

MACHU PICCHU & ABRA MALAGA

Jul 13, 2012 to Jul 22, 2012

Jesse Fagan



A panoramic view of the magnificent Machu Picchu ruins with the Urubamba River valley far below. (Photo by guide Jesse Fagan)

This tour is one of my favorites for many reasons. It indeed has great birding, plus a visit to the world famous Machu Picchu ruins, excellent food, and nice accommodations, but Abra Malaga steals my heart and mind everytime. The view of Veronica during our hike up to the Polylepis forest, our descent into the valley, the blue skies and views of the Andes that roll on forever, and the quietness. That quietness I just love. Thanks to my fun and energetic group for sharing that moment with me. I will miss our time together: Nancy, Bill, Wanda, Ted, Lynn, Martin, Hans, and Ann-Margreth. It was a great time. Thanks to Lucretia for her excellent guiding, and thanks for allowing Rocio to come along! She too had a blast.

Birding highlights were many, but the Yungas Pygmy-Owl stole the show! Nice work team, but especially to Ted for finding that little guy. Rocio wanted to take him home! Other great birds we found included Black-and-chestnut Eagle, Andean Parakeets, an all too brief flyby Maroon-chested Ground-Dove, Bearded Mountaineer (!) and Sword-billed Hummingbird, Giant Conebill, Masked Fruiteater, Many-colored Rush-Tyrant (it ain't over until she sings!), White-winged Diuca-Finch, and Black Siskin.

Bird On. One Love.

Jesse Fagan aka Motmot

For more information about this tour, including future departures, visit our website at www.fieldguides.com. And to see this same triplist online, go to <http://www.fieldguides.com/triplists/abm12aLIST.pdf> and you will find the list in its entirety.

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)

ANDEAN GOOSE (*Chloephaga melanoptera*) – Rocio spotted three birds on the farm fields at Huaypo Lake. There was a fourth bird spotted in the water a bit further out. Not a regular bird on this tour. A good one!

TORRENT DUCK (*Merganetta armata*) – We counted around 30 on the train ride to Aguas Calientes. There were a few more in other places along the Urubamba River. A nice looking duck (both male and female).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Anas discors*) – One drake was at Huaypo Lake. Uncommon boreal migrant (Oct-Apr), but a few

hang around in the austral winter. Nice spot. Ted.

CINNAMON TEAL (*Anas cyanoptera*) – Common at Huaypo Lakes.

WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL (*Anas bahamensis*) – Ted spotted several on Huaypo Lake.

YELLOW-BILLED PINTAIL (*Anas georgica*) – Fairly common at Huacarpay and Huaypo Lakes.

PUNA TEAL (*Anas puna*) – Also fairly common at Huacarpay and Huaypo lakes.

YELLOW-BILLED TEAL (*Anas flavirostris*) – Also known as Speckled Teal (subsp. *oxyptera*). Not many on Huacarpay Lakes, but a few more in the highlands around Abra Malaga and lower down at Huaypo. Superficially similar to Yellow-billed Teal, but have much more contrasting, darker heads.

RUDDY DUCK (ANDEAN) (*Oxyura jamaicensis ferruginea*) – At least 50 or so individuals were on Huaypo Lake. Nice blue bills on the males.

Cracidae (Guans, Chachalacas, and Curassows)

ANDEAN GUAN (*Penelope montagnii*) – We had nice looks at several individuals in trees and flying across the tracks during our walk in the Mandor Valley.

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

WHITE-TUFTED GREBE (*Rollandia rolland*) – A few were around in nice (alternate) breeding plumage at Huaypo Lake.

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

FASCIATED TIGER-HERON (*Tigrisoma fasciatum*) – One was perched in a Cecropia tree along the tracks through Mandor Valley. We had another on the river.

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*) – Just two in the fields on our drive to Ollantaytambo.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) – One adult hunkered down in the marsh on our last stop before arriving into Cusco.

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

PUNA IBIS (*Plegadis ridgwayi*) – Fairly common throughout the tour.

BLACK-FACED IBIS (BRANICKII) (*Theristicus melanopis branickii*) – We had three on the east slope just over the pass, and another pair on the west slope near the pass. Nice looking birds and only found in the higher elevation grasslands and bogs.

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

ANDEAN CONDOR (*Vultur gryphus*) – A good tour for condors this year. We had at least 5 different individuals.

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

BLACK-CHESTED BUZZARD-EAGLE (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus*) – Lynn spotted one soaring over Huacarpay Lakes on our first day of birding. A sharp looking adult.

CINEREOUS HARRIER (*Circus cinereus*) – A few males and females around Huacarpay Lakes.

HARRIS'S HAWK (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) – Local in this region of Peru. We had one on our drive back to Cusco. A lifer for Lucretia!

ROADSIDE HAWK (*Buteo magnirostris*) – A trio were calling over the Machu Picchu ruins as we birded down the road. Another was seen in flight through the forest at Mandor.

VARIABLE HAWK (*Buteo polyosoma*) – A number in the highlands around Abra Malaga. The ones at the highest point could be called "Puna" Hawk, if they ever decided that is a true species.

BLACK-AND-CHESTNUT EAGLE (*Spizaetus isidori*) – A fantastic bird. An adult was seen very well soaring along the cliffs above Aguas Calientes while we waited for the bus. Incredible luck.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

MOUNTAIN CARACARA (*Phalco boenus megalopterus*) – Fairly common at different spots on the tour.

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*) – Also fairly common in the lower areas along the Sacred Valley.



The beautifully terraced grounds of Machu Picchu, complete with tourist group and a grazing llama. (Photo by tour participant Bill Denton)

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

PLUMBEOUS RAIL (*Pardirallus sanguinolentus*) – Decent looks at Huacarpay, but out-in-the-open looks at Chinchera.

COMMON GALLINULE (*Gallinula galeata*) – Pretty common at both Huacarpay and Huaypo Lakes.

SLATE-COLORED COOT (*Fulica ardesiaca*) – Most that we saw had yellow shields. The shield color varies from white, yellow, to even red.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

ANDEAN LAPWING (*Vanellus resplendens*) – Seen especially well up at the pass.

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

GREATER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa melanoleuca*) – One was along the shoreline at Huaypo Lake.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

ANDEAN GULL (*Chroicocephalus serranus*) – Lots along the Urubamba River and in the agricultural fields.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) – Every day. A city-town bird.

SPOT-WINGED PIGEON (*Patagioenas maculosa*) – Lucretia spotted one in the tree behind the hotel in Ollantaytambo. Ted and I (we determined later) had a group of 5 or 6 flyover us near the train station.

BAND-TAILED PIGEON (*Patagioenas fasciata*) – A few in the highlands around Abra Malaga.

EARED DOVE (*Zenaida auriculata*) – A few in Lima and in Cusco.

MAROON-CHESTED GROUND-DOVE (*Claravis mondetoura*) –

Ted heard this incredibly rare bamboo specialist calling up slope. We tried to draw it in with tape, which to our amazement (and later confirmation) excited the bird enough to fly to a different perch. In flight, we could clearly see the white outer tail feathers of a male. Too cool, but unfortunately we couldn't locate it again in the scopes.

BARE-FACED GROUND-DOVE (*Metriopelia ceciliae*) – Nice looks at a small group near the bus while birding at Huacarpay Lakes.

WHITE-TIPPED DOVE (*Leptotila verreauxi*) – A few were around in the forest behind the hotel in Aguas Calientes.

Psittacidae (Parrots)

MITRED PARAKEET (*Aratinga mitrata*) – Flyovers at Aguas Calientes and again a group of 20 near the pass at (4000 meters!) on the east slope.

ANDEAN PARAKEET (*Bolborhynchus orbygniesius*) – At least 5 were seen well feeding on some berries down on the west slope of Abra Malaga. Near Maxima's house! Nice spotting, Lynn.

SPECKLE-FACED PARROT (PLUM-CROWNED) (*Pionus tumultuosus tumultuosus*) – A pair were seen well in the scope while birding in the Mandor Valley.

Strigidae (Owls)

YUNGAS PYGMY-OWL (*Glaucidium bolivianum*) – BIRD OF THE TRIP!!! Nice work by everyone, but special thanks to Ted for spotting this little guy down on the edge of the bamboo. We worked hard at the tape bringing him in closer, but just when it all seemed to be lost...SUCCESS. Great looks in the scope, a lifer for all (including Hans!), and a lifer look for the leader.

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

LYRE-TAILED NIGHTJAR (*Uropsalis lyra*) [*]

Apodidae (Swifts)

WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) – Large kettling flocks were seen in Cusco and again in Aguas



A view of the dry, rocky outcrops on the west slope of Abra Malaga, home to endemics like Creamy-crested Spinetail and White-tufted Sunbeam. (Photo by guide Jesse Fagan)

Calientes.

WHITE-TIPPED SWIFT (*Aeronautes montivagus*) – The main swift around Aguas Calientes.

ANDEAN SWIFT (*Aeronautes andecolus*) – Seen on our first day along the Urubamba River. Possibly a couple (not many) were around Aguas Calientes.

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

GREEN VIOLETEAR (*Colibri thalassinus*)

SPARKLING VIOLETEAR (*Colibri coruscans*) – This was the dominant violetear seen at Aguas Calientes. Most were feeding on the Inga flowers.

AMETHYST-THROATED SUNANGEL (*Heliangelus amethysticollis*) – One male was in the large mixed-species flock down on the east slope of Abra Malaga.

SPECKLED HUMMINGBIRD (*Adelomyia melanogenys*) – One feeding low in the clearing above our hotel at Aguas Calientes. It appeared rustier on the underparts than the book illustration showed.

LONG-TAILED SYLPH (*Agelaiocercus kingi*) – A few were the gardens in Aguas Calientes. Also one in the garden at Pakaritampu.

ANDEAN HILLSTAR (*Oreotrochilus estella*)

BEARDED MOUNTAINEER (*Oreonympha nobilis*) – Fantastic looks at this endemic on the hotel grounds in Ollantaytambo. [E]

TYRIAN METALTAIL (*Metallura tyrianthina*) – A few females mainly up in the highlands around Abra Malaga.

WHITE-TUFTED SUNBEAM (*Aglaeactis castelnaudii*) – Great looks at this endemic low down on the west slope of Abra. Near Penas. We had it in the scope a few times. [E]

COLLARED INCA (GOULD'S) (*Coeligena torquata omissa*) – A sharp looking hummingbird seen well on the hotel grounds in Aguas Calientes. It was coming into the Heliconia flowers.

VIOLET-THROATED STARFRONTLET (*Coeligena violifer*) – One was in the large mixed-species flock on the east side of Abra. We had a few others briefly in flight. The large flash of rufous in the tail is obvious when they are zipping around.

SWORD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD (*Ensifera ensifera*) – One female on the east slope perched for a long time. Nice, close scope views. Incredible bill (I bet that has been said a few times in the past!).

GREAT SAPPHIREWING (*Pterophanes cyanopterus*) – One or two around on the west slope near Penas.

CHESTNUT-BREASTED CORONET (*Boissonneaua matthewsii*) – The common, and aggressive hummingbird on the feeders at Aguas Calientes.

WHITE-BELLIED WOODSTAR (*Chaetocercus mulsant*) – One female put on a performance, buzzing around like a little bee for us during our walk in the Mandor Valley.

WHITE-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia chionogaster*) – One of the more common hummingbirds on the grounds at Ollantaytambo. Very similar to the next species.

GREEN-AND-WHITE HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia viridicauda*) – This endemic was common (near abundant) in the Aguas Calientes area where they were feeding on the Inga flowers. Very similar to White-bellied, but shows less white in the tail and prefers more humid habitat. Bill is also a bit straighter, less decurved. [E]

Momotidae (Motmots)

ANDEAN MOTMOT (*Momotus aequatorialis*) – We counted a few on the train ride, but nice looks were had of one feeding near the river's edge at dusk.

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

OCELLATED PICULET (*Picumnus dorbignyanus*) – A female was seen well in the Mandor Valley.

GOLDEN-OLIVE WOODPECKER (*Colaptes rubiginosus*) – Awesome looks on the hotel grounds in Aguas Calientes. They are really different looking in South America, being more golden above than the olive-backed Central American birds. Lynn took some nice photos.

ANDEAN FLICKER (*Colaptes rupicola*) – We had a few flickers up near the pass. A sharp looking bird. Nicely patterned and a favorite of Rocio.

Furnariidae (Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers)

CREAM-WINGED CINCLODES (*Cinclodes albiventris albiventris*) – Fairly common on both slopes of Abra Malaga. We had a darker plumaged, long-billed individual that had us really thinking Royal Cincloides. However, the pale wing pattern and paler vents would rule out Royal.

WHITE-WINGED CINCLODES (*Cincludes atacamensis*) – A pair at a nest cavity were flying around the Urubamba River near the train station.

WREN-LIKE RUSHBIRD (*Phleocryptes melanops*) – A couple were in the marshes at Huacarpay Lakes. Not seen really well, but it can be a tough one to pull out.

TAWNY TIT-SPINETAIL (*Leptasthenura yanacensis*) – Seen very well in the Polylepis above the pass.

WHITE-BROWED TIT-SPINETAIL (*Leptasthenura xenothorax*) – An endemic that we had to work on a little while birding the Polylepis forest. We eventually had nice looks at a couple of different individuals. [E]

AZARA'S SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis azarae*) – A fairly common spinetail of scrubby vegetation. We had several pairs in the Mandor Valley.

MARCAPATA SPINETAIL (*Cranioleuca marcapatae*) – Nice looks at several birds tree-hopping while we birded the east slope. [E]

LINE-FRONTED CANASTERO (*Asthenes urubambensis*) – A pair approached us very closely just below the pass on the east slope. All the canasteros are behaviorally interesting and with subtle, yet pleasing plumage characteristics. This one has heavy streaking on the underparts and a bit of orange on the chin.

STREAK-BACKED CANASTERO (*Asthenes wyatti*) – An inhabitant of the puna grassland. It showed well despite a little searching in the beginning.

STREAK-THROATED CANASTERO (*Asthenes humilis*) – This canastero likes the bare rocky areas. We had several during our hike up to the Polylepis. It seems to not respond to tape from Bolivia, having its own set of calls, and I wonder if there is something different here in Peru. (????)

PUNA THISTLETAIL (*Asthenes helleri*) – Heard by all, only glimpsed by Ted.

RUSTY-FRONTED CANASTERO (*Asthenes ottonis*) – Several around the Huacarpay Lakes area. [E]

STREAK-FRONTED THORNBIRD (*Phacellodomus striaticeps*) [*]

PEARLED TREERUNNER (*Margarornis squamiger*) – A couple on the east slope.

STREAKED XENOPS (*Xenops rutilans*) – Fairly common in the humid forest around Aguas Calientes. We had several each day.

Thamnophilidae (Typical Antbirds)

VARIABLE ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus caerulescens*) – A pair darted over our heads and quickly dissolved into the thick understory vegetation. This was at the start of our walk in the Mandor Valley. They have a soft barking call.

Grallariidae (Antpittas)

STRIPE-HEADED ANTPITTA (*Grallaria andicolus punensis*) – Great looks at one individual hopping out in the open in Maxima's backyard! We had another in the Polylepis forest.

RUFOUS ANTPITTA (*Grallaria rufula occabambae*) [*]

Rhinocryptidae (Tapaculos)

TRILLING TAPACULO (*Scytalopus parvirostris*) [*]

PUNA TAPACULO (*Scytalopus simonsi*) – Seen well in the puna grassland just over the pass, but again for a few of us in the Polylepis forest. This one shows brownish tones on flanks and tail.

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

WHITE-BANDED TYRANULET (*Mecocerculus stictopterus*) – At least two were seen and heard calling on the east slope around 3500 m.

WHITE-THROATED TYRANULET (*Mecocerculus leucophrys*) – One was on the east slope.

ASH-BREASTED TIT-TYRANT (*Anairetes alpinus*) – Seen well in the Polylepis forest.



A local resident waits anxiously, wondering if Jesse will get the endemic Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch in the scope before it flies (he did!) (Photo by tour participant Bill Denton)

UNSTREAKED TIT-TYRANT (*Anairetes agraphia*) [E*]

YELLOW-BELLIED ELAENIA (*Elaenia flavogaster*) – A pair were on the hotel grounds in Aguas Calientes.

WHITE-CRESTED ELAENIA (*Elaenia albiceps*) – Fairly common around Huacarpay Lakes and less common around Aguas Calientes.

HIGHLAND ELAENIA (*Elaenia obscura obscura*) – Several were in the large mixed-species flock on the east slope. They are larger than the other possible elaenias and have more rounded heads (lacking an obvious crest).

SIERRAN ELAENIA (*Elaenia pallatangae*) – We had one calling close in the clearing above our hotel in Aguas Calientes. Eventually we saw two flitting around up slope. Darker headed than the other elaenias.

TORRENT TYRANNULET (*Serpophaga cinerea*) – A few were along the Urubamba River.

STREAK-NECKED FLYCATCHER (*Mionectes striaticollis*) – One was seen well in the humid forest behind the hotel in Aguas Calientes. We had another in the mixed-species flock on the east slope.

MOTTLE-CHEEKED TYRANNULET (*Phylloscartes ventralis*) – Fairly common in the Aguas Calientes area.

SCLATER'S TYRANNULET (*Phyllomyias sclateri*) – Quite common (at least by voice) in the Aguas Calientes area. We had good looks of one fairly low (normally a canopy species) on our Mandor walk.

ASHY-HEADED TYRANNULET (*Phyllomyias cinereiceps*) – Heard around the clearing above the hotel at Aguas Calientes. Lynn eventually spotted one fairly low above our heads. Nice looks. Rare to uncommon in the area.

MANY-COLORED RUSH TYRANT (*Tachuris rubrigastra*) – A favorite for most everyone and nearly the last bird we saw on the tour! Great looks were had in the small side marsh along the road as we headed back to Cusco. A really cool bird.

COMMON TODY-FLYCATCHER (*Todirostrum cinereum*) – A few were around in the Inga trees above the pool at our hotel in Aguas Calientes.

YELLOW-OLIVE FLYCATCHER (ANDES) (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens peruvianus*) – Seen well in the humid forest behind our hotel in Aguas Calientes. This one has the really wide, horn-colored bill. They sound very different from Central American birds. A possible split?

CINNAMON FLYCATCHER (*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus*) – A couple in the Mandor Valley and again on east slope of Abra.

SMOKE-COLORED PEWEE (*Contopus fumigatus*) – Seen well in the Mandor Valley. Heard a few more times "peep-peep-peep-peep."

BLACK PHOEBE (WHITE-WINGED) (*Sayornis nigricans latirostris*) – Numerous along the Urubamba River. This population is very black below with white edging on the wing coverts.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK-TYRANT (*Knipolegus aterrimus*) – We saw a nice male right at the start of the Machu Picchu ruins.

TACZANOWSKI'S GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola griseus*) – The large ground-tyrant with the dark eye-line seen on our hike up to the Polylepis. Very similar to Cinereous GT.

CINEREOUS GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola cinereus*) – Also seen well on our hike to the Polylepis. It is smaller than Taczanowski's and shows less contrast in the face with just the supralores showing some white.

OCHRE-NAPED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola flavinucha*) – Seen well on our hike up to the Polylepis.

RUFOUS-NAPED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola rufivertex*) – Pretty numerous around Huacarpay Lakes in the drier fields. This species is found lower down than the other ones seen on tour. The subspecies was the widespread occipitalis.

STREAK-THROATED BUSH-TYRANT (*Myiotheretes striaticollis*) – One was in the mixed-species flock on the east slope.

RUFOUS-BREASTED CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca rufipectoralis*) – Fairly common in the sub-tropical forest edge on the east slope of Abra Malaga.

BROWN-BACKED CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca fumicolor*) – Fairly common in the drier scrub on the west slope.

WHITE-BROWED CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca leucophrys*) – Seen well at Huacarpay Lakes.

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tuberculifer atriceps*) – Seen well in the large mixed-species flock on the east slope. Incredibly dark "capped" and showed no rufous in the wing coverts, very different from northern populations!

GOLDEN-CROWNED FLYCATCHER (*Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*) – One perched on the powerlines at the bus stop was unexpected! Usually a canopy bird.

STREAKED FLYCATCHER (*Myiodynastes maculatus*) – Not normally seen on our tour. Some individuals are austral migrants though some breeding does occur in Amazonia. However, our elevation of roughly 9000' was very noteworthy.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) – Fairly common in the Aguas Calientes area, but only in the open, second-growth habitat.

Cotingidae (Cotingas)

MASKED FRUITEATER (*Pipreola pulchra*) – A real highlight of the tour. This endemic was seen very well during our Mandor Valley walk when we called one up pretty close. It came back for a second look, crossing the tracks, and we had even better looks. [E]

RED-CRESTED COTINGA (*Ampelion rubrocristatus*) – Fairly common on both sides of Abra.

ANDEAN COCK-OF-THE-ROCK (*Rupicola peruvianus*) – Wanda had a male on the hotel grounds at Aguas Calientes. Unfortunately, others weren't able to catch up with it.

Tityridae (Tityras and Allies)

BARRED BECARD (*Pachyramphus versicolor*) – A pair were canopy foraging during our walk in the Mandor Valley.

Vireonidae (Vireos)

BROWN-CAPPED VIREO (*Vireo leucophrys*) – Several were singing (and one seen) during our time at Aguas Calientes.

RED-EYED VIREO (MIGRATORY CHIVI) (*Vireo olivaceus chivi*) – One or two around the hotel in Aguas Calientes. This subspecies has dark irides.

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

GREEN JAY (INCA) (*Cyanocorax yncas yncas*) [*]

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

BLUE-AND-WHITE SWALLOW (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*) – Fairly common in the lowlands and less so in the highlands.

BROWN-BELLIED SWALLOW (*Orochelidon murina*) – The common swallow species in the highlands. Good, eye-level studies were had on the east slope.

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

INCA WREN (*Pheugopedius eisenmanni*) – Nice looks at this local endemic on the road down from Machu Picchu. [E]

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*) – Common. Seen nearly every day. There was a youngster singing like a Black-throated Green Warbler on the hotel grounds in Aguas.

MOUNTAIN WREN (*Troglodytes solstitialis*) – A couple of these small arboreal wrens were seen on the east slope.

GRAY-BREASTED WOOD-WREN (*Henicorhina leucophrys*) – Mainly heard, but seen well at the start of our walk in the Mandor Valley.

Cinclidae (Dippers)

WHITE-CAPPED DIPPER (*Cinclus leucocephalus*) – A nice looking bird. They were fairly common along the Urubamba.

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

ANDEAN SOLITAIRE (*Myadestes ralloides*) – Seen well in Aguas Calientes behind the hotel and again in the Mandor Valley.

WHITE-EARED SOLITAIRE (*Entomodestes leucotis*) – A sharp looking bird. We had a responsive pair in the clearing behind the hotel in Aguas Calientes. Otherwise, we didn't really encounter them.

SLATY THRUSH (*Turdus nigriceps*) – At least three of these austral migrants were in the humid forest behind the hotel in Aguas.

GREAT THRUSH (*Turdus fuscater*) – Common around Abra Malaga in the scrubby vegetation down on the west slope.

CHIGUANCO THRUSH (*Turdus chiguanco*) – Seen every day. Common, but only in the lowlands.

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)



Birding the polylepis forest at Abra Malaga will leave you breathless- quite literally, as you'll be up over 14000 feet in elevation! (Photo by guide Jesse Fagan)

PARAMO PIPIT (*Anthus bogotensis*) – We had nice studies (and questions about the illustrations) of three birds around the bogs just over the pass. Uniformly buff below with light necklace of streaks across the breast were the strongest field marks.

Parulidae (New World Warblers)

TROPICAL PARULA (*Setophaga pitiayumi*) – Fairly common (at least by voice) in the humid forest at Aguas Calientes.

CITRINE WARBLER (*Myiothlypis luteoviridis*) – Several were on our walk in the Mandor Valley.

RUSSET-CROWNED WARBLER (*Myiothlypis coronatus*) – Again in Mandor Valley, but also in the forest behind the hotel.

SLATE-THROATED REDSTART (*Myioborus miniatus*) – Birds in South America are all yellow below, but there is an obvious cline from red in Mexico to orange in Guatemala to yellow in Costa Rica continuing into S.A.

SPECTACLED REDSTART (*Myioborus melanocephalus*) – A nice looking bird that we saw at several different locations.

Thraupidae (Tanagers and Allies)

SLATY TANAGER (*Creurgops dentatus*) – Three were in a mixed-species flock during our walk in Mandor. The females look very different from the males.

BLACK-CAPPED HEMISPINGUS (WHITE-BROWED) (*Hemispingus atropileus auricularis*) – All the individuals we saw were yellow below with the contrasting black crowns. In this plumage they can look a little like Superciliaried.

PARODI'S HEMISPINGUS (*Hemispingus parodii*) – An endemic that is locally common on the east slope. Seen very well. [E]

SUPERCILIARIED HEMISPINGUS (*Hemispingus superciliaris*) – Seen a few times, the urabambae subspecies looks very much like the yellow version of Black-capped.

OLEAGINOUS HEMISPINGUS (*Hemispingus frontalis*) – An odd name for a bird, but we saw it well in the Mandor Valley.

RUST-AND-YELLOW TANAGER (*Thlypopsis ruficeps*) – Fairly common in the Aguas Calientes area, but also again on east slope of Abra.

CINEREOUS CONEBILL (*Conirostrum cinereum*) – One on the hotel grounds that Martin and Ted saw, but also in the Polylepis forest (with Giant!).

BLUE-BACKED CONEBILL (*Conirostrum sitticolor*) – Several in the large mixed-species flock on the east slope.

CAPPED CONEBILL (*Conirostrum albifrons*) – These were around the grounds at our hotel in Aguas. Fairly common in this area.

WHITE-BROWED CONEBILL (*Conirostrum ferrugineiventre*) – Just a couple in the Abra Malaga area.

GIANT CONEBILL (*Oreomanes fraseri*) – Lynn and Martin had pretty good looks at a pair in the Polylepis. Unfortunately, they got away too fast for everyone to see. A great bird to find.

TIT-LIKE DACNIS (*Xenodacnis parina*) – A female was working the scrub near Maxima's house. Surprisingly our only one of the trip.

PLUSHCAP (*Catamblyrhynchus diadema*) – There was a pair in the bamboo at our lowest spot on the east slope. They showed for a few seconds, crossed the road, then disappeared.

BLUE-GRAY TANAGER (*Thraupis episcopus*) – Common in Aguas Calientes. Birds in S.A. show a lot of white in the wings.

PALM TANAGER (*Thraupis palmarum*) – Also coming to the feeders at the hotel in Aguas Calientes.

BLUE-AND-YELLOW TANAGER (*Thraupis bonariensis*) – Fairly common at various spots on our tour.

SCARLET-BELLIED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Anisognathus igniventris*) – Seen well on both slopes of Abra Malaga.

CHESTNUT-BELLIED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Delothraupis castaneiventris*) – We saw at least two different birds on the east slope of Abra. Superficially looks like Fawn-breasted Tanager which we also had.

FAWN-BREASTED TANAGER (*Pipraeidea melanonota*) – Nice looks at this sharp "tanager" in the large mixed-species



Another view of Machu Picchu; it's easy to understand why it was named one of the "New Seven Wonders of the World." (Photo by tour participant Bill Denton)

flock at Abra.

SAFFRON-CROWNED TANAGER (*Tangara xanthocephala*) – Bill liked this one the best. Indeed, a very pleasant looking bird. We had great looks in the Mandor Valley (feeding on flowers) and others at the hotel feeders.

GOLDEN-NAPED TANAGER (*Tangara ruficervix*) – I love those Tangara tanagers! This one was at the hotel feeders in Aguas.

BLUE-NECKED TANAGER (*Tangara cyanicollis*) – A sweet looking tanager that is thankfully fairly common at Aguas Calientes.

BLUE-AND-BLACK TANAGER (*Tangara vassorii*) – Our only ones were in the large mixed-species flock on the east slope.

SILVERY TANAGER (*Tangara viridicollis*) – Fairly common at Aguas Calientes. A poor name for this species, I think. The females look very different from the males.

BLUE DACNIS (*Dacnis cayana*) – Mainly females, but a few males were also seen. Aguas Calientes only.

GOLDEN-BILLED SALTATOR (*Saltator aurantiirostris*) – Our first was on the hotel grounds in Ollantaytambo, but more were seen around Abra Malaga.

Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows and Allies)

PERUVIAN SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus punensis*) – Maxima had this species on her yard list.

PLUMBEOUS SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus unicolor*) – Pretty common on the west slope of Abra.

ASH-BREASTED SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus plebejus*) – A bit more common than Plumbeous. Seen on the drier west slope.

WHITE-WINGED DIUCA-FINCH (*Diuca speculifera*) – Lucretia spotted this species which is not seen every year on the tour. A great bird! We had probably 8 or 9 individuals.

CHESTNUT-BREASTED MOUNTAIN-FINCH (*Poospiza caesar*) – A Peruvian endemic seen very well at Maxima's house and down lower at Penas. [E]

YELLOW-BELLIED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila nigricollis*) – A young male was in the clearing above the hotel in Aguas Calientes.

BAND-TAILED SEEDEATER (*Catamenia analis*) – A bunch were around the Huacarpay Lakes. Another was up higher near Abra Malaga.

PLAIN-COLORED SEEDEATER (*Catamenia inornata*) – At least four were in the clearing, foraging on the ground, near Maxima's house.

DULL-COLORED GRASSQUIT (*Tiaris obscurus*) – One was seen well at the start of our walk in the Mandor Valley.

BLACK-THROATED FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa brunneiventris*) – Generally, pretty common on both slopes of Abra Malaga.

RUSTY FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa sittoides*) – This species was regular at the flowers around the hotel in Ollantaytambo. It will also forage at canopy levels like the one we had in the Inga flowers in Mandor.

MASKED FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa cyanea*) – Several in various flocks on both slopes of Abra. Our first were in the early morning at Penas.

GREENISH YELLOW-FINCH (*Sicalis olivascens*) – A small flock was seen in the dry scrub along the edge of Huacarpay Lakes. We had them in the scope for a few seconds.

CHESTNUT-CAPPED BRUSH-FINCH (*Arremon brunneinucha*) [*]

WHITE-BROWED BRUSH-FINCH (*Arremon torquatus*) – Seen very well, a favorite of Rocio, down on the east slope of Abra Malaga. We studied closely the grayish supercilium and broad black chest. Several marked subspecies in this group.

CUZCO BRUSH-FINCH (*Atlapetes canigenis*) – All too briefly in a mixed-species flock on the east slope. They got away quickly. [E]

RUFOUS-COLLARED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia capensis*) – Common in the drier open areas.

Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)

BLACK-BACKED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus aureoventris*) – Several on the drier west slope of Abra Malaga and one nicely at the hotel in Ollantaytambo.

Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

YELLOW-WINGED BLACKBIRD (*Agelasticus thilius*) – Pretty common in the tall marsh grass at Huacarpay Lakes and Huapoy.

DUSKY-GREEN OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius atrovirens*) – Uncommon, but around the hotel in Aguas Calientes. A few individuals were feeding on the bananas near the pool. Love their calls!

Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

THICK-BILLED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia lanirostris*) – The common euphonia on this tour (and the only one with a yellow throat!).

BLUE-NAPED CHLOROPHONIA (*Chlorophonia cyanea*) – Lynn photographed this one near her cabin, and later the group got to see the spectacular photos! Ha ha ha.

HOODED SISKIN (*Spinus magellanicus*) – Seen on most days. The common siskin on this tour.

BLACK SISKIN (*Spinus atratus*) – Several feeding on the yellow flowers on the west slope of Abra Malaga. We had a nice male in the scope for a long period. A lifer for Hans!

MAMMALS

NORTHERN MOUNTAIN VISCACHA (*Lagidium peruanum*) – One was taking in some sun on the ruins at Machu Picchu.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Totals for the tour: 194 bird taxa and 1 mammal taxa