

Peru – Macaws and Machu Picchu

Naturetrek Tour Report

12 - 29 June 2013

Report compiled by Jose Antonio Padilla Reyes



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	Rene Calancha	Cusco and the Inca Trail:
Participants:	Val Martin	
	Russ Heselden	
	Mike Dexter-Smith	
	Barbara Dexter-Smith	

Day 1

Wednesday 12th June

We arrived in Lima, met Renato our local guide and transferred to our comfortable hotel in the fashionable suburb of Miraflores. Mike and Barbara arrived that day, the rest of the group arrived the following night in Lima, and were transferred directly to Paracas.

Day 2

Thursday 13th June

Our first stop was at Villa Marshes, then the fishing bay of Pucusana, Puerto Viejo Marshes, and finally all the way down to Paracas (almost 290 kms south on the Pan-american High way), where we stayed for 3 nights. We enjoyed a full day of beautiful, coastal key species such as: Great Grebe, Surf Cinclodes, Inca Tern, Red-legged Cormorant, and Humboldt Penguin. Around Pucusana Island we got some great views of Southern Sea Lions. At the end of the day, Val and Russ joined us to continue with the tour. Night in Paracas.

New Birds seen:

Cinnamon Teal	Andean Duck	Pied-billed Grebe	Great Grebe
Humboldt Penguin	Peruvian Pelican	Peruvian Booby	Blue-footed Booby
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
Harris (Bay-winged) Hawk	American kestrel	Common moorhen	Andean Coot
Blackish Oystercatcher	American Oystercatcher	Peruvian Thick-Knee	Kildeer
Ruddy Turnstone	Band-tailed (Belcher's) Gull	Kelp Gull	Gray-headed Gull
Andean Gull	Inca Tern	Rock Dove	West Peruvian Dove
Croaking Ground Dove	Groove-billed Ani	Surf Cinclodes	Wren-like Rushbird
Many-colored Rush-tyrant	Vermilion Flycatcher	Blue and White Swallow	Barn Swallow
Long-tailed Mockingbird	Grassland Yellow-finch	Yellow-hooded Blackbird	Peruvian Meadowlark
House Sparrow			

Day 3

Friday 14th June

Before breakfast most of us did some birding along the beach of this beautiful hotel. We got great views of Peruvian Terns, Coastal Miner, etc. After breakfast, we went to a nice patch of Huarango trees (South America Acacias) to get some key species. Next we went to Ica Airport for some more birding and to the Huacachina Oasis Lake for lunch. We stopped in Las Dunas Hotel to try to see the Black Necked Woodpecker, but weren't lucky. We then visited a place where they make Pisco (Peruvian local alcohol drink) and tried the different varieties.

New Birds seen:

Black-necked Stilt	Black-bellied (Gray) Plover	Semipalmated Plover
Snowy (Kentish) Plover	Gray Gull	Royal Tern
Peruvian Tern	Black Skimmer	Eared Dove
Amazilia Hummingbird	Peruvian Shearwater	Coastal Miner
Bran-Colored Flycatcher	Short-tailed Field-Tyrant	Tropical Kingbird
House Wren	Rufous-collared Sparrow	Saffron Finch
Blue-backed Grassquit	Drab Seedeater	Cinereous Conebill
Scrub Blackbird	Shiny Cowbird	Hooded Siskin
Tawny-throated Dotterel		

Day 4

Saturday 15th June

We went for a walk along the shore this morning. This time we had a Bottle-nose Dolphin swimming around - right in front of us. After breakfast we drove the short distance to the bustling quayside in Paracas town and boarded a speedboat for our trip out to the Ballestos Islands. After we had admired the enigmatic Candelabra figure etched on a hillside above the shore of the bay we continued fast out to sea towards the distant Sangallan Island, where we got to see the most Sea lions I had ever seen before, (more than 70,000). We continued on to the famous Ballestas Islands. Several neat little Wilson Storm Petrels and just one Peruvian Diving Petrel passed very close to the boat.

As we cruised slowly around the cliffs and arches we were amazed at the sheer number and close proximity of the birds. Guanay Cormorants and Peruvian Boobies were present in their tens of thousands and in amongst them were hundreds of Peruvian Pelicans, Neotropic Cormorants and Inca Terns. Here and there we found pairs of colourful Red-legged Cormorants and little groups of Humboldt Penguins, some surprisingly high up on the cliff faces. The whole picture was completed by Turkey Vultures soaring over the cliffs and Southern Sea-lions loafing on the rocks – fantastic! Then we entered Paracas National Reserve and finally we headed up to the beautiful spot of Lagunillas. In the afternoon we drove back along the coast to Lima and arrived in Miraflores just before sunset, with plenty of time to prepare for our imminent jungle adventure...

New Birds seen:

White-checked Pintail	Peruvian Diving Petrel	Chilean Flamingo
Osprey	Whimbrel	Wilson Storm Petrel
Long-billed Curlew		

New Mammals seen:

Bottle-nose Dolphin

Day 5**Sunday 16th June**

After breakfast we drove to the airport and soon we were airborne and climbing up and over the spectacular snow-capped Andes and down into the green vastness of the rainforest beyond. We arrived at Puerto Maldonado in the late morning. We boarded our bus for the short journey to the little port of Infierno, then we set off up the Tambopata River to the Posada Amazonas, about an hour and a half upstream. It was lovely to be out on the river and as we chugged along through the ever-changing forest vistas we saw our first Red-and-green Macaws, two roosting Ladder-tailed Nightjars and a number of other common riverside birds. We arrived at the Posada in the late-afternoon and after settling in to our comfortable rooms we set off along the trails. Overall it was a fairly quiet afternoon but we had good views of Brown Capuchin and Squirrel Monkeys and encountered a reasonably satisfying range of birds. We walked back to the lodge in the gathering darkness with fireflies flashing around us and Cicadas buzzing – welcome to the jungle!

New Birds seen:

Speckled Chachalaca	Spix's Guan	Roadside Hawk
Bat Falcon	Red – Green Macaws	Chestnut-fronted Macaws
Red-bellied Macaws	White-eyed Parakeet	Dusky-headed Parakeet
White-bellied Parrot	Blue-headed Parrot	Mealy Parrot
Squirrel Cuckoo	Smooth-billed Ani	Ladder-tailed Nightjar
White-collared Swift	Blue-crowned Motmot	Black-fronted Nunbird
Channel-billed Toucan	Yellow-tufted Woodpecker	Wedge-billed Woodcreeper
Long-winged Antwren	Red-crowned Ant-Tanager	Crested Oropendola
Russet-backed Oropendola	Olive Oropendola	Yellow-rumped Cacique
Giant Cowbird		

New mammals seen:

Saddleback Tamarins	Night Monkeys	Brown Capuchins	Squirrel Monkeys
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Day 6

Monday 17th June

In the first part of the morning we visited a nearby oxbow lake and spent an enjoyable couple of hours floating sedately on a large wooden pontoon. The birding was excellent with great views of Hoatzin, Sungrebe, Anhinga, Horned Screamer, Black Caracara, Pale-vented Pigeon, Amazon Kingfisher and Black-capped Donacobius and as we walked between the river and the oxbow we saw Emerald Toucanet, Blue-crowned Trogon, and White-browed Antbird – all in all, pretty good! Back on the river and underway upstream again we settled down and watched the forest unfold ahead of us. Several Red-and-green Macaws got things off to a good start and at the first check-point we had nice views of an adult King Vulture soaring overhead. Continuing on up river through the early afternoon we saw several Capybara (all with their attendant Giant Cowbirds), a Spectacled Caiman, a number of Side-necked Terrapins and an exciting range of birds that included an Orinoco Goose, a Pied Lapwing, a Large-billed and yellow-billed Tern, several Plumbeous Kites and a Bat Falcon. Going up river one of the local guides in the boat, said the magic word: “JAGUAR”!...not just the one but two were on the river bank playing and giving a great show. They seemed to be a female and a sub-adult. The views were just fantastic! We finally made it to the Tambopata Research Centre in the late afternoon. After settling in some of us went for a short stroll and finished the day with good views of Pale-winged Trumpeters.

New Birds seen:

Undulated Tinamou	Orinoco Goose	Blue-throated Capped Heron	Cocoi Heron
Rufescent Tiger Heron	Wood Stork	Greater Yellow-headed Vulture	King Vulture
Great-Black Hawk	Gray Hawk	Black Caracara	Pale-winged Trumpeter
Wattled Jacana	Pied Lapwing	Yellow-billed Tern	Large-billed Tern
Pale-vented Pigeon	Gray-fronted Dove	Scarlet Macaw	Hoatzin
Sand-colored Nighthawk	Short-tailed Swift	White-bearded Hermit	Reddish Hermit
White-necked Jacobin	Collared Trogon	Blue-crowned Trogon	Ringed Kingfisher
Amazon Kingfisher	Bluish-fronted Jacamar	White-throated Toucan	Red-stained Woodpecker
Olivaceous Woodcreeper	Buff-throated Woodcreeper	Bamboo Antshrike	White-browed Antbird
Warbling Antbird	Silvered Antbird	Black-faced Antthrush	Drab-water Tyrant
Social Flycatcher	Gray-capped Flycatcher	Great Kiskadee	White-winged Becard
Plum-throated Cotinga	Dusky-capped Greenlet	Purplish Jay	White-winged Swallow
White-banded Swallow	Southern Rough winged Swallow	Thrush-like Wren	Magpie Tanager
Masked Crimson Tanager	Silver-beaked Tanager	Blue-gray Tanager	Red-capped Cardinal
Double-collared Seedeater	Epaulet Oriole		

New Mammals Seen:

Dusky titi Monkey

Red-Howler Monkey

Capybara

Jaguar (2)

Day 7**Tuesday 18th June**

Our plan for today was to get up very early and go to see the macaw clay lick, unfortunately heavy rain hit this part of the amazon so we had to cancel the first visit to the collpa. This collpa is a large exposed cliff located along the side of the river, where every morning, especially in the dry season, a lot of members of the parrot family come down to eat the clay, they do this mainly to neutralize all the toxins they eat during the day, as the macaws and parrots are basically seed eaters. A bit later we had breakfast and did some birding in the grounds of TRC, getting some good birds. After this we took a motorized canoe and went across the river to get to the fish pond, a natural little body of water that is good for some wildlife. We returned to the lodge for lunch, then we went to do some walking into the trails, we took trail C, which took us into a nice floodplain forest.

New Birds seen:

Red-throated Caracara

Sunbittern

Blue and yellow Macaw

Black-tailed Trogon

Green Kingfisher

Crimson-crested Woodpecker

Elegant Woodcreeper

Dark-breasted Spinetail

Chestnut- C. Foliage gleaner

Plain-winged Antshrike

Dusky-throated Antshrike

White-flanked Antwren

Gray Antwren

Chestnut-tailed Antbird

Mottle-backed Elaenia

Gray-crowned Flycatcher

Golden-crowned Spadebill

Streaked Flycatcher

Red-eyed Vireo

Guira Tanager

White-winged Shrike-tanager

White-Shouldered Tanager

Orange-bellied Euphonia

Green-Gold Tanager

Blue Dacnis

Green Honeycreeper

Yellow-browed Sparrow

New Mammals Seen:

Peruvian Spider Monkey

Southern Amazon Red Squirrel

Day 8**Wednesday 19th June**

Today we got ready for our first Collpa experience, as we were keen to see this wild show. We got up very early and headed up to the spot to see the birds. It was still overcast and cloudy, so birds were not that active but we watched them with the aid of a telescope. Some good birds appeared along this small branch of the river like Blue headed Macaws. We went back to the lodge for breakfast, and then took a walk on 'Trail A' in the bamboo forest. We sat and got the beautiful White-throated Jacamar. After lunch we got ready for another walk, this time we went to a different habitat: a floodplain and Swamp Palm habitat. Good quality birds were seen today on our last full day at TRC.

New Birds seen:

Blue-headed Macaw	Great Potoo	Pale-tailed Barbthroat
Fork-tailed Woodnymph	White-throated Jacamar	Great Jacamar
Striolated Puffbird	Emerald Toucanet	Chestnut-eared Aracari
Red-necked Woodpecker	Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper	Bluish-slate Antshrike
Striated Antbird	Rufos-capped Antthrush	Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant
Large-headed Flatbill	Ruddy-Tailed Flycatcher	Short-crested Flycatcher
Crowned-Slaty Flycatcher	Violaceous Jay	Palm Tanager
White-lored Euphonia	Buff-throated Saltator	

Day 9**Thursday 20th June**

Today we had another early start as we needed to go back to Infierno, Puerto Maldonado and then on to the magical city of Cusco. So, walked down to the dock and boarded our boat for the last time. The ride was as enjoyable as ever and pleasantly enlivened by a series of Capped Herons and a small flock of Muscovy Ducks that took to the air as we approached. After a brief break at Infierno we continued by bus to Puerto Maldonado and civilisation, and in no time were airborne and heading towards the Andes, leaving the jungle far behind and below. Arriving in Cusco we immediately noticed how much thinner the air was as we struggled to walk and talk at the same time. Then in the afternoon our local guide Rene gave us a guided tour of some of the major sights of this remarkable and beautiful city. We finished the day with dinner at a nearby pizza restaurant.

New Birds Seen:

Muscovy Ducks

Anhinga	Collared Plover	Plumbeous Pigeon
Ruddy-Ground Dove	Cobalt-winged Parakeet	Orange-Checked Parrot
Sparkling Violetear	Chiguanco Thrush	

Day 10**Friday 21st June**

After breakfast we set off to the picturesque Inca site of Saqsayhuyaman. An enormous Inca site situated just above the city which was used a fortress and also as a important temple by the Inca society. Then, we went to a nice Eucalyptus Forest nearby and got some really good Andean birds. We continued towards Pisac, the sacred valley of the Incas, and a beautiful and fertile valley full of Andean terraces and Inca sites. Here we explored the remarkable Inca ruins and added some other good Andean birds to the list like the beautiful Peruvian endemic: Bearded Mountaineer. After a delicious picnic lunch we continued our way to Huacarpay Lake, ½ hour or so to the south of Pisac. Shallow and marshy and surrounded by grassland and scrubby hills with a backdrop of spectacular mountains, Huacarpay is a wonderful place to explore and in a short space of time we saw a wide range of birds. After another beautiful day we returned to Cusco in good time to prepare for our time on the Inca Trail. Today we split the group in two: Mike and Barbara would stay in Cusco for two more nights and go straight to Aguas Calientes and wait for us while Val and Russ were going to walk the famous Inca Trail.

New Birds Seen:

Specked Teal	Puna Teal	Least Grebe
White-tufted Grebe	Variable Hawk	Mountain Caracara
Aplomado Falcon	Plumbeous Rail	Andean Lapwing
Greater Yellowlegs	Lesser Yellowlegs	Pectoral Sandpiper
Spot-winged Pigeon	Shinning Sunbeam	Giant Hummingbird
Black-tailed Trainbearer	Bearded Mountaineer	Andean Flicker
Creamy-crested Spinetail	Rusty-fronted Canastero	White-crested Elaenia
Yellow-billed Tit-tyrant	White-browed Chat-tyrant	Rufous-naped Ground Tyrant
Andean Negrito	Blue and Yellow Tanager	Black-throated Flowerpiercer
Peruvian Sierra-Finch	Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch	Chestnut-breasted Mountain Finch
Greenish Yellow-finch	Band-tailed Seedeater	Golden-billed Saltator
Yellow-winged Blackbird	Streak-Fronted Thornbird	

Day 11

Saturday 22nd June

After breakfast we boarded our bus and headed out of Cusco and across the high altitude Chinchero Plateau. We stopped quickly at a lake called Piuray, some good birds there included Yellow-billed Pintail and Silvery Grebes. Dropping down into the Sacred Valley we passed through Urubamba and continued to the small and bustling little town of Ollantaytambo where we had a chance to stock up with any last minute supplies before beginning the famous Inca trail. A little further on, at Chilca, we came to the end of the road and found our porters waiting for us. After a little time adjusting loads the porters set off at their usual brisk pace and we followed, a little more sedately. Keeping close to the river our route took us through a patchwork of farmsteads and dry rocky scrubland and past occasional small Inca ruins. We were on “Torrent Duck and White Capped Dipper Alert” and with regular scans of the river below we soon found our first ones, a duck and a drake together, striking as ever, loafing on boulders and leaping in and out of the foaming water with extraordinary ease and skill. Other birds as we continued along the trail included Andean Swift, White-bellied Hummingbird, White-winged Black Tyrant, Rust-and-yellow Tanager, etc. Towards the end of the afternoon, after a leisurely and enjoyable walk, we arrived at Q’oriwayrachina at Km 88 to find our tents already erected and the kettle on. In no time we were comfortably settled in and enjoying an excellent dinner under a magnificent star-studded Andean sky.

New Birds Seen:

Andean Goose	Torrent Duck	Yellow-billed Pintail
Silvery Grebe	Andean Swift	White-bellied Hummingbird
Torrent Tyrannulet	Black Phoebe	White-winged Black-Tyrant
Brown-bellied Swallow	White-capped Dipper	Short-billed Pipit
Rust-yellow Tanager	Bright-rumped Yellow-Finch	Black-backed Grosbeak

Blue-winged Teal

Day 12

Sunday 23rd June

Up at first light with a cup of tea we were soon packed and on our way. We descended to the nearby checkpoint and bridge and watched Torrent Ducks, Torrent Tyrannulets and a Black-backed Grosbeak whilst our permits were sorted. With formalities completed we crossed the river and continued to the impressive Inca terraces at Llactapacta and then on up the beautiful Cusichaca Valley. The scenery, dominated by the mighty snow-capped peak of Veronica, was superb throughout and a succession of good birds including Andean Condor.

We ate lunch in a lovely streamside meadow and then continued on our way up through Huayllabamba village noting Giant Hummingbirds, Sparkling Violetears and Golden-billed Saltators en-route. Above Huayllabamba we found a Tyrian Metaltail and then on the last stretch before we dropped down into our campsite we bumped into a small mixed flock and had good views of two Creamy-crested Spinetails and a pair of Spectacled Whitestarts, a nice end to an enjoyable day. Night at Huallabamba.

New Birds Seen:

Andean Condor	Black-Chested Buzzard Eagle	Bare-faced Ground Dove
Mitred Parakeet	Andean Parakeet	Great Sapphirewing
Green-tailed Trainbearer	Tyrian Metaltail	White-bellied WoodStar
Sierran Elaenia	Tufted Tit-Tyrant	Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant
Streak-throated Bush-Tyrant	Great Thrush	Spectacled Whitestart

Day 13

Monday 24th June

Up and away again shortly after first light, the trail took us steadily upwards through some excellent patches of cloud forest and we enjoyed some rewarding birding as we walked. Hummingbirds were much in evidence and during the morning we saw several species. Other notable sightings included Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant, Masked Flowerpiercer, Scarlet-breasted Mountain Tanager and some more Creamy-crested Spinetails.

We stopped for lunch at Llulluchapampa and then walked up through the open, boulder-strewn meadows above, where we found a couple of Plumbeous Sierra-Finches, several Bar-winged Cinclodes and a superb Andean Flicker. From here we began the long, hard climb to the top of the infamous Dead Woman's Pass, the toughest stretch of the trail and the highest point at 4,200 metres. Regular Black-throated Flowerpiercers in the scrub and a fine little Blue-mantled Thornbill flitting around some flowers kept the bird interest going but people mostly had their heads down for the climb. Everyone managed admirably and it was a satisfied crew that posed for the customary photographs at the top before beginning the descent out of the cloud and down through some fine paramo habitat to the campsite at Pacaymayo. The rain that had begun as we topped the pass ended a little after dark, and the clouds rolled away to reveal another stunning star-filled sky – wonderful!

New Birds Seen:

Band-winged Nightjar	Sword-billed Hummingbird	Sapphire-vented Puffleg
Scaled Metaltail	Blue-Mantled Thornbill	Bar-winged Cinclodes
White-winged Cinclodes	Puna Thistletail	Streak-necked Flycatcher
White-throated Tyrannulet	Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant	Black-billed Shrike – Tyrant
Red-Crested Cotinga	Sedge Wren	Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager
Tit-like Dacnis	Moustached Flowerpiercer	Masked Flowerpiercer
Plumbeous Sierra-Finch	Puna Tapaculo	

Day 14**Tuesday 25th June**

We woke to a lovely dawn with snow-capped peaks poking up through layers of cloud. We were soon breakfasted, packed up and ready to go. From Pacaymayo the path climbed steeply to the dramatically positioned ruins of Runcu Raccay and we paused as we walked to admire the spectacular views and a range of birds that included Sapphire-vented Puffleg, Tit-like Dacnis, Tufted Tit-Tyrant, and Moustached Flowerpiercer. Beyond Runcu Raccay the steep climb continued but we were veterans by this stage and progress was good. Great Sapphirewings, a Bar-winged Cinclodes kept the birding interest going and in a short time we reached the second pass, where we took a break to recover our breath. From here we descended to the ruins of Sayacamarca noting a couple of Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanagers, a gorgeous Golden-Collared Tanager and several more Tit-like Dacnis along the way. We spent a little time exploring the ruins and then continued through a beautiful patch of cloud forest to our lunch stop in the tussock grass clearing at Chaquicocha.

After lunch we walked on along an impressive stretch of original Inca paving through yet more wonderful scenery and habitat. Notable birds here included a Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant at its nest built into the overhang of a small cliff-face, another Golden-collared Tanager, two more Scarlet-breasted Mountain a White-browed Conebill, a couple of White-throated Tyrannulets and several Three-striped Hemispingus. We finally reached the spectacularly positioned ridge-top campsite at Phuyupatamarca. We spent the night at this fantastic spot.

New Birds seen:

Rufous-Capped Thornbill	Tree-striped Hemispingus	Golden Collared Tanager
White-browed Conebill		

Day 15**Wednesday 25th June**

We woke at dawn and with breakfast completed we said goodbye and thank-you to our team of porters and negotiated the steep steps down to the precipitously positioned ruins of Phuyupatamarca. There were few signs of life at first in the early morning cold but a pair of Inca Wrens flicking back and forth across the trail was a good start and shortly after this we met a sizeable mixed flock that crossed the trail just ahead of us and provided us with some very exciting and fast-moving birding!

Among the highlights were three or four Marcapata Spinetails, White-rumped Hawks, a pair of Citrine Warblers, a Cusco Brushfinch, a Blue-backed Conebill and several Black-capped Hemispingus. The trail continued to descend steeply and as we lost altitude and the morning advanced, so the temperature rose. We were soon walking through rich sub-tropical rainforest and the views across the steep, forested slopes and down to the rushing Urubamba River were superb. The birds continued to be good too and during the course of the morning we encountered an excellent range of exciting species which included a couple of colourful Hooded Mountain Tanagers, two Plushcaps and a lovely little Golden-browed Chat-Tyrant. We reached Trekker's Lodge in the late morning and before eating our lunch we took a brief look at the nearby ruins of Winay Wayna.

In the early afternoon we set off on the last leg. The afternoon was warm and the forest lovely and a superb male Masked Trogon delayed us for a while but we were on a mission now. Soon we made that last little climb up to the Sun Gate and there below us lay the magnificent sight of Machu Picchu... We all paused to enjoy the moment, take photos and congratulate each other on our achievement! Then, tired but elated, we strolled on down into the city itself where Rene led us on a tour of this fabulous and inspiring place. Finally, as the shadows lengthened, we caught the last bus down into Aguas Calientes and checked into our luxurious hotel, met the Dexter-Smiths and had dinner all together again. There were a lot of tales to tell so dinner was more than fun!

New Birds seen:

White-rumped Hawk	Green Violetear	Green-White Hummingbird
Speckled Hummingbird	Chestnut-breasted Coronet	Violet-throated Starfrontlet
Amethyst Throated Sunangel	Long-tailed Sylph	Highland Elaenia
White-tailed Tyrannulet	Cinnamon Flycatcher	Inca Wren
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren	Black-Capped Hemispingus	Blue Capped Tanager
Fawn-breasted Tanager	Saffron-crowned Tanager	Beryl-spangled Tanager
Blue-black Tanager	Cusco Brush Finch	Slate-throated Redstart
Citrine Warbler		

Day 16

Thursday 26th June

A full morning at Aguas Calientes gave us all plenty of time to relax after the rigours of the trail. We divided our time between exploring the town and its various markets and strolling around the bird-rich forested grounds of the hotel. Hummingbirds were much in evidence as usual and we enjoyed great views of Green-and-white Hummingbird, Chestnut-breasted Coronet, Gould's Inca, and Violet-throated Starfrontlet, whilst an impressive array of Tanagers coming to specially positioned bananas included Blue-necked, Beryl-spangled, Blue-and-yellow, Golden-naped, Silver-backed and Saffron-crowned. After a delicious lunch we caught the train back towards Cusco. The journey along the Urubamba Valley was as spectacular as we had anticipated, and was further enlivened by good numbers of Torrent Ducks and a few White-capped Dippers. We transferred from the train to a bus at Ollantaytambo and arrived back in Cusco at the end of the afternoon with time to take a shower and enjoy our last supper together.

New Birds Seen:

Collared Inca	Highland Motmot	Golden-Olive Woodpecker
Sclater's Tyrannulet	Thick-billed Euphonia	Golden-Naped Tanager
Blue-necked Tanager	Silver-backed Tanager	Tropical Parula
Pale-legged Warbler	Dusky-green Oropendola	

Day 17**Friday 27th June**

An early morning flight took us back over the Andes and down to Lima. We were efficiently met by our local guide Renato for the day and whisked off for an authoritative and interesting tour of the colonial part of the city. After lunch at a city centre hotel we visited the excellent National Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology before heading to the airport. The check-in went smoothly and our evening flights left on schedule and for me this was the end...another successful trip in my beautiful country!

Day 18**Saturday 28th June**

Return journey to the UK.

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