

AMAZON RIVER CRUISE: MACHU PICCHU PRE-TRIP FEBRUARY 16-21, 2013



Machu Picchu – Photo: Steve Hilty

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TOUR REPORT
AMAZON RIVER CRUISE: MACHU PICCHU PRE-TRIP
February 16-21, 2013

By Barry Lyon

On a remote Andean ridge between two cloud-misted mountains, Machu Picchu exists as one of the world's most instantly recognizable landmarks. The center of the Inca Empire for nearly 100 years, Machu Picchu is today one of the most familiar icons of South American tourism.

For this Amazon River Cruise Pre-trip, a visit to the revered archaeological site was the obvious centerpiece of a tour that included a wealth of natural and cultural attractions. Traveling from Lima on the coast to the Andean gateway city of Cuzco offered powerful insight into the astounding geographical and cultural diversity of Peru.

Outside the city, our foray to Laguna Huacarpay proved memorable as that region of marshes, farmland, fields, and hills teemed with birds. Many of the species we saw were not particularly rare, yet offered a wonderful representation of Andean waterbirds and land birds. Species such as Puna Ibis, Plumbeous Rail, Andean Lapwing, Andean Gull, Giant Hummingbird, the endemic Bearded Mountaineer, Yellow-winged Blackbird, and Blue-and-yellow Tanager were all received with excitement by our group.

From Cuzco, our descent of the Urubamba River Valley brought astonishing views of one of the wildest rivers any of us had ever laid eyes on. February is typically a time of high water on the Amazon and its tributaries, and this held especially true this year with the Urubamba appearing as a roiling cauldron of brown, white-capped water.

On our day in the Andes outside the old city of Ollantaytambo, we ranged from 8,500 feet up to 14,000 feet at Abra Malaga Pass searching for the region's specialty birds. Excellent views of the endemic Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch and Creamy-crested Spinetail were special, but equally memorable were our encounters with hummingbirds, many whose names are as angelic as their glittery appearances. Hummers with names like Shining Sunbeam, Great Sapphirewing, Sparkling Violetear, and Tyrian Metaltail were seen well, while a vigil with a male White-tufted Sunbeam was supreme.

In addition to the birding, the tour provided an intimate look at a range of Peruvian landscapes and people. Above Ollantaytambo, we entered the heart of the Andes, a region of massive mountains, glaciated river valleys, high elevation grasslands, and crystal-clear whitewater rivers punctuated by picture-perfect cascades. Along our tour route we encountered people every step of the way, many of whom were Inca descendants still steeped in their traditional customs. We witnessed fiestas and dances, women adorned with all types of hats and colorful dresses, farmers in their fields, and even the inside of a traditional home in Ollantaytambo.

As for Machu Picchu, part of the thrill was simply getting there. A morning-long train ride from Yucay to Aguas Calientes certainly heightened our sense of adventure, but traveling alongside the raging Urubamba for mile after mile was an arresting experience. A two-night stay in Aguas Calientes provided exposure to mountains draped in cloud forest where all the birds were new to us. Parts of two days birding the hotel grounds produced a range of new birds. While the tanagers and hummingbirds were primary attractions, the opportunity to sort through a huge mixed-species flock at the forest edge revealed the awesome diversity of the equatorial tropics.

For all this, it was Machu Picchu—timeless in endurance, regal in presentation—that drew us here. Perfectly situated amid towering emerald mountains, the ruins formed a focal point to the area's undeniable scenic grandeur, accentuated, no less, by a gleaming double rainbow.

Finally, we must acknowledge Doris Valencia, one of the best local guides we've ever worked with. An ace birder on one hand, and an authority on Inca history and Peruvian culture on the other, Doris routinely demonstrated voluminous knowledge of her home country—its people, its history, and its wildlife. Thanks to her, our experiences were all the richer.

ITINERARY

February 16, 2013 – Participants on the **Machu Picchu Pre-trip** to the Amazon River Cruise arrived in Lima, Peru today. Because most flights from the U.S. don't arrive into the Peruvian capital until the late evening, no activities were planned except getting to the hotel.

February 17 – This program included most of a day of birding in the mountain city of Cuzco, located in the Andes about an hour-and-a-half by plane southeast of Lima. To maximize the time we would have in the Cuzco area, we gathered in the hotel lobby this morning before dawn and proceeded to the airport where we caught a group flight. Upon arrival, we were met by our marvelous local guide and escort, Doris Valencia. After breakfast at the airport we embarked on a day of birding outside the city. Our destination was Laguna Huacarpay, an area of marshes and open water surrounded by hills at an elevation of 11,000 feet. The birding was as productive as expected with sightings of a nice selection of waterbirds, marshbirds, and landbirds.

In the mid-afternoon we began our descent of the highlands along a route that paralleled the Urubamba River. February is a time of high water on the Amazon and its tributaries, and this year the water was running so high that the Urubamba was transformed into a spectacular thundering torrent.

We arrived at our hotel, the Sonesta Posadas del Inca Sacred Valley, in the town of Yucay in the late afternoon.

February 18 – While seeing Machu Picchu was the centerpiece of this trip, our itinerary also included birding activities in some beautiful Andean locations. Today, for instance, was dedicated to exploring the mountains between the old city of Ollantaytambo and Abra Mallaga Pass at 14,000 feet.

Beyond Ollantaytambo, a series of roadside birding stops produced many wonderful birds and scenery to match. Against a backdrop of towering mountains, rushing rivers, waterfalls, glaciated valleys, and several forest-types, we were treated to a cadre of avian highlights that included hummingbirds (especially White-tufted and Shining sunbeams and Great Sapphirewing); endemic species (Creamy-crested Spinetail and Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch); and more widespread Andean birds (Spot-winged Pigeon, Red-crested Cotinga and Black-backed Grosbeak). The weather at the pass was dominated by low cloud cover and intermittent rain, but never deteriorated to the point where we were unable to enjoy the birds and our surroundings. Special memories from our time in the high country included sightings of Mountain Caracara, Andean Flicker, and Cream-winged and White-winged cinclodes.

We returned to Ollantaytambo in the late afternoon in time for a brief walking tour that included a look at the town plaza, views of the old Inca ruins, and a visit to a traditional house.

February 19 – After our day in the mountains, it was time to depart for Machu Picchu. Despite the attraction of the famed archaeological site itself, the journey there offers a memorable adventure in its own right. No paved highways connect Machu Picchu to any major cities or towns; instead, the primary means of access is by train. Starting from Ollantaytambo, the ride to Machu Picchu is a three-hour scenic odyssey alongside the dramatic Urubamba River. For mile after mile we were treated to sensational views of the river as it churned and pounded its way down through the namesake canyon, leaving no doubt as to its awesome power. Some of the sharper-eyed among us picked out Torrent Ducks and even a couple of Fasciated Tiger-Herons from the cauldron of boiling rapids. We reached the end of the line where the town of Aguas Calientes forms the jump-off point for Machu Picchu. The first order of business was disembarking the train and walking the short distance to the Hotel Machu Picchu Pueblo to store our bags before venturing outside for an initial birding foray.

Following a short vigil at the hotel's bird feeding stations (where the hummingbird and tanager show did not disappoint) we departed for Machu Picchu, a process that required a 20-minute bus transit up a mountain road to the site entrance. We arrived in time for lunch, which coincided with the arrival of a mid-day storm. Retreating inside the on-site restaurant, we re-energized ourselves on an ample meal while the storm slowly worked its way through. Afterward, Doris guided us on an outstanding afternoon-long tour of the archaeological site.

We spent the rest of the day touring the site before returning to the hotel for dinner.

February 20 – This day's activities were based around the return train trip to Ollantaytambo. Since the outbound train would not depart until later in the afternoon, we had most of the day to bird the hotel grounds and explore the shops in adjacent Aguas Calientes.

We favor the Hotel Machu Picchu Pueblo because the grounds are an excellent location for which to see many middle elevation montane birds. Over the course of several hours this morning, we explored a system of paths that took us along the Urubamba River, then to the hummingbird feeders and feeding stations of the central lodge complex, and finally into the forests above the lodge.

The weather conditions deteriorated rapidly during lunch, and what started as a sun-splashed morning devolved into a stormy afternoon punctuated by several successive downpours. By the time we boarded the train at 4:00, the rain had yet to relent, leaving us thankful for the beautiful afternoon we experienced at Machu Picchu on the previous day.

The train arrived in Ollantaytambo around 7:00 p.m., at which point we transferred to a bus for the duration of the trip back to Cuzco. This final travel leg took another two hours before we arrived at the Novotel Hotel in Cuzco around 9:00, which was followed immediately by a late dinner.

February 21 – The chief activity of this, the last day of the pre-trip, involved taking the return flight to Lima. Some of the early risers among us ventured outside to see some of the highlights of the colonial zone before the group transfer departed for the airport.

We arrived in Lima in mid-afternoon and transferred to the Sonesta El Olivar Hotel. As a final pre-trip activity, we offered a birding walk in the public park directly across from the hotel.

BIRDLIST

Checklist order, and common and scientific names are those given by James F. Clements in *The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World*, 6th Edition, Cornell University Press, with all current updates.

Key:

C = Cuzco area (Laguna Huacarpay and surrounding area)

A = Andes (Yucay to Abra Malaga Pass)

MP = Machu Picchu (Train from Ollantaytambo to Aguas Calientes, including Machu Picchu)

L = Lima (Park next to Sonesta el Olivar Hotel)

Ducks, Geese & Swans (Anatidae)

Torrent Duck (*Merganetta armata*) – A; numbers of this beautiful river-loving waterfowl were seen along the Urubamba River between Yucay and Aguas Calientes

Yellow-billed Teal (*Anas flavirostris*) – C, A

Yellow-billed Pintail (*Anas georgica*) – C; nice comparison with the above species

Puna Teal (*Anas puna*) – C; a beautiful waterfowl, seen well

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) – C; quick views of flying birds only

Ruddy (Andean) Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis ferruginea*) – C; currently regarded as conspecific with our Ruddy Duck

Guans, Chachalacas & Allies (Cracidae)

Andean Guan (*Penelope montagnii*) – MP; a couple seen well flying across the Urubamba River at the hotel in Aguas Calientes

Grebes (Podicepsidae)

White-tufted Grebe (*Rollandia rolland*) - C

Cormorants (Phalacrocoracidae)

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) – A, MP

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns (Ardeidae)

Fasciated Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma fasciatum*) – A, MP

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) - C

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) - C

Ibises & Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)

Puna Ibis (*Plegadis ridgwayi*) – C; lots of good views

New World Vultures (Cathartidae)

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) - L

Hawks, Eagles & Kites (Accipitridae)

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus*) – A; nice views of an adult and immature and flight along the highway to Abra Malaga Pass

Harris's Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) - L

Variable Hawk (*Buteo polyosoma*) – A; scope views of a perched bird on the far side of Abra

Malaga Pass

Falcons & Caracaras (Falconidae)

Mountain Caracara (*Phalcoeboenus megalopterus*) – A; close views of two roadside birds in the fog at Abra Malaga Pass

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) – C, A, MP

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) - L

Rails, Gallinules & Coots (Rallidae)

Plumbeous Rail (*Pardirallus sanguinolentus*) – C; prolonged scope views of foraging birds along the fringe of Laguna Huacarpay

Common Gallinule (*Gallinula Chloropus*) - C

Slate-colored Coot (*Fulica ardesiaca*) - C

Plovers & Lapwings (Charadriidae)

Andean Lapwing (*Vanellus resplendens*) – C; brief studies of a roadside pair near the edge of Laguna Huacarpay

Avocets & Stilts (Recurvirostridae)

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) - C

Sandpipers & Allies (Scolopacidae)

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) – C; wintering birds from the northern hemisphere

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) – C; same

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) – C; only one; a wintering bird from the northern hemisphere

Gulls (Laridae)

Andean Gull (*Chroicocephalus serranus*) – C; superb views of multiple birds in the fields and marshes surrounding Laguna Huacarpay

Doves & Pigeons (Columbidae)

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) – C, A, MP

West Peruvian Dove (*Zenaida meloda*) – L; common

Spot-winged Pigeon (*Patagioenas maculosa*) – C, A; uncommon but regular; birds in flight only

Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*) – C, A, MP, L

Croaking Ground-Dove (*Columbina cruziana*) - L

Bare-faced Ground-Dove (*Metriopelia ceciliae*) – C; a higher altitude bird; plentiful, but not easy to see on the hills around Laguna Huacarpay

White-throated Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon frenata*) – MP; heard only in the forest around our hotel in Aguas Calientes

Parrots, Macaws & Allies (Psittacidae)

Speckle-faced Parrot (*Pionus tumultuosus*) – MP; fabulous scope views of several birds from our hotel in Aguas Calientes

Pacific Parrotlet (*Forpus coelestis*) - L

Swifts (Apodidae)

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) - C

White-tipped Swift (*Aeronautes montivagus*) – MP; quick looks at a couple of birds flying high

over Machu Picchu

Hummingbirds (Trochilidae)

- Green Violetear (*Colibri thalassinus*) – MP; hotel feeders in Aguas Calientes
- Sparkling Violetear (*Colibri coruscans*) – C, A; perhaps the most common high altitude hummer
- Long-tailed Sylph (*Agelaiocercus kingi*) – MP; at the forest edge by the hotel in Aguas Calientes
- Andean Hillstar (*Oreotrochilus estella*) – A; a female perched on the ground at Abra Malaga Pass
- Black-tailed Trainbearer (*Lesbia victoriae*) C; lengthy scope views of a perched male at Laguna Huacarpay
- Bearded Mountaineer (*Oreonympha nobilis*) – C; distant but distinct views of a foraging bird on the hillside above Laguna Huacarpay; a Peruvian endemic
- Tyrian Metaltail (*Metallura tyrianthina*) – A; seen by a few along the highway to Abra Malaga Pass
- Shining Sunbeam (*Aglaeactis cupripennis*) – A; excellent views of a perched bird along the highway leading to Abra Malaga Pass
- White-tufted Sunbeam (*Aglaeactis castelnaudii*) – A; many close views of a gorgeous male along the highway en route to Abra Malaga Pass
- Violet-throated Starfrontlet (*Coeligena violifer*) – A; so-so views for only a few of us while en route to Abra Malaga Pass
- Sword-billed Hummingbird (*Ensifera ensifera*) – A; one bird seen by a few on the far side of Abra Malaga Pass
- Great Sapphirewing (*Pterophanes cyanopterus*) – A; excellent studies of perched and flying birds along the highway to Abra Malaga Pass
- Chestnut-breasted Coronet (*Boissonneaua matthewsii*) – MP; the most common hummer in the Machu Picchu area, we saw many individuals clustered around the feeders at the hotel in Aguas Calientes
- Booted Racket-tail (*Ocreatus underwoodii*) – MP; a single female bird at the hotel feeders in Aguas Calientes
- Giant Hummingbird (*Patagona gigas*) – C, A; many amazing views were had of perched and flying birds on a hillside above Laguna Huacarpay
- White-bellied Hummingbird (*Amazilia chionogaster*) – A; scope views of a nesting bird along the highway above Ollantaytambo
- Green-and-white Hummingbird (*Amazilia viridicauda*) – MP; scope views of a perched bird at the archaeological site
- Peruvian Sheartail (*Thaumastura cora*) – L; brief views of an immature male in the park across from the hotel
- Amazilia Hummingbird (*Amazilia amazilia*) – L; the most common hummingbird in the Lima area; excellent views in the park across from the hotel

Barbets (Capitonidae)

- Versicolored Barbet (*Eubucco versicolor*) – MP; a beautiful male in the forest above the hotel in Aguas Calientes

Woodpeckers & Allies (Picidae)

- Ocellated Piculet (*Picumnus dorbigyanus*) – MP; hotel in Aguas Calientes
- Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Colaptes rubiginosus*) – MP; same
- Andean Flicker (*Colaptes rupicola*) – A; wonderful studies of a pair foraging on the ground at Abra Malaga Pass

Ovenbirds (Furnariidae)

- Cream-winged Cinclodes (*Cinclodes albiventris*) – MP; fairly common in the high country around Abra Malaga Pass
- White-winged Cinclodes (*Cinclodes atacamensis*) – MP; very similar to the above species; seen with Creamy-wingeds below Abra Malaga Pass
- Wren-like Rushbird (*Phleocryptes melanops*) – C, A; excellent views of a bird in the marsh at Laguna Huacarpay
- Creamy-crested Spinetail (*Cranioleuca albicapilla*) - A: a Peruvian endemic seen well at a roadside birding stop above Ollantaytambo
- Rusty-fronted Canastero (*Asthenes ottonis*) - C; in the brush around Laguna Huacarpay
- Pearled Treerunner (*Margarornis squamiger*) – A; good views of a single bird in a mixed-species flock on the far side of Abra Malaga Pass
- Streaked Xenops (*Xenops rutilans*) – MP; good views of a bird in a mixed species flock at the hotel in Aguas Calientes

Tyrant Flycatcher (Tyrannidae)

- White-throated Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus leucophrys*) – A; a couple on the far side of Abra Malaga Pass
- Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma obsoletum*) - L
- White-crested Elaenia (*Elaenia albiceps*) – C, A; fairly common at higher elevations
- Sierran Elaenia (*Elaenia pallatangae*) – MP; in the forest around the hotel at Aguas Calientes
- Torrent Tyrannulet (*Serpophaga cinerea*) – MP; one along the Urubamba River at Aguas Calientes
- Streak-necked Flycatcher (*Mionectes striaticollis*) – MP; one in a mixed species flock at the hotel in Aguas Calientes
- Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant (*Phylloscartes ophthalmicus*) – MP; one in mixed species flock in the forest above the hotel at Aguas Calientes
- Sclater's Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias sclateri*) – MP; fairly common on the grounds of the hotel at Aguas Calientes
- Many-colored Rush-Tyrant (*Tachuris rubrigastra*) - A; good views of a couple of birds in the marsh at Laguna Huacarpay
- Cinnamon Flycatcher (*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus*) – MP; distant views for some of a single bird in a mixed species flock in the forest by the hotel at Aguas Calientes
- Smoke-colored Pewee (*Contopus fumigatus*) – MP; good views of a close bird at the edge of the forest at Aguas Calientes
- Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) – MP; along the Urubamba River at Aguas Calientes
- Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant (*Ochthoeca rufipectoralis*) – A; in the forest on the far side of Abra Malaga Pass
- Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant (*Ochthoeca fumicolor*) - A; near treeline on the far side of Abra Malaga Pass
- Golden-crowned Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*) – MP; several in the forest along the Urubamba River in Aguas Calientes
- Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) – L; including one of the black (melanistic) birds
- Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) - MP

Cotingas (Cotingidae)

- Red-crested Cotinga (*Ampelion rubrocristatus*) – A; excellent views on a couple of occasions along the road to Abra Malaga Pass; a higher elevation species

Tityras & Allies (Tityridae)

Barred Becard (*Pachyramphus versicolor*) – MP; lengthy scope views of a perched bird at the edge of the forest at the hotel in Aguas Calientes

Vireos & Allies (Vireonidae)

Brown-capped Vireo (*Vireo leucophrys*) – MP; one or two birds in a mixed species flock in the forest at the edge of the hotel in Aguas Calientes

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) – MP; one seen well on the grounds of the hotel in Aguas Calientes; a resident subspecies

Swallows (Hirundinidae)

Blue-and-white Swallow (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*) - MP

Brown-bellied Swallow (*Orochelidon murina*) – C, A; fairly common at higher elevations

Wrens (Troglodytidae)

Inca Wren (*Pheugopedius eisenmanni*) – MP; most heard only but seen briefly by a few at the Machu Picchu archaeological site

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) – C, MP; the “Southern” form

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*) - MP

Dippers (Cinclidae)

White-capped Dipper (*Cinclus leucocephalus*) – MP; fabulous looks at an actively foraging bird along the Urubamba River in Aguas Calientes

Thrushes & Allies (Turdidae)

Chiguanco Thrush (*Turdus chiguanco*) – C, A; the most common thrush in the Andes

Great Thrush (*Turdus fuscater*) – A; brief looks at this, the largest thrush species, in the Andes

New World Warblers (Parulidae)

Tropical Parula (*Parula pitiayumi*) – MP; one or two seen well in the forest at the hotel in Aguas Calientes

Slate-throated Redstart (*Myioborus miniatus*) – MP; common in the forest at the hotel in Aguas Calientes

Spectacled Redstart (*Myioborus melanocephalus*) – A, MP; good looks at birds along the highway above Ollantaytambo; others around the hotel in Aguas Calientes

Russet-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus coronatus*) – MP; nice views of a singing bird with a mixed species flock in the forest at the hotel in Aguas Calientes

Bananaquit (Coerebidae)

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) - L

Tanagers & Allies (Thraupidae)

White-browed Conebill (*Conirostrum ferrugineiventris*) – A; a single bird in a mixed species flock on the far side of Abra Malaga Pass

Capped Conebill (*Conirostrum albifrons*) – A; a pair in a mixed species flock on the far side of Abra Malaga Pass

Tit-like Dacnis (*Xenodacnis parina*) – A; same as above

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) – MP; around the forest edge at the hotel in Aguas Calientes

Blue-and-yellow Tanager (*Thraupis bonariensis*) – C, A – Common in the high country, with

wonderful views of birds around Laguna Huacarpay

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) – MP; around the forest edge at the hotel in Aguas Calientes
Saffron-crowned Tanager (*Tangara xanthocephala*) – MP; excellent views of this beautiful bird
at the feeding station at the hotel in Aguas Calientes

Golden-naped Tanager (*Tangara ruficervix*) – MP; this birds was seen only once or twice
visiting the feeding station at the hotel in Aguas Calientes

Blue-necked Tanager (*Tangara cyanicollis*) – MP; another stunning tanager, we had good looks
at birds attending the feeding station at the hotel in Aguas calientes

Beryl-spangled Tanager (*Tangara nigroviridis*) – MP; a couple in a mixed species flock along
the river at the hotel in Aguas Calientes

Blue-and-black Tanager (*Tangara vassorii*) – MP; scope views of a sunlit individual at the hotel
in Aguas Calientes

Silvery Tanager (*Tangara viridicollis*) – MP: a fairly common tanager in mixed species flocks in
at the hotel in Aguas Calientes

Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*) – MP; one seen in a mixed species flock at the hotel in Aguas
Calientes

Golden-billed Saltator (*Saltator aurantiirostris*) – C, A, MP; a common and handsome bird of
upper elevation forest edge and clearings

Buntings, Sparrows & Allies (Emberizidae)

Mourning Sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus fruticeti*) – C; nice looks at birds on the hillside above Laguna
Huacarpay

Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus plebejus*) – C; scope views of single birds feeding in the
corn along the edge of Laguna Huacarpay

Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch (*Poospiza caesar*) - A; this handsome species is a Peruvian
endemic that we saw well at a roadside birding stop above Ollantaytambo

Black-and-white Seedeater (*Sporophila luctuosa*) – A; seen in the same vicinity as the above
mountain-finch

Band-tailed Seedeater (*Catamenia analis*) – A; same

Black-throated Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa brunneiventris*) – A; marvelous views of a bird above
Ollantaytambo while seeking the Creamy-crested Spinetail

Saffron Finch (*Sicalis flaveola*) - L

Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*) – C, A, MP; common throughout

Cardinals & Allies (Cardinalidae)

Black-backed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus aureoventris*) – A; fabulous looks at a perched and singing
bird above Ollantaytambo

Troupials & Allies (Icteridae)

Scrub Blackbird (*Dives warszewiczi*) – L; good views of birds in the park across the street from
the hotel in Lima

Yellow-winged Blackbird (*Agelasticus thilius*) – C; a handsome bird common in the marshes
around Laguna Huacarpay

Dusky-green Oropendola (*Psarocolius atrovirens*) – MP; fairly common on the grounds of the
hotel in Aguas Calientes

Siskins, Crossbills & Allies (Fringillidae)

Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia lanirostris*) – MP; fairly common on the grounds of the hotel
in Aguas Calientes

Blue-naped Chlorophonia (*Chlorophonia cyanea*) – MP; a dazzling pair visited the feeding

station with the other tanagers in Aguas Calientes

Hooded Siskin (*Spinus magellanicus*) – C, A; this is the most common siskin at higher elevations in the Andes

TOTAL: 131

MAMMALS

Northern Vizcacha (*Lagidium peruanum*) – This is a rabbit-like rodent of the Peruvian Andes that we saw well at Machu Picchu