

Machu Picchu, Peru: Extension to Manu Part II

August 20 - 25, 2006

Guide: Steve Hilty

Machu Picchu guide : Doris Valencia

At Lago Huacarpay, near Cuzco, we added waterfowl and waders, and a new dimension in flycatcher ecology—flycatchers that live on the ground and another that lives in reeds. The hotel grounds at Yucay in the Sacred Valley provided much needed respite for rest and recuperation, and were an oasis of birds, flowers, and tranquility. Our day trip to Abra Malaga was especially productive for hummingbirds and ground-tyrants, and the trip is far easier than in the past, the result of a paved road which reaches the pass. And, as we discovered, work is continuing at a furious pace beyond the high pass (where birding is all but impossible at present because of road construction).

The ruins at Machu Picchu, as always, remain impressionable, mysterious, and evocative—the more so perhaps because the history of their origin is so sketchy, and because of the absolutely incomparable location. The ruins tour, now coupled with an overnight stay at the luxurious Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel in the lush valley below, provides visitors with the best of both worlds—a world-class archaeological site and a fabulous birding location. The hotel grounds swarm with birds—hummingbirds of half a dozen species, flowerpiercers, multicolored tanagers dressed in gaudy patchwork-quilt patterns, warblers skulking in thickets, and parrots and parakeets on periodic forays up and down the valley.

This trip was a splendid contrast and conclusion to the steamy lowlands and overwhelming biological diversity of the lowland rain forest. Many threads bind our memories, among them those of high altitude giddiness; almost interminable, tortuous rocky roads; powerful rushing rivers; the trains (there always seemed to be one coming or going); colorful markets; high-pitched voices of vendors in braids and hats; bits of bright cloth; majestic ruins; ancient terrace-rimmed valleys; puna lakes shimmering beneath ultraviolet skies; swifts fluttering beside *Usnea*-draped, basaltic cliffs; sprightly tanagers in mossy woodland; and a morning dance of Shining and White-tufted sunbeams celebrating the retreat of cold shadows and frosty fingers clutching an Andean Valley. There were also children, with few words of Spanish, who posed stiffly for photographs and eagerly awaited gifts of apples, crackers, and other food items from our lunch boxes, all while cinclodes and llamas looked on from distant hillsides. This Inca land is a sensory experience—one to see, to smell, to touch, to feel, and to hear. Images of this distinctive land—its people, music, and wildlife—will be with us for years, and we hope you will return again to see more of this fascinating country.

The following list contains all of the birds seen and heard on our August 2006 Machu Picchu Extension.

KEY:

*(hd) - heard only

LIST OF BIRDS:

White-tufted Grebe	<i>Rollandia rolland</i>
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Fasciated Tiger-Heron	<i>Tigrisoma fasciatum</i>
Puna Ibis	<i>Plegadis ridgwayi</i>
Andean Goose	<i>Chloephaga melanoptera</i>
Torrent Duck	<i>Merganetta armata</i>
Speckled Teal	<i>Anas flavirostris</i>
Puna Teal	<i>Anas puna</i>
Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>
Andean Duck	<i>Oxyura ferruginea</i>
Andean Condor	<i>Vultur gryphus</i>
Cinereous Harrier	<i>Circus cinereus</i>
Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle	<i>Geranoaetus melanoleucus</i>
Puna Hawk	<i>Buteo poecilochrous</i>
Mountain Caracara	<i>Phalcoboenus magalopterus</i>
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
Plumbeous Rail	<i>Pardirallus sanguinolentus</i>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Slate-colored Coot	<i>Fulica ardesiaca</i>
Andean Lapwing	<i>Vanellus resplendens</i>
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>
Andean Gull	<i>Larus serranus</i>
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Spot-winged Pigeon	<i>Columba maculosa</i>
Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>
Bare-faced Ground-Dove	<i>Metriopelia ceciliae</i>
White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>
White-throated Quail-Dove	<i>Geotrygon frenata</i>
Mitred Parakeet	<i>Aratinga mitrata</i>
Speckle-faced Parrot	<i>Pionus tumultuosus</i>
Yungas Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium bolivianum</i>
Chestnut-collared Swift	<i>Cypseloides rutila</i>
White-tipped Swift	<i>Aeronautes montivagus</i>
Andean Swift	<i>Aeronautes andecolus</i>
Sparkling Violetear	<i>Colibri coruscans</i>
Green-and-white Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia viridicauda</i>
Speckled Hummingbird	<i>Adelomyia melanogenys</i>
Chestnut-breasted Coronet	<i>Boissonneaua matthewsii</i>
Shining Sunbeam	<i>Aglaeactis cupripennis</i>
White-tufted Sunbeam	<i>Aglaeactis castelnaudii</i>
Gould's Inca	<i>Coeligena gouldi</i>
Great Sapphirewing	<i>Pterophanes cyanopterus</i>

Giant Hummingbird	<i>Patagonia gigas</i>
Booted Racket-tail	<i>Ocreatus underwoodii</i>
Bearded Mountaineer	<i>Oreonympha nobilis</i>
Tyrian Metaltail	<i>Metallura tyrianthina</i>
Long-tailed Sylph	<i>Aglaiocercus kingi</i>
*Golden-headed Quetzal	<i>Pharomachrus auriceps</i>
Highland Motmot	<i>Momotus aequatorialis</i>
Ocellated Piculet	<i>Picumnus dorbygnianus</i>
Golden-olive Woodpecker	<i>Piculus rubiginosus</i>
Andean Flicker	<i>Colaptes rupicola</i>
Bar-winged Cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes fuscus</i>
Azara's Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis azarae</i>
Creamy-crested Spinetail	<i>Cranioleuca albicapilla</i>
Streak-throated Canastero	<i>Asthenes humilis</i>
*Wren-like Rushbird	<i>Phleocryptes melanops</i>
Streaked Xenops	<i>Xenops rutilans</i>
*Stripe-headed Antpitta	<i>Grallaria andicola</i>
Red-crested Cotinga	<i>Ampelion rubrocristata</i>
Andean Cock-of-the-rock	<i>Rupicola peruviana</i>
Highland Elaenia	<i>Elaenia obscura</i>
Sierran Elaenia	<i>Elaenia pallatangae</i>
Torrent Tyrannulet	<i>Serpophaga cinerea</i>
Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet	<i>Phylloscartes ventralis</i>
Sclater's Tyrannulet	<i>Phyllomyias sclateri</i>
Plumbeous-crowned Tyrannulet	<i>Phyllomyias plumbeiceps</i>
Tufted Tit-Tyrant	<i>Anairetes flavirostris</i>
Many-colored Rush-Tyrant	<i>Tachuris rubrigastra</i>
Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>
Cinnamon Flycatcher	<i>Pyrrhomyias cinnamomea</i>
Smoke-colored Pewee	<i>Contopus fumigatus</i>
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>
White-browed Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca leucophrys</i>
Little Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola fluviatilis</i>
Spot-billed Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola maculirostris</i>
Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola rufivertex</i>
Puna Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola juninensis</i>
White-browed Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola albilora</i>
Cinereous Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola cinereus</i>
Andean (White-winged) Negrilo	<i>Lessonia oreas</i>
White-winged Black-Tyrant	<i>Knipolegus aterrimus</i>
Golden-crowned Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes chrysocephalus</i>
Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>
Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>
Barred Becard	<i>Pachyramphus versicolor</i>
Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Notiochelidon cyanoleuca</i>
Brown-bellied Swallow	<i>Notiochelidon murina</i>
White-capped Dipper	<i>Cinclus leucocephalus</i>
Inca Wren	<i>Thryothorus eisenmanni</i>
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren	<i>Henicorhina leucophrys</i>

Chiguanco Thrush	<i>Turdus chiguanco</i>
Great Thrush	<i>Turdus fuscater</i>
Brown-capped Vireo	<i>Vireo leucophrys</i>
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>
Hooded Siskin	<i>Carduelis magellanica</i>
Olivaceous Siskin	<i>Carduelis olivacea</i>
Tropical Parula	<i>Parula pitiayumi</i>
Slate-throated Whitestart	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>
Spectacled Whitestart	<i>Myioborus melanocephalus</i>
Russet-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus coronatus</i>
Cinereous Conebill	<i>Conirostrum cinereum</i>
Capped Conebill	<i>Conirostrum albifrons</i>
Oleagineus Hemispingus	<i>Hemispingus frontalis</i>
Rust-and-yellow Tanager	<i>Thlypopsis ruficeps</i>
Silver-beaked Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>
Blue-gray Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>
Blue-and-yellow Tanager	<i>Thraupis bonariensis</i>
Fawn-breasted Tanager	<i>Pipraeidea melanonota</i>
Thick-billed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia laniirostris</i>
Orange-bellied Euphonia	<i>Euphonia xanthogaster</i>
Saffron-crowned Tanager	<i>Tangara xanthocephala</i>
Golden-naped Tanager	<i>Tangara ruficervix</i>
Blue-necked Tanager	<i>Tangara cyanicollis</i>
Beryl-spangled Tanager	<i>Tangara nigroviridis</i>
Blue-and-black Tanager	<i>Tangara vassorii</i>
Silver-backed Tanager	<i>Tangara viridicollis</i>
Peruvian Sierra-Finch	<i>Phrygilus punensis</i>
Plumbeous Sierra-Finch	<i>Phrygilus unicolor</i>
Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch	<i>Phrygilus plebejus</i>
White-winged Diuca-Finch	<i>Diuca speculifera</i>
Chestnut-breasted Mt.-Finch	<i>Poospiza caesar</i>
Black-and-white Seedeater	<i>Sporophila luctuosa</i>
Yellow-bellied Seedeater	<i>Sporophila intermedia</i>
Band-tailed Seedeater	<i>Catamenia analis</i>
Dull-colored Grassquit	<i>Tiaris obscura</i> (see comments attached)
Rusty Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa sittoides</i>
Black-throated Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa brunneiventris</i>
Masked Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossopsis cyanea</i>
Tricolored Brush-Finch	<i>Atlapetes tricolor</i>
Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch	<i>Buarremon brunneinuchus</i>
Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>
Golden-billed Saltator	<i>Saltator aurantiirostris</i>
Black-backed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus aureoventris</i>
Dusky-green Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius atrovirens</i>
Yellow-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius thilius</i>

MAMMALS:

Mountain Vizcacha (Mountain Chinchilla)	<i>Lagidium viscacia</i>
White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>

