

Peru Cusco to Manu | Species List

October 17-31, 2022 | with Naturalist Journeys



Main Tour List Compiled by: Peg Abbott

Guide Andrea Molina, with Peg Abbott of Naturalist Journeys, and seven participants: Chuck, Andrew, Gerold, Holly, Linda, Lars and Rob.

SUMMARY: One of the truly great birding routes in the world, encompassing so many fabulous stops between sweeping mountain passes down to primary lowland rainforest - one wakes every day to a veritable explosion of bird activity. Ours was a companionable group led by All of the group contributed to spotting and put in extensive field time. We were rewarded by surprises like seeing a Harpy Eagle and ... yes, a Jaguar, down at the water's edge drinking from the Madre de Dios. We had a good laugh each time Peg announced, "this one is my new favorite tanager", for how does one sort through such avian jewelry! We worked on the skulkers and saw hummingbirds up close and personal at two new (and terrific!) gardens opened since the pandemic. We stayed at lodges where the birding never stopped unless we did, from the dawn chorus to owls. With over 400 species of birds it was difficult to choose favorites, but the Andean cock-of-the-Rock was on most of our lists, alongside Hoatzin, all of the large macaws, several of the striking hummingbirds, and for our intrepid hikers, the Gray-breasted Mountain Toucan. Finding secretive crakes and antpittas, standing in the limbs of a huge rainforest tree (atop a canopy platform) with two species of nesting kites, and listening to the calls of Horned Screamers as Giant Otter uttered their snorts beside our boats was magical. The top mammal sighting was a Jaguar – unforgettable! Finding ten species of primates was also a thrill. We added a coastal day in Lima before flying up to Cusco, including a boat trip to spot Humboldt Penguins and a host of seabirds. A wonderful, memorable journey for us all.

BIRDS:

The link to our eBird Trip Report with 424 bird species: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/94266>

MAMMALS:

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Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth *Bradypus variegatus* — (1) Seen on one day, at a garden hosted by Jonathon and Ada Puma, Pico de Hoz. Amazonian foothills.

White-mantled Tamarin *Saguinus weddelli* — (5) Fairly common in the Amazonia lowlands, around lodges and trails, highly active.

Emperor Tamarin *Saguinus imperator* — (1) Seen on eday at the Manu Wildlife Center

Toppin's Titi *Plecturocebus toppini* — (2) Lucious red fur and piercing gazes, we saw this species on two days, in the lower reaches of the Manu road and from the research station grounds.

Common Woolly Monkey *Lagothrix lagothricha* — (1) Very quick glimpses, we had multiple monkey species going through the canopy at the research station, seen from the grounds.

Bolivian Red Howler Monkey *Alouatta sara* — (1) Seen from a hummingbird garden we ascended many steps from the river edge as a break during our river travel day. Great views! Heard on three additional days while on the Madre de Dios.

Black-faced Spider Monkey *Ateles chamek* — (1) Seen along the Madre de Dios, totally striking – black with long limbs and tail, moving through the canopy.

Brown Capuchin *Sapajus apella* — (5) Quite common, seen at Cock of the Rock Lodge and then lower in elevation on later days of the trip.

Black-capped Squirrel Monkey *Saimiri boliviensis* — (6) Common, encountered at a wide range of elevations. Seen in troops, avidly feeding.

Brown Agouti *Dasyprocta variegata* — (5) Seen at four locations as we descended the Manu Road, the first at Cock of the Rock Lodge. Heard in dense lowland areas.

Capybara *Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris* — (2) Seen around the lakes areas accessed from Manu Wildlife Center, Cocha Blanco and Cocha Cumungo.

Bolivian Squirrel *Sciurus ignitus* — (2) A medium sized squirrel we encountered at two of the lodges as we descended the Manu Road.

Amazon Dwarf Squirrel *Microsciurus flaviventer* — (2) Seen around the tower and vicinity of the lakes accessed from the Manu Wildlife Center.

Montane Guinea Pig *Cavia tschudii* — (1) Seen in a lake area we birded before ascending the pass between Cusco and the descent to Manu.

Lesser (White-lined) Sac-winged Bat *Saccopteryx leptura* — (1) Seen in the lakes area on our outing by boat, lower elevation

Tayra *Eira barbara* — (1) Just incredible looks at two, at the feeders one morning at Cock of the Rock Lodge.

Giant Otter *Pteronura brasiliensis* — (2) Seen in both lakes, Cocha Blanco and Cocha Camungo, very curious about us in the boats, noisy, amazing to view!

Neotropical River Otter *Lontra longicaudis* — (1) An unusual find on our second day, by Lake Huacarapay

South American Sea Lion *Otaria byronia* — (1) Amazing views at the island off of the village of Pucusana, numerous!

Jaguar *Panthera onca* — (1) We NEVER expected to see this elusive species and our guide of decades experience was awed. We were coming into the dock to walk into Lake Cumungo, when he went past the dock, saying “look look” excitedly in Spanish while motioning us to be quiet. His voice was urgent and rightfully so, a full adult Jaguar was at the river edge drinking! It finished its drink, got up on and walked a log, then disappeared into thick brush. We were awed, speechless and no one even reached for a camera – so lightning fast. WOW.

Collared Peccary *Pecari tajacu* — (1) Seen in the foothills near one of the hummingbird gardens.

White-lipped Peccary *Tayassu pecari* — (1) Seen in the lowlands in the lakes area of Manu.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: — (7)

Yellow-headed Sideneck (Turtle) *Podocnemis unifilis* — (5) Madre de Dios, seen regularly

Spectacled Caiman *Caiman crocodilus* — (5) Seen commonly while at Manu

Black Caiman *Melanosuchus niger* — (1) Seen at Tambopata Sandoval Lake

Giant Ameiva *Ameiva ameiva* — (3) Seen on two days, moderate elevation, around lodges, locals called them Amazon Racerunners. Also seen at Sandoval Lake

House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus* — (2) Seen at two of the lowland lodges

Collared Treerunner *Plica plica* — (1) Seen from our canoes on Sandoval Lake

Spot-legged Poison Frog *Ameerega picta* — (1) Tiny, with striking lines, seen at Pico de Hoz gardens with help of the wonderful resident guides.