

MANU EXPEDITIONS BIRDING AND WILDLIFE TOURS



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A TRIP REPORT FOR A BIRDING TRIP TO MACHU-PICCHU

Tour Leader: Silverio Duri

July 2–4 2016

This was a quick extension with some birding to the Inca ruins of Machu Picchu, mostly to see the archaeological site but we did manage some birding as well including

DAY BY DAY ACTIVITIES

July 02nd: Fly from Lima to Cusco and after arrival straight out to Huacarapay Lakes with a picnic lunch by the Lake and in the afternoon back to Cusco. Overnight at Cusco.

July 03rd: Early departure from the Hotel to Ollantaytambo to take our train to Aguas Caliente and after arrival we met our local guide Vilma and took the bus up to the ruins for a 2 hours tour of the Machu-Picchu Inca Ruins. After lunch we did a bit of birding from above Puente Ruinas all the way back to our Hotel. Overnight at Aguas Caliente.

July 04th: Machu-Picchu back to Cusco by Poroy train station with a morning's birding to the Mandor valley from Aguas Caliente and in the afternoon our train back to Poroy. Overnight in Cusco and start the main tour

The Key to the Bird list

RED – IUCN RED LIST CATEGORY

SACC = South American Classification Committee

IOC = International Ornithological Congress

RR = Range restricted species

E = Peruvian Endemic

* = Heard Only

THE BIRDLIST

Family: ANATIDAE - **DUCKS**

Torrent Duck - *Merganetta armata*

Fantastic views along the Urubamba River on our way in and out to Machu-Picchu (counting up to 40 individuals in our way back from Machu-Picchu); how on earth does this species cope “acoustically” by living in such torrential waters?

Yellow-billed Teal – *Anas flavirostris*

Quiet common at Huacarpay Lake

Yellow-billed Pintail - *Anas georgica*

Seen at Huacarpay Lake

Puna Teal – *Anas puna*

Also seen a few at Huacarpay Lake

Cinnamon Teal – *Anas cyanoptera*

At Huacarpay Lake

Ruddy (Andean) Duck – *Oxyura ferruginea*

A few seen at Huacarpay Lake. The SACC says “Andean populations of Ruddy Duck *O. jamaicensis* have often (e.g., Hellmayr & Conover 1948a, Siegfried 1976, Sibley & Ahlquist 1990, AOU 1998, Ridgely et al. 2001, Jaramillo 2003) been treated as a separate species, *O. ferruginea* (“Andean Duck” or “Andean Ruddy-Duck”). However, see Adams and Slavid (1984), Fjeldså (1986), and McCracken & Sorenson (2005) for rationale for treating them as conspecific, as done previously (e.g., Blake 1977, Johnsgard 1979), and then followed by Fjeldså & Krabbe (1990) and Carboneras (1992f). Siegfried (1976) and Livezey (1995) considered *ferruginea* to be more closely related to *O. vittata* than to *O. jamaicensis*, but McCracken & Sorenson (2005) showed that this is incorrect.” However the IOC says “*Oxyura ferruginea* is split from *O. jamaicensis* (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001; Jaramillo 2003); H&M recognize; SACC does not.

Family: CRACIDAE - **GUANS**

Andean Guan – *Penelope montagnil*

2 seen above Puente Ruinas in our way back to the Hotel at Aguas Caliente. In Greek mythology Penelope was daughter of Icarus and wife of Ulysses, King of Ithaca

Family: ARDEIDAE - **HERONS**

Fasciated Tiger-Heron – *Tigrisoma fasciatum*

Very good views of one from the train rail in the Urubamba River near the Mandor Valley



Fasciated Tiger-Heron

Black-crowned Night Heron – *Nycticorax nycticorax*

A female seen at Huacarpay lakes

Little Blue Heron – *Egretta caerulea*

One seen at Huacarpay Lakes

Family: THRESKIORNITHIDAE - IBIS

Puna Ibis – *Plegadis ridgwayi*

A few seen at Huacarpay Lakes and few more seen from the train by the agricultural areas in our way back to Cusco from Machu-Pichu. Named for Robert Ridgeway US ornithologist and curator of Birds at the Smithsonian (1880-1829)

Family: ACCIPITRIDAE - HAWKS & EAGLES

Cinereous Harrier – *Circus cinereus*

2 seen very well at Huacarpay Lakes

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle – *Geranoaetus melanoleucus*

One seen at Huacarpay Lakes and another one briefly seen in our morning birding as we were going to the Mandor valley

Roadside Hawk - *Buteo magnirostris*

2 seen through the scope across the Urubamba River in our morning walk to the Mandor valley



Cinereous Harrier – Ian Merrill

Family: RALLIDAE - RAILS

Plumbeous Rail – *Pardirallus sanguinolentus*

4 in total seen really well at Huacarpay Lakes – the easiest Rail to be see!!

Common Gallinule – *Gallinula galeata*

Common at Huacarpay Lakes. Note that the New World form has been split from the Common Moorhen of Eurasia. Common Gallinule of Western Hemisphere is split from Common Moorhen on the basis of morphological, genetic, and vocal differences (Groenenberg et al 2008)

Slate-colored (Andean) Coot – *Fulica ardesiaca*

Common at Huacarpay Lakes

Family: CHARADRIIDAE - PLOVERS

Andean Lapwing - *Vanellus resplendens*

10+ in total seen around Huacarpay Lakes

Family: LARIDAE – GULLS

Andean Gull - *Chroicocephalus serranus*

Quiet common on the three consecutive days through the tour

Family: COLUMBIDAE – PIGEONS AND DOVES

Spot-winged Pigeon - *Patagioenas maculosa*

Quiet common at Huacarpay Lakes and also in our way in to Machu-Picchu.

White-tipped Dove - *Leptotila verreauxi decipiens*

Common along the Urubamba River below the Machu-Picchu Inca Ruins

Eared Dove – *Zenaida auriculata*

Very common at Huacarpay Lakes

Bare-faced Ground-Dove – *Metriopelia ceciliae*

A few seen at Huacarpay Lakes. Named for Cecile Gautrau fl 1845 daughter of French naturalist Rene Lesson

Family: APODIDAE - SWIFTS

White-tipped Swift - *Aeronautes montivagus*

About 6 seen in our morning walk to the Mandor Valley

Andean Swift – *Aeronautes andecolus*

10+ seen from the train in our way in to Machu-Picchu

Family: TROCHILIDAE - HUMMINGBIRDS

Green Hermit – *Phaethornis guy*

One seen briefly near Puente Ruinas in our way back from the Mandor valley

Sparkling Violet-ear - *Colibri coruscans*

2 seen at Huacarpay Lake

Speckled Hummingbird - *Adelomyia melanogenys*

2 seen along the train rail in our way in to Mandor valley

E Bearded Mountaineer - *Oreonympha nobilis*

1 seen very well at the Huambutio Bridge on the Vilcanota River – a Peruvian endemic Oreonympha is from the Greek– oros = mountain and numphe = nymph so Mountain Nymph!



Bearded Mountaineer – Silverio Duri

Bronzy Inca – *Coeligena Coeligena*

One seen briefly at the Mandor valley

Booted Racket-tail - *Ocreatus underwoodii*

A female seen at Mandor valley. The "Racquet-tailed Puffleg" was unknown in life but specimens existed in various London cabinets, whence a drawing was sent to Lesson (1832) by Mr. Underwood on behalf of Charles Stokes a London stockbroker and collector.

Giant Hummingbird – *Patagona gigas*

Nice view of two around Huacarpay Lakes. The world's largest Hummingbird

White-bellied Woodstar – *Chaetocercus mulsant*

One male at the Mandor valley

E Green and White Hummingbird - *Leucippus viridicauda*

Seen in two consecutive days at Machu-Picchu – a common Peruvian endemic in Machu-Picchu and range restricted

Family: MOMOTIDAE - MOTMOTS

Andean Motmot - *Momotus aequatorialis*

Good views of 3 in our walk to Mandor valley. *M. aequatorialis* is one of six species in the *Momotus momota* complex. So there are now 6 recognized species that came out of the old Blue-crowned Motmot

***Momotus coeruliceps* Blue-crowned Motmot – NE and Central Mexico**

***Momotus lessoni* Blue-diademed Motmot – South Mexico to Central Panama**

***Momotus subrufescens* Whooping Motmot - E Panama to NC Venezuela and the Magdalena Valley of Colombia; SE Ecuador and extreme NW Peru.**

***Momotus bahamensis* Trinidad Motmot – Trinidad & Tobago**

***Momotus momota* Amazonian Motmot - Venezuela (S of the Orinoco) and the Guianas S through the entire Amazon basin to extreme N Argentina and Paraguay.**

***Momotus aequatorialis* Andean Motmot – The Andes from NC Colombia**

Family: PICIDAE – WOODPECKERS

RR Ocellated Piculet - *Picumnus dorbygnianus*

Very nice views of 3 in total in our walk to the Mandor valley

Golden-olive Woodpecker – *Piculus rubiginosus*

2 seen in our way back from Mandor valley

Family: FALCONIDAE - CARACARAS & FALCONS

Mountain Caracara- *Phalcoboenus megalopterus*

One seen from the bus on our way in to Ollantaytambo to catch our train to Machu-Picchu. There are no true Crows in South America and the Caracaras fill that ecological niche as scavengers

American Kestrel - *Falco sparverius*

Common – seen in the first two days of our Machu-Pichu section

Family: PSITTACIDAE - PARROTS

Mitred Parakeet – *Psittacara mitrata*

Brief views the first day and better views our morning walk to the Mandor valley. Fjelds & Krabbe (1990) and Sibley & Monroe (1990) suggested that the subspecies *alticola* of Peru might deserve species rank from *Psittacara mitratus*. Arndt (2006) provided further rationale for treatment of *alticola* as a separate species. [SACC proposal to recognize *alticola* as a separate species did not pass](#). Not recognized by Schulenberg et al. (2007) or Remsen et al. (2013).

Family: THAMNOPHILIDAE - ANTBIRDS

Variable Antshrike - *Thamnophilus caerulescens*

3 in total – males and female seen near Puente Ruinas and along the train rail to Mandor valley

Family: FURNARIIDAE - OVENBIRDS

Streaked Xenops – *Xenops rutilans*

Seen on two consecutive days near Puente Ruinas and along the train-line and on our way to the Mandor valley

Wren-like Rushbird – *Phleocryptes melanops*

After a lot of effort we finally saw one individual very well that responded to play-back at Huacarpay Lakes

RR Streak-fronted Thornbird – *Phacellodomus striaticeps*

Brief views at Huacarpay Lakes



Rusty-fronted Canastero – Alex Durand

E Rusty-fronted Canastero - *Asthenes ottonis*

We encountered two that did need play-back, that behaved really well that we all got great views at Huacarpay Lakes

Family: TYRANNIDAE – TYRANT & FLYCATCHERS

RR Sclater's Tyrannulet - *Phyllomyias sclateri*

Quiet common around Machu Picchu – seen on two consecutive days. Named for Phillip Ludley Sclater, English ornithologist and collector

Ashy-headed Tyrannulet - *Phyllomyias cinereiceps*

One seen nicely in our walk to Mandor valley

White-crested Elaenia – *Elaenia albiceps*

Quiet common at Huacarpay lakes – several of them seen

Torrent Tyrannulet - *Serpophaga cinerea*

Seen in two consecutive days along the Urubamba River around Aguas Caliente – 9 in total

Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet - *Phylloscartes ventralis*

Quite common around Mandor valley at Machu-Picchu – 8 in total

Many-colored Rush-Tyrant – *Tachuris rubigaster*

Several great views at Huacarpay lakes of this colorful flycatcher. Another reedbed specialist

Smoke-colored Pewee – *Contopus fumigatus*

Very good views of 3 in our way to Mandor valley

Black Phoebe - *Sayornis nigricans latirostris*

Common along the Urubamba River, seen around Aguas Caliente; this is the southern subspecies *latirostris*. The change from the darker-winged nominate *nigricans* to the white-winged *latirostris* is a north-south cline, with larger amounts of white gradually appearing further south

Spot-billed Ground-Tyrant - *Muscisaxicola maculirostris*

Good views of one individual at Huacarpay lakes

White-browed Chat-Tyrant - *Ochthoeca leucophrys*

One or two seen well at Huacarpay lakes

Golden-crowned Flycatcher – *Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*

Common along the Urubamba River - seen in two consecutive days

Tropical Kingbird - *Tyrannus melancholicus*

Common around Aguas Caliente and Mandor valley

Family: COTINGIDAE - COTINGAS

E Masked Fruiteater - *Pipreola pulchra*

Great views of males and females above Puente Ruinas and also at Mandor valley – 4 in total. A Peruvian endemic

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

One female seen near the Mandor valley. The Peruvian national bird.

Family: TITYRIDAE – TITYRAS & BECARDS

Barred Becard - *Pachyramphus versicolor*

2 males seen in our way to the Mandor valley

Family: VIREONIDAE - VIREOS

Red-eyed (Chivi) Vireo - *Vireo olivaceus chivi*

Quiet common at Machu-Picchu; 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

Brown-capped Vireo - *Vireo leucophrys*

Good views at Machu-Picchu

Family: HIRUNDINIDAE – SWALLOWS

Blue-and-white Swallow - *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*

Common at Machu-Picchu

Brown-bellied Swallow - *Notiochelidon murina*

A few seen from the train in our way to Machu-Picchu



Inca Wren – Dave Krueper

Family: TROGLODYTIDAE - WRENS

House Wren - *Troglodytes aedon*

Common

E Inca Wren - *Thryothorus eisenmanni*

Wonderful views of 3 individuals in our way back from Mandor valley in the *chusquea* bamboo forest. A Peruvian endemic. Named for Eugene Eisenmann US/Panamanian ornithologist (1906-1981)

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren - *Henicorhina leucophrys**

Family: CINCLIDAE - DIPPERS

White-capped Dipper - *Cinclus leucocephalus*

Very nice view on the Urubamba River in two consecutive days – 2 in the way in and 6 in our way back counting the ones we saw in our morning walk to Mador valley

Family: TURDIDAE – THRUSHES & SOLITAIRES

Andean Solitaire - *Myadestes ralloides**

Chiguanco Thrush - *Turdus chiguanco chiguanco*

Common

Glossy-black Thrush - *Turdus serranus**

Family: THRAUPIDAE – TANAGERS & ALLIES

Oleaginous Hemispingus - *Hemispingus frontalis*

Great looks along the train rail in our morning walk to Mandor valley

Black-eared Hemispingus – *Hemispingus melanotis berlepschi*

A male seen just by James in our way to Mandor valley

Silver-beaked Tanager – *Ramphocelus carbo*

Quiet common at Mandor valley

Fawn-breasted Tanager - *Pipraeidea melanonota*

Two seen in our morning walk to Mandor valley

Blue-and-yellow Tanager - *Thraupis bonariensis*

Seen at Huacarpay lakes and also at Machu-Picchu. The southernmost ranging Tanager named for the Argentine capital Buenos Aires

Blue-Gray Tanager - *Thraupis episcopus*

Common around Machu-Picchu – seen in two consecutive days

Palm Tanager – *Thraupis palmarum*

One seen in our morning walk to Mandor valley

Saffron-crowned Tanager - *Tangara xanthocephala*

4 in total in our morning walk to Mandor valley. The subspecies here has an orange crown

Golden-naped Tanager - *Tangara ruficervix*

Three seen in our morning walk to Mandor valley

Blue-necked Tanager - *Tangara cyanicollis*

Common, but beautiful – seen in two consecutive days



Blue-necked Tanager

Silver-backed Tanager - *Tangara viridicollis*

Great views in our way to Mandor valley – males and females

Blue Dacnis – *Dacnis cayana*

Male and female seen in our way to Mandor valley

Capped Conebill – *Conirostrum albifrons*

3 seen above Puente ruinas

Rusty Flower-piercer - *Diglossa sittoides*

3 in total seen in two consecutive days – above Puente ruinas and in our way to Mandor valley

Mourning Sierra-Finch – *Phrygilus fruticeti*

One male and few females seen at Huacarpay Lakes

Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch – *Phrygilus plebejus*

A few seen at Huacarpay Lakes

Greenish Yellow-Finch – *Sicalis olivascens*

Also a few seen at Huacarpay lakes

Black-and-white Seedeater - *Sporophila luctuosa*

Brief views at Machu-Picchu

Band-tailed Seedeater - *Catamenia analis*

Common around Huacarpay Lakes

Dull-colored Grassquit - *Tiaris obscura*

Good views in our way back from Mandor valley

Family: EMBEZERIDAE – NEW WORLD SPARROWS

Rufous-collared Sparrow - *Zonotrichia capensis*

Common

Chestnut-capped Brush-finch - *Arremon brunneinucha*

Very nice view of one individual in our way in to Mandor valley

Family: CARDINALIDAE – CARDINAL GROSBEAKS

Black-backed Grosbeak - *Pheucticus aureoventris*

Seen in two consecutive days – above Puente ruinas and On our way to Mandor valley

Family: PARULIDAE – NEW WORLD WARBLER

Tropical Parula - *Setophaga pitiayumi*

Quiet common around Machu-Picchu – seen on two consecutive days

Slate-throated (Whitestart) Redstart - *Myioborus miniatus*

Common

Spectacled Whitestart (Redstart) - *Myioborus melanocephalus*

2 seen in our way to Mandor valley

Family: ICTERIDAE – ORIOLES & BLACKBIRDS

RR Dusky-green Oropendola - *Psarocolius atrovirens*

8 in total seen in Machu-Picchu – the only Oropendola species at Machu-Picchu

Yellow-winged Blackbird – *Agelasticus thilius*

Males and females seen at Huacarpay Lakes

Family: FRINGILLIDAE - FINCHES

Hooded Siskin - *Spinus magellanicus*

A few seen at Huacarpay Lakes

Olivaceous Siskin - *Spinus olivaceus*

A few seen at Machu-Picchu

Thick-billed Euphonia - *Euphonia laniirostris*

Quiet common around Machu-Picchu; the genus name means “fine-voiced”

Orange-bellied Euphonia – *Euphonia xanthogaster*

Seen in two consecutive days around Machu-Picchu

MAMMALS

Family: RODENTIA – **LARGE RODENTS**

Mountain Guinea Pig – *Cavia tschudi*

One seen at Huacarpay Lakes

