

## **Peru 2003 with Kolibri Expeditions 6/28/2003 to 7/15/2003.**

**6/28/2003:** Departed San Francisco at 4am. Took Delta flight to Atlanta and then Delta flight to Lima arriving at 10:20pm. Smooth journey. Met by Gunnar Engblom at airport and driven to Hotel Senorial in Miraflores. Got to bed at 12:15am.

**6/29/2003:** 4:30 am pickup by taxi with Chris Parrish. Met Gunnar and others at Gunnar's apartment and then drove to Callao for boat trip. Gunnar and Ashley Banwell as trip leaders on boat. Boat a c. 20 foot pleasure fishing vessel, new and tidy and fairly stable. Seas moderate with brisk wind picking up in afternoon. Traveled out 26 nautical miles, to approximately 1400 m depth. Returned at ~ 6 pm and had dinner with Chris Parrish and Tim Reid. Bed at 9:15pm.

**6/30/2003:** 4am pickup by Taxi to travel to Lima airport. Met guide Ashley Banwell at airport. Chris Parrish, Simon Gawn, Ashley and I flew to Cajamarca. Met at Cajamarca airport by Wilson (a local guide) and driver with small Toyota tourist minibus before 8 am. Drove to Otusco and Sanjan for Gray-bellied Comet, etc. in river valley. Returned to Cajamarca in late morning and birded Cajamarca-Celendin road for rest of day, arriving in Cajamarca at ~6pm. Stayed in a cheap and reasonably clean motel.

**7/1/2003:** Started at 4am. Drove to Hacienda Limon at the top of the Marañon Valley and birded in xerophytic scrub with some lush forest patches around gardens and hillside cultivation. Found endemic Chestnut-backed Thornbird, Gray-winged Inca-finch and Spot-throated Hummingbird. Drove for ~ 10 hours to end up near coast in Chepen. Stayed in noisy Hotel Hogar on main square (why this hotel was not clear since there were various other hotels in the area!).

**7/2/2003:** 4:30 am start and drove to Batangrande.  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour was spent while the driver negotiated via cell phone with Gunnar about getting paid more since Gunnar's own vehicle had not yet arrived from Lima and the driver did not expect to take us anywhere other than to Olmos. Drove to tall dry *Prosopis* and *Acacia* woodland close to river near Batangrande (Sanctuario Historico Bosque de Pomac). Spent morning finding Peruvian Plantcutter, Rufous Flycatcher, Cinereous Finch, Tumbes Swallow and other tumbesian birds. Plantcutters were seen, photographed and taped. Lunch at a roadside café that served fried chicken or fried chicken! Drove to cracid research/breeding center 11km N of Olmos, arriving in the middle of the afternoon. It took us over 2 hours to locate the (clearly signposted) cracid center but we did end up at a weedy field with good finches, including 2 lifers for me, on the way. We looked at and photographed the extensive collection of Peruvian cracids and walked around the breeding center which we had arrived at by mistake. Sound recorded captive White-winged Guans. Spent from 3-6pm walking around dry scrub forest at a few km from the cracid center. Our search for scrub nightjars was abandoned because the driver was insistent that we leave so that he could drive back to Cajamarca. Night in Olmos at pleasant colonial style Hotel Romanso reached at ~6:40pm. Good dinner in hotel.

**7/3/2003:** Up at 4:15am but our driver Adriano did not arrive from Lima until 5:30am. We loaded up the roof rack on the Toyota Landcruiser and were off by about 6am. Drove to Limon to see White-winged Guan in nice tall dry forest on steep hillsides of rocky canyons. White-

winged Guan is a critically endangered species with only one population known. Road dusty, bumpy and long. Good bird flocks also present and a roosting West Peruvian Screech Owl in a hole in a stump. Left at 11am for long drive to Jaen. Stopped at Porculla Pass and walked along steep trails for approximately 2 hours at 2200-2400 m A.S.L., one of the lowest passes in the Andes. Wind meant that finding birds was hard work. Arrived at nice Hotel Prims in Jaen at ~ 8 pm.

**7/4/2003:** Started at 5:30am and headed out of town to north to Monastery road. Birding slow and birds mainly quiet all day. It got hot quickly with us being at only 500-700m A.S.L. Found endemic Chinchipe Spinetail. At another roadside site on the road to Tamborapa two of our group saw Marañon Slaty Antshrike, I did not. Lunch at a country restaurant (fried chicken) in Tamborapa. Walked up steep hillside to bird nice dry thorn forest after lunch, looked (unsuccessfully) for Marañon Crescent-chest. Headed west on small dirt road at 2:30 pm then stopped and birded tall lush forest patches in river valley. Had a diffuse flock of birds. Ashley and I saw Marañon Spinetail. Also taped in a Marañon Slaty Antshrike male, much to my relief. Back to comfortable Hotel Prims for the night.

**7/5/2003:** Left at 5:30am for Bagua Chica. Stopped after a few km for Little Inca Finch in open dry thorn scrub site with tussock grass areas. Also met Jonas Nilsson (a guide who operates out of Quito, Ecuador) with a group of 5 Hungarian birders who were squashed into a jeep. Both groups continued to Bagua Chica where we picked up some supplies for the next few days and an armed cop who escorted us to Imazita because of a risk of being robbed on the road. We stopped after a short while to bird some rice fields and freshwater marshes with a female Comb Duck present. The rest of the day was spent driving along the Marañon River valley on a very bumpy and heavily rutted road with a couple of short birding spots. Drive was approximately 8 hours. Arrived at Hotel Imazita and stayed in noisy (open construction) Hostel Cynthia.

**7/6/2003:** At 6am traveled a hundred meters or so down to the River Marañon. Boarded a motor boat along with local guide from Nueva Jerusalem. Traveled for about ½ hour downstream to Nueva Jerusalem. Greeted by the Awaruna tribe villagers. We stowed our gear in the church, a concrete-floored building with loose wooden construction and a tin roof. We hiked the trail heading away from the river, crossing a small stream on stepping stones (or wading). Forest appeared as good terra firme on hillslopes but had only small mammals present, and only one gamebird (an undulated tinamou) was heard in 3 days suggesting that the area was or is heavily hunted. The local guide and various villagers accompanied us along the trails and prepared brunch for us (rice, meat, yuca and a spicy sauce) over an open fire in a forest shelter. Lookouts over the forest from hilltops had been prepared. We found the Orange-throated Tanager in a mixed species midstory/canopy flock at about midday. The noisy calls indicated the tanagers presence. Rick Waldrop from Quito joined us at about 3pm. Dinner was in the village after washing in the stream. Rice, meat and yuca with a pleasant lemon, ginger and honey tea/drink. Slept in tents inside church, the snoring was extremely loud and prevented some from sleeping, not me.

**7/7/2003:** Walked trails in forest at Nueva 'salem all day. Similar day to yesterday but no tanagers today. Tim and I did tape up a pair of Purplish Jacamar when trying to tape in a Bluish-fronted Jacamar.

**7/8/2003:** Up at 6am. Walked trails, showing Ashley the Purplish Jacamars until 8am. Took boat back to Imazita. Drove out to Bagua Chica, again with a police escort. Reached Hotel Wilson in Bagua Chica at 7pm. Dinner at hotel. Hotel moderately noisy on square.

**7/9/2003:** Left at 5:30am for Little Inca-Finch site for Rick Waldrop. Found Inca-finches easily and after breakfast of sardines and crackers left for La Florida. Stopped at a spot to look (unsuccessfully) for Little Woodstar and arrived at La Florida at 11am. Were shown Marvelous Spatulatails in bushy area at ~1:30pm by local teenager Edilberto Bustamente Fernandez. He apparently keeps track of where to find the spatulatails. Lunch in nearby restaurant and then left at ~3:50pm for Abra Patricia (2400m A.S.L.) arriving at about 45 minutes before dusk. Dinner at Restaurante Chincita and spent the night on the floor with various species of livestock.

**7/10/2003:** Up at 5:30am and walked road to east for whole day. Birding good with lots of good flocks and a good variety of special and endemic birds. Ended up at ~ 8 km to the east of the pass close to the Amazonas/San Martin province border. Camped at roadside house with tents just a few feet from the road. It rained heavily and not much sleep was gotten. Dinner at restaurant in Aguas Verdes after drive of approximately 1 hour down the hill to the east where it was at least warm (at ~ 1200m A.S.L.).

**7/11/2003:** Up at 6 am after a rainy night with traffic noise. Worked road up to ~ 2000m A.S.L. and down to approximately ~1000m A.S.L. to east of Aguas Verdes. Rained for much of day but there were some good flocks going down the hill. I saw a Russet-mantled Softtail (endemic) in a canopy foraging flock but nobody else got on them. Equatorial Graytail (or at least a bird closely resembling this species) was seen by all but views were not satisfying. An Amazonian Umbrellabird came across the river at lunchtime in Aguas Verdes while we waited for our chicken or steak to be cooked. Had dinner in Restaurante Chinchita and then birded our way back to the campsite finding Rufous-banded Owl and Swallow-tailed Nightjar after dark.

**7/12/2003:** Up at ~6:20am after another rainy and noisy night. Tent mostly dry inside (some weren't). Drove to top of pass and birded our way back for 6 km in the rain. Took down wet tents and at ~ 11am and headed down hill to Aguas Verdes. Lunch and birding around Aguas Verdes river/restaurant until ~ 3:30pm. Found a good bird flock next to the river which Rick and I watched for over an hour. I had a fly-by Golden-collared Honeycreeper and the flock also contained a Spectacled Prickletail that Rick and I saw. Drove to Moyabamba stopping to bird the rice fields and forest patches near Rioja. Found Huallaga Tanagers, another endemic, in forest patches. Stayed at nice Hotel MarcoAntonio in Moyabamba after we protested about cheaper hotels. Saw 26 tanager species today (with tanager in the name).

**7/13/2003:** Left at 6am and drove to Tarapoto at leisurely pace. Degraded roadside forest birding. Stopped for coffee in Tarapoto then left on Yurimaguas road. Stopped for leisurely lunch at resort-like Hotel Mirador, clean and pleasant and with Koepcke's Hermit and Napo Sabrewing in the garden. Found a good antbird flock with White-plumed Antbird further along the road in forest patches that afternoon. Night in pleasant hotel in Tarapoto, again after we complained about a cheap noisy hotel we stopped at.

**7/14/2003:** Up at 5:30, birded Yurimaguas road until approximately noon. Lunch in Tarapoto then flew back from Tarapoto to Lima at 4pm. I left on a midnight flight on Delta for Atlanta arriving in San Francisco at approximately noon on the 15<sup>th</sup>.