

VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS, INC.

Machu Picchu Peru Extension Tour (Extension trip following Manu Lowlands Tour)

August 29 - September 2, 2007

Leader: Steve Hilty
Co-leader and Machu Picchu Guide: Doris Valencia

The combination of birds, scenery, and history is incomparable on this trip. The ruins, as always, remain impressionable, mysterious, and evocative—the more so perhaps because so little is known of their origins, and because of the breathtaking location. The ruins of Machu Picchu are indeed one of the world's great travel destinations, but they are, in themselves, just a brief chapter in a long and fascinating history of human occupation of the Urubamba river valley.

This short itinerary provides a dramatic contrast to the steamy lowlands and overwhelming biological diversity of the Manu Biosphere Reserve. This is a trip through high, often parched mountain valleys carved from powerful rushing rivers, a trip through high Andean grasslands and, most of all, a trip through history. This is, by all accounts, a region of colorful markets and of remarkable people dressed in distinctive but regionally varied clothing. Women carry babies, wrapped in bright blankets, on their backs. Men with broad sandal-clad feet, bent under heavy loads, move with a quick shuffling gait, all amidst majestic ruins, ancient terrace-rimmed valleys, and beside puna lakes shimmering beneath ultraviolet skies. Our route took us through traditional villages, past *Usnea*-draped basaltic cliffs, into mossy woodland inhabited by sprightly tanagers, and among deep, cold valleys where dawn comes slowly to restless hummingbirds chasing retreating shadows in endless pursuit of flowers.

Lago Huacarpay and the high puna grasslands of Abra Malaga provide an excellent cross section of high Andean birdlife, while the hotel grounds around the Machu Picchu Pueblo hotel offer an oasis of birds, flowers, and tranquility amidst a cacophony of hawkers of souvenirs, tourists, noise, and congestion in the little town of Aguas Calientes. The hotel grounds, mined to the hilt with orchids, flowering *Heliconia*, bird-of-paradise, *Centropogon*, and dozens of other flowering plants, offer hummingbirds, multicolored tanagers, and other small birds a diverse array of places to forage and seek shelter. Inca Wrens, first observed around the Machu Picchu ruins in 1965, were not formally described until 1985. Curiously, these wrens may not have been present during the years of intensive surveys and collecting following the discovery of Machu Picchu in the first half of the last century. Also, it seems that a trip into this valley below these famous ruins would not be complete without at least a glimpse of its most famous avian inhabitant, the Andean Cock-of-the-rock, whose image now adorns everything from t-shirts to luggage tags. And so,

of course, our spectacular views of this bird were like icing on an already luscious cake.

This short trip into the land of the Incas provides a complete sensory experience—one to see, to smell, to touch, to feel, and to hear. Images of this distinctive land, its people, its music, and its wildlife, we suspect, will be with you for years to come.

And lastly, we wish Doris Valencia, our unfailing and immensely knowledgeable guide, our best wishes as she completes the final trimester of her pregnancy and will soon take on yet another new role, that of mother, in her young life. Throughout this and the previous two trips, she moved with grace and dignity, remained cheerful and alert, never flagged even during long days afield, provided us with an unending stream of stories about Inca and Quechua history and tradition, and, of course, spotted more than her share of birds for us.

The following list contains the birds seen and heard on our Machu Picchu Extension from our Manu, Peru tour.

KEY:

Hd - heard

Boldface and underlined - rare, uncommon or of special interest

M or MM and F or FF - male(s) or female(s)

LIST OF BIRDS:

Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Puna Ibis	<i>Plegadis ridgwayi</i>
Torrent Duck	<u><i>Merganetta armata</i></u>
Speckled Teal	<i>Anas flavirostris</i>
Yellow-billed Pintail	<i>Anas georgica</i>
Puna Teal	<i>Anas puna</i>
Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anus cyanoptera</i>
Andean Duck	<i>Oxyura ferruginea</i>
Andean Condor	<u><i>Vultur gryphus</i></u>
Cinereous Harrier	<i>Circus cinereus</i>
Puna Hawk	<i>Buteo poecilochrous</i>
Mountain Caracara	<i>Phalcoboenus megalopterus</i>
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
Plumbeous Rail	<i>Pardirallus sanguinolentus</i>
Common Gallinule	<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>
Pectoral Sandpiper	<u><i>Calidris melanotos</i></u>

Andean Gull	<i>Larus serranus</i>
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>
Spot-winged Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas maculosa</i>
Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Columba fasciata</i>
Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>
[Bare-faced Ground-Dove	<i>Metriopelia ceciliae</i>
White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>
Andean Parakeet	<i>Bolborhynchus orbygnesi</i>
Speckle-faced Parrot	<i>Pionus tumultuosus</i>
White-tipped Swift	<i>Aeronautes montivagus</i>
Green Violetear	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>
Sparkling Violetear	<i>Colibri coruscans</i>
White-bellied Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia chionogaster</i>
Green-and-white Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia viridicauda</i>
Speckled Hummingbird	<i>Adelomyia melanogenys</i>
Chestnut-breasted Coronet	<i>Boissonneaua matthewsii</i>
White-tufted Sunbeam	<i>Aglaeactis castelnaudii</i>
Gould's Inca	<i>Coeligena coeligena</i>
Violet-throated Starfrontlet	<i>Coeligena violifer</i>
Great Sapphirewing	<i>Pterophanes cyanopterus</i>
Amethyst-throated Sunangel	<i>Heliangelus amethysticollis</i>
Giant Hummingbird	<i>Patagonia gigas</i>
Green-tailed Trainbearer	<i>Lesbia nuna</i>
Bearded Mountaineer	<i>Oreonympha nobilis</i>
Tyrian Metaltail	<i>Metallura tyrianthina</i>
Scaled Metaltail	<i>Metallura tyrianthina</i>
Ocellated Piculet	<i>Picumnus dorbygianus</i>
Andean Flicker	<i>Colaptes rupicola</i>
Bar-winged Cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes fuscus</i>
Wren-like Rushbird	<i>Phleocryptes melanops</i>
Azara's Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis azarae</i>
Creamy-crested Canastero	<i>Asthenes dorbignyi</i>
*Puna Thistletail	<i>Schizoeaca helleri</i>
Streak-throated Canastero	<i>Asthenes humilis</i>
Streaked Xenops	<i>Xenops rutilans</i>
Variable Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus caerulescens</i>
Stripe-headed Antpitta	<i>Grallaria andicola</i>
Masked Fruiteater	<i>Pipreola pulchra</i>
Andean Cock-of-the-rock	<i>Rupicola peruviana</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>
Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant	<i>Anairetes flavirostris</i>
Tufted Tit-Tyrant	<i>Anairetes parulus</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>
Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant	<i>Agriornis montana</i>
Spot-billed Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola maculirostris</i>
Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola rufivertex</i>
Puna Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola juninensis</i>
Andean Negrito	<i>Lessonia oreas</i>
White-winged Black-Tyrant	<i>Knipolegus aterrimus</i>
Golden-crowned Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes chrysocephalus</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-rumped Swallow	<i>Tachycineta leucorrhea</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>
*Andean Solitaire	<i>Myadestes ralloides</i>
White-eared Solitaire	<i>Entomodestes leucotis</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>
Thick-billed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia laniirostris</i>
Hooded Siskin	<i>Carduelis magellanica</i>
Black Siskin	<i>Carduelis atrata</i>
Tropical Parula	<i>Parula pitaiayumi</i>
Slate-throated Redstart (Whitestart)	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>
Spectacled Redstart (Whitestart)	<i>Myioborus melanocephalus</i>
Russet-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus coronatus</i>
Cinereous Conebill	<i>Conirostrum cinereum</i>
Capped Conebill	<i>Conirostrum albifrons</i>
Common Bush-Tanager	<i>Chlorospingus ophthalmicus</i>
Rust-and-yellow Tanager	<i>Thlypopsis ruficeps</i>
Highland Hepatic-Tanager	<i>Piranga lutea</i>
Blue-gray Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>
Blue-and-yellow Tanager	<i>Thraupis bonariensis</i>
Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>
[Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager]	<i>Anisognathus igniventris</i>
Saffron-crowned Tanager	<i>Tangara xanthocephala</i>
Golden-naped Tanager	<i>Tangara ruficervix</i>
Blue-necked Tanager	<i>Tangara cyanicollis</i>
Blue-and-black Tanager	<i>Tangara vassorii</i>

Silver-backed Tanager (or Silvery 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 specularis</i>
Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch	<i>Poospiza caesar</i>
Yellow-bellied Seedeater	<i>Sporophila nigricollis</i>
Band-tailed Seedeater	<i>Catamenia analis</i>
Plain-colored Seedeater	<i>Catamenia inornata</i>
Rusty Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa sittoides</i>
Black-throated Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa brunneiventris</i>
Bright-rumped Yellow-Finch	<i>Sicalis uropygialis</i>
Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>
Golden-billed Saltator	<i>Saltator aurantirostris</i>
Black-backed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus aureoventris</i>
Yellow-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius thilius</i>
Dusky-green Oropendola	<i>Psarcolius atrovirens</i>

MAMMALS

Agouti, *Agouti* sp, 1 in forest above MPPH (seen mainly by Doris Valencia)

Vizcacha, sp, seen late evening at ruins

Alpacas and llamas (long domesticated)