

MACHU PICCHU & ABRA MALAGA

Jul 16, 2011 to Jul 23, 2011
Jesse Fagan

I can easily say this is one of my favorite tours. For me, it has variety: great birds, amazing scenery, world-renowned cultural sites, and delicious food. If you want to see the best of Peru or at least what this amazing country has to offer, then this is the tour for you.

We had a fun group again this year. Amiable and ready for just about anything. The weather held out for us most days (no blinding snowstorms!), including on our memorable visit to Machu Picchu where we had clear blue skies. Not necessarily great for birding, but perfect for a visit to these famous ruins.

The birding could only be summed up as superb. We found a number of Peruvian endemics like Masked Fruiteater, Unstreaked Tit-Tyrant, and Parodi's Hemispingus, but we also ran into some other very special birds: White-rumped Hawk, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Hooded Mountain-Tanager, and Versicolored Barbet, to name a few. Bird of the trip, however, by near consensus, was the Andean Cock-of-the-rock, one male of which had his display ground right over the hotel pool in Aguas Calientes!

Thanks again to Lucretia (nice work as usual), and our local drivers. And thanks to our group! Until the next time we can enjoy some pisco sours and roasted guinea pig, BIRD ON.

--Jesse Fagan a.k.a. Motmot

We have more information about this itinerary and future departures on our web page for [Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru](#).



Moustached Flowerpiercer (Photo by guide Jesse Fagan)

KEYS FOR THIS LIST

One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

BIRDS

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

TORRENT DUCK (*Merganetta armata*) – Seen well over the first four days of the tour. A number along the Urabamba River on our way to Aguas Calientes.

CINNAMON TEAL (*Anas cyanoptera*) – Several were at the Huacarpay Lakes near Cusco.

YELLOW-BILLED PINTAIL (*Anas georgica*) – We picked up this species on the final day (at least 10 individuals) at Huapoy Lake.

PUNA TEAL (*Anas puna*) – Seen at both Huacarpay and Huapoy Lakes.

YELLOW-BILLED TEAL (*Anas flavirostris*) – Pretty common at the major lakes we visited.

RUDDY DUCK (ANDEAN) (*Oxyura jamaicensis ferruginea*) – Also, at both Huacarpay and Huapoy lakes.

Cracidae (Guans, Chachalacas, and Curassows)

ANDEAN GUAN (*Penelope montagnii*) – Seen during our walk in Mandor Valley below Machu Picchu.

Odontophoridae (New World Quail)

STRIPE-FACED WOOD-QUAIL (*Odontophorus balliviani*) [*]

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

WHITE-TUFTED GREBE (*Rollandia rolland*) – A couple were seen on Huapoy Lake.

Ardeidae (Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

FASCIATED TIGER-HERON (*Tigrisoma fasciatum*) – A couple were in the Urabamba River just outside of Agua Calientes.

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*)

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*)

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*) – The last three species were all singles while birding at Huacarpay marshes/lakes.

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

PUNA IBIS (*Plegadis ridgwayi*) – Lots seen on several days.

BLACK-FACED IBIS (BRANICKII) (*Theristicus melanopis branickii*) – Good numbers up near the pass at Abra Malaga. Nice looking ibis, as ibis go.

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

BLACK-CHESTED BUZZARD-EAGLE (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus*) – One was seen on our first day outside of Cusco at Huacarpay Lakes. A nice adult.



The approach to the high pass, Abra Malaga (Photo by guide Jesse Fagan)

CINEREOUS HARRIER (*Circus cinereus*) – At least four cruising over Huacarpay.

WHITE-RUMPED HAWK (*Buteo leucorrhous*) – A real highlight for our group (and a lifer for Jesse!). We found an adult perched on a snag above the forest way down on the east slope of Abra Malaga. We had to use the scopes to make sure what it was, but they were quite satisfying our views!

VARIABLE HAWK (*Buteo polyosoma*) – A couple around Huacarpay and the puna subspecies, "Puna Hawk," was seen up at the pass on our last day.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

MOUNTAIN CARACARA (*Phalcooboenus megalopterus*) – Loads of them in the highlands. The adults have a striking black and white pattern.

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*) – A number seen throughout the tour.

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

PLUMBEOUS RAIL (*Pardirallus sanguinolentus*) – We had these guys walking out in the open at Huacarpay. It was kind of ridiculous.

COMMON MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*)

SLATE-COLORED COOT (*Fulica ardesiaca*) – Also known as "Andean" Coot. Numerous at Huacarpay and Huapoy.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

ANDEAN LAPWING (*Vanellus resplendens*) – Common in open areas throughout the tour.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

ANDEAN GULL (*Chroicocephalus serranus*) – Hard to believe that these gulls can live at such high elevations. Often seen in large flocks feeding in agricultural fields or along sand bars in rivers.

LAUGHING GULL (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) – Dan's group had spotted this bird a few weeks before at Huapoy and Lucretia knew just where to look. A rare bird for the region.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*)

SPOT-WINGED PIGEON (*Patagioenas maculosa*) – Several as flybys while birding the west slope of Abra Malaga. We had one distant individual perched.

EARED DOVE (*Zenaida auriculata*) – Fairly common in open areas and around cities and towns.

BARE-FACED GROUND-DOVE (*Metriopelia ceciliae*) – Our only ones were at Huacarpay Lakes where they could be seen flying around the rocky cliffs.

WHITE-TIPPED DOVE (*Leptotila verreauxi*) [*]

Psittacidae (Parrots)

MITRED PARAKEET (MITRED) (*Aratinga mitrata mitrata*) – At least 50 were seen during our walk in Mandor Valley. We had them again around Aguas Calientes and the hotel.

ANDEAN PARAKEET (*Bolborhynchus orbynesius*) – We had nice looks at a group foraging on the ground on the lower portion of the west slope of Abra Malaga. Good birds to track down.

SPECKLE-FACED PARROT (*Pionus tumultuosus tumultuosus*) – We saw a number, but none better than the small group that perched just over our heads near the end of our walk in the Mandor Valley (just after seeing the puffbird!). Incredible.

Apodidae (Swifts)

WHITE-TIPPED SWIFT (*Aeronautes montivagus*) – The ones seen pretty well over Aguas Calientes.

ANDEAN SWIFT (*Aeronautes andecolus*) – Pretty good looks on the train drive to Aguas Calientes, but better looks over the hotel in Ollantaytambo.

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

SPARKLING VIOLETEAR (*Colibri coruscans*) – Pretty numerous around the hotel in Aguas Calientes. A few were coming into the feeders.

AMETHYST-THROATED SUNANGEL (*Heliangelus amethysticollis*) – A couple of birds seen well down on the east slope of Abra Malaga.

SPECKLED HUMMINGBIRD (*Adelomyia melanogenys*) [*]

GREEN-TAILED TRAINBEARER (*Lesbia nuna*) – The best look was the incredible male that visited a flowering bush at our hotel in Ollantaytambo. It hovered not two feet off the ground for several seconds. Amazing.

TYRIAN METALTAIL (*Metallura tyrianthina*) – A few seen over several days while birding both sides of Abra Malaga.

WHITE-TUFTED SUNBEAM (*Aglaeactis castelnaudii*) – Finally tracked down good looks at this species on the lower portions of the west slope of Abra Malaga. It had eluded us on our first attempt the morning before. [E]

COLLARED INCA (GOULD'S) (*Coeligena torquata omissa*) – This sharp looking hummer was visiting the feeders at our hotel in Aguas Calientes.

VIOLET-THROATED STARFRONTLET (*Coeligena violifer*) – Seen on the east slope of Abra Malaga. Not many, just



*The fantastic Sword-billed Hummingbird we saw
(Photo by guide Jesse Fagan)*

a couple.

SWORD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD (*Ensifera ensifera*) – A highlight of our birding on the east slope was this awesome hummingbird guarding his patch of large red tubular flowers. The corollas were at least 6 inches long, and no wonder his bill is sooo long!

GREAT SAPPHIREWING (*Pterophanes cyanopterus*) – A few each day of birding on the drier side of Abra Malaga.

CHESTNUT-BREASTED CORONET (*Boissonneaua matthewsii*) – One of the common hummingbirds to the feeders at Aguas Calientes.

GIANT HUMMINGBIRD (*Patagona gigas*) – We had at least three on the drier hillsides surrounding the Huacarpay lakes. A good bird and suprisingly not seen just a few weeks before.

WHITE-BELLIED WOODSTAR (*Chaetocercus mulsant*) – Just singles around Aguas Calientes including one doing an aerial display of sorts. It looked like a tiny bug in the air!

WHITE-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia chionogaster*) – The common hummingbird in the garden around our hotel in Ollantaytambo.

GREEN-AND-WHITE HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia viridicauda*) – The endemic we found at the flowering Inga trees in Aguas Calientes. [E]

Momotidae (Motmots)

ANDEAN MOTMOT (*Momotus aequatorialis aequatorialis*) – We counted a few on our train ride to Aguas Calientes.

Bucconidae (Puffbirds)

BLACK-STREAKED PUFFBIRD (*Malacoptila fulvogularis*) – A memorable moment for us was locating this limited range bird while in the Mandor Valley. It sat around for awhile, as puffbirds are inclined to do.

Capitonidae (New World Barbets)

VERSICOLORED BARBET (*Eubucco versicolor*) – A great find for the area (Mandor Valley) and a lifer for Jesse! Too bad it didn't stick around longer.

Ramphastidae (Toucans)

EMERALD TOUCANET (*Aulacorhynchus prasinus*) – I first thought this was going to be Blue-banded, but it turned out to be an Emerald, which is the rarer of the two species in the Mandor Valley. A write-in for our checklist.

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

OCELLATED PICULET (*Picumnus dorbignyanus*) – A couple in the Mandor Valley.

BAR-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis nigriceps nigriceps*) – One female was all too briefly seen while birding the east slope of AM.

GOLDEN-OLIVE WOODPECKER (*Colaptes rubiginosus*)

ANDEAN FLICKER (*Colaptes rupicola*) – Common on the drier slopes around Abra Malaga. This is a sharp looking flicker.

Furnariidae (Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers)

CREAM-WINGED CINCLODES (*Cinclodes albiventris albiventris*) – Formerly of the "Bar-winged" complex, this was the cinclodes commonly seen around Abra Malaga.

WREN-LIKE RUSHBIRD (*Phleocryptes melanops*) – A number in the Huacarpay lakes area.

WHITE-BROWED TIT-SPINETAIL (*Leptasthenura xenothorax*) – We managed to pull this endemic out of the Polylepis despite the trail being blocked. A good one! [E]

AZARA'S SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis azarae*) – A few seen and heard at Aguas Calientes and again on the east slope.

MARCAPATA SPINETAIL (*Cranioleuca marcapatae*) – Several were within the large mixed species flock we encountered down on the east slope. Another endemic! [E]

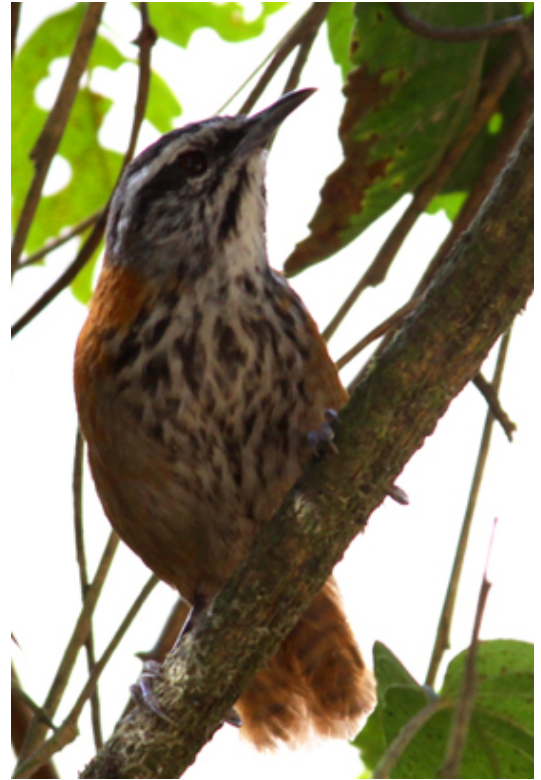
CREAMY-CRESTED SPINETAIL (*Cranioleuca albicapilla*) – Got this one as well in the Polylepis. A neat looking bird. [E]

LINE-FRONTED CANASTERO (*Asthenes urubambensis*) – One of my favorite looking canasteros.



Our group at Machu Picchu (Photo by guide Jesse Fagan)

- JUNIN CANASTERO** (*Asthenes virgata*) – We had one creeping along the bare ground and rocks just below us as we waited above the Polylepis. It came in pretty close unaware of our group watching it. Incredible. [E]
- STREAK-BACKED CANASTERO** (*Asthenes wyatti*) – We also pulled this one out on the last day, just at the pass before we had hiked up onto the ridge. It was quite responsive and offered excellent studies.
- STREAK-THROATED CANASTERO** (*Asthenes humilis*) – You've got to love these canasteros. This one was responsive, but was found in the bunch grass well below the pass (west slope).
- PUNA THISTLETAIL** (*Asthenes helleri*) – Seen nicely on the east slope. Incredible tail.
- RUSTY-FRONTED CANASTERO** (*Asthenes ottonis*) – We worked hard for this one at Huacarpay and were treated to astounding views when one bird decided to sit up in the open for several minutes. Also seen again around Abra Malaga. A Peruvian endemic. [E]
- STREAK-FRONTED THORNBIRD** (*Phacellodomus striaticeps*) – A pair were seen at Huacarpay Lakes.
- PEARLED TREERUNNER** (*Margarornis squamiger*) – Several down on the east slope.
- STREAKED TUFTEDCHEEK** (*Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii*) – This one was within the large mixed-species flock on the east slope. Love those cheeks.
- STREAKED XENOPS** (*Xenops rutilans*)
- Thamnophilidae (Typical Antbirds)*
- VARIABLE ANTSHRIKE** (*Thamnophilus caerulescens*) [*]
- Grallariidae (Antpittas)*
- STRIPE-HEADED ANTPITTA** (*Grallaria andicolus punensis*) – A fairly cooperative bird was seen singing within the short vegetation on the drier west slope of Abra Malaga.
- RUFOUS ANTPITTA** (*Grallaria rufula occabambae*) – We worked hard at this one, but alas a heard only. [*]
- Rhinocryptidae (Tapaculos)*
- TRILLING TAPACULO** (*Scytalopus parvirostris*) – Glimpsed by a few on the first day down on the east slope. Heard on the second. Typical stats for a tapaculo.
- PUNA TAPACULO** (*Scytalopus simonsi*) – Wow, we nailed this one. It was even in the scope for several people. This species prefers the short, bunch grass on the drier west slope.
- DIADEMED TAPACULO** (*Scytalopus schulenbergi*) [*]
- Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)*
- WHITE-BANDED TYRANNULET** (*Mecocerculus stictopterus*) – One was seen distantly on the east slope. It got away before everyone could appreciate it.
- WHITE-THROATED TYRANNULET** (*Mecocerculus leucophrys*) – A nice looking tyrannulet that we saw several times.
- ASH-BREASTED TIT-TYRANT** (*Anairetes alpinus*) – Just a single bird, but that's all we needed. Seen in the Polylepis forest at the pass.
- TUFTED TIT-TYRANT** (*Anairetes parulus*) – These were the cute guys we saw way down on the east slope.
- UNSTREAKED TIT-TYRANT** (*Anairetes agraphia*) – An endemic with a very limited range, but we had wonderful studies of several birds just down from the pass, but in the more humid scrub. [E]
- YELLOW-BELLIED ELAENIA** (*Elaenia flavogaster*) [*]
- WHITE-CRESTED ELAENIA** (*Elaenia albiceps*) – Numerous at Huacarpay lakes.
- SIERRAN ELAENIA** (*Elaenia pallatangae*) – One responsive bird was seen well in the clearing behind the hotel at Aguas Calientes.
- TORRENT TYRANNULET** (*Serpophaga cinerea*)
- MOTTLE-CHEEKED TYRANNULET** (*Phylloscartes ventralis*) – Pretty numerous in the Mandor Valley. Fairly common around Aguas Calientes. It's the *Phylloscartes* to learn.
- SCLATER'S TYRANNULET** (*Phyllomyias sclateri*) – Local in distribution, we had excellent studies behind the hotel in



*Inca Wren, Machu Picchu's signature bird
(Photo by guide Jesse Fagan)*

Aguas Calientes.

ASHY-HEADED TYRANNULET (*Phyllomyias cinereiceps*) – Just a single bird in the humid forest behind our hotel in Aguas Calientes. Not real memorable. :-)

MANY-COLORED RUSH TYRANT (*Tachuris rubrigastra*) – Numerous by voice at Huacarpay, we managed to get decent views at a couple of "active" individuals. They like to hang out in the tall cattail marshes.

COMMON TODY-FLYCATCHER (*Todirostrum cinereum*)

CINNAMON FLYCATCHER (*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus*) – Common around the Aguas Calientes area.

SMOKE-COLORED PEWEE (*Contopus fumigatus*) [*]

BLACK PHOEBE (WHITE-WINGED) (*Sayornis nigricans latirostris*) – The individuals in S.A. have extensive black below and white edging to the wings. A potential split?

ANDEAN NEGRITO (*Lessonia oreas*) – This little guy was seen flying around low in the clearing at Huacarpay Lake. It was one of the first birds we found outside of Cusco.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK-TYRANT (*Knipolegus aterrimus*) – Mainly females were seen.

TACZANOWSKI'S GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola griseus*) – We sorted out the ground-tyrants while birding the pass. This was the large one with a prominent supercilium. It looks very similar to Cinereous GT.

CINEREOUS GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola cinereus*) – The smaller ground-tyrant lacking the supercilium or real distinctive head pattern.

OCHRE-NAPED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola flavinucha*) – A large ground-tyrant with an obvious ochre nape. Duh!

RUFOUS-BREASTED CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca rufipectoralis*) – A nice looking bird seen a few times down on the east slope.

WHITE-BROWED CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca leucophrys*) – Around Huacarpay Lakes, in fact, just at our lunch spot.

GOLDEN-CROWNED FLYCATCHER (*Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*) – A couple of tree topping birds were seen in the forest behind our hotel in Aguas Calientes.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)



The exquisite geometry of Machu Picchu (Photo by guide Jesse Fagan)

Cotingidae (Cotingas)

BARRED FRUITEATER (*Pipreola arcuata*) – Awesome looks in the scope at a close perched individual that we called up at our picnic lunch spot on the east slope. Memorable!

MASKED FRUITEATER (*Pipreola pulchra*) – The endemic that we eventually found in the rain. Whew! [E]

RED-CRESTED COTINGA (*Ampelion rubrocristatus*) – Numerous around Abra Malaga.

ANDEAN COCK-OF-THE-ROCK (*Rupicola peruvianus*) – No better place to see this bird than at our hotel in Aguas Calientes. The male calling near the hotel pool was just craziness!

Tityridae (Tityras and Allies)

BARRED BECARD (*Pachyramphus versicolor*) – One heard, but unresponsive, in the Mandor Valley. [*]

Vireonidae (Vireos)

BROWN-CAPPED VIREO (*Vireo leucophrys*) – Heard and seen a few times around Aguas Calientes.

RED-EYED VIREO (MIGRATORY CHIVI) (*Vireo olivaceus chivi*) – Singles here and there in the Aguas Calientes area.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

BLUE-AND-WHITE SWALLOW (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*) – Common in many areas.

BROWN-BELLIED SWALLOW (*Orochelidon murina*) – The highland replacement of Blue-and-white Swallow.

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

INCA WREN (*Pheugopedius eisenmanni*) – This endemic was seen incredibly well just down from Machu Picchu. We had two or three individuals nearly hopping around at our feet. [E]

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*)

MOUNTAIN WREN (*Troglodytes solstitialis*) – A couple down on the east slope. Resembles our northern Winter Wren.
GRAY-BREASTED WOOD-WREN (*Henicorhina leucophrys*)

Cinclidae (Dippers)

WHITE-CAPPED DIPPER (*Cinclus leucocephalus*) – Seen along the Urabamba River.

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

ANDEAN SOLITAIRE (*Myadestes ralloides*) – One was singing right over our heads (eventually seen) in the Mandor Valley.

WHITE-EARED SOLITAIRE (*Entomodestes leucotis*) – Another one seen very well in the Mandor Valley. A nice plumage pattern to this species.

GREAT THRUSH (*Turdus fuscater*) – Numerous in the highland scrub around Abra Malaga.



The setting at Huacarpay Marsh (Photo by guide Jesse Fagan)

CHIGUANCO THRUSH (*Turdus chiguanco*) – The common turdid seen on tour.

GLOSSY-BLACK THRUSH (*Turdus serranus*) – One seen nicely at a fruiting tree just as we started our walk in the Mandor.

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

PARAMO PIPIT (*Anthus bogotensis*) – We had a couple at our picnic spot just below the pass (on the west slope) near the small pools of water.

Parulidae (New World Warblers)

TROPICAL PARULA (*Parula pitiayumi*)

SLATE-THROATED REDSTART (*Myioborus miniatus*) – Down here (in S.A.) they are all yellow below.

SPECTACLED REDSTART (*Myioborus melanocephalus*) – A nice looking warbler seen a few times on the east slope.

PALE-LEGGED WARBLER (*Basileuterus signatus*) – Several seen in the bamboo thickets and thick tangles in the Mandor Valley.

RUSSET-CROWNED WARBLER (*Basileuterus coronatus*) – Ditto above.

Thraupidae (Tanagers and Allies)

SLATY TANAGER (*Creurgops dentatus*) – Just a single bird seen on our walk in the Mandor.

BLACK-CAPPED HEMISPINGUS (WHITE-BROWED) (*Hemispingus atropileus auricularis*) – This can be a good tour for the Hemispingus. The next three species were all seen in the mixed-species flocks encountered on the east slope of

Abra Malaga. Parodi's is endemic and a real special bird. Surprisingly, it was the most numerous!

PARODI'S HEMISPINGUS (*Hemispingus parodii*) [E]

OLEAGINOUS HEMISPINGUS (*Hemispingus frontalis*)

RUST-AND-YELLOW TANAGER (*Thlypopsis ruficeps*) – A subtle, but nicely patterned species (at least the males!; females are just a drab yellow) seen numerous times.

CINEREOUS CONEBILL (*Conirostrum cinereum*) – Seen a couple of times.

BLUE-BACKED CONEBILL (*Conirostrum sitticolor*) – These unfortunately were seen distantly, but they were obvious even from a distance. They didn't stick around long. East slope of Abra Malaga.

TIT-LIKE DACNIS (*Xenodacnis parina*) – Heard one day and a pair seen on the next.

PLUSHCAP (*Catamblyrhynchus diadema*) – Brief looks, but it popped out a few times within the big mixed-species flock on the humid east slope. A nice looking bird.

BLUE-GRAY TANAGER (*Thraupis episcopus*) – The birds in S.A. have obvious silver edging to the wings, which creates a wing-bar effect not seen on birds further north.

PALM TANAGER (*Thraupis palmarum*) – Fairly common at the fruit feeders in Aguas Calientes.

BLUE-CAPPED TANAGER (*Thraupis cyanocephala*)

BLUE-AND-YELLOW TANAGER (*Thraupis bonariensis*) – One of the common tanagers seen on tour. Found in a variety of habitat types.

HOODED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Buthraupis montana*) – Oh yeah! A great bird seen a good ways down on the east slope. There were four birds in the group.

SCARLET-BELLIED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Anisognathus igniventris*) – The common mountain-tanager seen on the tour.

CHESTNUT-BELLIED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Delothraupis castaneiventris*) – Another great one that we eventually sorted out. ;-) At least two different individuals were seen.

SAFFRON-CROWNED TANAGER (*Tangara xanthocephala*) – Seen multiple times over several days while at Aguas Calientes.

GOLDEN-NAPED TANAGER (*Tangara ruficervix*) – All of the Tangara tanagers were seen in the Mandor Valley and/or around our hotel in Aguas Calientes. Several of these species were coming into the fruit feeders.

BLUE-NECKED TANAGER (*Tangara cyanicollis*)

BERYL-SPANGLED TANAGER (*Tangara nigroviridis*)

SILVERY TANAGER (*Tangara viridicollis*)

BLUE DACNIS (*Dacnis cayana*) – A number in the Aguas Calientes area. Several individuals were observed feeding in a tall Cecropia tree.

GOLDEN-BILLED SALTATOR (*Saltator aurantiirostris*) – A sharp looking saltator that we saw on the east slope.

Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows and Allies)

PERUVIAN SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus punensis*) – The soft gray hood and yellow body on these birds makes for a subtle, but pleasant looking species. These wandering birds were seen on the drier west slope.

PLUMBEOUS SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus unicolor*) – The common sierra-finch on the drier west slope.

CHESTNUT-BREASTED MOUNTAIN-FINCH (*Poospiza caesar*) – One of my favorites. We watched at least three birds feeding on the ground while birding just above the scrub/tree line on the west slope. [E]

BAND-TAILED SEEDEATER (*Catamenia analis*) – Not many around.

PLAIN-COLORED SEEDEATER (*Catamenia inornata*) – Just a pair we observed feeding on thistle heads in the Mandor Valley.

MOUSTACHED FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa mystacalis*) – A really nice looking bird with a tinkling little song. It was real cooperative for our group.

BLACK-THROATED FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa brunneiventris*) – Heck, all the flowerpiercers on this tour are nice looking. Most were seen on the east slope of Abra Malaga, but Rusty was also seen at our hotel in Ollantaytambo.



Unstreaked Tit-Tyrant (Photo by guide Jesse Fagan)

RUSTY FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa sittoides*)

MASKED FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa cyanea*)

CHESTNUT-CAPPED BRUSH-FINCH (*Arremon brunneinucha*) – A trio were brought up in the Mandor Valley. Their white throats were quite striking.

CUZCO BRUSH-FINCH (*Atlapetes canigenis*) – An endemic that we saw very well on the east slope. [E]

RUFOUS-COLLARED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia capensis*) – Common, seen most days.

Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)

HEPATIC TANAGER (HIGHLAND) (*Piranga flava lutea*) – A couple of birds were coming into the fruit feeders at the hotel. There has been talk of splitting this subspecies in S.A. It has different habits and calls.

Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

YELLOW-WINGED BLACKBIRD (*Agelasticus thilius*) – In the marshy areas we usually saw several.

MOUNTAIN CACIQUE (*Cacicus chrysonotus*) – Lucretia spotted this in our large mixed flock, but only one or two people got on it (I wasn't one of them!).

DUSKY-GREEN OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius atrovirens*) – Likes the humid forest around Aguas Calientes where we saw a number.

Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

THICK-BILLED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia laniirostris*) – A regular visitor to the fruit feeders.

BLUE-NAPED CHLOROPHONIA (*Chlorophonia cyanea*) – Another regular visitor to the fruit feeders. The males are stunning.

HOODED SISKIN (*Spinus magellanicus*) – The common siskin seen on this tour.

OLIVACEOUS SISKIN (*Spinus olivaceus*) – We had one in the Mandor Valley.

BLACK SISKIN (*Spinus atratus*) – Fun to finally find a small group feeding on sunflower and thistle heads near the small village on the west slope of Abra Malaga. We got them in the scope for nice studies.

MAMMALS

BROWN AGOUTI (*Dasyprocta variegata*) – We saw a couple of these things running around the compost piles behind our hotel at Aguas Calientes. The young seemed to have white streaks down their backs.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Totals for the tour: 177 bird taxa and 1 mammal taxa

