

NORTHERN PERU CLOUD FORESTS, DESERTS, MARAÑÓN VALLEY & THE MARVELOUS SPATULETAIL

OCTOBER 15-30, 2010

©2009

Northern Peru is back after a brief absence from our schedule and what a difference a few years makes. Now there is an exciting new field guide to the birds of Peru and this book delivers on its promises – it is filled with terrific illustrations, excellent maps and comes in a convenient and portable format that makes sorting through the tremendous diversity of birds along the coasts and in deserts, cloud forests and interior valleys of the northern region a pleasure. There also are some important changes in this tour. These include two new lodges, a new reserve especially dedicated to the Marvelous Spatulatetail, and hummingbird feeders at four localities. And lastly, the trip has been shortened and reconfigured so there is no need for camping.

*If you are asking, “Why northern Peru?” spend a few minutes thumbing through the glorious new book *Birds of Peru* and you will quickly see that this region is rich in endemic birds. Part of the reason for this is because the Marañón River Valley here is low and arid and bisects the Andes so deeply that it forms a major biogeographical barrier to Andean cloud forest birds living both north and south of this valley. It is, in short, a meeting of three important avifaunas, one north of the valley, one to the south, and a unique third group found only within this dry valley. And, that’s not all! This trip begins in the dry forests near the coast which also are home to many endemic and range-restricted species trapped by humid forests northward in Ecuador, some of the world’s harshest deserts to the south and the high Andes to the east. Simply put, many of the birds on this trip are found nowhere else in the world and the birding here is as good as it gets anywhere in the Andes. This exciting trip is designed to sample these rich avifaunas—coastal desert, dry forest, cloud forest and intra-Andean rain-shadow desert—and now, with some new facilities available, it can be done with a greater level of comfort than ever before.*

*The tour begins in the Algorrobo (*Prosopis* spp. or acacia) woodlands, deserts, and dry canyons of the northwestern coastal zone. This region abounds with range-restricted specialties. Foremost among them is the White-winged Guan, once feared extinct and only rediscovered in 1977. A few of the specialties we will be looking for include Peruvian Thick-knee, Tumbes Hummingbird, Scrub Nightjar, Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, Necklaced Spinetail, Coastal Miner, Elegant Crescent-chest, Peruvian Plantcutter, Rufous Flycatcher, and Tumbes Tyrant, among others.*

Leaving the arid lowlands behind, our route will then climb upwards into a lush cloud forest in the vicinity of the small town of Pomacochas and on to Abra Patricia Pass a short distance beyond. Foremost among our targets here is the spectacular Marvelous Spatuletail, an endangered hummingbird so ornate that it has almost become the stuff of legends. Abra Patricia Pass is also justly famous for several regional specialties including the recently described Long-whiskered Owlet (still known mainly from several individuals caught in mist nets), as well as Royal Sunangel, Ochre-fronted and Chestnut antpittas, Bar-winged Wood-Wren Cinnamon-breasted Tody-Tyrant, and the

recently described (April 2001) Johnson's (Lulu's) Tody-Tyrant. Even with an added day we may not be able to find all of these specialties during our few days here. Here, there are also many other mountain birds including Ash-throated Antwren (endemic), Versicolored Barbet, Andean Cock-of-the-rock, several fruiteaters, and a wonderful selection of colorful Andean tanagers.

Finally, our route will take us over two fairly high Andean passes (12,000 ft.), providing an opportunity to see several high-elevation hummingbirds, furnariids, mountain-tanagers, and sierra-finches. These passes include such sought-after species as Rainbow Starfrontlet, Black and Coppery metaltail, Russet-mantled Softtail, White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant, Black-crested Tit-Tyrant and Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager. The trip will conclude with a day crossing the arid Marañón Valley, which has its own equally rich avifauna. Many species here are endemic to this dry valley and we should see a nice sampling of these as well.

October 15, Day 1: Arrival in Lima. You should plan your flights to arrive Lima, Peru (Jorge Chávez Lima-Callao International Airport, airport code LIM) between 9-11:00 PM. After clearing customs and immigration, you will be met outside by our ground operator where you will walk across the street to the hotel. Please note that because of your relatively late arrival this evening and the unusually early departure tomorrow (see day two), you may wish to arrive a day earlier or plan to arrive on a scheduled international flight earlier in the day. Also note that the airport hotel is extremely convenient for brief overnight stays (a three minute walk) but is some distance from important residential and commercial areas and parks within Lima.

NIGHT: Ramada Airport Hotel, Lima

October 16, Day 2: Lima to Chiclayo. We will begin our adventure with a very early flight from Lima to the coastal city of Chiclayo (currently scheduled at 0400 hrs). On arrival we'll load into a bus and leave the city of Chiclayo straightaway for a desert site known as Batan Grande (Pomac Natural Historical Sanctuary) where we will have a field breakfast, plenty of coffee and birds nearby. We will bird the protected Algorrobo woodland here several key endemics including Tumbes Swallow, Rufous Flycatcher, Necklaced Spinetail, Peruvian Plantcutter, Baird's flycatcher, Cinereous Finch and Coastal Miner. Other common species include Pale-legged (Pacific) Hornero, Superciliated Wren, Collared Antshrike, Mouse-colored (Tumbezan) Tyrannulet, Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant, Baird's Flycatcher, Vermilion Flycatcher and Tropical Gnatcatcher. Late morning should find us departing eastward toward the Chapparrí Ecolodge where we will have lunch and a well-deserved siesta. We plan to spend the late afternoon birding near the lodge. A few possibilities in the acacia (*Prosopis spp*) scrub in the beautiful desert canyon here may include Harris' Hawk, Pacific (West Peruvian) Dove, Croaking Ground-Dove, Amazilia Hummingbird, Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, Collared Antshrike (often in dining area), Gray-and-White Tyrannulet, Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Rufous Flycatcher, White-tailed Jay, Long-tailed Mockingbird, thick-billed Euphonia, Saffron Finch, Tumbes Sparrow, and Cinereous Finch. It is worth noting that, although not originally present here, the rare White-winged Guan has been introduced into this canyon and the species is now well established and breeding. Some individuals near the lodge are quite habituated to humans while others in the upper reserve portion of the canyon are less so. We may search for one or more owls this evening including Striped Owl and (West) Peruvian Screech-Owl.

NIGHT: Chapparrí Ecolodge, Department of Lambayeque

October 17, Day 3: Morning at Chapparrí Ecolodge. We'll spend the morning here with a leisurely breakfast at the Lodge. Most mornings various hummingbirds gather at feeders or to bathe in the little stream in front of the dining area. Species seen here include Purple-collared Woodstar, Tumbes and Amazilia hummingbirds, Long-billed Starthroat, Short-tailed Woodstar, Oasis Hummingbird, Peruvian Sheartail and Little Woodstar. This morning we will make a special effort to locate the nomadic Sulphur-throated Finch; other possibilities include any species mentioned on day one as well as Short-tailed Woodstar, Elegant Crescentchest, Sooty-crowned Flycatcher, Tumbes Tyrant (endemic), Parrot-billed Seedeater, Cinereous Finch (endemic), Collared

Warbling-Finch, White-headed Brush-Finch, Golden-bellied Grosbeak, Scrub Blackbird, and White-edged Oriole White-tailed Deer and Sechuran Fox also occur here, the fox often right around the lodge. As the desert sun becomes hot we'll return for lunch. This afternoon we will relocate to the small town of Olmos some distance to the north of Chiclayo. As we depart the Chapparrí Ecolodge we'll stop briefly at the Tinajones Reservoir where a few grebes, egrets and herons are possible as well as Peruvian Thick-knees in the nearby desert.

NIGHT: Hotel Remanso, Olmos, Department of Lambayeque

October 18, Day 4: Arid West Slope Canyons and Woodlands. We'll start early again today for the Guan Canyon. We plan to meet a local guide here who can provide information on the whereabouts of many regional specialty birds, including the White-Winged Guan. Described new to science in 1876, the White-Winged Guan was shortly thereafter thought to be extinct and was so considered until its rediscovery a hundred and one years later, in 1977. The current world population is thought to number only a few hundred individuals scattered over a small number of rugged canyons in this part of Peru. The species is now also the subject of a breeding and reintroduction program, as part of a major effort to save this rare and unusual bird. Other species we could see in the area include Pacific Parrotlet; Striped Cuckoo; Scrub Nightjar, Tumbes Hummingbird (endemic); Amazilia Hummingbird; Long-billed Starthroat, Short-tailed Woodstar, Red-masked Parakeet, Golden-olive, Scarlet-backed, and Guayaquil woodpecker, Streak-headed Woodcreeper, Necklaced Spinetail, Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner, Collared Antshrike, Elegant Crescentchest (endemic), Baird's Flycatcher, Tumbes Tyrant, Tropical (Tumbes) Pewee, Gray-breasted Flycatcher, Vermilion Flycatcher, One-colored Becard (scarce), white-tailed Jay, Tropical Gnatcatcher, Plumbeous-backed Thrush; Gray-and-gold Warbler, White-winged and White-headed brush-finch; Black-capped Sparrow (gray-backed form), Crimson-breasted Finch; Saffron Finch; Parrot-billed Seedeater; Tumbes Sparrow, Streaked Saltator, Peruvian Meadowlark, and White-edged Oriole. Sulphur-throated Finch is also possible today as well. Once back on the paved road this afternoon we will return to our hotel in Olmos.

NIGHT: Hotel Remanso, Olmos, Department of Lambayeque

October 19, Day 5: Olmos to the Low Cloud Forests of Abra Porculla (5900 ft; 1780 m). With an early start, we'll leave the coastal strip behind and drive eastward toward one of the lowest passes in the Andes, the Abra Porculla pass. Our destination here will be a short side road that winds up and through some remnant patches of woodland. Road conditions allowing, we will drive to the high point and bird by foot along a level stretch of the old road. Alternatively, if the lower portion of the road is impassable, we may have to hike for 20 minutes to reach the area where we intend to bird. We will look carefully here for the Piura Chat-Tyrant, a rare and localized endemic. Other bird possibilities here include Ecuadorian Piculet (scarce), Smoky-brown Woodpecker, Line-cheeked and Azara's spinetail, Rufous-necked and Henna-hooded foliage-gleaner (both scarce here), Chapman's Antshrike, Chestnut-crowned Antpitta (voice), Three-banded Warbler, Rufous-chested Tanager, Bay-crowned and White-winged brush-finch, Black-cowled Saltator, and Yellow-bellied and Black-and-white seedeater. Back on the highway, we'll continue over the pass and begin our descent into the busy town of Jaen, situated within the Río Marañon watershed. If time permits we may stop and try to locate the endemic Little Inca-Finch en route.

NIGHT: Hotel El Bosque, Jaen, Dept. of Cajamarca

October 20, Day 6: Vicinity of Jaen (2600 ft; 800 m). Another early start will be needed for a day in the desert canyons and semi-deciduous woodlands near Jaen. In particular, we will be searching for a number of species (and a few distinctive subspecies) endemic to the Marañon Valley, including Spot-throated Hummingbird, Chinchipe Spinetail, Marañon Spinetail, Northern Slaty-Antshrike (the distinctive, white-bellied *leucogaster* race), Marañon Crescentchest, Tropical (Marañon) Gnatcatcher, the distinctive nominate race of Speckle-breasted Wren, and the strikingly marked Little Inca-Finch. Other possibilities include Gray-chinned Hermit, Rufous-fronted (Common) Thornbird, Streaked Xenops., Lined Antshrike, Yellow-cheeked Becard, Black-and-white Becard, Inca Jay, Purple-throated Euphonia, Red-crested (=Red Pileated-) Finch, Yellow-bellied and Chestnut-throated seedeaters, Dull-colored Grassquit, and Golden-bellied Grosbeak. Endemic and range-

restricted species of the area also include Buff-bellied Tanager, Sooty-crowned Flycatcher, Marañon Thrush (rare here), and Black-capped Sparrow (green-backed subspecies).

NIGHT: Hotel El Bosque, Jaen, Dept. of Cajamarca

October 21, Day 7: Jaen to Abra Patricia and the Owlet Lodge (7600 ft; 2300 m). Early morning will probably be spent in the desert canyons outside of Jaen, looking for additional species we may not have seen on the previous day, or just enjoying repeat views of such dazzling specialties as Marañon Crescentchest and Little Inca-Finch. Afterwards, we will continue eastward, stopping as opportunities present themselves at some rice fields near the Marañon River, where we could see shorebirds and flocks of seedeaters, including Chestnut-throated and Black-and-white. Both Spotted Rail and Paint-billed Crake have been found here, although both species are very difficult to see. As we continue, we will watch a long stretch of the Utcubamba River for Fasciated Tiger-Heron and Torrent Duck. We will pass the small villages of Pedro Ruiz and Florida en route. Sometime around noon we should reach the Marvelous Spatulatetail Reserve where we will have lunch and, of course explore the trails, and various feeder locations for this species as well as numerous other hummingbirds. This endemic hummingbird is severely threatened by deforestation and seeing one is by no means guaranteed although our task is greatly simplified now that they are known to visit feeders both here and elsewhere. The reserve also maintains a nice museum. Other hummingbird possibilities here include Sparkling and Green Violetear, Chestnut-breasted Coronet, Mountain Velvetbreast, White-bellied Hummingbird, Andean Emerald, Bronzy Inca, Green-tailed Trainbearer, and both White-bellied Woodstar and Little Woodstar. Also possible here are Variable Antshrike and Rufous-capped Antshrike, Sometime this afternoon we will continue on to the Owlet Lodge located on the Abra Patricia Pass.

NIGHT: Owlet Lodge, border of department of San Martin and Amazonas

October 22-24, Day 8-10: Abra Patricia Pass (2300 m; 7600 ft). We will have two full days and part of a third to enjoy the montane forests on and east of the pass at Abra Patricia (ca. 7,500 ft. elevation; 2300 m). This area lies on the east slope of the Andes but on the south side of the Río Marañon watershed and is thus separated from the avifauna at similar elevation on the northern side of the valley. A single paved road now stretches from Olmos to Moyobamba and on to Tarapoto and the paving of this road has greatly improved the accessibility of the region to birders, but has also accelerated the rate of settlement and deforestation. At the present time there is still considerable pristine forest extending from the pass down to about 3,300 feet, (1000 m) providing a superb transect of middle elevation and foothill humid forest. The birding here can be outstanding! Among the larger species present are Andean and Sickle-winged guan, Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Golden-headed and Crested quetzal, Crimson-bellied Woodpecker (rare), Andean Cock-of-the-rock (fairly common), and even Amazonian Umbrellabird. And, the high-energy mixed-species flocks, which mostly contain smaller birds, are a kaleidoscope of color. In these fast-moving flocks are Versicolored Barbet, Green-and-black Fruiteater, Scaled Fruiteater, Golden-collared and Purple honeycreepers, Black-faced Dacnis, and Blue-naped Chlorophonia, among a few of the possible species. And then there are the tanagers: Grass-green, White-capped, Vermilion, Blue-capped, Paradise, Orange-eared, Green-and-gold, Golden, Saffron-crowned, Flame-faced, Blue-browed, Metallic-green, Blue-necked, Beryl-spangled, Blue-and-black, Red-hooded as well as Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager. There also are numerous duller skulking birds inside the forest, many of which are challenging to see, including foliage-gleaners, antpittas, tapaculos, and flycatcher—far more, in fact, than we will have time to see. A sampling of these duller-plumaged, but no less interesting species, includes Pearled Treerunner, Streaked Tuftedcheek, Equatorial Graytail, Ash-throated Antwren, Uniform Antshrike, Barred Anthrush, Rusty-tinged Antpitta, Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant, Black-throated Tody-Tyrant, Sharpe's Wren, and Gray-mantled Wren.

The Abra Patricia region is justly famous in ornithological circles for being the site of discovery of three species new to science in the past few decades. Most famous of these is the Long-whiskered Owlet, first encountered in 1976, when a team of scientists from Louisiana State University mist-netted three individuals on a wind-swept ridge east of the pass. The bird is still known only from several specimens and has hardly been seen in the wild by anyone, but just being in the vicinity of such a near-mythical species is exciting. Similarly, the little Ochre-fronted Antpitta was discovered here in 1976, the Chestnut Antpitta in 1987, and the endemic Rusty-tinged

Antpitta also occurs here! The same elfin forests where these birds were discovered are also home to the Royal Sunangel, (endemic_ Cinnamon-breasted Tody-Tyrant, and Bar-winged Wood-Wren (endemic); three species with extremely limited ranges and about which little is known. Additionally, the area around the pass itself is an excellent spot for the recently described Johnson's (Lulu's) Tody-Tyrant (*AUK*, April 2001). Night birding should be good here as well, with Rufous-banded Owl and White-throated Screech-Owl often occurring in the lodge garden. Other species present in the area include Lyre-tailed Nightjar, Rufous-bellied Nighthawk, Cinnamon Screech-Owl and, of course, the rare Long-whiskered Owlet, which has, thus far, been seen by very few people.

NIGHTS: Owlet Lodge, border of department of San Martin and Amazonas

October 25, Day 11: Abra Patricia Area to Leymebamba (7300 ft; 2200 m). We will spend the early morning hours birding at Abra Patricia and then backtrack slightly to the town of Pedro Ruiz. From there we'll work our way along the Utcubamba River (a tributary of the Marañon) toward Leymebamba. This dry section of the Río Utcubamba does not support a great many birds and we will be making only a few stops here as we wind through a narrow, steep-sided canyon carved by the rushing waters of the Utcubamba. The canyon walls are covered with xeric vegetation, abundant cacti and terrestrial bromeliads. We'll watch for Torrent Ducks Fasciated Tiger-Herons if we haven't already seen them. We also have a chance to see White-capped Dippers as well as Scarlet-fronted Parakeet, Black-necked Woodpecker, Marañon Gnatcatcher, Golden-rumped Euphonia, and Streaked Saltator. We plan to arrive in the picturesque Andean village of Leymebamba before dusk and will base here for two days.

NIGHT: Hotel La Casona, Leymebamba

October 26, Day 12: Early Start for Abra Barro Negro Pass at 12,000 feet (3,680 m).

As dawn breaks, the patches of remnant montane woodland below Abra Barro Negro come alive with birds, and the action can be fast and furious. Andean Guan, Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, Red-crested Cotinga, Citrine Warbler, Hooded Mountain-Tanager, and Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager are just a few of the many possibilities. Hummingbirds are typically a conspicuous presence, and we could see such gems as Collared Inca, Shining Sunbeam, Mountain Velvetbreast, Rainbow Starfrontlet, Purple-backed Thornbill and Tyrian Metaltail. A prime target will be the rare and endemic Russet-mantled Softtail. Higher up, toward the pass, we'll cross open meadows where Andean Lapwing, Mountain Caracara, Andean Flicker, and Grass Wren are possible, as well as Coppery Metaltail, Bar-bellied Woodpecker, Pearled Treerunner, White-chinned Thistletail, Rufous Antpitta, Tufted Tit-Tyrant, and several species of tyrannulets, flowerpiercers, and tanagers are all possible.

This afternoon will be devoted to a visit to the Leymebamba Museum (museoleymeabamba.org) as well as considerable time spent at hummingbird feeders nearby. At least seventeen species of hummers have been recorded here including such gems as the Marvelous Spatulatetail, Purple-throated Sunangel, Rainbow Starfrontlet, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Booted Rackettail, Chestnut-breasted Cornet, Speckled Hummingbird and Little and White-bellied Woodstar. Many have regarded the spectacular hummingbird feeders here, as well as the well-presented museum as a tour highlight.

NIGHT: Hotel La Casona, Leymebamba

October 27, Day 13: Leymebamba to Celendín (8500 ft; 2575 m). Today will be a long day with relatively short stoops at selected sites as we cross Barro Negro Pass and drive into the spectacular Marañon Canyon. As we descend into the canyon, the vegetation quickly becomes dry and desertlike. Target species at high elevation include Coppery Metaltail, Great Sapphirewing, Moustached Flowerpiercer and a few flycatchers, tanagers, and warblers at dawn. The balance of the day will be spend moving through several dry and arid lower-elevation sites where we will look for several Marañon Valley endemics including Yellow-cheeked Parrotlet (erratic), Peruvian Pigeon (endemic), Chestnut-backed Thornbird (endemic), Marañon Thrush, Buff-bridled Inca-Finch, Gray-winged Inca-Finch, and Buff-bellied Tanager. The "black-lored subspecies of Masked Yellowthroat is also possible here. Other birds to watch for include Puna Hawk, Andean Lapwing, Andean Flicker, Rufous-capped Antshrike, Baron's Spinetail (endemic), Jelski's Chat-Tyrant, Yellow-tailed Oriole Along the way we should see

a number of other commoner Andean species before continuing on to Celendín for the night. This is likely to be a long day with a spectacular high-elevation pass, dramatic scenery, narrow mountain roads, and ever-changing vegetation as we descend from a cold highland pass to the arid and hot desert vegetation at the bottom of the Marañón Valley.

NIGHT: Hotel Celendín, Celendín

October 28, Day 14: Celendín to City of Cajamarca. We will start birding in remnant humid forest and *Polylepis* scrub at fairly high elevation and most of this day will be spent at elevations of ca. 10,000 feet or slightly higher. On this road we'll make planned stops for some Andean species we may not have seen, i.e. Peruvian Sierra-Finch, Shining Sunbeam and in the high puna grasslands for cinclodes, canasteros, pipits, ground-tyrants and sierra-finches, Rainbow Startfrontlet, Black-crested Warbler, Black-crested (Marañón) Tit-Tyrant, and Many-striped Canastero. Time permitting; we may look for the Cajamarca race of the Rufous Antpitta (a species likely to be reclassified as a separate species in the near future). Other *Polylepis* species here include Black Metaltail, Jelski's Chat-Tyrant, Baron's Spinetail, Striated Earthcreeper, Rusty-crowned Tit-Spinetail and the rare White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant as well as Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant and Rufous-webbed Tyrant. By afternoon we should reach a known locality for the Rufous-eared Brush-Finch. As was the case yesterday, the drive on to Cajamarca today will take some time because the road is narrow and curvy and unpaved, but we hope to arrive at our comfortable hotel in time to enjoy the thermal mineral baths and a delicious dinner at a very comfortable hotel.

NIGHT: Laguna Seca Resort Hotel, Cajamarca

October 29-30, Days 15-16: Morning near Cajamarca; Flight to Lima. Depending upon flight schedules, will mount a last, early morning excursion to continue searching for a few additional species restricted to the dry upper Marañón Valley and to enjoy this splendid and unusual rain-shadowed landscape. One target will likely be the Gray-bellied Comet, a large and poorly-known hummingbird that is seldom seen away from this area. Other possibilities include Andean Swift, Tyrian Metaltail, Green-tailed Trainbearer, White-winged Cinclodes, Rusty-crowned Tit-Spinetail, Baron's Spinetail, White-winged Black-Tyrant, Torrent Tyrannulet, White-browed Chat-Tyrant, Brown-bellied Swallow, Chiguanco Thrush, Rufous-chested Tanager, Golden-billed Saltator, Buff-bridled Inca-Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Hooded Siskin, and perhaps Plain-tailed Warbling-Finch.

We'll return to Cajamarca for a flight (either late morning or late afternoon) on Day 15 to Lima. Upon arrival we will transfer to the hotel where you will have time to repack and prepare for your international flight late tonight. After our final dinner, you will transfer back to the airport for a late international flight to your home destination, arriving early the next morning. For participants not wishing the rigors of this long overnight flight, arrangements can be made for overnight accommodations and transfers the following morning at an additional charge.

DAYROOM (October 29): Ramada Airport Hotel, Lima

EXTRA ARRANGEMENTS: Should you wish to make arrangements to arrive early or extend your stay, please contact the VENT office at least two months prior to your departure date. We can very easily make hotel arrangements and often at our group rate, if we receive your request with enough advance time.

TOUR SIZE: This tour is limited to 12 participants.

TOUR LEADERS: Steve Hilty and a local guide

Steve Hilty is the senior author of *A Guide to the Birds of Colombia*, and the recently published *Birds of Venezuela*, both by Princeton University Press. Other credits include *Birds of Tropical America*, *A watcher's introduction to behavior, breeding and diversity*, which has just been republished by the University of Texas Press. He has also written a number of scientific papers on birds and plants, and is presently preparing the text and species accounts for the tanagers for a forthcoming volume of the acclaimed *Handbook of Birds of the World*, published by Lynx Press in Barcelona. Steve holds a Ph.D. in zoology from the University of Arizona

and has worked at the Arid Lands Department at the University of Arizona, as a consultant to The Nature Conservancy, and as a stockbroker. He is currently a research associate at the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History. Since 1975, he has led tours throughout North and South America, and co-led trips to India, the Orient, and Australasian regions. With three decades of experience in South America and a wide range of natural history interests, he brings a unique breadth of expertise to his Neotropical tours. At night he often turns his binoculars towards the skies for stargazing. Steve lives in Kansas City with his wife, Beverly. They have two daughters recently graduated from college.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS: The fee for this tour is **\$5810** per person in double occupancy from Lima. This includes all meals from breakfast on Day 2 to dinner on Day 15, accommodations as stated in the itinerary, flights within Peru (Lima to Chiclayo on Day 2; Cajamarca to Lima on Day 15), ground transportation during the tour, gratuities, and guide services provided by the tour leaders. It does not include airfare from your home to Lima and return, airport departure taxes, alcoholic beverages, special gratuities, phone calls, laundry, or items of a personal nature. Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration, a small-party supplement may have to be charged.

The single supplement for this tour is **\$975**. You will be charged a single supplement if you desire single accommodations, or if you prefer to share but have no roommate and we cannot provide one for you. This fee does not cover nor guarantee single accommodations in Leymebamba where you may be asked to share. However, your preference will be noted and accommodated, if possible, at no additional cost there.

EXCHANGE RATE SURCHARGES: In the erratic global financial markets of today, it is difficult to predict foreign currency exchange rates over the long term or at the time of operation of a tour or cruise departure. Tour prices are based upon the rate of exchange at the time of itinerary publication. If exchange rates change drastically, it may be necessary to implement a surcharge. If a surcharge is necessary, every effort will be made to minimize the amount. In many cases, these additional foreign exchange rate surcharges are passed to VENT by its vendors and suppliers.

FUEL AND FUEL SURCHARGES: In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult – if not impossible – to predict fuel costs over the long term, and more specifically, at the time of operation of this departure. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

TRIP INSURANCE: A brochure and application form for optional coverage for baggage, illness, and trip cancellation can be obtained through the VENT office. We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance as soon as possible to protect yourself against losses due to accidents or illness. VENT recommends *Travel Insured International* as our preferred insurance provider. Check with your insurance agent regarding coverage you may presently have via other insurance policies that may cover illness during your trip. **Waiver for pre-existing conditions is available however stipulations apply, usually requiring the purchase of the insurance soon after registering.** Optional expanded insurance coverage is available and includes items such as work-related cancellation, medical upgrade, and a “Cancel for Any Reason” clause among others. Contact *Travel Insured International* prior to registration for details. Not all insurance providers provide the same levels of coverage. If you purchase insurance through a company other than *Travel Insured International*, please be advised that rules and stipulations may be different.

Medical insurance which covers you for emergency evacuation/repatriation during the trip is recommended for this tour. This coverage is included in the Worldwide Trip Protector plan offered by *Travel Insured International*. A good website for information and acquisition of emergency evacuation/repatriation insurance is: www.insuremytrip.com.

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of \$50,000. CST #2014998-50.

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, please contact the VENT office. The deposit for this tour is \$500 per person. If you prefer to pay your deposit by check, your tour space will be held for 10 days to allow time for the VENT office to receive your deposit and completed registration form. If you prefer to pay your deposit using a credit card, your deposit must be made with MasterCard or Visa at the time of registration. The VENT registration form should then be completed, signed, and returned to the VENT office. Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to the tour departure date.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellation penalties and refunds are based on the following schedule: if cancellation is made 120 days or more before the tour departure date, a cancellation fee of \$250 per person will be charged unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months, in which case the cancellation fee will be \$100 per person. If cancellation is made fewer than 120 days before departure date, no refund is available. This policy and fee schedule also applies to pre-trip and post-trip extensions. *We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance for your protection.*

<u>If you cancel:</u>	<u>Your refund will be:</u>
120 days or more before departure date	Your deposit minus \$250*
Fewer than 120 days before departure date	No refund available

*Unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months, in which case the cancellation fee will be \$100 per person.

AIR INFORMATION: Victor Emanuel Travel is a full-service travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Victor Emanuel Travel will be happy to make any domestic or international air travel arrangements from your home and return. Please feel free to call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements.

BAGGAGE LIMITS: All tour participants are asked to limit your checked luggage to one duffel of no more than twenty 20 kilos (about 44 lbs). You may also bring a small back pack or carry-on piece of luggage. Please note that Peruvian airlines are now quite strict about luggage weight limits, as well as bringing large roll-on bags or large back-packs into airline cabins. Roll-on luggage taller than 18" in height will certainly have to be checked. We suggest you arrange your luggage with these limits in mind, and bearing in mind that smaller is easier for packing in buses as well as on airlines.

CLIMATE: Weather conditions can be extremely variable on this trip due to the wide range of habitats and elevations visited. Lowland areas such as Chiclayo, Olmos and the lower parts of the Marañon Valley (e.g. Jaen) are likely to be warm-to-hot (temperatures in the 90s) and dry. Conversely, time spent in the mountains, particularly on the higher passes and at Abra Patricia will be cool (temperatures in the low 50s) and perhaps rainy. Early morning temperatures along high Andean passes can drop into the thirties, often near or at freezing overnight, although temperatures quickly warm up on sunny days.

CLOTHING: Lightweight field clothing is the rule. Please do not wear white or brightly colored clothes, including hats or raingear, as it will emphasize any movements that you make. We suggest loose-fitting khaki clothing or other cotton clothing in a dark green, dark blue, tan or brown shade. Military camouflage clothing should not be worn as it conveys an inappropriate image to police and military personnel, whom we are likely to encounter at various highway checkpoints. Also, please avoid nylon or plastic jackets and/or rainwear of similar materials that are noisy; noisy clothing is annoying to others and may frighten birds and animals. Long pants and long-sleeved shirts are recommended, both as protection against insects and against the many thorn-bearing plants in the arid lowlands. Shorts can be worn on some of the longer drives. A long, waterproof poncho (ponchos are better than rain jackets for protecting optical equipment) or rain jacket; very warm sweater or

down jacket (or light jacket and down vest combination in layers); warm hat; and gloves will be needed for the higher elevation sites which can be quite cold early in the morning. Bring a broad-brimmed hat for sun protection and a good sunscreen. Footwear should include rubber boots (will probably be needed for muddy trails at Abra Patricia) and sturdy waterproof walking shoes and/or sneakers. A swimming suit may be useful although not essential, particularly at our hotel in Jaen and Cajamarca.

CURRENCY: Nuevo Sol (PEN); US dollars can be exchanged in Lima at banks and many hotels but limited outside the major tourist areas. It is not recommended to exchange money from street vendors. All major credit cards are accepted, but usage may be limited outside of Lima.

DEPARTURE TAX: USD \$31 to be paid prior to boarding your flight (as of 08/03/09 subject to change).

DOCUMENTS: A passport valid for at least six months beyond your planned departure from Peru is required. Visas are not required for entry by U.S. citizens. Non-U.S. citizens should check with their consulate/embassy for instructions. A tourist card will be issued by the airline.

EQUIPMENT: You should pack a pair of binoculars that are in good repair, along with a belt pack or day pack (for carrying books, sunscreen, extra film, etc.). As a precaution, it is a good idea to pack your binoculars, a change of clothing, toiletry items, medication and travel documents in your airline carry-on bag. Your leader will have a spotting scope, but if you have one and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so.

We request participants bring a wide-mouth water bottle that can be easily refilled as disposable bottles of water may not be available throughout this trip and are generally not recommended for extended use. Large plastic ziploc bags are useful to protect cameras and binoculars from rain or humidity. A small, compact umbrella is highly recommended, and raingear is essential. Earplugs could come in handy at a couple of the hotels. Because much of this route traverses relatively remote regions where the variety (although not quantity) of food may be limited, we recommend that everyone, including especially those persons with dietary restrictions or other dietary requirements, bring at least some trail snacks and other emergency food items that are portable.

HEALTH: If you are taking prescription medication or over-the-counter medicine, be sure to bring an ample supply that will allow you to get through the tour safely. Please consult your physician as necessary. Remember to pack all medication in your carry-on baggage, preferably in original containers or packaging. As airline baggage restrictions can change without warning, please check with your airline for procedures for packing medication. As standard travel precautions, you should always be up to date with tetanus shots, and strongly consider inoculations against Hepatitis types A and B.

No vaccination is required for entering Peru, however the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends a yellow fever vaccination for all travelers within the endemic zone in Peru (arriving from any country) for those who intend to visit any jungle areas of the country at elevation higher than 2,300 meters (7,546 feet). Malaria has been confirmed in Peru including the chloroquine-resistant strain in rural areas. There are several options for malaria prophylaxis. Please consult your physician or local travel clinic for recommendations. Your polio and typhoid protection should be current. Leishmaniasis is a disease transmitted by a small fly that is mainly active at dusk or during the night. It is not a common insect and only a few of the flies are disease carriers; proper clothing and the use of insect repellent are the best protection.

In addition to your physician, a good source of general health information for travelers is the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta Georgia. The CDC operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers' Information Line at 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636), or you can check their website at www.cdc.gov/travel. Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new_e.html (click on travel health).

Northern Peru, Page 10

INSECTS: Insects should not be a problem over most of our route (the highlands should be particularly free of biting insects), but depending on rain, we could encounter some biting insects in the Tumbes and other lowland areas. Wear loose-fitting long pants and long-sleeved shirts, and bring bottles or roll-on sticks of Cutter's or similar insect repellents.

MISC.

- Laundry service will be limited but we should be able to get laundry done at the hotel in Jaen. Other possibilities for laundry are limited to Olmos and possibly Leymebamba.
- Time: Eastern Standard Time
- Electric Current: 220 Volts. There should be opportunities to recharge batteries for electronic equipment at most hotels. Electrical plug-ins in Peru are usually of the two round-pin type (not flat pin used in USA) and current is typically 220 to 240 volts so those planning to recharge batteries should bring appropriate converters; a surge protector also is strongly recommended.

SUGGESTED READING: Our website, www.ventbird.com offers an affiliated online store that carries a wide variety of items for birding and nature lovers, including over 6,000 books. A portion of the sales from this store benefits the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. You may also visit such other online stores such as www.amazon.com, and for those out-of-print or hard-to-find titles, www.abebooks.com or www.buteobooks.com which specializes in ornithology books.

Field Guides:

Ridgely, Robert S., and Paul Greenfield. *The Birds of Ecuador (Volume II. Field Guide)*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2001. Covers most of the species of northern Peru but is larger and heavier than the next guide.

Schulenberg, T. S., D. F. Stotz, D. F. Lane, J. P. O'Neill, and T. A. Parker III. 2007. *Birds of Peru*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. **This is THE field guide recommended for this trip.**

Natural History in the Neotropics:

**Hilty, Steven. *Birds of Tropical America: A Watcher's Introduction to Behavior, Breeding and Diversity*. University of Texas Press, 2005. Highly recommended. Provides excellent natural history background on many topics of interest to birders and naturalists in the New World tropics.

**Kricher, John C. *A Neotropical Companion*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1989.

**Snow, David. *The Web of Adaptation: Bird Studies in the American Tropics*. Quadrangle, New York Times Book Co.: Demeter Press, 1976. A classic. Deals with fruit-eating birds and their adaptations in the American tropics.

Specialty and Technical Articles:

Hornbuckle, J. The Birds of Abra Patricia and The Upper Rio Mayo, San Martin, North Peru, *Cotinga* 12 (1999): 11-28.

Parker, T. A., T. S. Schulenberg, M. Kessler, and W. H. Wust. Natural History and Conservation of The Endemic Avifauna in Northwest Peru, *Bird Conservation International* 5 (1995): 201-231. *Bird Conservation International* 5: 201-231.

*Parker, Theodore A., Susan Parker, and M. Plenge. *An Annotated Checklist of Peruvian Birds*. Vermillion, South Dakota: Buteo Books, 1982. Now out of date and possibly no longer available. May be useful because of its biogeographical grouping of birds

Schulenberg, T. S. and T. A. Parker. Status and Distribution of Some Northwest Peruvian Birds, *Condor* 83 (1981): 209-216.

Recordings:

Voices of Andean Birds: Birds of the Cloud Forest of Southern Peru and Bolivia, Volumes 1 & 2, by Thomas S. Schulenberg. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology & The Field Museum (Chicago), 2000.

The Birds of Northwest Ecuador: Volume 1, The Upper Foothills and Subtropics, by John V. Moore, Paul Coopmans, Robert S. Ridgely and Mitch Lysinger, John V. Moore Nature Recordings, 1999.

The Birds of Southwest Ecuador, by Paul Coopmans, John V. Moore, Niels Krabbe, Olaf Jahn, Karl S. Berg, Mitch Lysinger, L. Navarrete, and R. S. Ridgely. John V. Moore Nature Recordings. 2004

Birds of The Ecuadorian Highlands: The Upper Montane and Paramo Zones of Ecuador. By Niels Krabbe, John V. Moore, Paul Coopmans, Mitch Lysinger, and R. S. Ridgely. John V. Moore Nature Recordings. 2001.

* **Most Useful**

** **Good Background Reading**

TIPPING: Tipping (restaurants, porters, drivers, local guides) is included on VENT tours. However, if you feel one or both of your VENT leaders or any local guides have given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are not expected and are entirely optional.

RESPONSIBILITY: Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc. (VENT) and/or its Agents act only as agents for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, or airplane and assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. VENT and its agents can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. The right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute leaders on any tour. Where this is necessary, notification will be given to tour members. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The prices of the tours are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect January 29, 2010 and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change therein. The right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely. The airlines concerned and their agents and affiliates are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their aircraft. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or passenger. The services of any I.A.T.A.N. carrier may be used for these tours, and transportation within the United States may be provided by any member carrier of the Airline Reporting Corporation.