

ORNITHOLOGY WORKSHOP CONFIRMS INKATERRA TRAILS AS BIRDING HOTSPOTS

From February 27th to March 3rd, an ornithology workshop led by Inkaterra Explorer Guide Silverio Duri, was organized at Inkaterra Hacienda Concepción (Tambopata, Madre de Dios). This event allowed the identification of bird species belonging to the habitats found in the routes created by Inkaterra. It also evaluated Explorer Guides Alan Huisa and Luis Ortiz as ornithology specialists.

A seminar on avitourism instructed by Silverio Duri prefaced the five-day course. Day 1 started with an excursion to the bamboo forests on the way to Lake Sandoval, a water mirror and habitat of howler monkeys, caimans and giant river otters. The highlights were an Amazonian Parrotlet (*Nannopsittaca dachilleae*), a Fiery-capped Manakin (*Machaeropterus pyrocephalus*), a Johannes's Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus iohannis*) and a Flammulated Pigmy Tyrant (*Hemitriccus flammulatus*).

Inkaterra Canopy Walkway and its surroundings were saved for the second date. A system of two towers and eight hanging bridges built to study flora and fauna living in the rainforest canopy, 100 feet above the ground, Inkaterra Canopy Walkway allowed birders to see the Speckled Spinetail (*Cranioleuca gutturata*), the Black-banded Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes picumnus*) and the White-necked Puffbird (*Notharchus hyperrhynchus*),



and the Cinnamon-rumped Foliage Gleaner (*Phylidor pyrrhodes*). After having lunch at the hotel, the group left to spend the night at the ITA station in Lago Valencia, next to the Peru-Bolivia border. During the three-hour ride, flycatchers and tanagers near riverbanks performed a great birding spectacle. On the next morning, Silverio Duri spotted the Fulvous-chinned Nunlet (*Nonnula sclateri*). It was a 'lifer' for all the participants.

Before ending the course, the group practiced some birding on hotel grounds. As they took their lanterns with them, they were able to practice some 'owling'. The night brought some surprises, like the call from a Tawny-Bellied Screech Owl (*Megascops watsonii*).

Initiatives like this will constantly take place at Inkaterra's properties, to update bird inventories and study the area's potential for birdwatching, a sustainable activity that brings development to communities whilst contributing to the preservation of natural habitats.