle-backed Elaenia	Marbled-faced Bristled-Tyrant
Little Ground Tyrant	Short-crested Flycatcher
Golden-crowned Flycatcher	Gray-capped Flycatcher
Piratic Flycatcher	White-winged Becard
Fiery-capped Manakin	Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager
Black-Goggled Tanager	Yellow-bellied Dacnis
Purple Honeycreeper	Swallow Tanager
Black and White Seedeater	Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch
Buff throated Saltator	Two-banded Warbler
Golden-bellied Warbler	

Total 27 species

Day 14

Tuesday 27th October

Leaving the lodge shortly after dawn we began the long drive back across the mountains back to Cusco. We took our time as we climbed up and out of the Manu cloudforest and made a series of stops to try to see some more of the higher altitude birds. It was an enjoyable morning and we had some success, with good sightings. Near the Rocotal area I spotted an Andean Potoo, a bird with incredible camouflage, which was seen perched on a dead trunk very close to the main road. We made a brief stop at the Ajanaco Pass and noted more Shining Sunbeams and three species of Flowerpiercers and then continued our journey through the afternoon. We made a few brief stops en-route which brought us some good views of Variable Hawks and Bar-winged Cinclodes and arrived back in Cusco at the end of the afternoon. Back in Cusco we said goodbye to our excellent local guide Jose Luis Avendanho.

New birds seen today

*Peruvian Endemic

Least Grebe	Variable Hawk
Black and Chestnut Eagle	Golden-plumbed Parakeets
Andean Potoo	Many Spotted Hummingbird
Violet-fronted Brilliant	Amethyst Throated Sunangel
Rufous-capped Thornbill	Golden-headed Quetzal
Gray-breasted Mountain Toucan	Olive-backed Woodcreeper
Ash-browed Spinetail	Black-billed Treehunter
Southern White-crowned Tapaculo	Small-billed Elaenia
Common Bush-tanager	Golden-eared Tanager
Blue and Black Tanager	

Total 19 species

Day 15

Wednesday 28th October

We set off from Cusco again with local guide Arturo. Just before dawn we went by bus to Poroy and from there transferred to the early morning train to Aguas Calientes and Machu Picchu. The first part of the journey across fairly flat arable fields was interspersed with farms and small villages but after a while the mountains closed in around us. Soon we were surrounded by towering peaks and our journey closely followed the tumbling, boulder-strewn course of the mighty Urubamba River. This was Torrent Duck country and a watch was kept right through to Aguas Calientes where the final score stood at 35, an impressive total indeed. Several White-capped Dippers were also seen en route. Once off the train in bustling Aguas Calientes we checked in at our hotel and then caught the shuttle bus up to the entrance to Machu Picchu.

After lunch in the restaurant by the entrance, we walked into Machu Picchu where Arturo led us on a thorough and informative guided tour of this most inspiring of places. Occasional White-tipped Swifts hurtled around overhead, a male White-winged Black-Tyrant showed very well and Vizcachas scuttled over the rocks. The ruins rightly took pride of place and everyone was impressed. Finally, towards the end of the afternoon, we caught the bus back down into Aguas Calientes and the short walk to our luxurious hotel.

New birds seen today:

***Peruvian Endemic**

Mitred Parakeets	White-tipped Swift
Green and White Hummingbird	Chestnut-breasted Coronet
Streak-necked Flycatcher	Sierran Elaenia
White-capped Dipper	Hepatic Tanager
Thick-billed Euphonia	Golden-naped Tanager
Silver-backed Tanager	Blue Dacnis

Total 12 species

Day 16**Thursday 29th October**

A full morning at Aguas Calientes gave us all plenty of time to relax and bird. We divided our time between exploring the town and birding down the road to Puente Ruinas, looking at its various markets and strolling around the bird-rich forested grounds of the hotel. Amongst a host of hummingbirds visiting the various feeders were; dozens of Chestnut-breasted Coronets, several Collared Incas, a few Green-and-white and Hummingbirds and at least one Long-tailed Sylph. Tanagers were conspicuous too and included Blue-necked, Saffron-crowned, Blue-and-yellow, Hepatic, Silver-backed and a pair of dazzling little Blue-naped Chlorophonias.

Walking the trails we found Andean Guan, White-throated Quail Dove, Highland Motmot, Golden-olive Woodpecker and, whilst a wide range of other small birds during this excellent morning included Streak-necked Flycatcher, Sclater's Tyrannulet, Rusty Flowerpiercer, Blue Dacnis, Russet-crowned Warbler, Slaty-throated Redstart, Tropical Parula, Thick-billed Euphonia and Grey-breasted Wood-Wren

After a delicious lunch we caught the mid-afternoon train back towards Cusco. The journey along the Urubamba Valley was as spectacular as ever and once again enlivened by a series of Torrent Ducks on the river. We transferred to a bus at Ollantaytambo and stopped by a lake called "Piuray" - Andean Geese and Silvery Grebe were the highlights there. We continued our way back to Cusco arriving at the end of the afternoon and later enjoyed our last supper together.

New birds seen today:

***Peruvian Endemic**

Andean Goose	Silvery Grebe
Speckled-faced Parrot	Collared Inca
Ocellated Piculet	Streaked Xenops
Common Tody-Flycatcher	Sclater's Tyrannulet
Mottled Checked Tyrannulet	Brown-capped Vireo
Short-billed Pipit	Rust and Yellow Tanager
Blue-capped Tanager	Saffron-crowned Tanager
Beryl-spangled Tanager	Rusty Flowerpiercer
Dull-coloured Grassquit	Black-backed Grosbeak
Capped Conebill	Blackburnian Warbler

Total 20 species

Day 17

Friday 30th October

This morning the group flew back to Lima, so we said good bye in Cusco. In Lima they visited the Archaeological Museum and many of the old buildings in the city's historic centre. In the evening they left for Lima airport where the tour came to its close.

Day 18

Saturday 31st October

Arrival back in the UK

Total birds seen during the trip: 490 species

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Vermillion Flycatcher