

Trip Report

North Peru pretrip - Chiclayo area: White-winged Guan and Peruvian Plantcutter



Tumbesian dry forests holds an incredible number of endemic birds. Photo by Fernando Angulo

**24th - 28th October
2006**

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Company: Kolibri Expeditions
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Introduction

This journey was a great trip through one of the most important endemic bird areas of the world. In the four and a half days spent, we saw 153 birds species and one additional species was heard only. We observed four Peruvian endemics and four near endemics. We achieved the amazing number of 39 Tumbesian endemics out of 44 possible in the area (88.7%). We were lucky to find one Critically Endangered species (White-winged Guan), two Endangered species (Peruvian Plantcutter and Peruvian Tern) and three Vulnerable species (Henna-hooded and Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaners and Gray-breasted Flycatcher).



Tumbes Swallow, one speciality of this trip. Photo by Alasdair Hunter

We explored all the areas where one can observe Tumbesian endemics. Flat areas with scrub or mesquite forests, lower and higher foothill dry forests and high scrub above the forest line. We also visited Tinajones reservoir, an artificial lake, and Puerto Eten marshes to add a different set of aquatic birds and shorebirds. We birded in mostly sunny weather, but the numbers of birds seen is a good indicator of our efforts. Last but not least we had a good time together. Hope you like the report.



Schedule

October 24th: We started the birding trip heading northeast of Chiclayo to Bosque de Pomac mesquite forests, where we spent the morning exploring the area. We easily found Pacific Parrotlet, Short-tailed Woodstar, Necklaced Spinetail, Collared Antshrike, Peruvian Plantcutter, Tumbesian Tyrannulet, Superciliated Wren, Cinereous Finch, White-edged Oriole and many other birds. Then we drove to a dryer area where we saw a group of at least 6 Tumbes Swallows. As midday approached, we drove towards Olmos, stopping briefly near Motupe for picking up Tumbes Sparrow and the handsome Tumbes Tyrant among other birds. In the afternoon we headed north of Olmos, where we added other Tumbesian endemics to our list. We then headed for dinner and overnight in El Remanso hotel, in Olmos town.



Chapman's Antshrike. Photo by Alasdair Hunter

October 25th: Very early wake-up for the drive to Quebrada Frejolillo, passing Limon village. There we picked-up our local guide, Lino Rico, who took us to a ravine for watching the White-winged Guan, finding on the way a Pale-browed Tinamou. At the right place, Lino showed us at least seven beautiful White-winged Guans. After seeing this critically endangered cracid, we walked the trails where we got great views of Tumbes Hummingbird, Guayaquil Woodpecker, Elegant Crescentchest, Pacific Elaenia, Tumbes Pewee, White-tailed Jay, Thick-billed Euphonia, Black-capped Sparrow, White-headed and White-winged Brush-finch. Then we headed higher up on the Limon River valley. We stopped for a sunny lunch, and then we began birding, and rapidly produced Ecuadorian Trogon, Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner, Chapman's Antshrike, Gray-breasted Flycatcher, Plumbeous-backed Thrush, Gray-and-gold and Three-banded Warblers. We then headed for dinner and overnight in El Remanso hotel, in Olmos town.

October 26th: Our early departure leads us to the scrub above Limon de Porculla for some high altitude Tumbesian Endemics. Once at the birding place we were rewarded with great views of Ecuadorian Piculet, Bay-crowned Brush-finch, Gray-chinned (or Porculla)



Hermit, Black-cowled Saltator and Piura Chat-tyrant. A bonus on the trip was to find a Blue Seedeater, a bird that has been found only in a few occasions in Peru. In the afternoon we dedicated time looking for Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaner - Tumbesian endemic that we finally found in a humid ravine. Then we headed to Chiclayo, picking up Chestnut-collared Swallow on the way. We spent the night in Chiclayo.

October 27th: Again an early departure took us to the Bosque de Pomac area to look for the Rufous Flycatcher, a bird that we missed on the first day and that we were able to find this time. After Batan Grande village we crossed a large flat area on our way to Tinajones reservoir. ¿Here we found Parrot-billed and Drab Seedeaters, more Rufous Flycatchers, and one of the target birds of the day, the Sulphur-throated Finch. Accidentally we found a new population of the endangered Peruvian Plantcutter. In the afternoon in Tinajones we found Comb Duck, Chilean Flamingo, a number of Ospreys, but we missed the Black-faced Ibis. We spent the night again in Chiclayo.



Rufous Flycatcher. Photo by Alasdair Hunter

October 28th: An early drive to Puerto Eten lagoons, where we explored the small lakes and found a variety of birds including Many-colored Rush-tyrant and Plumbeous Rail. Later we made a walk along the seashore on the north part of the lagoons where we found Peruvian Tern, Peruvian Booby, Peregrine Falcon and Guanay Cormorant. We drove for lunch at Guadalupe. Here we split up. The group continued to Cajamarca to meet up with Gunnar and I returned to Chiclayo.



The Birds

Next a list of the birds seen or heard is presented. Some species are accompanied by letters, which that means the following:

Distribution:

E: Peruvian endemic – found only in Peru

N: Near endemic to Peru – mostly a Peruvian species but whose range just crosses into a neighbouring country – in this case mostly Ecuador.

T: Tumbesian endemic

Conservation status (According to IUCN/BirdLife categories):

CR: Critically Endangered

EN: Endangered

VU: Vulnerable

***:** Only heard

T Pale-browed Tinamou (*Crypturellus transfasciatus*). One bird seen on the ground on the trail in the Guan canyon on October 25th.

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*). A few seen on Tinajones reservoir on October 27th.

Peruvian Booby (*Sula variegata*). Many individuals seen on the ocean at Puerto Eten on October 28th.

Guanay Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax bougainvillii*). Several seen on the fifth day over the sea on Puerto Eten.

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*). Several seen the fourth day on Tinajones and on the fifth day on Puerto Eten.

Cocoi Heron (*Ardea cocoi*). One individual seen on Tinajones reservoir on October 27th.

Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*). Common.

Little Blue Heron (*Hydranassa caerulea*). Common.



Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*). Common.

Cattle Egret: (*Bubulcus ibis*). Numerous during the trip.

Striated Heron (*Butorides striatus*). Seen on two occasions on October 26th and 28th.

Black-crowned Night-heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). Seen at Puerto Eten on October 28th.

Chilean Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*). Several juveniles seen on Tinajones reservoir on October 27th and on Puerto Eten on the next day.

Comb Duck (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*). One individual seen on Tinajones reservoir on October 27th.

White-cheeked Pintail (*Anas bahamensis*). Big group seen on Tinajones reservoir on October 27th.

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*). Seen on Tinajones reservoir on October 27th and on Puerto Eten lagoons the day after.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*). Seen on all the days of the trip.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*). Also seen on all the days of the trip.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). Seven seen on Tinajones reservoir on October 27th and one on Puerto Eten lagoons the day after.

Pearl Kite (*Gampsonyx swainsonii*). Seen on the first and fourth days of the trip.

Savanna Hawk (*Buteogallus meridionalis*). One on Tinajones reservoir on October 27th.

Harris' Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*). Regularly recorded during the trip, being observed during three days.

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus*). One at Porculla on October 26th.

Red-backed Hawk (*Buteo polyosoma*). Recorded twice during the journey.

Crested Caracara (*Caracara plancus*). Common. Seen on four days of the trip.



Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*). We found two of them above Limon Village on October 25th. There was an adult feeding with a snake a juvenile.



Laughing Falcon. Photo by Alasdair Hunter

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). Common bird throughout the trip.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). One individual chasing shorebirds on Puerto Eten marshes on October 28th.

White-winged Guan (*Penelope albipennis*). At least seven birds seen very well in Quebrada Frejolillo on October 25th. **CR**

Plumbeous Rail (*Ortygonax sanguinolentus*). One bird well seen at Puerto Eten on October 28th.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chlorops*). Common.

Andean (Slate-colored) Coot (*Fulica ardesiaca*). Seen on Tinajones and Puerto Eten.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*). Several birds seen near Chiclayo area during the last three days of the trip.



Peruvian Thick-knee (*Burhinus superciliaris*). Found on the second day of the trip on the Limon surroundings.

American Golden-plover (*Pluvialis dominica*). Seen on Puerto Eten lagoons on the last day of the trip.

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*). Seen on Puerto Eten lagoons on the last day of the trip.

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*). Seen on Puerto Eten lagoons on the last day of the trip.

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferans*)*. Surprisingly we missed this common bird, which was only heard.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*). Common bird seen several times during the trip.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*). Seen on Puerto Eten lagoons on the last day of the trip.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*). Seen on Puerto Eten lagoons on the last day of the trip.

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*). Seen on Puerto Eten marshes on the last day of the trip.

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*). Seen on Puerto Eten marshes on the last day of the trip.

Kelp Gull (*Larus dominicanus*). Large groups seen along the coast on Puerto Eten marshes on the last day of the trip.

Gray-headed Gull (*Larus cirrocephalus*). Several seen along the coast on Puerto Eten marshes on the last day of the trip.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*). Several seen along the coast on Puerto Eten marshes on the last day of the trip.

Peruvian Tern (*Sterna lorata*). A small group of the nice tern found flying above a small marsh near Puerto Eten lagoons on the last day of the trip. **EN**



Elegant Tern (*Thalasseus elegans*). A few seen near Puerto Eten at the sea on the last day of the trip.

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*). We found this pigeon above Limon de Porculla on October 26th.

Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*). Common.

West Peruvian Dove (*Zenaida meloda*). Common.

Plain-breasted Ground-dove (*Columbina minuta*). A few seen and heard near Batan Grande town on October 27th.

Croaking Ground-dove (*Colombina cruziana*). Seen on four days of the trip.

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*). Found mainly on foothill dry forests, we saw this dove on Limon and Porculla.

T Red-masked Parakeet (*Aratinga erythrogenys*). We saw this parrot at Frejolillo ravine on October 25th and heard it two days later.

Scarlet-fronted Parakeet (*Aratinga wagleri*). We saw this species standing on trees above Limon village on October 25th.

T Pacific Parrotlet (*Forpus coelestis*). We have found this small parrot on the first four birding days.

Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*). Common.

West Peruvian Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium peruanum*). We found this small owl in quebrada Frejolillo on October 25th.

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*). Found a couple of times on coastal areas during the trip.

Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*). Seen flying on October 24th and 28th.

Gray-chinned (Porculla) Hermit (*Phaetornis griseogularis*). We found this hermit above Limon de Porculla on October 26th.



T N Tumbes Hummingbird (*Leucippus baeri*). A first quest of this bird was unproductive but the next day at the Guan Canyon we did find it and observed very well.

Amazilia Hummingbird (*Amazilia amazilia*). Common. Seen on all of our days on the north Peruvian coast.

Green-tailed Trainbearer (*Lesbia nuna*). One found above Limon de Porculla on October 26th.

Long-billed Starthroat (*Heliomaster longirostris*). One seen on the guan canyon.

Purple-collared Woodstar (*Myrtis fanny*). Several times observed during the trip.

T Short-tailed Woodstar (*Myrmia micura*). Also several times observed during the trip.



Tumbes Hummingbird and Ecuadorian Piculet, two Tumbesian Endemics well seen during the trip. Photo by Alasdair Hunter

T Ecuadorian Trogon (*Trogon mesurus*). One female seen where we got lunch above the Limon Village on October 25th.

Ringed Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquata*). We have seen it on two occasions on the trip, one on them on Tinajones.



T Ecuadorian Piculet (*Picumnus sclateri*). Another sought species that we finally found above Limon de Porculla, where we delighted with close views on October 26th.

Scarlet-backed Woodpecker (*Venilornis callonotus*). Seen at Pomac, Frejolillo and near Batan Grande.

Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Piculus rubiginosus*). One seen in the guan canyon on October 25th.

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*). Seen in the guan canyon on October 25th.

Guayaquil Woodpecker (*Campephilus gayaquilensis*). A couple well seen in the guan canyon on October 25th.

T Pacific Hornero (*Furnarius cinnamomeus*). This furnarid was a common bird on our trip being found in all the five days.

Wren-like Rushbird (*Phleocryptes melanops*). Good views of several of these birds on Puerto Eten marshes on October 28th.

T Necklaced Spinetail (*Synallaxis stictothorax*). Well seen at Pomac.

Line-cheeked Spinetail (*Cranioleuca antisiensis*). Seen at Limon de Porculla on October 26th.

T Rufous-necked Foliage Gleaner (*Syndactyla ruficollis*). After some effort trying to locate this Tumbesian endemic we finally found it in a humid ravine near Limon de Porculla. **VU**

T Henna-headed Foliage Gleaner (*Hylocryptus erythrocephalus*). Several well seen above Limon village on October 25th and another pair at Porculla. **VU**

Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetti*). Common bird of dry forests.

T Collared Antshrike (*Sakesphorus bernardi*). Seen in several occasions.

T Chapman's Antshrike (*Thamnophilus zarumae*). Well seen above Limon village on October 25th and at Porculla.

T Elegant Crescentchest (*Melanopareia elegans*). Well seen above in the guan canyon on October 25th and at Porculla.





Elegant Crescent-chest. Photo by Alasdair Hunter

E T Peruvian Plantcutter (*Phytotoma raimondii*). We saw several individuals of this bizarre bird in Pomac forests on the first day of the trip. For some considered in the Cotingas family and for some as a part of its own family (Phytotomidae). Later we found what results to be a new population of this endangered bird near Batan Grande. **EN**

Mouse-colored Tyrannulet (*Phaeomyias murina*). We saw this species above Limon de Porculla on October 26th.

T Tumbesian Tyrannulet (*Phaeomyias tumbezana*). Common along the journey, we found it on the first four days.

T Pacific Elaenia (*Myiopagis subplacens*). Found on two days of the trip.

T Gray-and-White Tyrannulet (*Pseudelaenia leucospodia*). Common.

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma obsoletum*). Very common.

Gunnar comments: Tumbesian (West Peruvian) subspecies with very different song, compared to the Amazonian populations. More than one species probably involved. So what shall we call the west-slope population if it turns out to be a good species? Western Southern Beardless Tyrannulet??? That name is longer than the bird! In the Birding Peru checklist I have called it Tumbesian Beardless Tyrannulet, but I agree this is not a very



good name either, especially as has a much wider distribution than just the Tumbesian area.

Many-colored Rush-Tyrant (*Tachuris rubrigastra*). Good views of several of this handsome tyrannid on Puerto Eten marshes on October 28th.

Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant (*Euscarthmus meloryphus*). This was a common bird of arid scrub.

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum maculatum*). We encountered with this tiny bird at Pomac on October 27th after finding the first Rufous Flycatcher.

T Grey-breasted Flycatcher (*Lathrotriccus griseipectus*). We found this Tumbesian endemic above Limon village on October 25th. **VU**

Smoke-colored Pewee (*Contopus fumigatus*). One seen at lunch time above Limon village on October 25th.

T Tumbes Pewee (*Contopus punensis*). Well seen in the guan canyon and above Limon de Porculla.

Vermillion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*). A common nice bird that we have seen on the 5 birding days.

E T Piura Chat-Tyrant (*Octhoeca piura*). Excellent views of this localized Peruvian endemic at Limon de Porculla.

E T Tumbes Tyrant (*Tumbezia salvini*). We found this extremely nice bird on our stop heading to Olmos on October 24th, obtaining good views of this shy Peruvian endemic.

Short-tailed Field-Tyrant (*Muscigralla brevicauda*). Common on three days of the trip.

E T Rufous Flycatcher (*Myiarchus semirufus*). We failed to locate this bird on the first day in Pomac, but in the second visit there, we located two and later another two near Batan Grande.

T Sooty-crowned Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*). Good views of this Tumbesian endemic on October 25th.

T Baird's Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes bairdii*). Common in Tumbesian dry forests.



Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*). Common in Tumbesian lowland dry forests.

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*). Several seen in open country.

T N Tumbes Swallow (*Tachycineta stolzmanni*). A short downhill walk took us to a site where there is a nest of this species and where we saw a group of this rare swallow passing above our heads at Pomac forests on the first day of the birding trip.

Blue-and-White Swallow (*Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*). Surprisingly we only saw this common swallow on the last day of the trip.

Chestnut-collared Swallow (*Petrochelidon rufocollaris*). We found this species that is becoming rarer along the road between Olmos and Chiclayo on October 26th.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*). We saw this swallow on the last two days of the trip. We found one big flock at the side of the road coming back from Tinajones.

Yellowish Pipit (*Anthus lutescens*). Seen on the last day of the trip near the marshes of Puerto Eten.

Fasciated Wren (*Campylorhynchus fasciatus*). Common on dry coastal areas.

Speckle-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus sclateri*). We found the Tumbes race of this bird after some playback in the Guan canyon on October 25th.

T Superciliated Wren (*Thryothorus superciliaris*). Common along the trip.

Southern House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*). Also common along the trip.

Long-tailed Mockingbird (*Mimus longicaudatus*). A common bird in dry areas. We got this species in the 100% of the days.

Chiguanco Thrush (*Turdus chiguanco*). Common at high altitude forest. We found it above Limon village and Limon de Porculla.

T Plumbeous-backed Thrush (*Turdus reevei*). We found this Tumbesian endemic at the Guan Canyon and above Limon de Porculla.

Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila plumbea*). Common in the Pacific lowlands.



T White-tailed Jay (*Cyanocorax mystacalis*). Seen on the guan canyon on October 25th.

Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*). First seen in the guan canyon day, later above Limon de Porculla.

Hooded Siskin (*Carduelis magallenica*). Seen on Quebrada Frejolillo and above Limon de Porculla.

Tropical Parula (*Parula pitiayumi*). Seen on Quebrada Frejolillo and above Limon de Porculla.

Black-lored Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis aequinoctialis*). One bird seen in Pomac on October 24th.

T Gray-and-gold Warbler (*Basileuterus fraseri*). We found this nice warbler above Limon village and later in Limon de Porculla.

T Three-banded Warbler (*Basileuterus trifasciatus*). We found this nice warbler above Limon village and later in Limon de Porculla.

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*). Seen on all the days of our trip.

Cinereous Conebill (*Conirostrum cinereum*). Common.

Highland Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga lutea*). Common nice bird.

Blue-Gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*). An even more common species than the previous one.

Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia lanirostris*). Seen on Quebrada Frejolillo and on Porculla.

Silver-backed Tanager (*Tangara viridicollis*). We found a party of this nice tanager above Limon de Porculla on October 26th.

Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus plebejus*). Common bird.

T N Cinereous Finch (*Piezorhina cinerea*). Good views in Pomac mesquite forests and near Batan Grande.



Collared Warbling-Finch (*Poospiza hispaniolensis*). Seen on three days.

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*). Observed on low scrubs on October 27th.

T Drab Seedeater (*Sporophila simplex*). Seen near Batan Grande on October 27th.

Blue Seedeater (*Amaurospiza concolor*). We found this extremely rare seedeater in a bamboo patch above Limon de Porculla. There are only two confirmed records for this species in Peru.

Parrot-billed Seedeater (*Sporophila peruviana*). Seen with the preceding species.

Saffron Finch (*Sicalis flaveola*). Common bird in the pacific lowlands.

T N Sulphur-throated Finch (*Sicalis taczanowskii*). We find this vagrant species between Batan Grande and Tinajones, well spotted by Hedda, on October 27th.

T Bay-crowned Brush-Finch (*Atalaphes seebohmi*). First seen above Limon village and later at Limon de Porculla.

Stripe-headed Brush-Finch (*Atalaphes torquatus*). Seen above Limón village before lunch time on October 25th.

White-winged Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes leucopterus*). First seen in the Guan canyon and later at Limon de Porculla.

T White-headed Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes albiceps*). Several individuals seen in the Guan canyon near Olmos on October 25th.

T Black-capped Sparrow (*Arremon abeillei*). First seen in the Guan canyon and later at Limon de Porculla.

T Tumbes Sparrow (*Aimophila stolzmanni*). We first found this species on the site where we saw the Tumbes Tyrant, and later near Batan Grande.

Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*). Seen around Limon de Porculla.

Streaked Saltator (*Saltator albicollis*). Common in Pomac, where we first saw it, later near Batan Grande.



Black-cowled Saltator (*Saltator nigriceps*). We saw this Tumbesian endemic above Limon de Porculla. We got great eye-level views of this beautiful bird.

Golden-bellied Grosbeak (*Pheucticus chrysogaster*). Common.

Peruvian Meadowlark (*Sturnella bellicosa*). Common.

Scrub Blackbird (*Dives warszewiczi*). Also a very common bird. Seen on 4 of 5 birding days.

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*). Seen on the coast only on the last two days of the trip.

T White-edged Oriole (*Icterus graceannae*). Several seen at Bosque de Pomac on the first day and in the next two days.



Peruvian Tern, one of the best birds of the trip!!!!!! Photo by Alasdair Hunter

