

True Tales of a Peruvian Birding Guide

[Home](#) > [Adventure](#) > True Tales of a Peruvian Birding Guide

Dennis Osorio can tell you the exact moment he became a birding guide. It was June 5, 2005, at 6:45 am. Osorio was about to take his first training group out for some birdwatching, leaving from the Inkaterra Machu Picchu hotel.

After enjoying some hummingbirds and tanagers in the feeders, Osorio looked up into a nearby tree, and immediately spotted an Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, a Golden-headed Quetzal, and an Andean Motmot. Spying such an elusive trio in a matter of seconds confirmed to Osorio he had found his true calling.

Years later, while still working as a birding guide for Inkaterra (a Peruvian hotel group), Osorio would be asked by a visiting couple to find the exact same three birds over the course of three days. The first day, they saw an Andean Cock-of-the-Rock. The second day, the Andean Motmot. The Golden-headed Quetzal, however, remained elusive. In the final hour of the final day, as the couple prepared to start their journey home, Osorio and the couple took one last walk around the grounds. Suddenly an Andean Cock-of-the-Rock and Andean Motmot just appeared nearby, and then a Golden-headed Quetzal flew right at them, perched on a nearby tree branch, and gave them a good 30-second viewing before flying off.

"It was such a beautiful experience," Osorio says. "They [the couple] had such nice energy. That literally attracted birds! We became friends."

In Osorio's 15 years as a birding guide, he has travelled to 23 of Peru's 24 regions, and spotted over 1,100 different species of bird. He has contributed reporting some sightings like an Artic Tern in the Pacaya Samira National Reserve in the Amazon, a Long-crested Flycatcher in the Dry forest of northern Peru, and few others to the Machu Picchu Area, like the Rufous Casiornis. He has also served as Operations Director of the first International Birding competition in Peru the Birding Rally Challenge.



Peruvian Thick-knee

Not surprisingly, Osorio has had some interesting experiences in his guiding, some quite challenging. Like the time three men hired him to find three specific birds: the Andean cock of the rock, the Ocellated Piculet, and the Bootted Racquet-tail.

One thing; they had 45 minutes.

Osorio moved fast, leading the men to areas where they would be most likely to find the objects of their search. Luck was on their

side that afternoon, and the group spotted all three birds in less than 45 minutes. One of the men was so moved by this, he burst into tears.

This caused the other two men to laugh hysterically. They didn't even care about the birds, they explained to Osorio. They just tagged along to watch their friend's reaction. A successful outing for all concerned.

16/7/20

What does it take to be a successful birder? Osorio has three tips:

Have fun. "Don't just enjoy the birds," he says, "enjoy the whole experience--the food, the landscapes, the people--everything!"

Show respect. "Respect the birds, the environment, other birders, the people and their customs," Osorio says.

Expect the unexpected. Osorio is fond of saying, "We know what we're looking for, but we never know what we're going to find."

As Osorio would tell you, Peru is a birdwatchers paradise. From the coast, to the Amazon, to the Andes, Peru is home to a huge variety of fascinating and beautiful birds. When it is safe to travel again, we hope you'll come to Peru to see some yourself.

15/7/20

Recent Articles

- ▶ [A Rock Band with the Mission of Keeping Your Spirits Up](#)
- ▶ [Everyone Eats: Food Stories in the Time of a Pandemic](#)
- ▶ [Kantu Valer--Trek Star](#)
- ▶ [Photographer, Conservationist, Innovator--The Story of Heinz Plenge](#)

Sign Up for our Newsletter

Sign up to receive exclusive discounts, deals, the latest Peruvian travel trends and more


Subscribe


Find us at:

 Facebook

 Twitter

 Instagram

 Youtube

 peru.travel



© 2020 - All rights reserved.