Trip Report — Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru I 2026

June 24-July 3, 2026 with Dan Lane



Beware all those who dare cross Abra Malaga! Photo by Dan Lane.

It is not a secret that the prime tourist destination in Peru is Machu Picchu (or MaPi, as locals call it)! The ruins are perched on a ridge that offer an awe-inspiring view that stays with you and really makes the place worthwhile. Happily, the ruins also happen to be in a rather birdy part of the country and thus make for a really nice week-long birding trip... so off we went! The tour started in Lima, and after our flight to the city of Cusco, former capital of the Incan empire, we headed down to the marshes and lakes of Huacarpay. Thence, we headed down the Urubamba River through the sacred valley with a stop at Sacred Garden for the elegant Bearded Mountaineer, and then on to our lodge in the town of Ollantaytambo. The following day, we boarded the train down to Aguas Calientes, our jumping-off point to head up to the ruins of Machu Picchu and drink in the magic of the site! After a fine lunch by the ruins, we headed down to our luxurious hotel in the valley below. Our third day found us walking along the railroad bed down to the Mandor Valley, birding mixed-species flocks along the way. We returned to Ollantaytambo the next day. The next three days were spent exploring both the near (dry) and far (wet) slopes of Abra Malaga—the pass separating

Ollantaytambo from the lower valley of the Urubamba River—with the magnificent Nevado Veronica overseeing all who cross the pass! Our third morning here involved our hike up into the highest elevations of the tour as we visited the Polylepis woodland in search of species that are specialists of the habitat. That afternoon, we headed back to Cusco, making stops at Ensifera Camp hummingbird garden, a nice buffet restaurant for lunch, and the shore of Lake Piuray before arriving at our nice hotel in the city. Some folks did a tour of the colonial part of the city with our local guide Razi before we flew back to Lima and ended the tour.



The gaudy Versicolored Barbet is one of the flashier birds of the tour. Photo by Dan Lane.

When I asked what our best memories of the tour were, the top one was (drum roll): the ruins at MaPi... no surprises there! The culture and culinary experiences we had were a close second. But behind those were the birds! And we had a nice selection of stars that were burned into our minds. These

ranged from the iconic Andean Condor that we enjoyed watching as it sailed around the slopes above Maxima's restaurant, to the attractive Versicolored Barbet that caught our attention in a mixed flock below Aguas Calientes, to the less colorful Tufted Tit-Tyrant that was nevertheless wowed us with its moxy. The walk along the tracks below Aguas Calientes also netted us Golden-headed Quetzal, Andean Motmot, Black-and-chestnut Eagle, and our faithful canine escort team. Our birding on the humid slope of Abra Malaga added the stunning Plushcap, Red-crested Cotinga, and the uncommon Three-striped Hemispingus to the list of memorables. And finally, someone wanted to remind us that they enjoyed conversing with the ever-ebullient Barry Walker once we returned to Cusco—always a worthwhile sighting!



Giant Hummingbird is on the cusp of being split into two species. The one we enjoyed seeing was Northern GH. Photo by Dan Lane.

Machu Picchu is perhaps the most effective “gateway drug” to birding in Peru, but there is much more to this amazing and varied country. I hope that you will consider returning to visit another corner with me in the future to see what other gems there are to be seen here! Meanwhile, keep them binoculars close at hand and good birding to you all!



Competing with the birds for favorite experience on the tour was the visit to the ruins of Machu Picchu. Photo by Dan Lane.



Here is the group at the ruins. Photo by Dan Lane.



As we take the train to and from Aguas Calientes, we keep our eyes peeled for Fasciated Tiger-Herons. Photo by Dan Lane.



A family of Undulated Antpittas is now a regular feature of the tour thanks to the efforts of the folks at Ensifera Camp. Photo by Dan Lane.

Mammals observed on the tour:
Bolivian Squirrel (Sciurus ignitus)

I enjoyed sharing the birds of this place with you, and hope to be in the field with you again soon!

You can see my complete trip report on eBird at this link:
https://ebird.org/tripreport/547013

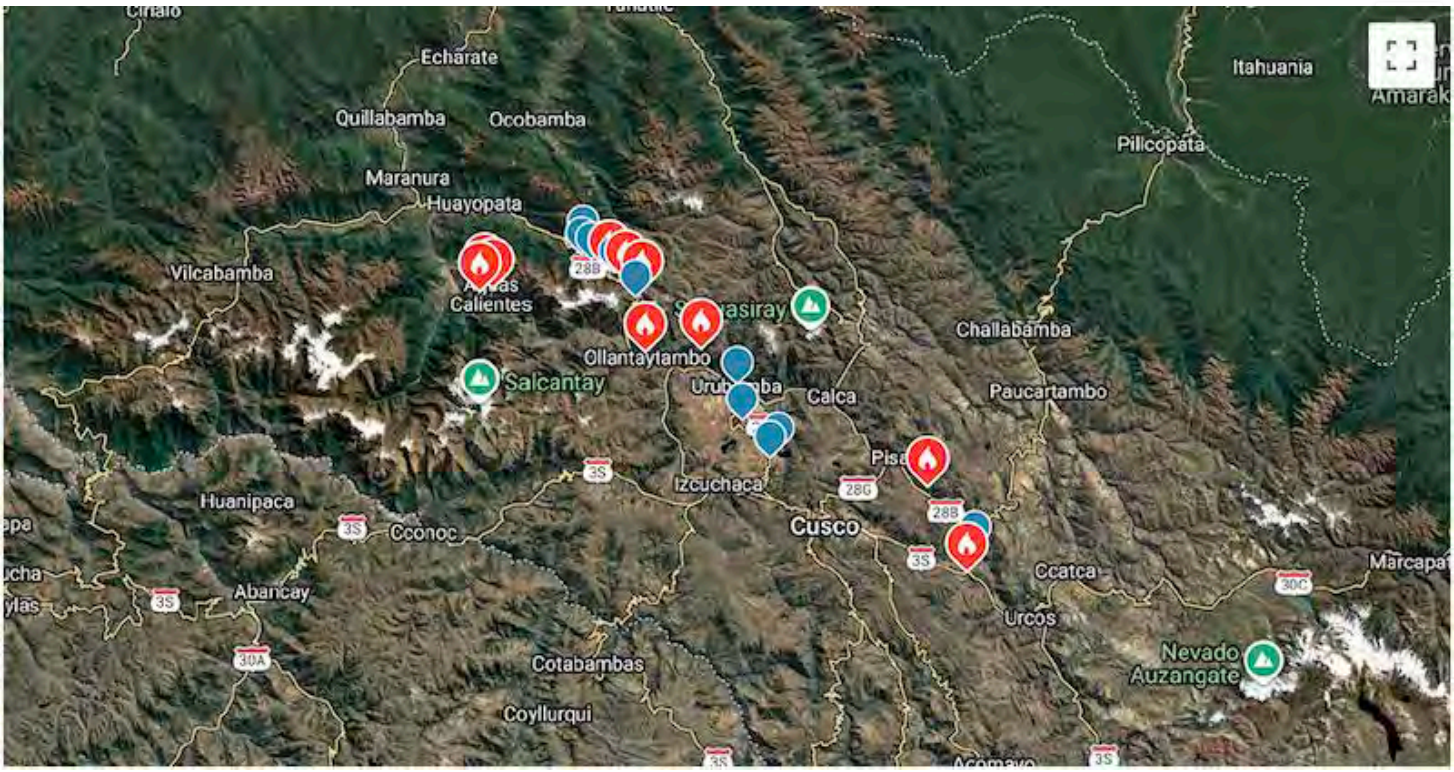
You can download a combined PDF of this page and the eBird report at this link: **https://fieldguides.com/triplists/abm26TRIPLIST.pdf**

-- Dan Lane (the Barbet)

eBird

Field Guides Birding Tours --PERU: MACHU PICCHU AND ABRA MALAGA, 2026 (with Dan Lane)

25 Jun – 2 Jul 2026 (8 days) Link-only



Cuzco [Cusco], Peru

Dan Lane FGI tours

For a narrative summary of this tour, including a Field Guides photo gallery and additional media for this trip…

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29

Species Observed | Checklists

LIFERS 6

Species Observed

Show all details

4	Andean Goose *Oressochen melanopterus*	1
1	Torrent Duck *Merganetta armata*	1
20	Puna Teal *Spatula puna*	1
20	Cinnamon Teal *Spatula cyanoptera*	1
1	White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis*	1
10	Yellow-billed Pintail *Anas georgica*	1
104	Yellow-billed Teal *Anas flavirostris*	3
20	Andean Duck *Oxyura ferruginea*	1
5	Andean Guan *Penelope montagnii*	2
2	Stripe-faced Wood-Quail *Odontophorus balliviani*	1
30	Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* *	6
19	Spot-winged Pigeon *Patagioenas maculosa*	4
1	Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*	1
20	Bare-faced Ground Dove *Metriopelia ceciliae*	3
5	White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*	2
1	White-throated Quail-Dove *Zentrygon frenata*	1
16	Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*	5
6	White-tipped Swift *Aeronautes montivagus*	2
5	Andean Swift *Aeronautes andecolus*	1
32	Sparkling Violetear *Colibri coruscans*	5
4	Amethyst-throated Sunangel *Heliangelus amethysticollis*	2

2	Speckled Hummingbird *Adelomyia melanogenys*	1
3	Long-tailed Sylph *Aglaiocercus kingii*	1
13	Green-tailed Trainbearer *Lesbia nuna*	3
1	Blue-mantled Thornbill *Chalcostigma stanleyi*	1
1	Bearded Mountaineer *Oreonympha nobilis*	1
9	Tyrian Metaltail *Metallura tyrianthina*	3
1	Scaled Metaltail *Metallura aeneocauda*	1
1	White-tufted Sunbeam *Aglaeactis castelnaudii*	1
1	Bronzy Inca *Coeligena coeligena*	1
1	Gould's Inca *Coeligena inca*	1
4	Violet-throated Starfrontlet *Coeligena violifer*	3
1	Sword-billed Hummingbird *Ensifera ensifera*	1
2	Great Sapphirewing *Pterophanes cyanopterus*	2
11	Chestnut-breasted Coronet *Boissonneaua matthewsii*	2
4	Rufous-booted Racket-tail *Ocreatus addae*	2
15	White-bellied Woodstar *Chaetocercus mulsant*	1
5	White-bellied Hummingbird *Elliotomyia chionogaster*	1
33	Green-and-white Hummingbird *Elliotomyia viridicauda*	6
6	Plumbeous Rail *Pardirallus sanguinolentus*	1
43	Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*	2
202	Slate-colored Coot *Fulica ardesiaca*	2
1	Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*	1
20	Andean Lapwing *Vanellus resplendens*	7
3	Gray-breasted Seedsnipe *Thinocorus orbignyianus*	1

4	**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca*	1
109	**Andean Gull** *Chroicocephalus serranus*	7
34	**Chilean Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus chilensis*	1
31	**White-tufted Grebe** *Rollandia rolland*	2
30	**Silvery Grebe** *Podiceps occipitalis*	1
51	**Puna Ibis** *Plegadis ridgwayi*	5
16	**Andean Ibis** *Theristicus branickii*	5
1	**Fasciated Tiger-Heron** *Tigrisoma fasciatum*	1
1	**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea*	1
3	**Western Cattle-Egret** *Ardea ibis*	1
4	**Andean Condor** *Vultur gryphus*	1
2	**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*	1
1	**Black-and-chestnut Eagle** *Spizaetus isidori*	1
3	**Roadside Hawk** *Rupornis magnirostris*	3
11	**Variable Hawk** *Geranoaetus polyosoma*	6
1	**Yungas Pygmy-Owl** *Glaucidium bolivianum*	1
1	**Peruvian Pygmy-Owl** *Glaucidium peruanum*	1
1	**Golden-headed Quetzal** *Pharomachrus auriceps*	1
12	**Andean Motmot** *Momotus aequatorialis*	2
2	**Black-streaked Puffbird** *Malacoptila fulvogularis*	1
3	**Versicolored Barbet** *Eubucco versicolor*	1
4	**Blue-banded Toucanet** *Aulacorhynchus coeruleicinctis*	2
3	**Ocellated Piculet** *Picumnus dorbignyanus*	1

5	Golden-olive Woodpecker	*Colaptes rubiginosus*	3
10	Andean Flicker	*Colaptes rupicola*	5
18	Mountain Caracara	*Daptrius megalopterus*	8
4	American Kestrel	*Falco sparverius*	2
2	Aplomado Falcon	*Falco femoralis*	1
3	Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	2
6	Speckle-faced Parrot	*Pionus tumultuosus*	3
72	Mitred Parakeet	*Psittacara mitratus*	3
4	Variable Antshrike	*Thamnophilus caerulescens*	1
1	Undulated Antpitta	*Grallaria squamigera*	1
3	Stripe-headed Antpitta	*Grallaria andicolus*	2
3	Urubamba Antpitta	*Grallaria occabambae*	1
4	Puna Tapaculo	*Scytalopus simonsi*	2
6	Diademed Tapaculo	*Scytalopus schulenbergi*	2
1	Trilling Tapaculo	*Scytalopus parvirostris*	1
1	Montane Woodcreeper	*Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*	1
3	Streaked Xenops	*Xenops rutilans*	1
4	Wren-like Rushbird	*Phleocryptes melanops*	1
19	Cream-winged Cinclodes	*Cinclodes albiventris*	4
5	Pearled Treerunner	*Margarornis squamiger*	2
3	Line-fronted Canastero	*Asthenes urubambensis*	2
1	Junin Canastero	*Asthenes virgata*	1
1	Streak-backed Canastero	*Asthenes wyatti*	1

7	Streak-throated Canastero	*Asthenes humilis*	2
3	Puna Thistletail	*Asthenes helleri*	2
10	Rusty-fronted Canastero	*Asthenes ottonis*	3
6	Marcapata Spinetail	*Cranioleuca marcapatae*	1
11	Creamy-crested Spinetail	*Cranioleuca albicapilla*	3
1	Ash-browed Spinetail	*Cranioleuca curtata*	1
1	Azara's Spinetail	*Synallaxis azarae*	1
16	Red-crested Cotinga	*Ampelion rubrocristatus*	3
4	Andean Cock-of-the-rock	*Rupicola peruvianus*	1
3	Barred Becard	*Pachyramphus versicolor*	1
4	Many-colored Rush Tyrant	*Tachuris rubrigastra*	1
2	Streak-necked Flycatcher	*Mionectes striaticollis*	1
1	Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet	*Phylloscartes ventralis*	1
5	Common Tody-Flycatcher	*Todirostrum cinereum*	2
3	Yellow-olive Flatbill	*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*	2
3	Cinnamon Flycatcher	*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus*	2
4	White-banded Tyrannulet	*Mecocerculus stictopterus*	1
5	White-throated Tyrannulet	*Mecocerculus leucophrys*	2
2	Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant	*Anairetes flavirostris*	1
2	Tufted Tit-Tyrant	*Anairetes parulus*	1
4	Unstreaked Tit-Tyrant	*Uromyias agraphia*	1
2	Yellow-bellied Elaenia	*Elaenia flavogaster*	1
5	White-crested Elaenia	*Elaenia albiceps*	1

3	Sierran Elaenia *Elaenia pallatangae*	1
16	Torrent Tyrannulet *Serpophaga cinerea*	2
7	Sclater's Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias sclateri*	2
3	Ashy-headed Tyrannulet *Tyranniscus cinereiceps*	2
4	Smoke-colored Pewee *Contopus fumigatus*	1
6	Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*	2
1	Little Ground-Tyrant *Syrtidicola fluviatilis*	1
1	Taczanowski's Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola griseus*	1
1	Ochre-naped Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola flavinucha*	1
1	Rufous-webbed Bush-Tyrant *Cnemarchus rufipennis*	1
14	Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca rufipectoralis*	3
11	Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca fumicolor*	3
7	Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*	3
7	Golden-crowned Flycatcher *Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*	2
8	Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*	2
8	Brown-capped Vireo *Vireo leucophrys*	2
2	Chivi Vireo *Vireo chivi*	1
2	Green Jay *Cyanocorax yncas*	1
43	Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*	4
16	Pale-footed Swallow *Orochelidon flavipes*	2
5	Brown-bellied Swallow *Orochelidon murina*	3
6	Gray-mantled Wren *Odontorchilus branickii*	2
20	Southern House Wren *Troglodytes musculus*	11

3	Mountain Wren *Troglodytes solstitialis*	2
4	Inca Wren *Pheugopedius eisenmanni*	2
6	Gray-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys*	2
5	White-capped Dipper *Cinclus leucocephalus*	2
10	Andean Solitaire *Myadestes ralloides*	2
1	White-eared Solitaire *Entomodestes leucotis*	1
16	Great Thrush *Turdus fuscater*	5
22	Chiguanco Thrush *Turdus chiguanco*	8
2	Paramo Pipit *Anthus bogotensis*	2
5	Blue-naped Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia cyanea*	1
12	Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia laniirostris*	2
5	Orange-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia xanthogaster*	2
15	Hooded Siskin *Spinus magellanicus*	2
2	Common Chlorospingus *Chlorospingus flavopectus*	1
2	Yellow-browed Sparrow *Ammodramus aurifrons*	1
1	Gray-browed Brushfinch *Arremon assimilis*	1
2	Chestnut-capped Brushfinch *Arremon brunneinucha*	2
99	Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*	13
2	Cuzco Brushfinch *Atlapetes canigenis*	1
11	Dusky-green Oropendola *Psarocolius atrovirens*	2
3	Yellow-winged Blackbird *Agelasticus thilius*	2
11	Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiayumi*	2
1	Three-striped Warbler *Basileuterus tristriatus*	1

6	Citrine Warbler *Myiothlypis luteoviridis*	1
3	Pale-legged Warbler *Myiothlypis signata*	1
12	Russet-crowned Warbler *Myiothlypis coronata*	2
11	Slate-throated Whitestart *Myioborus miniatus*	3
3	Spectacled Whitestart *Myioborus melanocephalus*	2
2	Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava*	1
1	White-winged Tanager *Piranga leucoptera*	1
9	Black-backed Grosbeak *Pheucticus aureoventris*	4
3	Slaty Tanager *Creurgops dentatus*	1
2	Parodi's Hemispingus *Kleinothraupis parodii*	1
6	Oleaginous Hemispingus *Sphenopsis frontalis*	1
1	Rust-and-yellow Tanager *Thlypopsis ruficeps*	1
2	Superciliaried Hemispingus *Thlypopsis superciliaris*	1
2	Three-striped Hemispingus *Microspingus trifasciatus*	1
1	White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus*	1
2	Silver-beaked Tanager *Ramphocelus carbo*	1
2	Blue-capped Tanager *Sporathraupis cyanocephala*	2
4	Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager *Anisognathus igniventris*	2
2	Chestnut-bellied Mountain Tanager *Dubusia castaneoventris*	1
1	Fawn-breasted Tanager *Pipraeidea melanonota*	1
25	Blue-and-yellow Tanager *Rauenia bonariensis*	4
18	Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*	4
2	Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*	1

5	Golden-naped Tanager	*Chalcothraupis ruficervix*	2
8	Silvery Tanager	*Stilpnia viridicollis*	2
6	Blue-necked Tanager	*Stilpnia cyanicollis*	2
11	Saffron-crowned Tanager	*Tangara xanthocephala*	2
1	Blue Dacnis	*Dacnis cayana*	1
4	White-browed Conebill	*Conirostrum ferrugineiventre*	2
4	Blue-backed Conebill	*Conirostrum sitticolor*	1
2	Capped Conebill	*Conirostrum albifrons*	1
6	Cinereous Conebill	*Conirostrum cinereum*	2
2	Moustached Flowerpiercer	*Diglossa mystacalis*	1
8	Black-throated Flowerpiercer	*Diglossa brunneiventris*	5
4	Rusty Flowerpiercer	*Diglossa sittoides*	3
7	Whistling Masked Flowerpiercer	*Diglossa melanopis*	5
1	Plushcap	*Catamblyrhynchus diadema*	1
3	Peruvian Sierra Finch	*Phrygilus punensis*	1
4	Glacier Finch	*Idiopsar speculifer*	1
17	Plumbeous Sierra Finch	*Geospizopsis unicolor*	3
1	Ash-breasted Sierra Finch	*Geospizopsis plebejus*	1
2	Chestnut-breasted Mountain Finch	*Poospizopsis caesar*	1
10	Bright-rumped Yellow-Finch	*Sicalis uropygialis*	1
3	Greenish Yellow-Finch	*Sicalis olivascens*	1
31	Band-tailed Seedeater	*Catamenia analis*	3
9	Plain-colored Seedeater	*Catamenia inornata*	3

1 **Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola* 1

2 **Dull-colored Grassquit** *Asemospiza obscura* 1

3 **Golden-billed Saltator** *Saltator aurantiirostris* 2

ADDITIONAL TAXA

7 Northern/Southern Giant-Hummingbird *Patagona peruviana/gigas* 3