

MANU EXPEDITIONS

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A TRIP REPORT FOR A BIRDING TRIP TO MACHU PICCHU, ABRA MALAGA AND ABANCAY

August 10th - August 15th 2007

Trip Leader: **SILVERIO DURÍ**

With :

John Top (22 Jul - 15 Aug)

Lesley Ann Marples (22 Jul - 15 Aug)

Roger Staples (22 Jul - 15 Aug)

Jean Staples (22 Jul - 15 Aug)

Paul Couzyn (10 - 15 Aug)

Anna Maria Swanepoel (10 - 15 Aug)

This it was a short trip but very interesting because we visited few places but with interesting ENDEMIC species and unique birding spots like Machu-picchu and Abra Malaga and of course Abancay with a sprinkling of the new species, yet to be formally described . Not many species but unique! We were a diverse group of people with a little bit of difference in interests but it was a very nice ending to a trip to the Peruvian Andean habitats and a little bit of the lowland to see and feel the differences regions in just one country. Finally a wonderful birding trip.

SOME LOCALITIES WE BIRDED

Puerto Maldonado

Abancay

Ollantaytambo

Abra Malaga (Polilepis woodland and Chusquea bamboo forest)

Machu-picchu

Cusco



DAY BY DAY ACTIVITIES

August 10: Morning birding around Km 15 outside Puerto Maldonado. Early afternoon Flight to Cusco.

August 11: Abancay to Cusco (Early birding morning for the Abancay specialties). And in the afternoon to Ollantaytambo. Overnight at Ollantaytambo.

August 12: From Ollantaytambo (Full day to Polilepis Woodlands at Abra Malaga).

August 13: From Ollantaytambo (Full day on the "Chusquea bamboo forest "on the other side of the Abra Malaga pass).

August 14: Ollantaytambo to Machu-picchu (early morning to Machu-picchu ruins and in the afternoon birding along the Urubamba River.

August 15: Machu-picchu to Cusco (birding morning along the Urubamba river).

August 16: Fly back home.

THE BIRDLIST

* = Heard Only

E = Endemic to Peru.

NE = near-endemic e.g. just sneaks into NW Bolivia, SW Brazil, SW Ecuador or N. Chile.

White-tufted Grebe

One seen on the way to Ollantaytambo in a little lagoon few minutes before getting to our hotel

Andean Goose

Really good looks of 2 of them on the way back from the bamboo forest at Abra Malaga, right before getting to the pass very close to the Andean Ibis.

Torrent Duck

A total count of 17 on the way in To Machu-picchu plus some more in the afternoon and in the morning next day along the Urubamba River. Very good looks whit telescope male and females

Speckled Teal

Several of them seen by the little lagoon on the way to Ollantaytambo

Yellow-billed Pintail

Several of them by the same lagoon

Puna Teal

By the Little lagoon

Cinnamon Teal

By the Little lagoon

Snowy Egret

By the little lagoon

Little Blue Heron

By the little lagoon

Great Egret

Also by the little lagoon

Cattle Egret

In the early morning around km 15 outside of Puerto Maldonado

Puna Ibis

1 seen also by the little lagoon

Andean Ibis

Fantastic views of this species especially in the second day seen 2 of them very close on the way back from the bamboo forest of Abra Malaga

Black Vulture

Turkey Vulture

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture

Andean Condor

Seen 4 in total at Abra Malaga, 3 the first day and 1 the second day

Plumbeous Kite

Seen around km 15 outside of Puerto Maldonado

Roadside Hawk

Seen by km 15 outside of Puerto Maldonado

Variable Hawk

2 seen by Abra Malaga

Black Caracara

Seen by 15 outside of Puerto Maldonado

Mountain Caracara

Common in the highlands seen for 3 days around Abra Malaga

Rollandia Rolland

few minutes before getting to our hotel

Chloephaga melanoptera

right before getting to the pass very close to the Andean Ibis.

Merganetta armata

plus some more in the afternoon and in the morning next day along the Urubamba River. Very good looks whit telescope male and females

Anas flavirostris

Anas georgica

Anas puna

Anas puna

Anas cyanoptera

Egretta thula

Egretta caerulea

Ardea albus

Bubulcus ibis

Plegadis ridgwayi

Theristicus branickii

Coragyps atratus

Cathartes aura

Cathartes melambrotus

Bultur gryphus

Ictinia plumbea

Buteo magnirostris

Buteo Polyosoma

Daptrius ater

Phalcoboenus megalopterus

Southern Crested Caracara	Caracara cheriway
1 seen well by km 15 outside of Puerto Maldonado	
American Kestrel	Falco sparverius
Speckled Chachalaca	Ortalis guttata
Common in the lowlands few of them seen by km 15 outside of Puerto Maldonado	
Andean Guan	Penelope montagnii
1 seen at Machu-picchu the first day in the afternoon on the way back from the ruins	
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus
By the little lagoon	
Andean Coot	Fulica ardesiaca.
Also by the lagoon	
Greater Yellowlegs	Tringa melanoleuca
Lesser Yellowlegs	Tringa flavipes
Wilson's Phalarope	Steganopus tricolor
1 seen by the little lagoon	
Andean Lapwing	Vanellus resplendens
Several seen around Abra Malaga	
Andean Gull	Larus serranus
Scaled Pigeon	Columba speciosa
Commonly around the Puerto Maldonado agricultural areas	
Pale-vented Pigeon	Columba cayennensis
Common in the lowlands	
Eared Dove	Zenaida auriculata
Ruddy Ground-Dove	Columbina tapalcoti
Outside of Puerto Maldonado km 15	
Bare-faced Ground-Dove	Metriopelia ceciliae
Seen by Roger and Jean outside of the Hotel at Ollantaytambo	
White-tipped Dove	Leptotila verreauxi decipiens
One seen well at Machu Picchu	
Chestnut-fronted Macaw	Ara severa
Common small Macaw of the lowlands	
Red-bellied Macaw	Ara manilata
Likes Mauritia palms and several groups flying and few individuals on the palm tree at km 15	
Blue-headed Macaw	Ara couloni
3 of them seen well on the way to Km 15 outside of Puerto Maldonado	
Scarlet-fronted parakeet	Aratinga wagleri
Very good look of this species by Abancay especially the last group seen perch on one side of the road very close to see all the details	
Mitred Parakeet	Aratinga mitrata alticola
Good looks at two subspecies. The mitrata subspecies at Machu Picchu with the alticola together. More work may show that two species are involved.	
White-eyed Parakeet	Aratinga leucophthalmus
Seen at km 15 outside of Puerto Maldonado	
Dusky-headed Parakeet	Aratinga weddellii
Outside of Puerto Maldonado by km 15	
Andean Parakeet	Bolborhynchus orbygnesi
Very good looks at a flock of 15 or more on the way back from Abancay to Ollantaytambo	
Cobalt-winged Parakeet	Brotogeris cyanoptera cyanoptera
Common and noisy in lowland forest	
*Speckle-faced Parrot	Pionus tumultuosus tumultuosus
At Machu-picchu	
Squirrel Cuckoo	Piaya cayana
Outside of Puerto Maldonado	
Smooth-billed Ani	Crotophaga ani
By the road outside of Puerto Maldonado	
Apurimac Screech-Owl	
The noon descive spire, 1 seen in the very early morning on the other side of Abancay tawny	
Short-tailed Swift	Caesura brachyuran
Few of them by the road outside of Puerto Maldonado	
Andean Swift	Aeronauts andecolus
A lot of them seen on the way back from Abancay by where we saw the Scarlet-fronted Parakeet	

Neotropical (Fork-tailed) Palm-Swift	Tachornis squamata
Several sightseeing at km 15 outside of Puerto Maldonado	
Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift	Panyptila cayennensis
A flock of 8 from the canopy Tower on November 12th	
Green Violet-ear	Colibri thalassinus
Seen at Machu-picchu	
Sparkling Violet-ear	Colibri coruscans
Blue-tailed Emerald	Chlorostilbon mellisugus
Seen well by the road on km 15 outside of Puerto Maldonado	
Green-and-White Hummingbird (E)	Amazilia viridicauda
Peruvian endemic and a Machu Picchu speciality	
Speckled Hummingbird	Adelomyia melanogenys
Andean Hilstart	Oreotrochilus estella
Seen weel at Abra Malaga on the Polipelis Woodland	
White-tufted Sunbeam	Aglaeactis castelnaudii
1 seen well on the way back from Abra Malaga to the hotel at Ollantaytambo (a Peruvian Endemic)	
Great Sapphirewing	Pterophanes cyanopterus
1 seen by Jean around the Hotel at Ollantaytambo	
Tyrian Metaltail	Metallura tyrianthina smaragdinicollis
White-bellied Woodstar	Acestrura mulsant
1 seen from the train when the train stopped feeding outside	
"Ampay" Hummingbird	Leucippus sp
An unnamed form of Leucippus, 2 of them seen at Abancay	
White-eared Puffbird	Nystalus chacuru
2 weel seen at Abancay in the early morning went we were looking for the Apurimac Screech-Owl	
Gilded Barbet	Capito auratus
1 seen by the road on the way to km 15 outside of Puerto Maldonado	
Chestnut-eared Aracari	Pteroglossus castanotis
The common Amazonian lowland Aracari, seen some of them by km 15	
Cuvier's (White-throated) Toucan	Ramphastos tucanus
Seen by the road on the way to km 15	
Yellow-tufted Woodpecker	Melanerpes cruentatus
Seen by the road	
Little Woodpecker	Veniliornis passerinus
Also seen 2 of them by the road around km 15	
Andean Flicker	Colaptes rupicola
Seen 1 at Abra Malaga and the other one on the back from Abancay	
Bar-winged Cinclodes	Cinclodes fuscus rivularis
Common at Abra Malaga	
White-winged Cinclodes	Cinclodes atacamensis
At Abra Malaga	
Tawny Tit -spinetail (NE)	Leptasthenura yanacensis
A virtual Polylepis endemic seen at Abra Malaga, Cute!	
White-browed Tit-spinetail (E)	
Peruvian endemic restricted to Polylepis groves in the Cordillera Vilcanota. We saw 2 birds at Abra Malaga. Good bird!	
Puna Thistletail (E)	Schizoeaca helleri
1 seen well in response to playback at Abra Malaga by the bamboo forest	
Marcapata Spinetail (E)	Cranioleuca marcapatae marcapatae
One seen web at Abra Malaga in Chusquea Bamboo, a highly localized endemic (Cuzco only)	
Rusty-fronted Canastero (E)	Asthenes ottonis
One seen really well responding to playback on the way back to Our Hotel at Ollantaytambo	
Pale-tailed Canastero	Asthenes modesta
1 seen at Abancay in the early morning	
Line-fronted Canastero (NE)	Asthenes urubambansis
Seen well at Abra Malaga	
Streak-fronted Thornbird	Pacellodomus striaticeps
Seen weel a couple of individuals at Abra Mlaga	
Pearled Treerunner	Margarornis squamiger
Common in the higher Cloud forests	
Point-tailed Palmcreeper	Berlepschia rikeri

Good response from a pair at a mauritia palm stand outside Puerto Maldonado	
Streaked Xenops	Xenops rutilans
Common at Machu Picchu 2 seen the first day	
Variable Antshrike	Thamnophilus caerulescens
2 individuals at Machu Picchu	
Stripe-headed Antpitta (NE)	Grallaria andicola
Fantastic looks at a singing bird in a Polylepis bush in the Abra Malaga polylepis and also 1 on the way back from Abancay a total of 4 seen during two days	
Rufous Antpitta (NE)	Grallaria rufula occobambae
Two seen well and at Abra Malaga, by the "Chusquea" Bamboo forest This is the occobambae race of a super species that will be split into at least 7 species. The occobambae race is found in extreme southern Peru and Northern Bolivia. Peru hosts no less than 4 of the soon to be splits.	
Diademed Tapaculo (NE)	Scytalopus schulenbergi
Great looks around the bamboo forest, Abra Malaga (1)	
Puna Tapaculo (NE)	Scytalopus simonsi
One responded well at our feet in the Abra Malaga Polylepis	
*Ampay Tapaculo	
Another non describe sp, just herded because My Ipod it just got broking so we didn't have its call	
Red-crested Cotinga	Ampelion rubrocristata
1 seen on the way back from Abra Malaga	
Masked Fruiteater (E)	Pipreola pulchra
A much sought after Peruvian endemic. Stunning looks in response to playback above the bridge at Machu Picchu	
Sclater's Tyrannulet (NE)	Phyllomyias sclateri
Several looks at this tricky species at Machu Picchu	
Plumbeous - crowned Tyrannulet	Phyllomyias plumbeiceps
2 individuals at Machu Picchu	
Ashy-headed Tyrannulet	Phyllomyias cinereiceps
2 at Machu Picchu	
White-throated Tyrannulet	Mecocerculus leucophrys
A couple seen at Abra Malaga on the bamboo forest section	
Torrent Tyrannulet	Serpophaga cinerea
Always by rushing streams at Urubamba river on the way in and out to Machu-picchu	
Ash-breasted Tit-Trant (NE)	Anairetes alpinus
A near endemic found outside Peru in only one locality in Bolivia, 2 seen in the Abra Malaga Polylepis	
Bran-colored Flycatcher	Myopho fasciatus
By the road outside of Puerto Maldonado	
Black Phoebe	Sayornis nigricans latirostris
Fairly common on rushing streams at Machu Picchu, This is the southern race Sayornis nigricans latirostris. The change from the darker-winged nominate n. nigricans to the white-winged latirostris is a north-south cline, with larger amounts of white gradually appearing further south.	
Vermilion Flycatcher	Pyrocephalus rubinus
Outside of Puerto Maldonado	
Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant	Ochthoeca rufipectoralis rufipectoralis
Seen around the bamboo forest at Abra Malaga	
Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant	Ochthoeca fumicolor berlepschi
Seen at Abra Malaga	
White-browed Chat-Tyrant	Ochthoeca leucophrys
Seen on the way back from Abancay	
Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrant	Muscisaxicola rufivertex occipitalis
At Abra Malaga	
Puna Ground-tyrant	Muscisaxicola juninensis
At Abra Malaga	
Plain-capped Ground-Tyrant	Muscisaxicola alpina
Tropical Kingbird	Tyrannus melancholicus
Golden-crowned Flycatcher	Myiodynastes chrysocephalus chrysocephalus
Faily common at Machu-picchu	
Social Flycatcher	Myiozetetes similis
Great Kiskadee	Pitangus sulphuratus
Outside of Puerto Maldonado	
Andean Solitaire	Myadestes ralloides ralloides

Frequently heard both at Machu Picchu and in the Manu Cloud Forest , a couple seen at Machu-picchu	
Chiguanco Thrush	Turdus chiguanco chiguanco
Great Thrush	Turdus fuscater ockenderi
Black-billed Thrush	Turdus ignobilis
By the road around km 15	
Inca Wren (E)	Thryothorus eisenmanni
Very good looks at Abra Malaga by the Bamboo forest, so well that people where not interested to see ageing at Machu-picchu, I guess because needed to climb back up after lunch.	
House Wren	Troglodytes aedon
Common in the highlands, but also seen in the lowland , around km 15	
Mountain Wren	Troglodytes solstitialis
2 seen well by the bamboo forest at Abra Malaga	
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren	Henicorhina leucophrys
Very good look at Machu-picchu	
Blue-and-white Swallow	Notiochelidon cyanoleuca
Very common at Machu-picchu	
Andean Swallow	Stelgidopteryx andecola
Seen well on the way back from Abancay	
Olivaceous Siskin	Carduelis olivacea
Tropical Parula	Parula pitiayumi
A couple of them at Machu-picchu	
Slate-throated Whitestart	Myioborus miniatus
Spectacled Whitestart	Myioborus melanocephalus
Russet-crowned Warbler	Basileuterus coronatus
Several seen at Machu-picchu	
Rufous-collared Sparrow	Zonotrichia capensis
Yellow-browed Sparrow	Ammodramus aurifrons
Common in open areas in the lowlands	
Cinereous Conebill	Conirostrum cinereum cinereum
White-browed Conebill (NE)	Conirostrum ferrugineiventre
A super bird, Common at treeline at Abra Malaga	
Magpie Tanager	Cissopis leveriana
Around km 15 outside of Puerto Maldonado	
Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager	Chlorospingus flavigularis flavigularis
Common at Machu-picchu	
Parodi's Hemispingus (E)	Hemispingus parody
Good views of at least 5 in a group at Abra Malaga, the only place you can realistically see this rare endemic.	
Superciliaried Hemispingus	Hemispingus superciliaris
Fairly common at Pillahuata	
Slaty Tanager (NE)	Creurgops dentata
Fairy regular in flocks at Machu Picchu	
Silver-beaked Tanager	Ramphocelus carbo
By km 15 Around Puerto Maldonado	
Blue-Gray Tanager	Thraupis episcopus
Palm Tanager	Thraupis palmarum
Blue-capped Tanager	Thraupis cyanocephala
Common around Puillahuata camp.	
Blue-and-yellow Tanager	Thraupis bonariensis
Seen a couple of them on the way back from Abancay	
Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager	Anisognathus igniventris igniventris
Seen 2 of them at Abra Malaga by the bamboo forest	
Thick-billed Euphonia	Euphonia laniirostris
Only at Machu Picchu where it occurs at a surprising 2000 meters altitude	
Paradise Tanager	Tangara chilensis
Seen by the road around km 15 outside of Puerto Maldonado	
Saffron-crowned Tanager	Tangara xanthocephala lamprotis
Another Christams Tree ornament. In most Cloud Forest mixed flocks seen at Machu-picchu	
Blue-and-black Tanager	Tangara vassorii atrocaerulea
Seen 1 at Machu-picchu Just Jhon and me	
Silver-backed Tanager (NE)	Tangara viridicollis viridicollis

At Machu Picchu - seems to be a guaranteed site here

Tit-like Dacnis

2 of this strange bird seen at treeline at Abra Malaga, Feeds on aphids found exclusively on *Gnoxys* bushes

Peruvian Sierra-Finch (NE)

Seen at Abra Malaga

Plumbeous Sierra-Finch

Common around the Polylepis at Abra Malaga

Band-tailed Sierra-finch

Seen on the way back from Abancay

Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch (E)

Limited range endemic found only in the Departments of Cusco and Puno 2 seen around Abancay

Blue-black Grassquit

Snuck onto the list near Puerto Maldonado

Dull-colored Grassquit

A couple at Machu Picchu, A recent addition to the list and not in the book

Moustached Flower-piercer (NE)

Common near treeline at Abra Malaga

Black-throated Flower-piercer

Black-backed Grosbeak

Seen a couple at Abancay and and 1 more at Ollantaytambo by the Hotel

Grayish Saltator

Around km 15 outside of Puerto Maldonado

Golden-billed Saltator

Around Abancay

Crested Oropendola

Dusky-green Oropendola (NE)

1 seen at machu-picchu

Russet-backed Oropendola

Yellow-rumped Cacique

Along the road on the way to km 15 outside of Puerto Maldonado

Red-breasted Blackbird

To be exactly this species we saw it at Km 15 on 1 of the Cattle ranch, very good looks

Xenodacnis parina

Feeds on aphids found exclusively on *Gnoxys* bushes

Phrygilus punensis

Phrygilus unicolor

Phrygilus alaudinus

Poospiza caesar

2 seen around Abancay

Volatinia jacarina

Tiaris obscura

and not in the book

Diglossa mystacalis albilinear

Diglossa brunneiventris

Pheucticus chrysogaster

by the Hotel

Saltator coerulescens

Saltator aurantiirostris albociliaris

Psarocolius decumanus maculosus

Psarocolius atrovirens

Psarocolius angustifrons alfredi

Cacicus cela

Sturnella militaris

A Grand Total of 154 species of which 2 were heard only, 9 were endemics and 13 near-endemics.

The Mammal List

Mountain Viscacha

2 of them seen at Abra Malaga but just by Lesley and me

Lagidium Peruanum

The Reptile List

Non reptiles