

**CLOUD FORESTS OF NORTHERN PERU:  
POST-TRIP TO AMAZON RIVER CRUISE**

**MARCH 29–APRIL 5, 2014**

**LEADER: STEVE HILTY**

**LOCAL GUIDES: JOSE ALTAMIRANO (WAQANKI LODGE)  
ROBERTO (ABRA PATRICIA AREA)**

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**TOUR REPORT**  
**CLOUD FORESTS OF NORTHERN PERU POST-TRIP**  
**TO AMAZON RIVER CRUISE**  
**March 29–April 5, 2014**

**By Steve Hilty**

Few tours offer such a colorful and exciting mix of highland birds, as well as some of the most range-restricted species, as the Abra Patricia area. This was my fourth visit to this area and I can say that each visit has been rather different—different weather, and a decidedly different mix of birds. Furthermore, many birds in cloud forest habitats are not easy to see and I think we all experienced frustration, at some point, because birds that were in mixed species flocks were too far away, or moved too rapidly, or just seemed to spend most of their time behind leaves. However, we saw many beautiful birds—including an especially impressive lineup of tanagers—and the hummingbirds were simply amazing.

There were many highlights, and everyone will have a personal favorite—maybe the Band-bellied Owl, or Fiery-throated Fruiteater, or the Marvelous Spatuletails, or Lulu's Tody-Tyrant, or the rare Chestnut-crested Cotinga, or the flash of an Andean Cock-of-the-rock shooting across the road. Or, maybe it was a Grass-green Tanager perched on an open branch, a group of dazzling Flame-faced Tanagers feeding on the fruit of a *Schefflera*, or a Golden-collared Honeycreeper in a *Cecropia* tree. For me, one of the highlights was, ironically, the tiny little Lanceolated Monklet, and it was the last new bird of the trip on the last morning. Of course, we spent a fabulous morning watching Marvelous Spatuletails and other hummingbirds at the nearby Huembo Reserve; it was difficult to reconcile the amazing maneuverability of this tiny bird, given its remarkably long tail flags. The fabled Long-whiskered Owlet called repeatedly one evening in a deep valley, but we were unable to locate it because it remained so high, in dense vegetation, and out of reach of our lights. Nevertheless, it was a beautiful evening with many interesting dusk sounds and a rare star-filled sky, and it was exciting just to be in the presence of this rarely seen bird.

We had rainy days, sunny days, some chilly evenings, and lots of lovely hummingbirds—17 species at the Waqanki Lodge—and many more in the Abra Patricia area and at the Huembo Reserve—some 40 species in all, and even more species of tanagers. Birding always brings surprises, some frustrations, and some exhilarating experiences, and this trip had all of those. That we are even able to visit this beautiful area is a treat because the lodge is relatively new and the paved road that accesses this remote area is less than 30 years old. Furthermore, thanks to donations and the hard work of many people, the Abra Patricia-Alto Nieve Private Conservation concession now preserves or manages nearly 25,000 acres of this lovely forested region. And, this lies adjacent to the Alto Río Mayo Protection Forest, which extends protection to nearly 450,000 acres of pristine highland forest. I feel privileged to be able to see this area and to experience its many moods (yes, even the chilly, damp evenings) and the birds and wildlife that are found here. I hope that you enjoyed it too.

## ITINERARY:

March 29 (Sat). Late afternoon flight from Iquitos to Tarapoto (department of San Martín) followed by drive of about 2 hours to Moyobamba and another 10 minutes south to the Waqanki Lodge. Arrival shortly after dark.

March 30 (Sun). Morning birding at Mishquiyaquillo Reserve (Waqanki Lodge) in morning including some old fields, the parking lot and hummingbird garden and a late morning forest walk accompanied by José Altamirano (son of owner of the reserve); highlights included seventeen species of hummingbirds and a remarkable number of birds in the forest including the exciting Fiery-throated Fruiteater. Afternoon drive to Abra Patricia (ca. 2 1/2 hrs). Arrival a little before dusk.

March 31 (Mon): Morning birding around the Owlet Lodge, the entrance road and along the highway in both directions from the Abra Patricia pass. Top honors this morning go to a beautiful Chestnut-crested Cotinga perched up for all to see. Other interesting species included a male Variable Antshrike (close); Rufous-crested Antshrike: and a lovely Lulu-s Tody-Tyrant. We left late afternoon for a descent into the "owlet" valley and although we did not see the owlet, he did hear it repeatedly, and enjoyed a beautiful evening there.

April 1 (Tues). Early morning rain during our drive westward to Pomacochas and the HUEMBO (Spatuletail) Reserve (ca. 2100 m) administered by EOCAN (Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos) which is about an hour west of the Owlet Lodge. This area is much drier than the Abra Patricia pass area and the rain ended by the time we arrived. Highlights included the Marvelous Spatuletail (repeated visits by at least 3 individuals throughout the morning!) as well as Andean Emerald, White-bellied Hummingbird, a Purple-throated Sunangel (for some), lots of close encounters with other hummingbirds, and a pair of Speckle-chested Piculets. Afternoon birding highlights along road east of Abra Patricia included a beautiful Royal Sunangel repeatedly, as well as Flame-faced Tanagers and Golden-collared honeycreepers.

April 2 (Wed). We began our day of birding this morning at mid-elevation (c. 1850 m) along the main highway east of the Abra Malaga pass. Some interesting birds this morning included Sickle-winged Guan, a little Blue-fronted Lancebill probing clumps of Ericaceae flowers, Black-fronted Tody-Tyrant; Olive-chested and Mottle-cheeked flycatcher(s); Rufous-tailed Tyrant; Bar-winged Wood-Wren; and a couple good mixed species flocks, one of which contained many small *Tangara* tanagers, among them Grass-green, Yellow-throated, Beryl-spangled, Metallic-green, Saffron-crowned, and Flame-faced tanagers, and yet another Golden-collared Honeycreeper. We returned to some of these same areas in the afternoon to somewhat reduced flock activity.

April 3 (Thurs). It is a fact that birding success in the Andes is largely a function of weather and today with some overcast conditions and misty rain conditions were perfect for mixed species flock activity. The birds, no doubt, sense barometric pressure changes, and the possibility that foraging opportunities may be reduced so they seem to make the most of their foraging opportunities when possible. We spent a long morning moving steadily down the eastern slope of the Andes and encountered mixed species flocks at almost every stop this morning. Some, however, including especially the flock(s) around the tire shop (vulcanizadora) at c. 1400 m elevation, remained high and moved rapidly. Consequently many of the tanagers in these flocks were difficult to see well, although with persistence

several were seen in the telescope . . . if only they would hold still for a moment! We spent the late afternoon close to the Owllet Lodge and encountered a group of White-capped Tanagers that perched remarkably close to us and then remained, quietly regarding us for several minutes, before finally winging off across a broad valley to some destination known only to them

April 4 (Fri). Our O700 departure from Abra Patricia was followed by four lower elevation stops, the last at ca. 1200 m and it was at that last stop that we recorded the little Lanceolated Monklet, our rarest bird of the morning. We stopped near the city of Moyobamba for lunch at the rather secluded Hospedaje Rumipata (operated by a Japanese couple) then continued on to Tarapoto where we boarded a flight via Pucallpa to Lima.

### **KEY:**

Species only heard = listed with asterisk (\*)

Blue font = migrants from North America

Red font = endemic species; and near endemics (range largely within Peru)

**Boldface font** = species of interest because of they are rare or infrequently seen or unexpected

MM = males; FF = females (M & F respectively for male and female)

### **MISCELLANEOUS DATA:**

Tarapoto: ca. 356 m el (Wikipedia source); population 63,000+; reached from Lima via plane in one hour, or by bus in 28 hours; driest months June through September

Moyobamba: ca. 860 m el (2840 ft); population 70,000+; apparently the first city founded by the Spanish in the Amazonian region of Peru; there was a small, earlier Inca settlement in the area; noted for orchids, caves, waterfalls and hot springs; driest months May through August

Mishquiyaquillo Reserve (also as Mishquiayacu); includes Waqanki Lodge: ca. 900 m

Abra Patricia: ca. 2316 m el (7640 ft); opened 2009; driest months June through August

Marvelous Spatuletail EOCAN Huembo Reserve: ca. 2050 m (estimate) or slightly lower

Royal Sunangel site: ca. 2100 m el

Km 380-381 sites: ca. 1600 m el

Restaurant/tire shop (vulcanizadora): ca. 1350 m el

Afluentes: ca. 1200 m el

Aguas Verdes bridge: ca. 1050 m el

**COMMENTS ON THE LIST:** By my count we saw 8 endemic species (and heard two others); at least 3 near-endemics (e.g. Royal Sunangel, Bar-winged Wood-Wren; Buff-bellied Tanager); 40 species of hummingbirds; and 47 species of tanagers (ok, this is using the newer molecular taxonomy for tanagers—if you subtract the saltator and grassquits it's about 45. But, this leaves out the 2 bush-tanagers and White-winged Tanager and Red-crowned Ant-Tanager, all of which are no longer regarded as “true” tanagers but have traditionally been placed with tanagers, so it gets complicated. Whatever your taxonomy it's around 47-49 species. And the taxonomy of a number of species on the list below will likely change in the future as molecular genetic analysis continues. Remarkably we heard only a single pair of antpittas during our visit.

### **BIRD LIST:**

#### **Ducks, Anatidae**

Torrent Duck, *Merganetta armata*, Females twice on rocks in Río Mayo

**Masked Duck, *Nomonyx dominicus***, 1F on small pond near Moyobamba

### **Guans & Chachalacas, Cracidae**

Speckled Chachalaca, *Ortalis guttata*, seen twice at c. 1400 m el

Sickle-winged Guan, *Chamaepetes goudotii*, seen 3x on ground along road between c.1850-2000 m elevation and last time a pair were seen well by everyone (and photographed)

### **Herons & Egrets, Ardeidae**

Great Egret, *Ardea alba*, lowland rice fields near Tarapoto

Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*, lowland rice fields between Tarapoto and Moyobamba

Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis*, rice fields and near cattle at lower elevations

### **Vultures, Cathartidae**

Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*, almost daily; all elevations but few over wet montane forest around Abra Patricia

Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*, daily and at all elevations including regularly in air over Abra Patricia

### **Hawks & Kites**

Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*, Mishquiyaquillo Reserve (1); mountains from Aguas Claras bridge to Abra Patricia area (seen several times)

Plumbeous Kite, *Ictinia plumbea*, 1 seen (photo) by Bill at mid-elevation (c. 1850 m)

Roadside Hawk, *Buteo magnirostris*, one seen at ca. 1300 m el

White-rumped Hawk, *Parabuteo leucorrhous*, two seen over Abra Patricia pass

**White-tailed Hawk, *Buteo albicaudatus***, one seen c. 3 kilometers west of Moyobamba in mostly open terrain; I think it was this species (but I had only a quick look; others saw it better) and rule out Variable Hawk partly because of elevation and range and partly because I did not think the back was entirely rufous; also White-tailed Hawk seems more likely in the habitat where we saw it and especially because it often moves into drier areas that have been opened up by human activity ; it might be a recent invader here

### **Pigeons & Doves, Columbidae**

Band-tailed Pigeon, *Patagioenas fasciata*, almost daily in mountains and mainly in flocks; some flocks contained 25-50 birds

Ruddy Pigeon, *Patagioenas subvinacea*, 1 seen just above village of Afluentes (c. 1100 m)

Ruddy Ground-Dove, *Columbina talpacoti*, common at Mishquiyaquillo Reserve (Waqanki Lodge)

White-tipped Dove, *Leptotila verreauxi*, three seen (two walking on highway) at c. 1650 m elevation

Eared Dove, *Zenaida auriculata*, common around Tarapoto including at airport parking lot; note that is rare east of Andes but known for Huallaga Valley and Tarapoto

### **Cuckoos & Anis, Cuculidae**

Squirrel Cuckoo, *Piaya cayana*, two seen at c. 1650 m el

Smooth-billed Ani, *Crotophaga ani*, various areas from Moyobamba to c. 1400 m el

### **Owls, Strigidae**

\*Tropical Screech-Owl, *Megascops choliba*, heard at night and early in morning at Waqanki Lodge area

- Band-bellied Owl, *Pulsatrix melanota*, one bird seen quite well at the Mishquiyaquillo Reserve late at night; it certainly seemed larger than the measurements given in BOP
- \*Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, *Glaucidium brasilianum*, heard at Waqanki Lodge
  - \*Long-whiskered Owllet, *Xenoglaux loweryi*, one heard repeatedly for some 15 minutes or more but we were unable to locate it; c. 2050 m el
  - \*Rufous-banded Owl, *Ciccaba albitarsis*, heard around Abra Patricia lodge on a few occasions both at dawn and after dark

### **Nightjars & Allies, Caprimulgidae**

Rufous-bellied Nighthawk, *Lurocalis rufiventris*, the four of us on the owllet expedition heard this species and glimpsed it flying through the canopy at dusk

### **Oilbird, Steatornithidae**

Oilbird, *Steatornis caripensis*, about 30+ seen on narrow sandstone cliffs in deep canyon by road (about 30 minutes east of Moyobamba); these birds are quite easy to see but the canyon is too dark for photography without lighting

### **Swifts, Apodidae**

Fork-tailed Palm-Swift, *Tachornis squammata*, a few seen around the Waqanki Lodge grounds in the Mishquiyaquillo Reserve; also seen near Moyobamba

### **Hummingbirds, Trochilidae** (taxonomic order follows SACC checklist)

White-necked Jacobin, *Florisuga mellivora*, perhaps 6 males and 1-2 females at the Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve feeders; a widespread species

Rufous-breasted Hermit, *Glaucis hirsutus*, one at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve feeders

Great-billed (formerly Long-tailed) Hermit, *Phaethornis malaris* (formerly *superciliosus* but the original Long-tailed Hermit has now been split into three species); 1 repeatedly at the Mishquiyaquillo Reserve feeders

Brown Violetear, *Colibri delphinae*, 1-2 at Waqanki Lodge feeders

Green Violetear, *Colibri thalassinus*, one at Waqanki Lodge feeders was seen only by José; it was common at the Huembo Reserve and one was seen almost daily at the Owllet Lodge feeders

Sparkling Violetear, *Colibri coruscans*, we saw several only at Huembo feeders

Black-throated Mango, *Anthracothorax nigricollis*, 8-10 MM & FF at the Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve feeders

Amethyst-throated Sunangel, *Heliangelus amethystine*, 1 or 2 daily at feeders in front of the Conoco building; also one at slightly lower elevation along main highway; regularly holds its wings up in a V position just as it alights

Purple-throated Sunangel, *Heliangelus viola*, 1M seen briefly by some at the Huembo reserve

**Royal Sunangel, *Heliangelus regalis* (near endemic; recently found in Ecuador)**, 1M perched repeatedly near us on a narrow trail; a female seen along steep cliff side in same area; dense stunted mossy scrub; ca. 2000 m el; likes to feed at small urn-shaped Ericaceae flowers

Wire-crested Thorntail, *Discosura popelairii*, one female seen very well at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve

Rufous-crested Coquette, *Lophornis delattrei*, one male at flowering *Stachytarpheta* sp.

(Verbenaceae) shrub in the parking lot at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve; 10+ MM and FF also observed at feeders; small with high wing beat speed, floating flight; rapidly pumps tail up and down as hovers

Speckled Hummingbird, *Adelomyia melanogenys*, one or two daily at Owlet Lodge feeders (also seen at Huembo)

Long-tailed Sylph, *Agelaiocercus kingi*, several MM daily at feeders at Abra Patricia (especially numerous at feeders in front of dining room); also seen along road at lower elevations; I do not think we saw any females (?)

**Rufous-capped Thornbill, *Chalcostigma ruficeps***, 1 along driveway at Abra Patricia; this species seems uncommon and unpredictable in occurrence in many areas

Greenish Puffleg, *Haplophaedia aureliae*, 1 along road at c. 2000 m el; more extensively gray from mid-breast to crissum than illustrated in most guides

Emerald-bellied Puffleg, *Eriocnemis alinae*, daily at feeders at Abra Patricia; also at Huembo; seems to have metallic feathers on its belly and sides

**Marvelous Spatuletail, *Loddigesia mirabilis* (Endemic)**, at least three males at the Huembo feeders and they came repeatedly throughout the entire morning affording many opportunities to see this remarkable species and to photograph it

Bronzy Inca, *Coeligena coeligena*, daily at feeders at Abra Patricia and Huembo but only visiting singly

Collared Inca, *Coeligena torquata*, feeders at Abra Patricia; also at Huembo; despite its size it is a remarkably timid trap-lining species that yields its place at feeders even to much small hummers

**Sword-billed Hummingbird, *Ensifera ensifera***, one female came several times to feeders in front of the Owlet Lodge (a first for this species which has not previously visited feeders here until a few weeks ago!)

Chestnut-breasted Hummingbird, *Boissonneaua matthewsii*, abundant at Abra Patricia and Huembo; a large and aggressive hummingbird (the bully on the block) that was omnipresent at feeders; often holds its wings upraised momentarily just as it alights and also regularly clings to a substrate when feeding

Booted Racket-tail, *Ocreatus underwoodii*, 1F in shrubbery at the Owlet Lodge; another in shrubbery at Huembo; not seen at feeders

Fawn-breasted Brilliant, *Heliodoxa rubinoides*, a rather large heavy-bodied hummer with modest plumage; its best marks are its small pinkish lilac throat patch and cone-shaped head which merges smoothly onto bill; habitually clings to feeders when feeding; not especially aggressive and almost always seen singly at feeders around Abra Patricia

Violet-fronted Brilliant, *Heliodoxa leadbeateri*, one female briefly visited the feeders at the Owlet Lodge a few times but it may have been seen only by SH

White-bellied Woodstar, *Chaetocercus mulsant*, males and females were regular visitors to feeders at the Owlet Lodge and at Huembo; remarkably long bill for size of bird; prominent white flank patches and floating flight resulting from small body size and higher wing beat speed than that of larger hummers; male and female very different

**Little Woodstar, *Chaetocercus bombus***, one male briefly at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve feeders; at least two individuals of this diminutive species at the Huembo feeders; both sexes are entirely cinnamon below; the smallest hummer that we saw and one of the smallest anywhere

Blue-tailed Emerald, *Chlorostilbon mellisugus*, one male at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve

Gray-breasted Sabrewing, *Campylopterus largipennis*, numerous at the Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve feeders; a large hummer with notably slow wing beats and prominent white tail corners; typical of forest understory in lowlands and foothills

Fork-tailed Woodnymph, *Thalurania furcata*, abundant at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve; 1M seen near the Vulcanizadora at 1400 m el

Many-spotted Hummingbird, *Taphrospilus hypostictus*, 1 (more?) at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve; one also seen along main highway at c. 1650 m el

White-bellied Hummingbird, *Amazilia chionogaster*, a rather undistinguished and average-looking hummingbird that was a regular visitor to feeders at Huembo

Andean Emerald, *Amazilia franciae*, two to three of this blue-capped race at Huembo; a hummer with clean-cut pattern and pinkish base to mandible (=lower mandible); fairly widespread at middle elevations in Andes from Colombia to Peru

Sapphire-spangled Emerald, *Amazilia lactea*, several at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve; generally not as colorful as one might expect from the name

Golden-tailed Sapphire, *Chrysuronia oenone*, commonest hummingbird at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve feeders; medium sized with prominent golden rufous tail; males have blue heads; females duller and spotted below

White-chinned Sapphire, *Hylocharis cyanus*, one M at feeders at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve

### **Kingfishers, *Alcedinidae***

Ringed Kingfisher, *Megaceryle torquata*, one flying overhead at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo); Amazon Kingfisher also may have been seen near here

### **Puffbirds, *Bucconidae***

**Lanceolated Monklet, *Micromonacha lanceolata***, one spotted by Jeanine the last morning and we were all able to see it (and photograph it) at leisure for some ten minutes before it finally flew; always hard to locate and a great find

### **Barbets, *Capitonidae***

Gilded Barbet, *Capito auratus punctatus*, a pair at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve; seen below the hummingbird garden

Versicolored Barbet, *Eubucco versicolor steeri*, MM and FF at elevations of ca. 1400-1650 m elevation

### **Toucans, *Ramphastidae***

Emerald Toucanet, *Aulacorhynchus prasinus*, four or five seen at mid-elevations (mostly ca. 1650 m)

### **Woodpeckers, *Picidae***

**Speckle-chested Piculet, *Picumnus steindachneri* (Endemic)**, pair at Huembo reserve; not particularly well illustrated in *Birds of Peru* which shows this species much darker than it is in life

Smoky-brown Woodpecker, *Veniliornis fumigatus*, a female at ca. 1800-1900 m el

### **Parrots & Parakeets, *Psittacidae***

White-eyed Parakeet, *Aratinga leucophthalma*, several early morning flocks seen flying over the Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve; various small groups in mountains up to ca. 1900 m; a flock also seen repeatedly at Huembo Reserve

Cobalt-winged Parakeet, *Brotogeris cyanopectus*, one flock of 25+ over Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve; also heard during lunch at the Hospedaje Ecológico "Rumipata" on the last day

Blue-headed Parrot, *Pionus sordidus*, 2 in flight over the Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve



Red-billed Parrot, *Pionus sordidus*, a few pairs between 1400 and 1650 m elevation were seen in flight (but we were unable to locate them when perched)

### **Typical Antbirds, *Thamnophilidae***

\*Barred Antshrike, *Thamnophilus doliatus*, heard in the old field clearing at the Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve

Rufous-capped Antshrike, *Thamnophilus ruficapillus*, one bird seen at ca. 1900 m el (slow response to tape playback)

Lined Antshrike, *Thamnophilus tenuipunctatus*, M and F in vine tangled forest edge near the Vulcanizadora (tire shop); 1400 m el

Variable Antshrike, *Thamnophilus caerulescens*, male seen very close and at length along entrance trail at the Owlet Lodge

\*Plain Antwren, *Dysithamnus mentalis*, heard in forest border between the tire shop and Afluentes (ca. 1300 m el)

Foothill Antwren, *Epinecrophylla spodionota*, one male seen briefly (and at some distance) in forest in upper part of Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve; this species proved difficult to see this time

**Rusty-backed Antwren, *Formicivora rufa***, male and female seen in patches of brush in an old pasture a few kilometers west of Moyobamba; quite local in Peru although more widespread in eastern Bolivia and in Brazil; we had great views of this species

\*Peruvian Warbling-Antbird, *Hypocnemis peruviana*, one heard in forest at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo)

Blackish Antbird, *Cercomacra nigrescens aequatorialis*, pair seen at ca. 1300 m el along roadside in foothills between the tire shop/restaurant (vulcanizadora) and Afluentes; this foothill race differs somewhat in voice from lowland Amazonian birds; everyone saw the rusty colored female and a few of you also saw the blackish male

Spot-winged Antbird, *Schistocichla leucostigma*, one male seen by part of group in upper forest at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve; this individual remained very low along the creek and did not respond strongly to playback

### **Antpittas, *Grallariidae***

\***Ochre-fronted Antpitta, *Grallaricula ochraceifrons* (Endemic)**, two heard late in afternoon on the evening that we tried to see the owlet; we did not see either of these birds and their response to playback was not strong

### **Tapaculos, *Rhinocryptidae***

\***Rufous-vented Tapaculo, *Scytalopus femoralis* (Endemic)**, heard most days around the Owlet lodge and in upper elevations but we were unable to see it despite several attempts

### **Ovenbirds & Woodcreepers, *Furnariidae*** (woodcreepers now included here as subfamily Dendrocolaptinae)

Olivaceous Woodcreeper, *Sittasomus griseicapillus*, one heard at edge of hummingbird garden in Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve

Olive-backed Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus triangularis*, one seen at ca. 1850 m el

Lineated Woodcreeper, *Lepidocolaptes albolineatus*, one seen in forest at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve; note that there is a proposal to split this species into five separate species and the one in this area would be called Inambari Woodcreeper (*L. fatimalimae*) although the South American Checklist Committee has not yet formally voted on this

proposal or approved this split arrangement; I do know for a fact that at least two northern populations are quite different vocally and suspect that this proposal will be adopted [Plain Xenops, *Xenops minutus*, one seen very briefly in Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve by SH; not seen by others because I urged clients to try and see the Foothill Antwren (a much more range-restricted species) which was present at the same time]

Streaked Xenops, *Xenops rutilans*, 1 seen at c. 1800 m el in large fig tree; this bird rested quietly and actually went to sleep for several minutes as we watched it!

Streaked Tuftedcheek, *Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii*, one bird seen with very distant mixed species flock at ca. 1950 m el

Montane Foliage-gleaner, *Anabacerthia striaticollis*, two seen the last morning at 1650 and 1400 m respectively

**Black-billed Treehunter, *Thripadectes melanorhynchus***, pair seen at ca. 1350 m el (between the tire shop and Afluentes); a rather uncommon species (or at least not often seen) and most people had a fairly good look at one member of the pair

Striped Treehunter, *Thripadectes holostictus*, one seen late in afternoon not far below Abra Patricia by those of us who came along for a late evening walk

Pearled Treerunner, *Margarornis squamiger*, 1 at ca. 1950 m with mixed species flock; this bird and the Tuftedcheek were (unfortunately) seen at a great distance and while distinguishable cannot be regarded as well seen

Rufous-fronted Thornbird, *Phacellodomus rufifrons* several in the old field clearing at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve; local in northern Peru

Azara's Spinetail, *Synallaxis azarae*, heard along the Owlet Lodge entrance road

Rufous Spinetail, *Synallaxis unirufa*, pair seen quite well at start of trail down to owlet valley

Dusky Spinetail, *Synallaxis modesta*, one bird seen rather poorly (what a skulker!) between the tire shop and village of Afluentes

### **Flycatchers, *Tyrannidae*** (taxonomic order follows SACC checklist)

[White-throated Tyrannulet, *Mecocerculus leucophrys*, one briefly along Owlet Lodge entrance road was likely seen only by SH]

Yellow-bellied Elaenia, *Elaenia flavogaster*, pair at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve

White-crested Elaenia, *Elaenia albiceps*, seen along entrance road at the Owlet Lodge; normally one of the commonest flycatchers at high elevations in the Andes but we saw only one (or perhaps two?)

Sierran Elaenia, *Elaenia pallatangae*, singles seen a few times near the Owlet Lodge; dull plumage with distinct yellow tinge to all of underparts

Highland Elaenia, *Elaenia obscura*, we saw one along the lodge entrance road; then another on our long walk down to the owlet valley

Torrent Tyrannulet, *Serpophaga cinerea*, pair on Alto Río Mayo; rocks in river at ca. 2000 m elevation

Streak-necked Flycatcher, *Mionectes striaticollis*, several of these little frugivorous flycatchers seen hanging around mixed species flocks; 1650 down to 1400 m

Olive-striped Flycatcher, *Mionectes olivaceus*, one seen at 1400 m elevation where it probably narrowly overlaps the previous species;

[Inca Flycatcher, *Leptopogon superciliaris*, heard by Roberto and SH; an upper elevation species that is usually with mixed species flocks]

Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet, *Phylloscartes ventralis*, one seen quite well in roadside woodland at ca. 1950 m elevation; also photographed

**Mishana Tyrannulet, *Zimmerius villarejoi* (Endemic)**, 1 seen quite well (including scope views for everyone) at the Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve hummingbird garden where we also heard its little two-note call

**Peruvian Tyrannulet, *Zimmerius viridiflavus* (Endemic)**, common and seen daily in mountains; a split from Golden-faced Tyrannulet (latter now only north of Río Marañon which is north of where we were on this trip)

\*Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant, *Pseudotriccus ruficeps*, heard along entrance road but would not respond to playback (it has probably already heard too much playback]

Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant, *Myiornis albiventris*, amazingly we saw one of these tiny little birds quite easily; it was overhead in a tree at the edge of the Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve forest

[\*Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant, *Lophotriccus pileatus*, heard at 1650 m elevation by SH]

Black-throated Tody-Tyrant, *Hemitriccus granadensis*, 1 seen near the Owllet Lodge parking lot

**Johnson's (Lulu's) Tody-Tyrant, *Poecilatriccus lulu* (Endemic)**, one seen beautifully in a large clearing edge at ca. 2000 m elevation

Common Tody-Tyrant, *Todirostrum cinereum*, several at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) and nest at Hospedaje Ecológico "Rumipata"

Cinnamon Flycatcher, *Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus*, adorable little flycatcher seen almost daily at higher elevations

Olive-chested Flycatcher, *Myiophobus cryptoxanthus*, drab and forgettable little flycatcher seen in bushes beside main highway near the "Sunangel" area; has call like Bran-colored Flycatcher to which it is related genetically

Euler's Flycatcher, *Lathrotriccus euleri*, another drab little flycatcher; this one inside forest at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve; actually seen in scope by most of group

Smoke-colored Pewee, *Contopus fumigatus*, seen a couple times including in owllet valley and on high thin stub at c. 1650 m elevation

Black Phoebe, *Sayornis nigricans*, along Alto Río Mayo in several places

Rufous-tailed Tyrant, *Knipolegus poecilurus*, usually scarce and difficult to find but this time we saw several including one repeatedly; c. 1950 m down to 1400 m elevation

Great Kiskadee, *Pitangus sulphuratus*, Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve parking lot etc

Social Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes similis*, several at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve

Lemon-browed Flycatcher, *Conopias cinchoneti*, family of three seen along highway a short distance above village of Afluentes (c. 1300 m el); treetop dwellers

Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*, only at lower elevations but one pair seen at 1900 m elevation (at overlook) the last morning

### **Cotingas, *Cotingidae***

Green-and-black Fruiteater, *Pipreola riefferii*, only pair seen nicely along entrance road to the Owllet Lodge and another pair quite close to lodge

**Fiery-throated Fruiteater, *Pipreola chlorolepidota***, one male seen very well at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve (thanks to Jose's ability to hear the extremely high-pitched and faint calls of this bird!)

**Scaled Fruiteater, *Ampelioides tschudii***, although I could not get one to respond to playback in the Afluentes area Bill photographed one on our last morning in that same area although the rest of the group was too far away to see it; always a good find!

**Chestnut-crested Cotinga, *Ampelion rufaxilla***, one in scope for extended period of time; 2300 m el (near the Abra Malaga pass)

**Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, *Pyroderus scutatus***, total of three seen in the 1650 m elevation zone; a large and impressive bird that provided us great scope views; locally distributed almost everywhere

Andean Cock-of-the-rock, *Rupicola peruvianus*, one or two females seen in scope and a male seen flying across the highway; all at c. 1650 m el

### **Manakins, *Pipridae***

Golden-winged Manakin, *Masius chrysopterus*, seen ever so briefly and by most of group only in flight (or not at all?); tiny black bird which shows fanning yellow wings in flight; it also was heard later in same area (1650 m elevation zone) but did not respond

**Green Manakin, *Xenopipo holochlora***, one bird seen in understory at the Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve; another good find and a bird easily overlooked

### **Vireos, *Vireonidae***

Brown-caped Vireo, *Vireo leucophrys*, resembles a Warbling Vireo but tinged yellow below and with brownish cap; three or four seen in mixed species flocks at mid elevations

\*Tawny-crowned Greenlet, *Hylophilus ochraceiceps*, heard with a small mixed understory flock at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve; associated with the Foothill Antwren and Plain Xenops and Red-crowned Ant-Tanagers; not seen by anyone

Rufous-browed Peppershrike, *Cyclarhis gujanensis*, a couple seen the first morning near the Owllet Lodge

### **Crows & Jays, *Corvidae***

White-collared Jay, *Cyanolyca viridicyanus*, 3 or 4 seen in dense montane forest edge along highway; eventually at c. 1650 m elevation we had great views of a pair (and Spike got great photos)

Green Jay, *Cyanocorax yncas*, one seen a short distance above village of Afluentes at c. 1300 m elevation

### **Swallows, *Hirundinidae***

Blue-and-white Swallow, *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*, daily in highlands including a pair around the Abra Patricia Lodge that were sleeping (nesting?) under the tile roofs

Southern Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*, seen in lowlands including up to c. 1200 m elevation

### **Wrens, *Troglodytidae***

House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*, Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve and Abra Patricia Lodge (seen or heard daily and usually the first bird to sing at dawn and also sometimes the ONLY bird to sing at dawn there)

\*Coraya Wren, *Pheugopedius coraya*, heard singing below hummingbird garden at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve

**Bar-winged Wood-Wren, *Henicorhina leucoptera* (near endemic)**, seen near the Royal Sunangel site at c. 1950 m elevation

\*Gray-breasted Wood-Wren, *Henicorhina leucophrys*, heard almost daily in highlands

### **Dippers, *Cinclidae***

White-capped Dipper, *Cinclus leucocephalus*, pair seen briefly; the later one bird posed close by on a river rock for all to see; Alto Río Mayo at c. 2050 m elevation

### **Thrushes & Solitaires, *Turdidae***

Andean Solitaire, *Myadestes ralloides*, two to three seen at mid-elevations (c. 1900 m);  
distinctive musical song

Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush, *Catharus fuscater*, heard in several places at mid-elevations

Swainson's Thrush, *Catharus fuscater*, only one seen (c. 1400 m el)

Várzea Thrush, *Turdus sanchezorum* (Endemic), a couple seen including one adult with a  
recently fledged spotted juvenile; a fairly common bird (a recent split from Hauxwell's  
Thrush; I think it is as yet unknown outside of Peru)

Black-billed Thrush, *Turdus ignobilis*, Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve where this species  
was quite numerous

Great Thrush, *Turdus fuscater*, pairs daily (common) around Abra Patricia and at high elevations  
along road

### **New World Warblers, *Parulidae***

Blackburnian Warbler, *Setophaga fusca*, 1M at ca. 1900 m (with mixed species flock) and  
female at 1650 m elevation

Three-striped Warbler, *Basileuterus tristriatus*, seen at two sites in highlands including at least  
six with one mixed species flock

Canada Warbler, *Cardellina canadensis*, two seen at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve;  
another one (male) at 1650 m elevation

Slate-throated Redstart, *Myioborus miniatus*, pairs seen at various lower montane elevations (at  
or below c. 1650 m el) in forest; replaced at higher elevation by next species

Spectacled Redstart, *Myioborus melanocephalus*, pairs seen around the Abra Patricia Lodge and  
in forest down to ca. 2100 m el.

### **Tanagers & Allies, *Thraupidae*** (taxonomic order follows SACC checklist)

Black-faced Tanager, *Schistochlamys melanopis*, two pairs in old field at Waqanki  
(Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve

Magpie Tanager, *Cissopis leverianus*, pair at 1300 m el (just above Afluentes)

White-capped Tanager, *Sericossypha albocristata*, a flock of four of these spectacular birds  
(including three females which came remarkably close) were seen along the roadside at ca.  
2150 m el; several other groups were heard distantly

Rufous-crested Tanager, *Creurgops verticalis*, one or two were seen the last morning with a  
fairly large mixed species flock at c. 1650 m el

Black-capped Hemispingus, *Hemispingus atropileus*, one briefly in owlet valley

Oleaginous Hemispingus, *Hemispingus frontalis*, one at c. 1650 m el with mixed species flock

Black-eared Hemispingus, *Hemispingus melanotis*, three or four in owlet valley; high and  
difficult to see in fading light of dusk

Gray-hooded bush-Tanager, *Cnemoscopus rubrirostris*, one with large mixed species flock at c.  
2100 m el was seen distantly

Buff-bellied Tanager, *Thlypopsis inornata* (near endemic), pair seen at the Huembo Reserve

White-lined Tanager, *Tachyphonus rufus*, one male seen at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve

Black-bellied (Huallaga) Tanager, *Ramphocelus melanogaster* (Endemic), seen Waqanki  
(Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve; also a female near the vulcanizadora (tire shop)

Silver-beaked Tanager, *Ramphocelus carbo*, one near Afluentes

**Vermilion Tanager, *Calochaetes coccineus***, one (or two?) pairs seen at c. 1650 m el; we had  
great views repeatedly of this extremely local species that is confined to a narrow elevational  
band of cloud forest



Grass-green Tanager, *Chlorornis riefferii*, seen around the lodge also along the highway near the lodge; a striking and charismatic species

Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager, *Anisognathus somptuosus*, seen poorly (mainly by SH) at dusk in owl valley; a couple seen later along highway but this species was never seen well

Yellow-throated Tanager, *Iridosornis analis*, we saw at least three of this sleek and well-groomed species in the 1600-1800 m zone

Yellow-scarfed Tanager, *Iridosornis reinhardti* (Endemic), pair seen with a mixed species flock right at parking lot but they crossed road quickly and effectively disappeared

Orange-eared Tanager, *Chlorochrysa calliparaea*, three or more seen with mixed species flocks between c. 1400 and 1650 m el; spectacular and rapid-moving and also difficult to see for more than a few seconds at a time

Blue-gray Tanager, *Thraupis episcopus*, Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve; and vulcanizadora (tire shop) and adjacent lower areas

Palm Tanager, *Thraupis palmarum*, seen below Afluentes the last morning; also at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve (?)

Blue-capped Tanager, *Thraupis cyanocephala*, common in highlands including around the Abra Patricia lodge

Silvery (Silver-backed) Tanager, *Tangara viridicollis*, seen around Owllet lodge and at Huembo Reserve and on drier western slope; also down to the tire shop area on humid east slope [Green-throated Tanager, *Tangara argyrofenges*, one seen in scope by SH at the tire shop area but unfortunately it disappeared before it could be seen by anyone else; has an extremely limited range in Peru; might be considered a near endemic but is reported also from Ecuador and also Bolivia]

Blue-necked Tanager, *Tangara cyanicollis*, seen at various lower elevation sites from Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve to the 1650 m area on east slope

Spotted Tanager, *Tangara punctata*, another species that was common in many mixed species flocks between 1400 and 1750 m elevation (or a little higher) but was not particularly easy to see

Blue-and-black Tanager, *Tangara vassorii*, one seen with a mixed species flock at c. 2100-2200 m

Beryl-spangled Tanager, *Tangara nigroviridis*, a relatively numerous species seen at several sites including from the Abra Patricia Lodge down to at least 1650 m

Metallic-green Tanager, *Tangara labradorides*, at least 6 or 7 individuals were seen briefly in various fruiting melastome trees between c. 1750 and 2100 m el but it has a confusing plumage and is generally a difficult species to see;

Turquoise Tanager, *Tangara mexicana*, one seen at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve

Paradise Tanager, *Tangara chilensis*, several seen in the tire shop area

Bay-headed Tanager, *Tangara gyrola*, two to three seen in the tire shop area

Saffron-crowned Tanager, *Tangara xanthocephala*, numerous sightings of this lovely species; which is quite common at mid-elevations

Flame-faced Tanager, *Tangara parzudakii*, several pair and families of three were seen very well including excellent observations of perched birds in the telescopes; humid montane forest from ca. 2050 m down to 1650 m

Green-and gold Tanager, *Tangara schrankii*, up to four seen in the 1400 m area

Golden Tanager, *Tangara arthus*, only two or three of these beautiful bird seen in lower zone of around 1400 m

Black-faced Dacnis, *Dacnis lineata*, a lowland species; we saw one male at ca. 1400 m elevation

Blue Dacnis, *Dacnis cayana*, a male and female seen at c. 1400 m el

Green Honeycreeper, *Cyanerpes spiza*, one female in scope at c. 1400 m el

**Golden-collared Honeycreeper, *Iridophanes pulcherrimus***, two beautiful males of this scarce species seen feeding in *Cecropia* trees at c. 1850-1900 m el

White-sided Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa albilatera*, one seen at 2300 m el (near lodge)

Deep-blue Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa glauca*, one striking bird with glaring yellow eyes at c. 2000 m elevation (the sunangel area)

Masked Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa cyanea*, seen several times at high elevations

Blue-black Grassquit, *Volatinia jacarina*, a couple males in old brushy field at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve

Bananaquit, *Coereba flaveola*, at least four seen at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve

Buff-throated Saltator, *Saltator maximus*, Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve

**[Note that seedeaters (*Sporophila*) and flowerpiercers (*Diglossa*) have now been transferred to the Thraupidae (Tanager family) based on molecular genetic data; see details in SACC checklist]**

**Finches & Buntings etc, *Emberizidae*** [Most South American members of this family have been found to be genetically allied with tanagers]

[Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch, *Arremon brunneinucha*, we saw three including a pair in an obvious territorial fight; all near the Owlet Lodge and valley below

Yellow-breasted Brush-Finch, *Atlapetes latinuchus*, one seen near the Abra Patricia Lodge at 2300 m el

Rufous-collared Sparrow, *Zonotrichia capensis*, daily in all areas

Common Chlorospingus (Bush-Tanager), *Chlorospingus (ophthalmicus) flavopectus*, one in the yard right behind the kitchen; bird was on ground trying to eat a moth

Ashy-throated Chlorospingus (Bush-Tanager), *Chlorospingus canigularis*, several seen on two days at c.1400 m elevation

**Cardinals & Allies, *Cardinalidae***

White-winged Tanager, *Piranga leucoptera*, pair at 1650 m elevation

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager, *Habia rubica*, group of 4 seen (with difficulty) in forest at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve

**Blackbirds & Orioles, *Icteridae***

\*Scarlet-rumped (Subtropical) Cacique, *Cacicus uropygialis*, heard at 1650 m elevation ; this highland form should eventually be regarded as a species distinct from the lowland form

Yellow-rumped Cacique, *Cacicus cela*, lowlands at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve

Russet-backed Oropendola, *Psarocolius angustifrons*, we saw two at 1650 m elevation

Crested Oropendola, *Psarocolius decumanus*, apparently one seen at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve

**Siskins and Goldfinches and Euphonias, *Fringillidae***

Bronze-green Euphonia, *Euphonia mesochrysa*, a pair at 1850 m and a male at 1650 m elevation

Orange-bellied Euphonia, *Euphonia xanthogaster*, the common montane euphonia; heard or seen with most mixed species flocks; also seen at Waqanki (Mishquiyaquillo) Reserve

Hooded Siskins, *Spinus magellanicus*, one male seen in scope at the Huembo Reserve

[\*Olivaceous Siskins, *Spinus olivaceus*, never seen but heard by SH a short distance above Afluentes]

MAMMALS:

*Tayra, Eira, barbara*, a male (“Pancho”) seen repeatedly at the banana feeders at Abra Patricia; but reportedly there are at least 5 other Panchos in the area and they succeeded in wrecking one or more hummingbird feeders and the poles holding them every day; it is surprising that the Owlet Lodge staff have not been able (or willing) to install appropriate equipment to prevent the Tayras from climbing and tearing down the feeder poles; only two of the five feeder poles were properly equipped to repel these marauding tayras

Black Agouti, *Dasyprocta fuliginosa*, this is the agouti that was seen around Abra Patricia (and apparently this is the only one that occurs at such a high elevation)

Little gray forest rat with a white belly, one seen at night on our return from the owlet expedition

### MIXED SPECIES FLOCKS:

We saw a good number of mixed species flocks on this relatively short trip but most of them contained only 6-10 species. A large flock on the rainy morning we spent near the 1400 m area (tire shop) had many more species but this was a particularly difficult flock because it consisted mostly of tanagers that remained high and never really close to the road where we could effectively see them.

HUMMINGBIRDS This was a particularly good trip for hummingbirds (those marked in boldface were seen only at the mentioned site)

List of hummingbirds observed at Abra Patricia Lodge; 2300 m (13 species): Chestnut-breasted Coronet; Green Violetear; Emerald-bellied Puffleg; White-bellied Woodstar Bronzy Inca; Collared Inca; Long-tailed Sylph (only MM); **Fawn-breasted Brilliant; Violet-fronted Brilliant; Speckled Hummingbird; Amethyst-throated Sunangel; Rufous-capped Thornbill** (not at feeders but nearby along driveway); Booted Racket-tail (female in shrubbery near lodge)

List of hummingbirds observed at Huembo (EOCAN Spatuletail Reserve), 2050 m (13 species): **Marvelous Spatuletail** (at least three males repeatedly); White-bellied Woodstar (1M); Little Woodstar (1F); Green Violetear; Sparkling Violetear; Speckled Hummingbird; Chestnut-breasted Coronet; **Purple-throated Sunangel** (1M); **White-bellied Hummingbird** (2+); Andean Emerald (1); Bronzy Inca; Long-tailed Sylph (only MM); Emerald-bellied Puffleg.

List of hummingbirds observed at Mishquiyaquillo Reserve; 900 m (17 species): **White-necked Jacobin** (MM); Rufous-breasted Hermit; **Great-billed (formerly Long-tailed) Hermit**; Black-throated Hermit; Reddish Hermit; Brown Violetear; Green Violetear (seen only by Jose); **Black-throated Mango; Wire-crested Thorntail; Rufous-crested Coquette** (MM & FF); Little Woodstar (1M); **Blue-tailed Emerald** (1M); **Gray-breasted Sabrewing** (10+); **Fork-tailed Woodnymph** (8-10+); Many-spotted Hummingbird (1); **Sapphire-spangled Emerald** (2-3); **Golden-tailed Sapphire** (20+); **White-chinned Sapphire** (1-3+).

Hummingbirds seen elsewhere (e.g. along highway): Many-spotted Hummingbird; **Greenish Puffleg** (1); **Royal Sunangel** (3); Booted Racket-tail (F); Amethyst-throated Sunangel; Long-tailed Sylph; and probably a few others I'm forgetting.