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A TRIP REPORT FOR A BIRDING TRIP TO THE MACHU PICCHU AND ABRA MALAGA

Aug 8th – Aug 12th 2014

Trip Leader: **Gustavo Bautista**

BIRDING LOCALITIES

Lago Piuray (lake): 13°24'55.3"S 72°01'57.8"W (3690m)
Hotel Pakaritampu: 13°15'44.65"S 72°16'3.28"W (2815m)
Machu Picchu Ruins 13°09'48.98"S 72°32'46.20"W (2950m)
Ferrocarril (Aguas Calientes to Mandor) 13°09'00.6"S 72°32'09.8"W (2050m)
Abra Malaga: *Polylepis* forest west slope 13° 8'36.72"S 72°18'16.10"W (4435m)
Abra Malaga: East slope cloud forest S 13 06 943 W 072 20 433 (2632m)
Carretera 28B--Peñas: 13°10'19.58"S 72°17'9.69"W (3576m)
Laguna Huaypo (lake): 13°24'05.6"S 72°07'42.2"W (3510m)

DAY BY DAY ACTIVITIES

August 08th: Afternoon flight from Puerto Maldonado to Cusco and right away continue our journey to Ollantaytambo with a stop at Lago Piuray. Night at the Pakaritampu Hotel.

August 09th: Ollantaytambo to Machu-Picchu (Aguas Calientes); after we arrived we met our local guide Vilma to do the tour of the Inca Archaeological Site after the tour we had lunch and right after lunch we went birding on the way to the "Sungate" and later along the Urubamba River and all the way back to our Hotel. Overnight at Aguas Caliente bellow Machu-Picchu (El Mapi Hotel).

August 10th: Early breakfast, then we headed along the railway track in direction to Mandor by the Urubamba River where we got some of our missing targets and then back to Aguas Calientes town for lunch and after lunch just a bit of birding on the upper area of Aguas Calientes and finally we just waited for our train to take us back to Ollantaytambo. Overnight at Pakaritampu Hotel.

August 11th: Abra Malaga *Polylepis* woodlands (west slope). Night at Pakaritampu Hotel.

August 12th: Abra Malaga east slope (cloud forest) and then later in the afternoon a stop at Laguna Huaypo, then continue our trip to Cusco, check-in at the Casa Andina Plaza Hotel; and a good dinner outside of the Hotel and very nice music and dance show at the restaurant.

The Key to the Bird list

RED – IUCN RED LIST CATEGORY

SACC = South American Classification Committee

IOC = International Ornithological Congress

+ eBird/Clements (Taxonomic order)

RR = Range restricted species

E = Peruvian Endemic

*** = Heard Only**

THE BIRDLIST

DUCKS

Andean Goose – *Chloephaga melanoptera*

Seen at Lago Piuray and at Abra Malaga.

Torrent Duck - *Merganetta armata turneri*

Fantastic views along the Urubamba River on our way in and out to Machu-Picchu, also seen many times along the Urubamba River when going by train.

Cinnamon Teal - *Anas cyanoptera*

Common.

White-cheeked Pintail – *Anas bahamensis*

One individual seen at Lago Piuray.

Yellow-billed Pintail - *Anas geórgica*

Seen at Lago Piuray and Laguna Huaypo.

Puna Teal - *Anas puna*

Common.

Yellow-billed Teal (*oxyptera*) - *Anas flavirostris*

Seen at Lago Piuray, Abra Malaga, and common at Laguna Huaypo.

Ruddy Duck (Andean) – *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Seen at Laguna Huaypo.

GUANS

Andean Guan – *Penelope montagnii*

Seen at Machu Picchu on our way to the Sungate and also on our way to Mandor. Penelope was a princess in Greek mythology, daughter of Icarus and wife of Ulysses.

GREBES

White-tufted Grebe – *Rollandia rolland*

Several seen at Piuray and Huaypo lakes. Named for Master Gunnar Roland of the French corvette L'Uranie which circumnavigated the world 1817-1820

CORMORANTS

Neotropic Cormorant – *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

Common.

HERONS

Great Egret – *Ardea alba*

Seen at Lago Piuray.

IBIS

Puna Ibis – *Plegadis ridgwayi*

Seen at Lago Piuray and at Abra Malaga.

AMERICAN VULTURES

Andean Condor – *Vultur gryphus*

A juvenile soaring at Carretera 28B--Peñas.



HAWKS

Black-and-chestnut Eagle – *Spizaetus isidori*

Seen at Abra Malaga.

Roadside Hawk – *Rupornis magnirostris*

Seen on our way to Mandor and at Abra Malaga (east side).

Variable Hawk – *Geranoaetus polyosoma*

Seen around Lago Piuray and Abra Malaga; the taxonomy of this group is confusing, and some people try to split it as Puna Hawk *B. poecilochrous* and Red-backed Hawk *B. polyosoma*. SACC comment: Farquhar (1988) concluded that *Buteo poecilochrous* and *B. polyosoma* are conspecific, as they were formerly treated; he was unable to find any way to reliably diagnose the two forms using plumage characters or measurements. Ridgely & Greenfield (2001), Jaramillo (2003), and Schulenberg et al. (2007) followed this Treatment and suggested "Variable Hawk" be retained for the composite species. Genetic data (Riesing et al. 2003) are consistent with hypothesis that *B. polyosoma* and *B. poecilochrous* are conspecific.

White-throated Hawk – *Buteo albigula*

Seen at Machu Picchu.

RAILS

Common Gallinule - *Gallinula galeata*

Common at Huaypo Lake.

Slate-colored Coot – *Fulica ardesiaca*

Common.

STILTS

Black-necked Stilt (White-backed) – *Himantopus mexicanus melanurus*

Seen at Piuray Lake.

PLOVERS

Andean Lapwing - *Vanellus resplendens*

Common around Abra Malaga, also seen at Piuray and Huaypo lakes.

SANDPIPERS

Greater Yellowlegs – *Tringa melanoleuca*

Seen at Piuray Lake.

Stilt Sandpiper – *Calidris himantopus*

Seen at Piuray Lake.

Pectoral Sandpiper – *Calidris melanotos*

Seen at Piuray Lake and Abra Malaga (east slope).

GULLS AND TERNS

Andean Gull - *Chroicocephalus serranus*

Common seen at Piuray and Huaypo lakes also around Machu Picchu.

PIGEONS AND DOVES

Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) - *Columba livia*

Feral type found throughout Latin America near human habitation, absent only from extensive tracts of primary forest. – John van Dort

Spot-winged Pigeon - *Patagioenas maculosa*

Quiet common around Piuray Lake.

Band-tailed Pigeon – *Patagioenas fasciata*

Seen in the humid Montane forest at Abra Malaga.

Bare-faced Ground-Dove – *Metriopelia ceciliae*

Seen at Piuray Lake.

White-tipped Dove - *Leptotila verreauxi decipiens*

Common around Machu Picchu.

Eared Dove – *Zenaida auriculata*

Seen at Piuray Lake and Abra Malaga (east slope).

SWIFTS

Chestnut-collared Swift – *Streptoprocne rutila*

Seen at Abra Malaga (east slope, Cloud Forest).

White-collared Swift - *Streptoprocne zonaris*

Seen at Abra Malaga.

White-tipped Swift - *Aeronautes montivagus*

Very nice view around Machu-Picchu.

HUMMINHBIRDS

Green Violetear – *Colibri thalassinus*

Seen at Abra Malaga (east slope, Cloud Forest).

Sparkling Violet-ear - *Colibri coruscans*

Common at Machu-Picchu and Abra Malaga.

Long-tailed Sylph – *Aglaiocercus kingii*

Seen at Abra Malaga (east slope, Cloud Forest).

E Bearded Mountaineer - *Oreonympha nobilis*

Seen around the ground of the Pakaritampu Hotel; a Peruvian endemic.

Tyrian Metaltail - *Metallura tyrianthina*

Seen at Carretera 28B--Peñas. - Named after the color Tyrian purple; Various known as Royal purple, Tyrian purple, purple of the ancients, this ancient dyestuff, mentioned in texts dating about 1600 BC, was produced from the mucus of the hypobranchial gland of various species of marine mollusks, notably Murex. Although originating in old port of Tyre in modern day Syria (hence the name), man's first large scale chemical industry spread throughout the world. With the decline of the Roman Empire, the use of the dye also declined and large scale production ceased with the fall of Constantinople in 1453. It was replaced by other cheaper dyes like lichen purple and madder.

Sapphire-vented Puffleg – *Eriocnemis luciani*

Seen at Abra Málaga--Cloud Forest.

Shining Sunbeam – *Aglaeactis cupripennis*

Seen at Abra Malaga.

E White-tufted Sunbeam - *Aglaeactis castelnaudii*

Seen at Carretera 28B--Peñas; a Peruvian endemic. Named for Louis Nompard de Caumont Laporte Comte de Castelnaud (1810-1880) French diplomat collector and explorer.

Collared Inca – *Coeliogenes torquata*

Seen around Aguas Calientes.

Great Sapphirewing – *Pterophanes cyanopterus*

Seen at Carretera 28B--Peñas.

Booted Racket-tail - *Ocreatus underwoodii*

Seen on our way to Mandor at Machupicchu district.

Giant Hummingbird – *Patagona gigas*

Very common at the Pakaritampu Hotel in Ollantaytambo.

White-bellied Hummingbird - *Amazilia chionogaster*

Good views at the Pakaritampu Hotel and on our way to Mandor.

E Green and White Hummingbird - *Amazilia viridicauda*

Nice views on our way to Mandor, Urubamba.

MOTMOTS

Andean Motmot - *Momotus aequatorialis*

Seen around Aguas Calientes town; *M. aequatorialis* is one of six species in the *Momotus momota* complex; includes ssp *aequatorialis* & *chlorolaemus* (Stiles 2009, SACC); CHANGE English name from Highland Motmot to Andean Motmot following SACC 412.

TOUCANS

Blue-banded Toucanet - *Aulacorhynchus coeruleicinctis*

Seen on our way from Aguas Calientes to Mandor.

WOODPECKERS

Golden-olive Woodpecker - *Colaptes rubiginosus*

Seen on our way from Aguas Calientes to Mandor.

Andean Flicker - *Colaptes rupicola*

Common around Abra Malaga area also seen at Piuray Lake.

FALCONS

Mountain Caracara- *Phalco boenus megalopterus*

Common around Abancay and Abra Malaga area.

American Kestrel - *Falco sparverius*

Common.

Aplomado Falcon - *Falco femoralis*

Seen around the Pakaritampu Hotel and at Abra Malaga Area.

PARROTS

Speckle-faced Parrot - *Pionus tumultuosus*

Great views on our way from Aguas Calientes to Mandor.

Mitred Parakeet - *Psittacara mitrata alticola*

Nice views also on our way from Aguas Calientes to Mandor.

ANTBIRDS

Variable Antshrike - *Thamnophilus caerulescens*

Very nice views around Machupicchu.

ANTPITTAS

RR Stripe-headed Antpitta - *Grallaria andicolus punensis*

This one is the EASIEST Antpitta to see among all the Antpittas at least in Peru; one seen really well on the west slope of Abra Malaga here the subspecies *punensis* which may deserve full species rank from the northern nominate form.

Rufous Antpitta - *Grallaria rufula**

TAPACULOS

RR Puna Tapaculo - *Scytalopus simonsi*

Great views in the west slope (*polylepis*) forest of Abra Malaga. *Scytalopus* etymologically comes from the Greek language which literally means "stickfoot", referred to their strong and thick feet.

Diademed Tapaculo - *Scytalopus schulenbergi**

OVENBIRDS

Streaked Xenops - *Xenops rutilans*

Seen on our way from Aguas Calientes to Mandor.

Cream-winged Cinclodes - *Cinclodes albiventris*

Common around Abra Malaga.

RR Tawny Tit-Spinetail - *Leptasthenura yanacensis*

Very nice views in the *polylepis* forest of Abra Malaga.

E White-browed Tit-Spinetail - *Leptasthenura xenothorax*

Great views in the *polylepis* forest of Abra Malaga.

Line-fronted Canastero - *Asthenes urubambensis*

Great views of the nominate race in the *polylepis* forest of Abra Malaga.

Streak-throated Canastero - *Asthenes humilis*

Quiet common on the west slope of Abra Malaga.

Puna Thistletail - *Asthenes helleri*

Seen at Abra Malaga (east slope).

E Rusty-fronted Canastero - *Asthenes ottonis*

Seen at Abra Malaga.

E Marcapata Spinetail - *Cranioleuca marcapatae marcapatae**

E Creamy-crested Spinetail - *Cranioleuca albicapilla albicapilla*

Seen at Carretera 28B--Peñas.

Azara's Spinetail - *Synallaxis azarae*

Great views at Machu Picchu on our way to the Sungate, also heard at Abra Malaga.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

White-banded Tyrannulet - *Mecocerculus stictopterus*

Seen around Aguas Calientes town.

Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant - *Anairetes alpines*

Seen at Abra Malaga (*polylepis* forest).

Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant - *Anairetes flavirostris*

Seen at Carretera 28B--Peñas.

Tufted Tit-Tyrant - *Anairetes parulus*

Seen at Abra Malaga--Cloud Forest.

E Unstreaked Tit-Tyrant - *Uromyias agraphia*

Seen at Abra Malaga (east slope).



Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant – Fabrice Schmitt

Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant - *Anairetes flavirostris*

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Seen at Abra Malaga--Cloud Forest.

E Unstreaked Tit-Tyrant - *Uromyias agraphia*

Seen at Abra Malaga (east slope).

White-crested Elaenia - *Elaenia albiceps*

Seen at Machu Picchu on our way to the Sungate.

Highland Elaenia - *Elaenia obscura*

Seen around Machu Picchu and on the way to Mandor.

Torrent Tyrannulet - *Serpophaga cinerea*

Seen along the Urubamba river, at Aguas Calientes and on the way to Mandor.

Streak-necked Flycatcher - *Mionectes striaticollis*

Seen around Machu Picchu.

Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant - *Phylloscartes ophthalmicus*

Seen on the way to Mandor at Machupicchu district.

RR Sclater's Tyrannulet - *Phyllomyias sclateri*

Also seen on the way to Mandor at Machupicchu district.

Black-throated Tody-Tyrant - *Hemitriccus granadensis**

Common Tody-Flycatcher - *Todirostrum cinereum*

Seen by the Machu Picchu Museum.

Cinnamon Flycatcher - *Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus*

Seen on our way from Aguas Calientes to Mandor.

Black Phoebe - *Sayornis nigricans*

Common seen along the Urubamba river.

Andean Negrilo - *Lessonia oreas*

Seen at Piuray Lake.

White-winged Black-Tyrant - *Knipolegus aterrimus*

Seen around Machu Picchu.

Cinereous Ground-Tyrant - *Muscisaxicola cinereus*

Seen around Abra Malaga (west slope)

Ochre-naped Ground-Tyrant - *Muscisaxicola flavinucha*

Few individuals seen on the west slope of Abra Malaga.

Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrant - *Muscisaxicola rufivertex*

A pair seen on the west slope of Abra Malaga.

White-browed Ground-Tyrant - *Muscisaxicola albilora*

Also seen on the west slope of Abra Malaga.

Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant - *Ochthoeca rufipectoralis*

Seen at Abra Malaga (east slope).

Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant - *Ochthoeca fumicolor*

Seen on the west slope of Abra Malaga (polylepis forest).

d'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrant - *Ochthoeca oenanthoides*

Also seen on the west slope of Abra Malaga (polylepis forest).

White-browed Chat-Tyrant - *Ochthoeca leucophrys*

Seen at Abra Malaga (west slope).

Social Flycatcher - *Myiozetetes similis*

Seen on the way from Aguas Calientes town to Mandor.

Tropical Kingbird - *Tyrannus melancholicus*

Seen around Aguas Calientes and on the way to Mandor.



Gary Rosenberg

COTINGAS

E Masked Fruiteater - *Pipreola pulchra*

Great views of a male individual on our way to Mandor; a Peruvian endemic.

Andean Cock-of-the-rock - *Rupicola peruvianus*

Seen several times on our way to Mandor.

TITYRAS & BECARDS

Barred Becard - *Pachyramphus versicolor*

Seen on the way to Mandor.

VIREOS

Brown-capped Vireo - *Vireo leucophrys*

Seen on the the way to Mandor.

Red-eyed Vireo - *Vireo olivaceus*

Seen on the way to Mandor; some classifications have considered the South American *chivi* group as a separate species ("Chivi Vireo") from *V. olivaceus*, or as conspecific with *V. flavoviridis* (Hamilton 1962). Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) suggested, however, that more than one species may be involved within the South American *chivi* group itself.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS

Blue-and-white Swallow - *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*

Common at Machu-picchu.

Brown-bellied Swallow - *Orochelidon murina*

Common around Abra Malaga.

Andean Swallow - *Orochelidon andecola*

Seen on the west slope of Abra Malaga.

WRENS

House Wren (Southern) - *Troglodytes aedon*

One of the most widespread and common songbirds in the Americas, found from southern Canada to southern South America. As is to be expected over such a wide range, various distinct forms exist, which may one day be elevated to species level. For the moment, all mainland populations south of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec (Mexico) are grouped under the term "Southern" House Wren. All populations share a preference for edge or disturbed habitats, and occur at a variety of elevations. The House Wren tends to move around low in the vegetation, and is usually readily seen. It sings a short fast song. -- John van Dort

Inca Wren - *Pheugopedius eisenmanni*

Great views of a cooperative one by Chusquea vegetation, on our way to the Sungate, one of the specialties of Machu Picchu area. Named after Eugene Eisenmann US/Panamanian ornithologist (1906-1981).

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren - *Henicorhina leucophrys*

Seen on the way from Aguas Calientes to Mandor.

DIPPERS

White-capped Dipper - *Cinclus leucocephalus*

Great views in two consecutive days along the Urubamba River.

THRUSHES AND SOLITAIRES

Andean Solitaire - *Myadestes ralloides*

Mainly heard but seen on the way to Mandor.

White-eared Solitaire - *Entomodestes leucotis*

Seen on the way to Mandor.

Great Thrush - *Turdus fuscater ockenderi*

Common.

Chiguanco Thrush - *Turdus chiguanco chiguanco*

Common.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS

Tropical Parula - *Setophaga pitiayumi*

Seen around Aguas Calientes and on the way to Mandor.

Pale-legged Warbler - *Myiothlypis signata*

Seen around Machu Picchu.

Russet-crowned Warbler - *Myiothlypis coronate*

Seen along Aguas Calientes to Mandor.

Slate-throated Redstart - *Myioborus miniatus*

Common.

TANAGERS & ALLIES

Oleaginous Hemispingus - *Hemispingus frontalis*

Seen on the way to Mandor.

RR Rust-and-Yellow Tanager - *Thlypopsis ruficeps*

Nice small flock at Machu Picchu.

White-lined Tanager - *Tachyphonus rufus*

Seen on the way to Mandor.

Silver-beaked Tanager - *Ramphocelus carbo*

Seen along the way to Mandor.

Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager - *Anisognathus igniventris*

Seen at Abra Malaga (east slope).

Fawn-breasted Tanager - *Pipraeidea melanonota*

Seen on the way to Mandor.

Blue-and-yellow Tanager - *Pipraeidea bonariensis*

Seen on the way from Aguas Calientes to Mandor.

Blue-Gray Tanager - *Thraupis episcopus*

Common around Aguas Calientes.

Palm Tanager - *Thraupis palmarum*

Seen on the way to Mandor.

Blue-capped Tanager - *Thraupis cyanocephala*

Seen around Machu Picchu and on the way to Mandor.

Golden-naped Tanager - *Tangara ruficervix*

Seen on the way from Aguas Calientes to Mandor.

Silvery (Silver-backed) Tanager - *Tangara viridicollis*

Great views on the way to Mandor.

Blue-necked Tanager - *Tangara cyanicollis*

Common and beautiful.



Blue-necked Tanager- Gary Rosenberg

Blue-and-black Tanager - *Tangara vassorii*

Seen around Machu Picchu, on the way to the Sungate.

Beryl Spangled Tanager - *Tangara nigroviridis*

Quiet common on the way to Mandor.

Saffron-crowned Tanager - *Tangara xanthocephala*

Seen around Machu Picchu and on the way to Mandor.

Cinereous Conebill - *Conirostrum cinereum cinereum*

Seen on the west slope of Abra Malaga.

Capped Conebill – *Conirostrum albifrons*

Seen on our way to Mandor.

White-browed Conebill - *Conirostrum ferrugineiventre*

Seen on the east slope of Abra Malaga.

Giant Conebill - *Oreomanes fraseri*

Seen on the west slope of Abra Malaga.

RR Tit-like Dacnis - *Xenodacnis parina*

A male seen on the east slope of Abra Malaga, thanks to the photo taken by Amy, which helped us identify this restless and secretive bird.

Moustached Flowerpiercer - *Diglossa mystacalis*

Seen on the east slope of Abra Malaga.

Black-throated Flower-piercer - *Diglossa brunneiventris*

Seen several times throughout the trip.

Rusty Flower-piercer - *Diglossa sittoides*

Seen at the Pakaritampu Hotel, on the way too Mandor and at Abra Malaga.

Masked Flower-piercer – *Diglossopsis cyanea*

Seen around Machu Picchu and at Carretera 28B--Peñas.

RR Peruvian Sierra-Finch - *Phrygilus punensis*

Seen on the west slope of Abra Malaga, and on both lakes Huaypo and Piuray.

Plumbeous Sierra-Finch - *Phrygilus unicolor*

Common on the west slope of Abra Malaga.

Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch - *Phrygilus plebejus*

Seen on the west slope of Abra Malaga.

RR White-winged Diuca-Finch - *Diuca speculifera*

Good views also on the west slope of Abra Malaga.

Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch - *Poospiza Caesar*

Seen on the west slope of Abra Malaga.

Bright-rumped Yellow-Finch - *Sicalis uropygialis*

Seen along the Carretera 28B--Peñas.

Yellow-bellied Seedeater - *Sporophila nigricollis*

Seen around Machu Picchu on the way to the Sungate.

Band-tailed Seedeater - *Catamenia analis*

Seen on the way to Mandor and Huaypo Lake.

Golden-billed Saltator - *Saltator aurantirostris*

Seen at Abra Malaga (west slope) and at Pakaritampu Hotel.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS

Rufous-collared Sparrow - *Zonotrichia capensis*

Common.

CARDINAL GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES

Black-backed Grosbeak - *Pheucticus aureoventris*

Common at the Pakaritampu Hotel in Ollantaytambo.

BLACKBIRDS

Yellow-winged Blackbird - *Agelasticus thilius*

Seen at Huaypo Lake.

RR Dusky-green Oropendola - *Psarocolius atrovirens*

Seen on our way to Mandor – the only Oropendola species at Machu Picchu.

FINCHES, EUPHONIAS, AND ALLIES

Thick-billed Euphonia - *Euphonia laniirostris*

Quiet common around Machu-Picchu; the genus name comes from 2 greek words “eu=beautiful” and “phōné=sound, voice, song, literally would mean “beautiful-voiced”.

Hooded Siskin – *Sporaga magellanica*

Seen on the west slope of Abra Malaga.

Olivaceous Siskin - *Sporaga olivaceus*

Seen on the way from Aguas Calientes to Mandor.

The Mammal List

LLAMA FAMILY

Llama – *Lama glama*

Seen around Abra Malaga.

Alpaca – *Vicugna alpaca*

Seen around Abra Malaga.

LARGE RODENTS

Mountain Viscacha - *Lagidium peruanum*

A pair seen in the west slope of Abra Malaga.

