

### **Inkaterra Birding Day**

This month, explorer guides at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel organized a birding excursion. Our exploration trek began at 5:00am towards Alccamayo River, searching for particular bird species such as the majestic Golden-Headed Quetzal (*Pharomachrus auriceps*). At the beginning, the outing was not very good. On route we couldn't see much because it was still dark, but we could hear many calls of birds awaking.

We decided to keep climbing. At around 8:00am we had our first big sighting. A female Golden-Headed Quetzal (easily recognizable due to the color of its feathers) flew in front of us. The bird decided to rest on a branch and we could take a good look at it. Suddenly the sighting became even more interesting as another quetzal perched next to the first one. For a few minutes we got to see them both, until they flew and got lost into the vegetation.

When we were heading back to the hotel, a Blue-banded Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus coeruleicinctis*) appeared. When we finally began to descend, we noticed that there was a white-breasted bird of prey on a dry tree branch. We used the telescope to identify this bird. We could not believe it, we realized it was a Semicollared Hawk (*Accipiter collaris*) resting in front of us. It was very particular, as this subtropical species is becoming threatened due to loss of habitat, and within time is very hard to observe it.

It was a great day for birding!