

**MANU PERU
BIOSPHERE RESERVE**

EXTENSION TO MACHU PICCHU

AUGUST 18-23, 2008

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

Compiled by Steve Hilty

**VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS, INC.
2525 WALLINGWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 1003
AUSTIN, TX 78746
WWW.VENTBIRD.COM**

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc.

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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 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.

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.

Key:

Hd - Asterick (*); and hd

Boldface and/or underlined - rare, uncommon or of special interest

Bracketes [] = seen only by guide(s)

List of Birds:

Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Puna Ibis	<i>Plegadis ridgwayi</i>
Torrent Duck	<i>Merganetta armata</i>
Speckled Teal	<i>Anas flavirostris</i>
Yellow-billed Pintail	<i>Anas georgica</i>
Puna Teal	<i>Anas puna</i>
Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>
Andean Condor	<i>Vultur gryphus</i>
Cinereous Harrier	<i>Circus cinereus</i>
Variable (Puna) Hawk	<i>Buteo polysoma (or poecilochrous if split)</i>
Mountain Caracara	<i>Phalacrocorax megalopterus</i>
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
*Plumbeous Rail	<i>Pardirallus sanguinolentus</i>
Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Andean (Slate-colored) Coot	<i>Fulica ardesiaca</i>
Andean Lapwing	<i>Vanellus resplendens</i>
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>
Gray-breasted Seedsnipe	<i>Thinocorus orbignyianus</i>
Andean Gull	<i>Larus serranus</i>
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>
Spot-winged Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas maculosa</i>
Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>
*White-throated Quail-Dove	<i>Geotrygon frenata</i>
Mitred Parakeet	<i>Aratinga mitrata</i>
Andean Parakeet	<i>Bolborhynchus orbynesius</i>
Speckle-faced Parrot	<i>Pionus tumultuosus</i>
White-tipped Swift	<i>Aeronautes montivagus</i>
Andean Swift	<i>Aeronautes andecolus</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>
Shining Sunbeam	<i>Aglaeactis cupripennis</i>
White-tufted Sunbeam	<i>Aglaeactis castelnaudii</i>
Gould's Inca	<i>Coeligena coeligena</i>
Great Sapphirewing	<i>Pterophanes cyanopterus</i>
Giant Hummingbird	<i>Patagonia gigas</i>
Green-tailed Trainbearer	<i>Lesbia nuna</i>
Tyrian Metaltail	<i>Metallura tyrianthina</i>
Long-tailed Sylph	<i>Agelaiocercus kingi</i>
Highland Motmot	<i>Momotus aequatorialis</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>
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>
Andean Cock-of-the-rock	<i>Rupicola peruviana</i>
[Red-crested Cotinga]	<i>Ampelion rubrocristatus</i>
Sclater's Tyrannulet	<i>Phyllomyias sclateri</i>
Plumbeous-crowned Tyrannulet	<i>Phyllomyias plumbeiceps</i>
White-crested Elaenia	<i>Elaenia albiceps</i>
Highland Elaenia	<i>Elaenia obscura</i>
Tufted Tit-Tyrant	<i>Anairetes parulus</i>
Torrent Tyrannulet	<i>Serpophaga cinerea</i>
Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet	<i>Phylloscartes ventralis</i>
Streak-necked Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes striaticollis</i>
Many-colored Rush-Tyrant	<i>Tachuris rubrigastra</i>
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>
Andean Negrilo	<i>Lessonia oreas</i>
White-winged Black-Tyrant	<i>Knipolegus aterrimus</i>
Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca rufipectoralis</i>
Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca fumicolor</i>
White-browed Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca leucophrys</i>
Puna Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola juninensis</i>
Ochre-naped Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola flavinucha</i>
Golden-crowned Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes chrysocephalus</i>
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>
Barred Becard	<i>Pachyramphus versicolor</i>
Brown-bellied Swallow	<i>Notiochelidon murina</i>
Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Notiochelidon cyanoleuca</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>
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>
Black Siskin	<i>Carduelis atrata</i>
*Tropical Parula	<i>Parula pitiayumi</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>
Oleaginous Hemispingus	<i>Hemispingus frontalis</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>
Saffron-crowned Tanager	<i>Tangara xanthocephala</i>
Blue-necked Tanager	<i>Tangara cyanicollis</i>
Silver-backed (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 speculifera</i>
Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch	<i>Poospiza caesar</i>
Band-tailed Seedeater	<i>Catamenia analis</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

Vizcacha, seen late evening at ruins
 Alpacas and llamas (long domesticated)