

# Peru - Macaws & Machu Picchu

Naturetrek Tour Report

25 September - 12 October 2013

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Andean Cock of the Rock



Macaws



Hoatzin



Peruvian Spider Monkey

Report compiled by Jose Antonio Padilla  
Images courtesy of Chrys Tremththanmor



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## Day 1

**Wednesday 25th September**

The group arrived in Lima on schedule in the early evening, and met Renato our local guide. We were transferred to our comfortable hotel in the fashionable suburb of Miraflores: Jose Antonio Executive Hotel.

## Day 2

**Thursday 26th September**

After a leisurely breakfast, we drove to the Pantanos de Villa or Vila Marshes, a marshland reserve on the southern limits of the sprawling Lima conurbation. In a short time we saw a wide range of birds such as: White – cheeked Pintail, Pied billed Grebe, Many Coloured Rush Tyrant, Long-tailed Mockingbird, etc – a good start!. 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 as well as the endemic Humboldt Penguin and Surf Cinclodes. We also saw several impressive sea lions. Then, we continued on the Pan-American Highway south of Lima where we stopped at an excellent restaurant called “Paulina”, a delicious lunch there completed the morning.

During the afternoon we continued south along the desert coast on the highway, marvelling at the barrenness of much of the landscape and then 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 in one of the most beautiful hotels there: La Hacienda Hotel.

**Birds Seen today: 64 species**

White cheeked Pintail	Cinnamon Teal	Blue-winged Teal
Andean Ruddy Duck	Pied-billed Grebe	Humboldt Penguin
Peruvian Pelican	Peruvian Booby	Neotropic Cormorant
Guanay Cormorant	Red-legged Cormorant	Great Egret
Little Blue Heron	Snowy Egret	Cattle Egret
Black-crowned Night Heron	Puna Ibis	Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture	Harris' (Bay-winged) Hawk	American Kestrel
Common Moorhen	Andean Coot	Blackish Oystercatcher
American Oystercatcher	Black-necked Stilt	Peruvian Thick-Knee
Black-bellied (Gray) Plover	Semipalmated Plover	Killdeer
Whimbrel	Willet	Spotted Sandpiper
Ruddy Turnstone	Surfbird	Sanderling
Pectoral Sandpiper	Wilson's Phalarope	Red-necked Phalarope
Band-tailed (Belcher's) Gull	Kelp Gull	Gray-headed Gull
Andean Gull	Gray Gull	Inca Tern
Plain-Breasted Ground Dove	Rock Dove	West Peruvian Dove
Groove-billed Ani	Surf Cinclodes	Wren-like Rushbird
Many-Coloured Rush Tyrant	Vermilion Flycatcher	Tropical Kingbird
Blue and White Swallow	Sand Martin	Barn Swallow
Long-tailed Mockingbird	Grassland Yellow-Finch	Peruvian Red-breasted Meadowlark
Scrub Blackbird	Shiny Cowbird	House Sparrow

**Mammals seen today:**

Sea-Lion

**Day 3****Friday 27th September**

Early this morning and before breakfast, we gathered just outside our hotel in Paracas, and got some birds along the beach, including a large flock of Chilean Flamingos!

The rest of the day was spent around Ica. Mr & Mrs Tyler took the flight over the Nazca Lines; so our local guide in Lima assisted them to do so. The rest 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, just behind the airport of Ica. Amazilia and Oasis Hummingbirds and Purple-collared Woodstar were also around. Peruvian Sheartail came to feed in some local flowers. After birding around the airport we went to see how the local people make Pisco, a Peruvian liqueur made out of distilled grapes. Then we went to "Las Dunas Hotel", best place around to look for the Black throated Woodpecker - after walking around the grounds of the hotel, we got to see it, moving around the bungalows. After that we went to Huacachina Lake, an oasis in the middle of the desert. Here we had lunch looking over the sand dunes, after an excellent and exciting morning.

In the afternoon we headed back to the Paracas Reserve, where we visited Lagunillas beach and a big rock formation known as 'The Cathedral'. Back to the hotel we met up with Mr and Mrs. Tyler who shared their experience with the rest of the group.

**New birds seen today:** Total: 26 new spp.

Great Grebe	Striated Heron	Chilean Flamingo
Variable Hawk	Snowy (Kentish) Plover	Lesser Yellowlegs
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Western Sandpiper	Least Sandpiper
Royal Tern	Peruvian Tern	Elegant Tern
Black Skimmer	Croaking Ground-Dove	Scarlet-fronted Parakeet
Pacific Parrotlet	Amazilia Hummingbird	Black-Necked Woodpecker
House Wren	Rufous-Collared Sparrow	Collared Warbling Finch
Saffron Finch	Blue-backed Grassquit	Streaked Saltator
Cinereous Conebill	Hooded Siskin	

**Mammals Seen Today:**

Bottle-nose Dolphin

**Day 4****Saturday 28th September**

What a morning this was! Bright and early we were on the quay, catching our boat for the Ballestas Islands, going past the unexplained candelabra geoglyph, etched into the 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. Our skipper took us to the impressive San Gallan Island, an enormous island where we saw countless (more than 70,000) Sea Lions, an amazing experience. Then we went to the famous Ballestas Island where the amount of Peruvian Boobies, Guanay Cormorants, Inca Terns, and Humboldt Penguins is just amazing. Red-legged Cormorants and Surf Cinclodes were also present, while beneath the water line were millions of mussels and their predators: shocking orange starfish and dusky sun stars.

Before lunch we walked towards an area with a small population of Huarango trees, a type of South American Acacia, to try to get some specialities, and saw some good birds on the way. In the afternoon we returned to Lima, after our exciting days along the coast.

**New Birds Seen today:** Total birds: 2 spp.

Peruvian Diving-Petrel	Coastal Miner
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**Day 5****Sunday 29th September**

We flew this morning to Puerto Maldonado to catch our boat for Tambopata. Here we were met by our excellent local guides Fernando and Nahun. We drove a short distance out of town to the office just to repack for our days in the jungle. We then took a bus and drove about 25 minutes to reach the local-native community of Infierno to get on our motorized canoe along the Tambopata River. We ate our lunch on banana leaf plates, as we watched Red and Green Macaws were overhead, Ladder tailed Nightjars were amazingly camouflaged on rocks along the river, high above were King and Greater Yellow headed Vultures, and Fork-tailed Palm-Swifts flew along by the river. At Posada Amazonas birds were everywhere. We checked in to our rooms and went for a walk into the forest to get up to the canopy tower, and had some excellent views of Plumbeous Kite, White-bellied Parrots, Rose fronted Parakeets among others. The Amazon is amazing!

**New Birds Seen today: Total: 33 new species**

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture	King Vulture	Plumbeous Kite
Peregrine Falcon	Pied Lapwing	Blue and Yellow Macaws
Scarlet Macaws	Red and Green Macaws	Dusky-headed Parakeets
Rose-fronted Parakeets	Cobalt-winged Parakeets	Orange-checked Parrot
Blue-headed Parrot	Smooth-billed Ani	Ladder-tailed Nightjar
Fork-tailed Palm-Swift	White-fronted Nunbird	Curl-crested Aracari
Red-necked Woodpecker	Drab-water Tyrant	Crowned Slaty Flycatcher
Masked Tityra	Black-crowned Tityra	Thrush-like Schiffornis
Violaceous Jay	White-winged Swallow	Blue-gray Tanager
Green Honeycreeper	Yellow-browed Sparrow	Crested Oropendola
Olive Oropendola	Yellow-rumped Cacique	Giant Cowbird

**Mammals Seen Today:**

Red Howler Monkey

**Day 6****Monday 30th September**

Early this morning we took to the water on a raft to an oxbow lake called "Tres Chimbadas". 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. We were looking for the Giant Otters that inhabitant the lake, I found them after a while – we got to see them swimming on the lake and catching some fish, although the views were at a distance.

In the afternoon we journeyed further upriver, into the forest, to Tambopata Research Centre (TRC). The further we went the more exciting the wildlife-watching became; White-winged and White-banded Swallows skimmed the water's surface, Pied Lapwings and yellow-spotted side-necked turtle patrolled the beaches, and Cocoi Herons were along the river. Overhead we started again to see large macaws: Scarlets and Blue-and-Yellows. A Family of Orinoco Geese on the way up river and a single Maguari Stork (apparently never seen before in that area) left us all surprised! Capybaras, the world's largest rodents, were also on the beaches. Another fantastic day in the jungle!

**New Birds Seen today: Total: 68 spp.**

Orinoco Goose	Specked Chachalaca	Spix's Guan
Blue-throated Piping Guan	Razor-billed Curassow	Anhinga
Cocoi Heron	Swallow-tailed Kite	Double-Toothed Kite
Great-Black Hawk	Gray Hawk	Roadside Hawk
Black-Caracara	Sunbittern	Wattled Jacana
Yellow-billed Tern	Large-billed Tern	Pale-vented Pigeon
Chestnut-fronted Macaws	Yellow-crowned Parrot	Mealy Parrot
Hoatzin	Squirrel Cuckoo	Greater Ani
Burrowing Owl	Sand-Coloured Nighthawk	White-Collared Swift
Gray-rumped Swift	Pale-Tailed Barbthroat	Black-throated Mango
Fork-tailed Woodnymph	Black-tailed Trogon	Blue-crowned Trogon

Amazon kingfisher	Bluish-fronted Jacamar	Rufous-capped Nunlet
Black-fronted Nunbird	Swallow-Wing	Emerald Toucanet
Chestnut-eared Aracari	White-throated Toucan	Yellow-tufted Woodpecker
Buff-throated Woodcreeper	Pale-legged Hornero	White-flanked Antwren
White-browed Antbird	Goeldi's Antbird	Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher
Eastern kingbird	Boat-billed Flycatcher	Streaked Flycatcher
Social Flycatcher	Gray-capped Flycatcher	White-winged Becard
Bare-necked Fruitcrow	Purplish Jay	White-banded Swallow
Southern rough-winged Swallow	Silver-beaked Tanager	Turquoise Tanager
Paradise Tanager	Opal-crowned Tanager	Blue Dacnis
Black-faced Dacnis	Russet-backed Oropendola	Epaulet Oriole
Troupial	Maguari Stork	

### Mammals Seen:

Dusky Titi Monkey	Capybara	Giant River Otter
Red-brocket Deer		

## Day 7

Tuesday 1st October

Before dawn we were on a forested river island, and settled into pole-position seats for the 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 and Blue-headed Parrots, and countless Mealties, Yellow-crowned, Red-bellied Macaws and Chestnut-fronted. Blue-headed macaws arrived later on the clay lick.

Some of the group went into an old, primary forest and walked to a nice patch of bamboo. Here we got a bunch of very good birds, like Pale-winged Trumpeter and White-throated Jacamar. Later, we got back to TRC for a hot shower and dinner together.

### New Birds Seen today: Total: 41 species

Capped Heron	Red-Throated Caracara	Pale-winged Trumpeter
Ruddy Quail-Dove	Red-bellied Macaw	White-eyed Parakeet
White-Bellied Parrot	White-bearded Hermit	White-necked Jacobin
Ringed Kingfisher	Blue-crowned Motmot	Rufous Motmot
White-throated Jacamar	Ivory-billed Aracari	Spot-breasted Woodpecker
Elegant Woodcreeper	Bluish-Slate Antshrike	Yellow-breasted Warbling Antbird
Rufous-Capped Antthrush	Cinereous Mourner	Sepia-Capped Flycatcher
Little-Ground Tyrant	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	Swainson's Flycatcher
Variiegated Flycatcher	Piratic Flycatcher	White-browed Purpletuft
Plum-throated Cotinga	Round-tailed Manakin	Dwarf Tyrant Manakin
Red-eyed Vireo	Brown-Chested Martin	Swainson's Thrush
Black-billed Thrush	Magpie Tanager	Palm Tanager
Green-Gold Tanager	Swallow Tanager	Red-Capped Cardinal
Buff-throated Saltator	Greyish Saltator	

**Mammals Seen:**

Saddleback Tamarin

Night Monkey

Brown Capuchin Monkey

**Day 8****Wednesday 2nd October**

Today we did something different. We got up very early in the morning and went to visit another macaw clay lick, this one is called: "El Chuncho"; for the first time ever a Naturetrek group went to see this smaller clay lick. The clay lick was, located about 45 minutes away from TRC down river, and it was fantastic. Great pictures were taken there of the three big macaws in the area: Blue and Yellow, Red and Green and Scarlet. Here we spent the whole morning and got back to the lodge for lunch.

In the afternoon some of the group walked in a floodplain forest and more birds were added to our list. This was our last night at TRC and in the Amazon jungle. Tomorrow Cuzco...

**New Birds Seen today: Total: 14 species**

Horned Screamer

Muscovy Duck

Jabiru Stork

Bat Falcon

Solitary Sandpiper

Collared Trogon

Striolated Puffbird

Lineated Woodcreeper

Ringed Antpiper

Greyish Mourner

Great Kiskadee

Pink-throated Becard

Band-tailed Manakin

Chestnut-bellied Seedeater

**Mammals seen:**

Peruvian Spider Monkey

Southern Amazon Red Squirrel

**Day 9****Thursday 3rd October**

We were delighted to have seen so much spectacular wildlife, and said good-bye to Amazonia. The long way back to Puerto Maldonado allowed us to see only a few new birds today. We were met in Cusco by a new local guide, Juan. In the afternoon we toured the Inca city with him and went to see the Plaza de Armas and the surroundings, 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. First night at Cusco...

**New Birds Seen today: Total: 5 species**

Collared Plover

Short-tailed Swift

Short-crested Flycatcher

Lesser Kiskadee

Bananaquit

**Day 10****Friday 4th October**

The ancient city of Cusco, the Capital of the Inca's Empire - this magnificent city 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 Incas legacy. We started birding a eucalyptus forest just outside the city. Some very good birds around included some Peruvian endemics like: Creamy-crested Spinetail, Chestnut-breasted Mountain Finch and Rusty-fronted Canastero.

After some time birding in the morning, 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. After that we continued our way to the Sacred Valley of the Incas, a fertile valley where the locals still farm the way they did hundreds of years ago. At the Andean town of Pisac, we went to the local market and bought some local crafts. Picnic lunch was waiting for us, and then we headed up to the site where Inca mummies were found, a place where that remains almost intact after more than 500 years. After another excellent explanation from Juan, we went birding where there were some nicotiana shrubs, better known as tobacco plant, and got the fantastic Peruvian endemic "Bearded Mountaineer" a hummingbird considered one of the 10 top most beautiful in the world.

Finally we started to head down to "Huacarpay Lake", a marshy area located 45 minutes south from Cusco. We got there in the afternoon and got some very good birds. We then went back to Cusco for a nice dinner, and got ready for Manu cloud forest.

### New Birds Seen today: Total 31 species

Speckled Teal	White-tufted Grebe	Mountain Caracara
Plumbeous Rail	Spot-winged Pigeon	Bare-faced Ground Dove
Shinning Sunbeam	Giant Hummingbird	Black-tailed Trainbearer
Bearded Mountaineer	Tyrian Metaltail	Andean Flicker
Bar-winged Cinclodes	Creamy-crested Spinetail	Rusty-Fronted Canastero
Yellow-billed Tit Tyrant	White-Browed Chat Tyrant	Chiguanco Thrush
Blue and Yellow Tanager	Black-throated Flowerpiercer	Peruvian Sierra Finch
Mourning Sierra Finch	Ash-breasted Sierra Finch	Chestnut-Breasted Mountain Finch
Greenish Yellow-Finch	Band-tailed Seedeater	Plain-Coloured Seedeater
Black-backed Grosbeak	Golden-billed Saltator	Yellow-winged Blackbird
Streak-fronted Thornbird		

## Day 11

## Saturday 5th October

We set off from Cusco shortly after dawn with our local guide: Jose Luis Avendaño, an excellent birder, good company and help, on 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 is a marginal place, cold and bleak, but a series of short stops brought us sightings of a range of high altitude birds. At over 4000 meters in elevation, we stopped for views of Giant Coots, Andean Geese, Crested Ducks and Silvery Grebes, amazing!. Then we went down into more inhabited zones and by one small village we found White-winged Cinclodes, moving around the crops. We had our packed lunches before continuing on through the afternoon. We dropped down to the town of Paucartambo before climbing again to the high Acjanaco Pass, the gateway to Manu and passed from the arid western side of the Andes to the humid east. Before us, lay lush, forested mountains and hills, that dropped away to the Amazonian lowlands far below. A short walk in the scrub and elfin forest below the Pass produced Andean Guans and Mountain Wrens. 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: Total 19 species**

Andean Goose	Crested Duck	Andean Guan
Silvery Grebe	Andean Lapwing	Greater Yellowlegs
Black-winged Ground-Dove	Andean Parakeet	Blue-banded Toucanet
Crimson-bellied Woodpecker	White-winged Cinclodes	Streak Tuftedcheek
White-Collared Jay	Brown-bellied Swallow	Mountain Wren
Dusky-green Oropendola	Southern Mountain Cacique	Giant Coot
Glossy Black Thrush		

**Day 12****Sunday 6th October**

We were up and breakfasting with the hummingbirds again at first light. Some of the hummingbirds today included: the fantastic Wire Crested Thorntail, Booted Racket Tail and White-bellied Woodstart. With breakfast completed we set off to board the bus but got delayed in the parking area by a mixed feeding flock which included Versicolored Barbet. We headed up-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 including the magnificent Solitary and Black and Chestnut Eagle in consistently beautiful surroundings. We reached the Union Lookout point and start birding our way down back to the lodge for lunch.

After lunch, a siesta, and some nice views of Hummingbirds out in the garden we set off to see the lek of the Cock of the Rock. It was an amazing lek with over 10 males displaying and dancing for the females, one or two females showed up there and the activity got even better. This is probably the best time of the year to see Peru's national bird on display. Just excellent! We covered a fair distance strolling gently up the valley and had a fine time with a close pair of Crested Quetzal, and seeing a distant troop of Woolly Monkeys making their way through the trees on the other side of the valley was just fantastic.

**New Birds Seen today: Total: 44 species**

Solitary Eagle	Black and Chestnut Eagle	Plumbeous Pigeon
Lyre-Tailed Nightjar	Green-fronted Lancebill	Brown Violetear
Green Violetear	Sparkling Violetear	White-Crested Thorntail
Many-spotted Hummingbird	Violet-Fronted Brilliant	Booted Racket-Tail
White-bellied Woodstart	Highland Motmot	Versicolored Barbet
Olive-Backed Woodcreeper	Montane Foliage-Gleaner	White-backed Fire Eye
Slaty-capped Flycatcher	Torrent Tyrannulet	Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant
Cinnamon Flycatcher	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Black Phoebe
Golden-crowned Flycatcher	Andean Cock of the Rock	Inca Jay
White-capped Dipper	Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager	Orange-bellied Euphonia
Blue-naped Chlorophonia	Orange-Eared Tanager	Golden Tanager
Saffron-Crowned Tanager	Spotted Tanager	Bay-headed Tanager
Golden-naped Tanager	Blue-necked Tanager	Beryl-Spangled Tanager
Deep-Blue Flowerpiercer	Tropical Parula	Olivaceous Siskin
Bicolored Hawk	Western-Wood Pewee	

## New Mammals seen:

Common Woolly Monkey

Bolivian Squirrel

Brown Agouti

## Day 13

Monday 7th October

Our day began at dawn with more Hummingbirds in 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 rapidly became hot and bird activity was subdued but a variety of notable birds were seen nonetheless. We reached an elevation of 950 metres, and got to the base of the mountain, where we found a Common Potoo: a nocturnal and the master of camouflage as it looks exactly like a part of a tree branch. Unbelievable! We had 2 Peruvian endemics today: the Fine Barred Piculet and the Black-backed Tody-Flycatcher, both birds are foothill specialties. We finished the day back at CORL under a dark, brooding sky - a good end to another satisfying day.

## New Birds Seen today: Total - 31 species

Gray-fronted Dove

Scaly-naped Parrot

Common Potoo

Reddish Hermit

Blue-tailed Emerald

Speckled Hummingbird

Wedge-billed Hummingbird

Fine-barred Piculet

Golden-Olive Woodpecker

Chestnut-backed Antshrike

Striped-Chested Antwren

Southern White-crowned Tapaculo

Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher

Black-backed Tody-Flycatcher

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet

Mottle-checked Tyrannulet

Yellow-breasted Flycatcher

Long-tailed Tyrant

Lemon-browed Flycatcher

Hauxwell's Thrush

Fawn-breasted Tanager

White-lored Euphonia

Yellow-bellied Dacnis

Dull-coloured Seed eater

Slate-throated Redstart

Two-banded Warbler

Golden-bellied Warbler

Military Macaw

Sapphire-Spangled Emerald

Fuscous Flycatcher

Golden-tailed Sapphire

## Day 14

Tuesday 8th October

Leaving CORL shortly after dawn we began the long drive back across the mountains 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, including Golden-headed Quetzal, Sharp-shine Hawk and Pearled Treerunner.

We made a brief stop at the Ajanaco Pass and noted more Shining Sunbeams and some White-throated and White-banded Tyrannulets and then continued our journey through the afternoon. We made a few brief stops en-route which brought us some good views of Rufous-webbed Tyrant and Green-tailed Trainbearer and arrived back in Cusco at the end of the afternoon. Back in Cusco we said goodbye to our excellent local guide Jose Luis Avendaño.

## New Birds Seen today: Total 19 species

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Green-tailed Trainbearer

Long-tailed Sylph

Golden-headed Quetzal

Montane Woodcreeper

Pearled Treerunner

White-throated Tyrannulet

White-banded Tyrannulet

Slaty-backed Chat-tyrant

Rufous-webbed Tyrant	Yellow-whiskered bush-tanager	Superciliaried Hemispingus
Blue-capped Tanager	Hooded Mountain-tanager	Blue and Black Tanager
Black-faced Brush Finch	Spectacled Redstart	Citrine warbler
Capped Conebill		

## Day 15

Wednesday 9th October

We set off from Cusco again with Juan Manuel that joined us again in the city, just before dawn by bus to Poroy and there transferred to the early morning train to Aguas Calientes and Machu Picchu. The first part of the journey was across fairly flat arable fields interspersed with farms and small villages but after a while the mountains closed in around us. Soon we were surrounded by towering peaks as we closely followed the tumbling, boulder-strewn course of the mighty Urubamba River. This was Torrent Duck country and in no time found the first of our quarry, a pair, handsome and charismatic as ever, perched on a boulder mid-stream. A watch was kept right through to Aguas Calientes and the final score was over 20, an impressive total indeed!

Once off the train in bustling Aguas Calientes (2,225 meters), 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 itself and Juan Manuel led us on a thorough and informative guided tour of this most inspiring of places. Occasional White-tipped Swifts hurtled around overhead, Vizcachas scuttled over the rocks but the ruins rightly took pride of place and everyone was suitably awed and impressed. Finally, towards the end of the afternoon, we caught the bus back down into Aguas Calientes and our luxurious hotel.

### New Birds Seen today: Total 4 species

Torrent Duck	Mitred Parakeet	White-tipped Swift
Andean Swift		

### Mammals seen:

Peruvian Andean Vizcacha

## Day 16

Thursday 10th October

A full morning at Aguas Calientes gave us all plenty of time to relax and bird. We divided our time between exploring the grounds of the hotel and birding down the road to Puente Ruinas and its various markets.

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 more 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. In the trees we found Andean Guan, Highland Motmot, and Golden-olive Woodpecker. A wide range of other small birds seen 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 train station and continued to Cusco, arriving at the end of the afternoon. We enjoyed our last supper in Cusco at the end of our enjoyable trip.

### **New Birds Seen today: Total 13 species**

Green and White Hummingbird	Chestnut-breasted Coronet	Collared Inca
Violet-Fronted Startfrontlet	Sword-billed Hummingbird	Streak Xenops
Common Tody-Flycatcher	Barred Becard	Brown-capped Vireo
Gray-breasted Wood-wren	Thick-billed Euphonia	Silver-backed Tanager
Russet-crowned Warbler		

## **Day 17**

**Friday 11th October**

This morning we flew back to Lima. We went to have a nice lunch at Callao pier, very close to the Pacific Ocean. It was really beautiful and we enjoyed this change in the itinerary. After that in the late afternoon we left for Lima airport where the tour came to its close. I said goodbye to everyone with the hope to see you guys again somewhere else in South America!

## **Day 18**

**Saturday 12th October**

Arrive back in Europe

Total number of birds seen during the whole trip: 414 species

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