

# **Northern Peru's Cloud Forest Endemics Mythical Owlet and the Stupendous Spatuletail! August 12-23, 2021**

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*This tour takes full advantage of the impressive and comfortable Owlet ecotourism lodge, at Abra Patricia where we will stay for seven nights maximizing our exciting Andean birding time. Its location is perfect, situated within the huge Alto Mayo Cloud Forest Reserve created in 1987, protecting an immense area covering 1,820 square kilometers (450,000 acres) of wondrous cloud forest along the upper Mayo River just brimming with exotic Andean life. This in fact is a fabled birding area full of colorful cloud forest birds including many exciting endemics and poorly-know species along with hordes of colorful Tanagers and hummingbirds galore allowing for a unique opportunity of fabulous birding right from our doorsteps!*



Marvelous Spatuletail (male) © Andrew Whittaker

*The Owlet Lodge is set in a pristine cloud forest at 2300 m (7500 feet) offering cool climate, excellent food, a well-constructed canopy tower, loads of active hummingbird feeders, plus one of the best kept Andean forest trail systems ever! Combine this with the nearby Asociacion Ecosistemas Andinos Reserve (ECOAN) specifically dedicated to the endemic Marvelous Spatulatetail, as well as many other exciting hummingbird species found at the feeders.*

*This tour is excellent for endemics and be prepared for an overload of other colorful Andean birds, plus an incredible diversity of the much-loved glowing hummingbirds, and of course spectacular and colorful mountain tanager flocks.*



Grass-green Tanager, a regular around the Owlet clearing © Andrew Whittaker

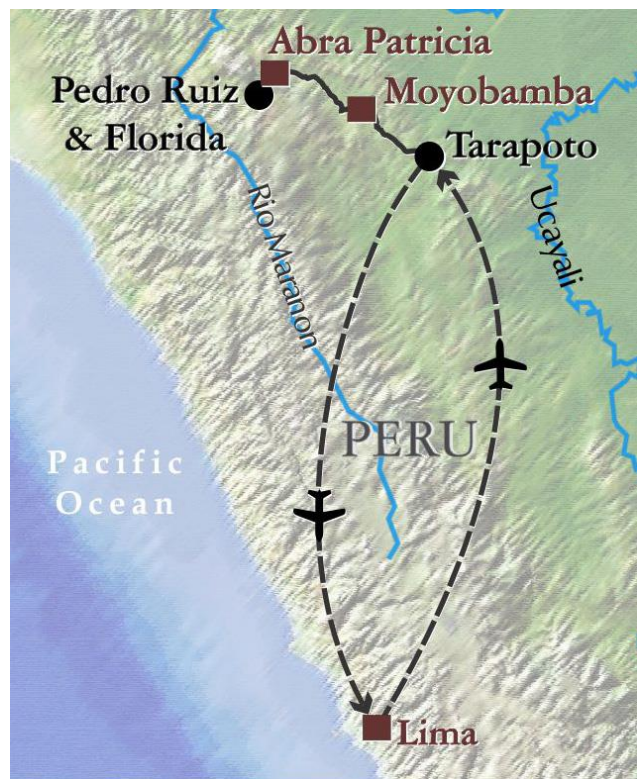
At Waquanki Lodge, we will have an exciting couple of nights in this lovely, fairly new, family run lodge, located in forested grounds of the foothills, at about 900 m (3000 feet), near the village of Moyobamba.

Here we can expect even more spectacular nonstop hummingbird action (with

a completely different set of hummers), as well as great birding and orchids galore. Other trip highlights will include visits to two more private hummingbird reserves at mid elevations plus an exciting visit to a fantastic private white-sandy-belt forest reserve where amazingly we can expect to see from a wonderful constructed forest blind feeding Tinamous and hopefully a stunning covey of Rufous-breasted Wood-quails coming into feed at close quarters. For us to enjoy our birding further, there is a new field guide available, *Birds of Peru*, which is filled with terrific illustrations and excellent maps all in a convenient and portable format, making sorting through the tremendous diversity of exciting birds we will observe and enjoy in these rich cloud forests even more of a pleasure!

If you are asking "Why northern Peru?" spend a few minutes thumbing through the field guide and you will quickly see that this region is rich in endemic birds. Part of the reason is because of the Marañón River Valley (a major Amazonian tributary) which flows through this arid area and bisects the Andes so deeply that it forms a major bio geographical barrier to several Andean cloud forest birds living both north and south of this valley. Simply put, many of the birds on this trip are found nowhere else in the world plus as you will experience the birding here is as good as it gets anywhere in the majestic Andes!

This trip is designed to maximize our birding time. We will be based for seven nights at the wonderful Owlet Lodge, and two nights in the cool foothills, allowing us not only to be able to sample this rich avifauna of the pristine cloud forest, but also to get to know and learn many of the more widespread Andean and foothill forest gems. Also, we have allowed enough time to explore several of the mid altitude specialties, all from a much greater level of comfort than ever before. Apart from the mega diversity of tanagers and hummingbirds, be prepared for a feast of colorful cotingas, manakins, woodpeckers, trogons & Quetzals, sought after antpittas, and of course owls and nightjars!





*Arriving in Tarapoto we drive through the agriculturally rich and fertile lowlands passing by vast areas of rice fields before ascending in altitude into the lush Andean foothills forests. Here we will*



The mythical tiny Long-whiskered Owlet © Andrew

*enjoy a visit to an easily assessable colony of the famous and unique oilbirds, a large rufous and white spotted nocturnal frugivore that uses echo location to navigate and find its fruit in forests at night (only 3 species of birds Worldwide are known to use echo location). Soon we will be winding our way up through lush cloud forest and crossing bridges over tormenting streams en route to the famous Abra Patricia Pass and our home for the next week, the wonderful Owlet Lodge. Among our main targets while here is the spectacular Marvelous Spatuletail, an endangered endemic hummingbird (restricted to one valley) and so ornate that it has almost become the stuff of legends!*

*Abra Patricia is also justly famous for several regional specialties including the recently described mystical Long-whiskered Owlet seen*

*well on nine out of the last ten trips. This tiny odd-looking owl was discovered by Louisiana State University in 1977 in the cloud forests of Abra Patricia. You really have to see this cutie for yourself to believe. With its amazingly odd long whiskers and tiny size. So different from any other known owl, a completely new genus was erected, Xenoglaux!*

*We also expect to see several other endemic and sought-after species including: the endemic Royal Sunangel; Ochre-fronted, Rusty-tinged and Chestnut antpittas; Bar-winged Wood-Wren; the colorful Cinnamon-breasted Tody-Tyrant; the simply stunning endemic Yellow-scarfed Tanager; (rare) White-faced Nunbird; and the recently described (April 2001) brightly colored Johnson's (Lulu's) Tody Flycatcher. Our itinerary is designed to give us an excellent chance to find all of these specialties during our stay here.*

*The lush cloud forests of Cordillera del Colan have many other special mountain birds we will search for using short drives to explore along the roads at different elevations. These should include: two species of quetzals, Golden-headed and Crested; Torrent Duck; Lanceolated Monklet; newly described Western Stiolated Puffbird; Versicolored and Gilded barbet; Crimson-bellied and Crimson-mantled woodpecker; the amazing Lyre-tailed Nightjar; Rufous-rumped and Yellow-breasted antwren; Andean Cock-of-the-rock; Chestnut-crested Cotinga;*



The colorful Crimson-mantled Woodpecker © Andrew Whittaker

*Red-ruffed Fruitcrow; Golden-winged Manakin; and a wonderful selection of 40+ species of colorful Andean tanagers, as well as 40+ species of dazzling hummingbirds which we will see repeatedly at feeders, allowing us to get to know them well and offering superb photographic opportunities.*

*As another bonus, we will visit a new private forest reserve located on white-sandy belt soil with an extremely well-constructed blind for observing secretive Tinamous & Wood-quail coming in to feed. Also, the forest holds the newly described Inambari Woodcreeper (described in 2013 by your leader), Golden-collared Toucanet and range restricted Zimmer's Antbird. The flower garden and hummingbird observation platform are also alive with many different hummingbird gems including the stunning Wire-crested Thorntail, the Blue-fronted Lancebills, Amethyst Woodstar, Black-throated Brilliant and many more.*



Rufous-crested Coquette (male) © Andrew Whittaker

*Next up we move to our lovely and secluded family run Waquanki Lodge. At mid elevation birding will be equally exciting during our two nights in the rich foothills. The forest reserve above our lodge abounds with life, with our main targets being four recently described new species. First and foremost, the lovely Painted Manakin, just described in December 2017 (seen on our 2014 and 2015 tours), plus three more new additions, Mishana Tyrannulet, Inambari Woodcreeper (discovered and described by your leader), and Varzea Thrush. Furthermore we will seek out the much sought after Fiery-throated Fruiteater. Other species we hope to see include: Gilded Barbet; Broad-billed Motmot; Fiery-capped and Green manakin; the cool looking Black-and-White Tody-Tyrant; Foothill, Ornate and Stripe-chested antwren; Spot-winged Antbird; Chestnut-throated Spinetail; the tiny White-bellied Pygmy-Tyrant and of course more stunning tanagers such as the endemic Black-bellied. We will also hope to find at night the lovely Band-bellied or Black-banded. The Stygian owl is also a possibility.*



A magnificent endemic Yellow-scarfed Tanager © Andrew Whittaker



*At the Waquanki Lodge, the hummingbird show is certainly hard to beat. We can enjoy close up studies of the hummingbird platform of up to 20 species being seen including such greats as Rufous-crested Coquette, Golden-tailed Sapphire, Black-throated Hermit, White-necked Jacobin, Sapphire-spangled Emerald, Violet-headed hummingbird, Black-throated Mango and White-chinned Sapphire.*

*Another, often pleasantly unexpected highlight (even for us non-botanists) are the incredible variety of wild orchids we find in the orchid garden at Waquanki Lodge (with over 300 species), and also found in the forest trails and clearings around the Owllet Lodge.*

**August 12, Day 1: Arrival in Lima.** You should plan your flights to arrive Lima, Peru (Jorge Chávez Lima-Callao International Airport, airport code LIM) today with flights generally arriving between 8-11:00 PM. Upon arrival and after clearing immigrations, please collect your bags from the carousel, pass customs then proceed outside the baggage claims area and proceed to the Costa del Sol Airport Hotel where a room is reserved in your name. The Costa del Sol Airport Hotel is located inside the Lima International Airport and within walking distance (200 yards), just across of the international arrivals' terminal. Tomorrow morning you will return to the airport for a morning commercial flight to Tarapoto.



Amazing orchid © Andrew Whittaker

Because of your relatively late arrival followed by an early departure the next morning (see day two), you may wish to arrive a day earlier. Also note that the airport hotel is extremely convenient for brief overnight stays but is some distance from important residential and commercial areas and parks within Lima.

NIGHT: Costa del Sol Airport Hotel, Lima

**August 13, Day 2: Lima via Tarapoto to Abra Patricia and the Owllet Lodge (7600ft; 2300m).** We will begin our adventure with a mid-morning flight from Lima to the city of Tarapoto. The flight is currently scheduled to depart around 9:00 AM. When we arrive, we'll load into our air-conditioned van and drive to a pleasant restaurant in Moyobamba and enjoy some of the local cuisine. Those who like fish, they serve an exceptionally good Amazonian river monster locally called Paiche, or Arapaima, one of the world's largest freshwater fish weighing up to 200 kg or more!



Long-tailed Sylph (male) © Andrew Whittaker

After lunch, we will drive through areas of rice paddies before leaving the fertile lowlands behind and begin our gradual ascent up into the Andes. During our ascent, we will stop off to visit an active Oilbird colony where we can appreciate this unique large rufous nocturnal frugivore, and get our first introduction to some of the Andean foothill avifauna. Today is mostly a travel day, however as we pass rushing mountain streams along the roadside. We will be on the lookout for Fasciated Tiger-Heron, Torrent Duck and White-capped Dipper.

Late this afternoon or early evening we should arrive at the picturesque Abra Patricia Pass and the comfortable Owlet Lodge, our wonderful home base for the next seven nights. The lodge is situated in a lush 13,000 hectares cloud forest reserve (managed and run by the lodge and ECOAN) which is adjacent to the 182,000 hectares reserve of the Alto Mayo Forest. The area's bird list is over 400 species which makes for a superb and exciting forest base with many possibilities for next few days of birding. Views and sunsets from the lodge over the surrounding rolling hills, carpeted in pristine cloud forest are simply breathtaking. Hummingbird feeders around the lodge should be bustling in the late afternoon with the likes of Sword-billed Hummingbird, Chestnut-breasted Coronet, Collard Inca, Emerald-bellied Puffleg, Fawn-breasted Brilliant, White-bellied Woodstar and Long-tailed Sylph.



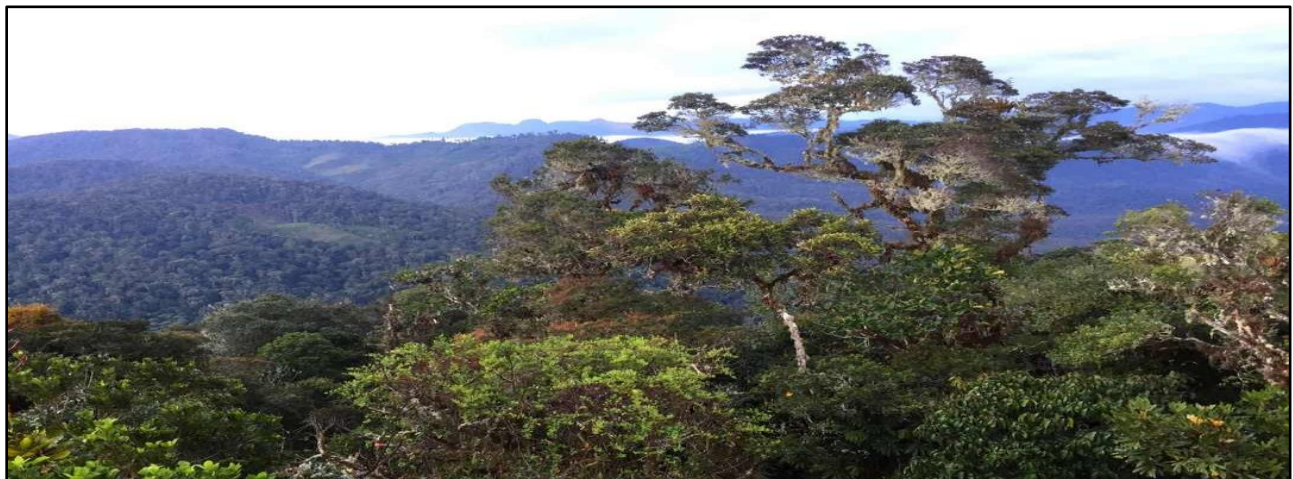
The colorful endemic Johnson's or Lulu's Tody Flycatcher © Andrew Whittaker

The gardens and cloud forest bordering the clearing often harbor exciting mixed-species flocks with the likes of Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, Barred Becard, Flame-faced, Grass-green, Yellow-breasted Brushfinch and the large spectacular jay-like White-capped Tanager. Even the exquisite endemic Yellow-scarfed Tanager or the recently described endemic Johnson's (Lulu's) Tody-Flycatcher with its fantastic colors should wet our appetites.

Late in the evening around dusk, it is often possible to observe Black Agouti or a fierce looking Tyra (a large type of Neotropical weasel) around the lodge clearings, or even a feeding Swallow-tailed Nightjar.

NIGHT: Owlet Lodge at Abra Patricia

**August 14-19, Days 3-8: Abra Patricia Pass.** We will have six full days to enjoy the fabulous montane forests of Abra Patricia (ca. 7,500 feet. elevation 2300 meters). This area lies on the east slope of the Andes but on the south side of the Río Marañón 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 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. The ECOAN lodge along with the American Birding Conservancy has purchased and is protecting this pristine cloud forest reserve with a superb well-kept trail system, by far the best I have ever seen in any Andean lodge, and a wonderful canopy tower. The huge Alto Mayo reserve is carpeted in pristine forest extending from the pass down to about 3,300 feet, (1000 meters) providing a superb transect of middle elevation and foothill humid forest birding. As such, the birding here can be truly outstanding!



View from the canopy tower at Owlet Lodge © Andrew Whittaker



The Abra Patricia region is justly famous in ornithological circles for being the site of discovery of four 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. However, we have been incredibly successful having seen it well on seven of our previous nine trips! However just being in the vicinity of such a near-mythical species is exciting.



**The striking Chestnut Antpitta © Andrew Whittaker**

Similarly, the little Ochre-fronted Antpitta was discovered here in 1976, the Chestnut Antpitta in 1987, and also the endemic Rusty-tinged Antpitta also occurs here and we have had great luck seeing them in most years. Especially now as all three have started to come into worms at the lodge! The same area where these birds were discovered is also home along ridge tops in stunted elfin forests to the glorious Royal Sunangel, Cinnamon-breasted Tody-Tyrant, and Bar-winged Wood-Wren (all endemic); these three species have extremely limited ranges and about which still little is known. Additionally, the area around the pass itself and even in the lodge

garden is an excellent spot for the recently described and very colorful Johnson's (Lulu's) Tody Flycatcher (AUK, April 2001).

We have timed our trip to coincide with the drier season (however some rain is to be expected) and the climate should be wonderful with mild temperatures during the daytime and getting much cooler at night. Our birding time will be divided into spending time at several different elevations in search of their different and distinct altitudinal avifauna. We certainly will also spend some time focused on birding the lodge's pristine cloud forest reserve along the well-kept trail system found right at our doorsteps. This gives us an exceptional chance to explore the rich forest interior's festooned with exotic epiphytes, bromeliads, orchids, lichens and moss.

Also, we have access to several different important bird rich micro habitats such as bamboo. Furthermore, an excellent well-constructed metal canopy tower provides a unique opportunity to experience the exuberant canopy plant life from exotic multicolored bromeliads, amazing orchids, lichens and odd neotropical mistletoe, and providing a unique opportunity to see canopy flocks with an array of colorful tanagers all at eye level!



**The sought after tiny endemic Ochre-fronted Antpitta (female) © Andrew Whittaker**



**A colorful Masked Trogon (male) © Andrew Whittaker**

Rufous Spinetail, Uniform Antshrike, Streak-headed Antbird, the rare Bicolored Antvireo, Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant and Gray-browed Brush-finch. Here the mixed-species flocks have a different make up than lower elevations, including the likes of Green-and-Black Fruiteater, Red-hooded, Grass Green and Beryl-spangled tanager, Variable Antshrike, Brown-billed Scythebill (rare), Streaked Tuftedcheek, Striped and Black-billed treehunter, Spotted Barbtail, Montane-foilage-gleaner, Olivaceous Siskin and the incredibly colorful Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia.

Wonderful songs will echo around the valleys in the form of such great songsters as the Andean Solitaire and two Wrens, Sharpe's and Chestnut-breasted. We will always be on the lookout for the enigmatic endemic and endangered Yellow-tailed Woolly or Maranon Capuchin monkey. In fact, the forest reserve is the Woolly monkey's last strong hold.

Excursions to lower elevation forests will include an exciting visit to a unique stunted ridge-top elfin forest in search of several special poorly-known endemics including such gems as the Royal Sunangel, recently described Bar-winged Wood-Wren and Cinnamon-breasted Tody-Tyrant. Other specialties may include Crested Quetzal, Chestnut-crested Cotinga, Booted Racket-tail, several mountain tanagers such as Lacrimose, Blue-winged and the large Hooded, and such gems as Yellow-throated, Metallic-green, Saffron-crowned and Flame-faced tanager too.

Exploring the moss festooned subtropical cloud forest will be a thrill and a trip highlight. Here we will search out many special localized species such as the rarely seen White-faced Nunbird. We will make a special attempt to try to see as many as possible of the forest ground dwellers such as Rusty-breasted Antpitta, Barred Anthrush, as well as both Trilling and the endemic Rufous-vented tapaculo. Present in the lodges rich forest reserve among the larger species are; Black-and-chestnut and Solitary eagle (both rare), Wattled, Andean and Sickle-winged guan, Scaly-naped Parrot, Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan (seasonal but rare), Golden-headed and Crested Quetzal, Masked Trogon, Green (Inca) and White-collared jay, and the stunning Crimson-bellied Woodpecker (rare).

There also are numerous forest interior birds, many of which are challenging to see such as



**Another mega cloud forest gem is the Golden-headed Quetzal © Andrew Whittaker**



One day we will descend to the small villages of Pedro Ruiz and Florida to reach the Marvelous Spatulatetail. This endemic hummingbird is for sure one of the most spectacular in the world but it's severely threatened by deforestation. Our task is greatly simplified now that they are known to visit feeders here. Other hummingbird possibilities include Violet-fronted Brilliant, Sparkling and lesser violetear, White-bellied Hummingbird, Andean Emerald, Green-tailed Trainbearer, and the microscopic Little Woodstar. Walking the trails, we will search for the endemic Buff-bellied Tanager, Emerald Toucanet (Blue-throated), Speckle-chested Piculet, Rufous-capped Antshrike, Speckle-breasted Wren, Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner and Silvery Tanager.

In the lower elevations are good numbers of the famous Andean Cock-of-the-rock (fairly common), Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, and even Amazonian Umbrellabird (rare), with high-energy mixed-species flocks which mostly contain smaller birds. In these fast-moving flocks are the stunning Versicolored Barbet, Lanceolated Monklet, Scaled Fruiteater, Lemon-browed and Ornate flycatcher, Golden-collared and Purple honeycreepers, Black-faced Dacnis, and Blue-naped Chlorophonia. Hummingbird possibilities at two different feeders include: Violet-fronted Brilliant; Wedge-billed (rare); Booted Racket-tail; Tawny-bellied Hermit; Greenish Puffleg; and Ecuadorian Piedtail.



**A striking endemic male Royal Sunangel is an inhabitant of the stunted Elfin Forest © Andrew Whittaker**

And then there are the wonderful tanager flocks we will encounter with the likes of Vermilion, Blue-capped, Paradise, Orange-eared, Green-and-gold, Golden, Blue-necked, Blue-and-black, and the amazing White-winged. A sampling of these duller-plumaged but none-the-less interesting species includes Pearled Treerunner, the odd Equatorial Graytail, Ash-browed Spinetail, Lined Antshrike, Yellow-breasted, Rufous-rumped and Ash-throated Antwren (rare), Black-throated Tody-Tyrant and Gray-mantled Wren.



**The Cinnamon Screech-Owl found at Owlet Lodge © Andrew Whittaker**

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 the impressive Lyre-tailed Nightjar (the males immense tail has to be seen to be believed), Rufous-bellied Nighthawk, the endemic Cinnamon Screech-Owl, and of course

the rare endearing mythical Long-whiskered Owlet which will be one of our main targets, however, be prepared for a good hike for this mega species. While on our hikes in the afternoon in the valley we have the chance to find the uncommon White-rumped Hawk and striking Chestnut-belted Chat-tyrant.

At dusk the possibilities include; Andean Night Monkey, Olingo, Kinkajo and Andean Bamboo Rat whose call needs to be heard to be believed and even the rare Pacarana has been spotted here too!

Please note the areas we will visit offer superb birding in a variety of habitats with a great opportunity for those hummingbird and tanager lovers amongst you! We normally expect to see 40+ species of colored tanagers and shimmering hummingbirds, plus of course many other special Andean birds including a number of species we hope to see just discovered new to science that are found nowhere else!

**Special Note:** On most days the hikes are not too strenuous, but when you go to look for the Long-whiskered Owlet you will walk from the lodge mid-afternoon down a fairly steep trail that runs down into a valley. But the trail has recently been improved with gravel and cement bridges, but it still can be a little slippery in parts. Once at the bottom you will walk into the forest on a mostly level trail that could possibly be a little muddy in places. Any mud on any of these trails is not deep, so



**The rare sought after White-faced Nunbird © Andrew Whittaker**

ordinary hiking boots will suffice if they are waterproof. You will typically start the owlet hike while it is still in the mid-afternoon light, but you will return in the dark. If you do not encounter the owlet the first time, your leader may decide to repeat this hike in hopes of locating it. Bear in mind that due to the nature of the terrain this is considered a strenuous hike and it is of course optional. The other hikes you will take from the owlet lodge are less strenuous and on very well kept but narrow trails that in parts will cover uneven ground with some portions involving hiking up or down slopes. However, more than half our birding will be easy walking along forested roads around the lodge and at lower levels within the cloud forest reserve.

**NIGHTS:** Owlet Lodge at Abra Patricia

**August 20, Day 9: Abra Patricia Area to Moyobamba.** After a very early pre-dawn breakfast we will leave our cloud forest paradise dropping down in elevation en route to Moyobamba where we will stop off to visit a newly open private forest reserve located within the white-sand belt forest with a very well-constructed blind. We can expect incredible looks from the blind at some very shy forest dwellers including a superb covey of Rufous-breasted Wood-Quail, both Cinereous and Little tinamous, and the wonderful colorful subspecies spectacles of the Orange-billed Sparrow, Gray-cowled Wood-Rail or Ruddy Quail-Dove. Also, we will enjoy a delightful hummingbird garden full of flowers and many feeders which provide non-stop activity. Highlights should include the tiny Wire-crested thornail; Blue-fronted and Green-fronted lancebill; Green Hermit; the poorly-known Many-spotted Hummingbird; Amethyst Woodstar; Black-throated Brilliant and possibly with luck the rare Napo Sabrewing too. The forest also holds several neat birds such as Golden-collared Toucanet, the newly described Imeri Woodcreeper (described in 2013 by your leader) and the localized Zimmers Antbird, and many exciting orchids too including the famous Vanilla orchid.





**Zimmer's Antbird feeding on a Catydid © Andrew Whittaker**

On route we will stop off at a small marsh looking for Masked Duck, Black-capped Donacobius, and Rufous-fronted Thornbird. If present we'll try for a day roosting of Stygian Owl. We will plan to arrive at the newly opened family run Waquanki (Fruiteater) Lodge by midafternoon. The lodge is located within a rich secondary forest and gardens on the cool Andean slopes at 1000 meters (3000 feet). Within a ten-minute walk from our rooms and at the

edge of the forest reserve is a wonderful hummingbird observation blind situated on a hill offering excellent viewing multiple hummingbird feeders which are alive with non-stop birding action. This afternoon we can expect as many as 20 species including Rufous-crested Coquette, Golden-tailed Sapphire, the tiny Black-throated and larger Long-tailed Hermit, Blue-tailed Emerald, Violet-headed Hummingbird, Gray-breasted Saberwing, White-necked Jacobin, Black-throated Mango, Amethyst Woodstar, Long-billed Starthroat, Fork-tailed Woodnymph, Sapphire-spangled Emerald and White-chinned Sapphire.

Also, for the botanists and even non-botanists among us, we will make a visit to the incredible orchid garden by our rooms. This is one of the best orchid sites in the Neotropics (with over 350 species) with every size, shape and color imaginable. You will leave here with an orchid overdose! The owners of the lodge are famous in the orchid world of having described several species new to science.

The lush gardens here can also produce some high-quality birds including the smart and endemic Black-bellied Tanager, or two recently described new species, the Mishana Tyrannulet and Varzea Thrush. At dusk we can try for both Vermiculated Screech and the cool looking Band-bellied owl, often on the lodge grounds.

**NIGHT: Waquanki Lodge, Moyobamba**

**August 21, Day 10: Moyobamba.** After an early breakfast we have the full day to explore the forest trails with many exciting possibilities including White Hawk, Russet-crowned Crake, Spot-winged Parrotlet, Buff-tailed Sicklebill (rare), Blue-crowned and Green-backed trogon, Bluish-fronted Jacamar, Golden-collared Toucanet, Channel-billed Toucan, Lafresnaye's Piculet, Red-stained Woodpecker, Foothill and Stripe-chested antwren, Peruvian Warbling Antbird, Spot-backed, Common Scale-backed and Spot-winged antbird, Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher, Chuchotambo Woodcreeper, Chestnut-throated Spinetail, White-



**A lovely Golden-tailed Sapphire (male) © Andrew Whittaker**

bellied Pygmy-Tyrant, Black-and-white Tody Flycatcher, Fiery-throated Fruiteater, Fiery-capped, Green and Golden-headed manakin, Black-and-white Becard, Paradise, Masked, Yellow-bellied and Bay-headed tanager, Golden-rumped Euphonia and many more. Special attention will be made to encounter the new Painted Manakin, a brightly colored Manakin similar to Striped and described only in December 2017 by LSU (and already seen on

two of our tours) before it was described! With luck we may hear or see the endangered Rio Mayo Titi Monkey or a group of cute Andean Saddle-backed Tamarins.

NIGHT: Waquanki Lodge, Moyobamba



The recently described (December 2017) Painted Manakin has already been seen on several of our past trips even before its formal description!

© Andrew Whittaker

Upon arrival in Lima we will walk over to the Costa del Sol Airport hotel to check in our day rooms and for a final farewell dinner after which those with departing flights will be able to walk across the street to the airport prior to your international flight home.

DAY ROOM: Costa del Sol Airport Hotel, Lima

**August 23-24, Days 11-12: To Lima and Home. Lima to home.** Generally, flights depart for the USA after 10:30 p.m. on Day 11 arriving in the USA early the following morning. Those wishing to avoid the long overnight flight should consider spending a final night in Lima and taking an international flight the following morning (if available). Arrangements can be made through the VENT office for overnight accommodations in Lima at an additional charge.

**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 will be limited to 8 participants.

**TOUR LEADER:** Andrew Whittaker.



**Andrew Whittaker**, a senior member of the VENT staff, has led VENT tours since 1993 throughout South and Central America, Antarctica, Europe, Israel, and, more recently, Asia. His birding passion began at the early age of seven (thanks to his father), but he is also a true all-around naturalist. Andy immensely enjoys sharing his bird knowledge and fascination for all other aspects of the natural world in a really fun way. Andy was born in England; however, he considers himself Brazilian, having lived more than 30 years in this mega biodiverse country, first working for the Smithsonian Institution, studying Amazonian rainforest birds in Manaus. Andy is a qualified ringer/bander trained by the late Dr. Clive Minton (famously known as the father of shorebird/wader studies). A lifelong fascination with bird migration has seen Andy working



around the globe at several top bird observatories: Eilat, Israel; Long Point, Canada; and in the UK at Sandwich Bay and on Fair Isle, Scotland. Andy is well recognized for his passionate and intimate knowledge of bird vocalizations and taxonomy, which has enabled him to discover several new species (such as the Cryptic Forest-Falcon in 2002) and rediscover others thought to be extinct. He is an excellent communicator and tour organizer and loves nothing better than finding and sharing a rare skulker, or telling one of his many fascinating bird stories. Andy had the honor of working with Sir David Attenborough as a consultant for the prestigious BBC *Life of Birds* series. He is widely considered an authority on Amazonian birds, having authored numerous technical publications on the region's avifauna. At present, Andy is working with Kevin Zimmer on a comprehensive field guide to the birds of Brazil to be published by Princeton University Press. Andy is an associate researcher at the Museum Goeldi, Belem and an active conservationist. He loves photography (with many of his images being used in books) and is an avid football fan of Birmingham City FC and an orchid lover. Andy lives with his partner in life, Jaqueline, and their dog, Mozart, in Porto Alegre, southern Brazil.

**FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** The fee for **Northern Peru's Cloud Forest Endemics** is **\$5375** per person based on double occupancy from Lima, Peru. The tour fee includes all meals beginning with breakfast on Day 2 through dinner on Day 11, roundtrip air tickets (economy class) between Lima and Tarapoto\*, hotel accommodations as stated in the itinerary, ground transportation during the tour, guide services provided by the tour leader(s) and all tips to hotel, lodge and transportation staff.

The tour fee does not include airfare from your home to Lima and return, baggage fees for internal flights, 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 be charged.

**\*Please Note: Domestic airfare Lima-Tarapoto-Lima is included in the tour fee. At the time of printing the approximate cost of the air tickets is \$360 but is subject to change without notice and not guaranteed until the time of ticketing. Victor Emanuel Nature Tours reserves the right to assess a surcharge for this air ticket should costs increase before ticketing.**

The single supplement is **\$355**. 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.

**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.

**REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT:** To register for this tour, please contact the VENT office. The deposit for this tour is **\$1,000** per person. If you prefer to pay your deposit using a credit card, the deposit must be made with MasterCard, Visa, or American Express at the time of registration. If you would like to pay your deposit by check, money order, or bank transfer, your tour space will be held for 10 days to allow time for the VENT office to receive your deposit and completed registration form. The VENT registration form (available from the VENT office or by download at **www.ventbird.com**) should be completed, signed, and returned to the VENT office.

**PAYMENTS:** All tour payments may be made by credit card (MasterCard, Visa, American Express), check, money order, or bank transfer (contact the VENT office for bank transfer information). These include initial deposits, second deposits, interim payments, final balances, special arrangements, etc. Full payment of the tour fee is due 150 days (March 15, 2021) prior to the tour departure date.

**MEDICAL EVACUATION INSURANCE REQUIREMENT:** This tour visits remote locations where immediate access to primary medical care may **NOT** be available. **For this reason, travel insurance which covers you for emergency evacuation is required for participation on this tour.** This coverage is included in the **Ripcord Rescue Travel Insurance™** program. Through Ripcord, "emergency evacuation" can be purchased as a stand-alone benefit or as part of a comprehensive travel insurance policy. If you choose not to purchase insurance through Ripcord, you are required to obtain it through another provider.

**CANCELLATION & REFUNDS:** Refunds are made according to the following schedule: If cancellation is made 180 days or more before the tour departure date, a cancellation fee of **\$500** 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 between 179 and 151 days before departure date, the deposit is not refundable, but any payments covering the balance of the fee will be refunded. If cancellation is made fewer than 150 days before departure date, no refund is available. This policy and fee schedule also apply to pre- and post-tour extensions. **For your protection, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance that covers trip cancellation/interruption.**

If you cancel:

180 days or more before departure date

179 to 151 days before departure date

150 days or less before departure date

Your refund will be:

Your deposit minus \$500\*

No refund of the deposit, but any payments on the balance will be refunded

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. To qualify, cancellation must occur 180 days or more before departure date; deposit transfers must be made at the time of cancellation; and one transfer per deposit.

Upon cancellation of the transportation or travel services, where you, the customer, are not at fault and have not cancelled in violation of the terms and conditions of any of the contract for transportation or travel services, all sums paid to VENT for services not received by you will be promptly refunded by VENT to you unless you otherwise advise VENT in writing.

**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.**

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** To safeguard against losses due to illness, accident, or other unforeseen circumstances, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance as soon as possible after making a deposit. VENT has partnered with Redpoint Resolutions as our preferred travel insurance provider. Through Redpoint, we recommend **Ripcord Rescue Travel Insurance™**. Designed for all types of travelers, Ripcord is among the most highly regarded travel insurance programs available.

Critical benefits of **Ripcord Rescue Travel Insurance** include a completely integrated program with a single contact for emergency services, travel assistance, and insurance claims; **medical evacuation and rescue services** from your point of injury or illness to your hospital of choice; comprehensive travel insurance for **trip cancellation/interruption**, primary medical expense coverage, and much more. **Waiver for pre-existing conditions is available but must be purchased within 14 days of tour deposit.** Optional expanded insurance coverage is available and includes items such as security evacuation coverage in case of a natural disaster or other security events, and a "Cancel for Any Reason" clause (must be purchased within 14 days of tour deposit). Ripcord is available to U.S. and non-U.S. residents.



For a price quote, or to purchase travel insurance, please visit: [ripcordrescuetravelinsurance.com/ventbird](http://ripcordrescuetravelinsurance.com/ventbird); or click the **Ripcord Rescue Travel Insurance™** logo on our website (click Help and Trip Insurance); or call +1-415-481-0600. Pricing is based on age, trip cost, trip length, and level of coverage.

**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. ***Please be sure to check with the VENT office prior to purchasing your air ticket to confirm that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. VENT cannot be responsible for any air ticket penalties.***

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** The Owlet Lodge at Abra Patricia consists of the visitor center and three identical cabins. The visitor center has a lounge, dining hall, kitchen, restrooms, and a storage room. The three cabins are divided into two identical suites with each suite consisting of a single bedroom and a double bedroom, and a shared common room and a shared bathroom. The rooms are comfortable but can be surprisingly cool when the overnight temperatures drop down into the 50's. Wifi is available in the common areas.

**INTERNET ACCESS:** Expect good Wi-Fi to be available at your Lima hotel. At the Owlet Lodge, it is normally very poor as it's via satellite and weather conditions can interfere. At Waquanki (Fruiteater) Lodge, Wi-Fi is available but it is not fast.

**BAGGAGE:** 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.

The airlines now strictly enforce baggage regulations. Excess baggage charges, which can be substantial, are the personal responsibility of each participant. Please consult your airline to find out specific weight restrictions. Due to ever-changing circumstances in the government's attempts to improve airport security we recommend that you check the website of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for the most updated information: <http://www.tsa.gov/>.

**CLIMATE:** Weather conditions can be extremely variable on this trip. The daytrips to the lowland is likely to be warm-to-hot (temperatures in the 90s) and dry. Conversely, time spent in the mountains, at Abra Patricia will be cool to cold on clear nights (temperatures in the low 50s) although temperatures quickly warm up on sunny days. Our visit is during the dry season although rain is always a possibility. At any time, but especially during the peak dry months of June, July, and August, cold fronts from the south (polar air masses) can bring a few days of rain and cold temperatures. During these cold fronts, daytime highs may be only in the mid-50s to mid-60s, and temperatures may drop to as low as the 40s at night.

**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. 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 and military camouflage clothing should not be worn as it conveys an inappropriate image to police and military personnel, whom we may encounter. warm sleepwear will be needed for the cool nights at the Owlet Lodge as well as one thick jacket and a warm sweater at night or for owling excursions or early morning till temperatures rise.

Other items to bring: a small folding umbrella and a waterproof poncho or rain jacket (ponchos are better than rain jackets for protecting optical equipment). A very warm sweater or down jacket (or light jacket and down vest combination in layers) is recommended as well as a broad-brimmed hat for sun protection.

Footwear should include a sturdy waterproof pair of walking shoes (for some mud on trails at Owlet Lodge) and/or sneakers. Some of the trails have steep spots and could be a little muddy so it is advised to bring along a walking stick as well.

**CONDITIONS:** Accommodations are fairly good at both lodges. Rooms are comfortable and the food good at the lodge near Moyobamba and the elevation here is low (3300 feet). The trail to the hummingbird garden is fairly short but steep and can be slippery after a rain. However, at the garden itself, there is an elevated lookout with bench seats. The longer trail into the upper forest is well maintained initially but once inside the forest some sections are steep and less well-maintained. Persons in reasonably good physical condition, however, should not experience problems.

The Owlet Lodge at Abra Patricia is located at 7600 ft elevation (2300 m) and the climate here is decidedly cooler, and damp and foggy conditions (especially at night) are frequent. Rooms are comfortable but unheated and can be cool-to-chilly some nights. From the parking lot there is an approximately 125 yard uphill trail leading to the main lodge and dining area and an additional 75 yard walk beyond to the rooms, which are located in three buildings. All lodging consists of private two-room suits, each suite with a shared bathroom and an entry room. There are six two-room suits at present (a total of twelve rooms with six bathrooms). Physical demands range from light to light-strenuous. Forest trails at the Owlet Lodge are generally wide and well-maintained but involve considerable walking both uphill and downhill because the terrain is hilly. Expeditions to see owls here generally require considerable physical exertion. Most birding is done along the main highway, or on short trails. At the Spatulatail Reserve, an hour drive away, both sets of hummingbird feeders are accessed by fairly short and well-maintained, but moderately steep, trails.

**CURRENCY:** Nuevo Sol (PEN); US dollars can be exchanged in Lima at banks and many hotels although 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.

**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. You should be sure to bring a rugged flashlight with extra batteries, and two small lights such as an LED-light and a small head lamp (LED-types work best) for owling and general use while walking at night around the lodge. A good sunscreen is also recommended. Trekking poles are also highly recommended.

**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 vaccinations are 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) and 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](http://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](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new_e.html) (click on travel health).

**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 lowland areas or while owling. Wear loose-fitting long pants and long-sleeved shirts, and bring bottles or roll-on sticks of Cutter's or similar insect repellents.

**MISC.**

- Departure Tax: \$35 and usually included in the cost of the air the ticket.
- Laundry service will be limited.
- Time: Eastern Daylight Time + 1 hour
- Electric Current: 220 Volts. 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:** A number of traditional booksellers and online stores list excellent inventories of field guides and other natural history resources that will help prepare you for this tour. We recommend [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) which has a wide selection; [www.buteobooks.com](http://www.buteobooks.com) and [www.nhbs.com](http://www.nhbs.com) which specialize in ornithology and natural history books; and [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com) for out-of-print and hard-to-find titles.

***Field Guides***

**Most Recommended for this trip:**

Schulenberg, Thomas. S., Douglas F. Stotz, Daniel F. Lane, John P. O'Neill, and Theodore A. Parker III. ***Birds of Peru***. Princeton University Press, Princeton NJ; Updated 2010.

The *Birds of Peru* field guide can also be purchased as an app: with [Birdseye Nature Apps](#). This easy-to-use application comes equipped with concise species descriptions, range maps, audio of bird calls, and detailed illustrations. Birds of Peru simplifies bird identification with an interactive Smart Search tool, and it makes it easy to keep track of bird sightings with an updatable life list. Birds of Peru is an important and must-have tool for all bird enthusiasts traveling in Peru, and is also useful in Colombia, Ecuador, the Brazilian Amazon, and Bolivia.

<http://www.birderslibrary.com/news/app-news/new-birding-app-birds-of-peru.htm>

**Other Optional Guides:**

Hilty, Steven L. and William L. Brown. *A Guide to the Birds of Colombia*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986. The most useful guide for field identification of birds in the lowland regions of the Manu trip.

Koepcke, Maria. *The Birds of the Department of Lima. (English edition)*. Lima, Peru: Harrowood, 1983. Very useful in Lima area, with black-and-white sketches.

Fjelds , Jon and Niels Krabbe. *Birds of the High Andes*. Apollo Books, Svendborg, Denmark, 1990. Expensive and a bit large, but useful in the Andes. Good maps. Try [www.buteobooks.com](http://www.buteobooks.com) or [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com).  
Ridgely, Robert S., and Guy Tudor. *Field Guide to the songbirds of South America: The Passerines*. Austin, Texas: The University of Texas Press, 2009. Very useful reference with excellent plates, maps and text.  
Ridgely, Robert S. and P. J. Greenfield. *The Birds of Ecuador: Status, Distribution, and Taxonomy, Vol. 1*; and *The Birds of Ecuador: Field Guide, Volume II, Vol. 2*. Cornell University Press. 2001. Vol 2 may be the most useful for most visitors although it is a heavy book. Taxonomy and status up to date; plates good; maps do not show extralimital ranges outside of Ecuador; extralimital range information is only in the text of vol. 2. Will have most species in Peruvian lowlands but not Peruvian highlands.

### **Key Natural History Books:**

Hilty, Steven L. 1994. *Birds of Tropical America: a watcher's introduction to behavior, breeding and diversity*. Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 2004. Very applicable to the Manu region with major portions of the research drawn from studies conducted in southeastern Peru and the Manu region.  
Kritcher, John. *The New Neotropical Companion. An Introduction to animals, plants and ecosystems of the New World Tropics*. Princeton University Press, 2017. *The New Neotropical Companion* is the completely revised and expanded edition of a book that has helped thousands of people to understand the complex ecology and natural history of the most species-rich area on Earth, the American tropics. Featuring stunning color photos throughout, it is a sweeping and cutting-edge account of tropical ecology that includes not only tropical rain forests but also other ecosystems such as cloud forests, rivers, savannas, and mountains. This is the only guide to the American tropics that is all-inclusive, encompassing the entire region's ecology and the amazing relationships among species

### **Checklist:**

Parker, Theodore A., Susan Parker, and M. Plenge. *An Annotated Checklist of Peruvian Birds*. Vermillion, South Dakota: Buteo Books, 1982. Still useful but a bit dated.  
Valqui, Thomas. 2004. *Where to watch birds in Peru*. [www.granperu.com/birdwatchingbook](http://www.granperu.com/birdwatchingbook) (privately published in Lima). In English. Very useful guide to many regional birding spots but may be difficult to obtain outside of Peru (Lima).

**TIPPING:** Tipping (restaurant staff, porters, drivers, local guides) is included on VENT tours. However, if you feel your VENT leader or any local guides have given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that tips are not expected and are entirely optional. Tips should be given directly to your tour leader; they should not be sent to the VENT office.

**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 July 2, 2020 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.

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