Central Peru, apart from the coastal area near Lima, is the least visited area of Peru by birders despite having some wonderful endemic birds and spectacular scenery. The altitude and topography present challenges but for those with time and energy the birding rewards are great.

COAST

The Andes rise steeply from the coastal plain and a series of different vegetations are found along the altitudinal gradient. There are few roads in this area of freshwater marshes with reedbeds and open water. Highlights here include Great Grebe, White-tufted Grebe, Many-coloured Rush-Tyrant and Black-necked Woodpecker. The barren coast areas have Great Inca-Finch and Thick-billed Miner and the dry forest scrub is good for Bronze-tailed Comet, Rusty-bellied Brush-Finch and the rare Oasis Hummingbird. The trails give the opportunity to find Guanay Cormorant, Red-legged Cormorant, Peruvian Pelican, Humboldt Penguin and Inca Tern. These islands are home to large colonies of seabirds including: Guanay Cormorant, Red-legged Cormorant, Peruvian Pelican, Humboldt Penguin and Inca Tern. Local fishermen offer boat trips around the island where one can see many waders, gulls and terns. The port of Callao is a good spot to see most of the speciality seabirds that breed here. Callao and Punta San Juan hold Spotted and Black-backed Storm-Petrel which allow a unique vegetation to develop which in turn supports a few endemic species such as Rusty-bellied Brush-Finch and with luck Raimondi’s Yellowfinch.

HIGHLANDS

The Santa Bárbara Biosphere Reserve on the Cordillera Blanca has a famous cave that holds a large colony of Guanay Cormorant, Red-legged Cormorant, Peruvian Pelican, Humboldt Penguin and Inca Tern. The reserve also is home to large colonies of seabirds including: Guanay Cormorant, Red-legged Cormorant, Peruvian Pelican, Humboldt Penguin and Inca Tern. Local fishermen offer boat trips around the island where one can see many waders, gulls and terns. The port of Callao is a good spot to see most of the speciality seabirds that breed here. Callao and Punta San Juan hold Spotted and Black-backed Storm-Petrel which allow a unique vegetation to develop which in turn supports a few endemic species such as Rusty-bellied Brush-Finch and with luck Raimondi’s Yellowfinch.

WEST SLOPE

The Andes rise steeply from the coastal plain out a series of different vegetations and are found in various altitudes. There are few roads in this area of freshwater marshes with reedbeds and open water. Highlights here include Great Grebe, White-tufted Grebe, Many-coloured Rush-Tyrant and Black-necked Woodpecker. The barren coast areas have Great Inca-Finch and Thick-billed Miner and the dry forest scrub is good for Bronze-tailed Comet, Rusty-bellied Brush-Finch and the rare Oasis Hummingbird. The trails give the opportunity to find Guanay Cormorant, Red-legged Cormorant, Peruvian Pelican, Humboldt Penguin and Inca Tern. These islands are home to large colonies of seabirds including: Guanay Cormorant, Red-legged Cormorant, Peruvian Pelican, Humboldt Penguin and Inca Tern. Local fishermen offer boat trips around the island where one can see many waders, gulls and terns. The port of Callao is a good spot to see most of the speciality seabirds that breed here. Callao and Punta San Juan hold Spotted and Black-backed Storm-Petrel which allow a unique vegetation to develop which in turn supports a few endemic species such as Rusty-bellied Brush-Finch and with luck Raimondi’s Yellowfinch.

CORDILLERA BLANCA

The impressive mountain range of the Cordillera blanca are use of Peru’s road network which allows and permits easy access to the area of Tingo Maria National Reserve and the Cordillera Blanca mountains. The Santa Eulalia road ascends to the forest and probably the best area for this road to Huaylas passes through dry scrub where both Masked Antpitta, Blackish Oystercatcher and Surf Cinclodes can be found. The side valley towards Yanacocha has a famous cave that holds a large colony of Guanay Cormorant, Red-legged Cormorant, Peruvian Pelican, Humboldt Penguin and Inca Tern. The impressive mountains of the Cordillera Blanca are one of Peru’s most remote and difficult birding areas.

EASTERN LOWLANDS

The rich coastal waters of the Humboldt Current teem with marine life in contrast to the desert onshore. The small fishing port of Callao is a good spot to see most of the speciality seabirds that breed here. Callao and Punta San Juan hold Spotted and Black-backed Storm-Petrel which allow a unique vegetation to develop which in turn supports a few endemic species such as Rusty-bellied Brush-Finch and with luck Raimondi’s Yellowfinch.