

Uncommon hummingbird seen at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel

On February 22nd at 7:45 a.m., Explorer Guide José Lavilla Holguín found a rare hummingbird near the feeders at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel. It was the Fawn-breasted Brilliant (*Heliodoxa rubinoides*), uncommon for the cloud forests from East Andes (1500-2500m). Measuring about 12.5 cm, this brown-colored bird is known for its green marks and a shiny pink collar. Male and female are very similar, though the pink collar tends to be opaque in females.

“It was a rather cold morning in the cloud forest of Machu Picchu. I was looking for birds with a group of travelers, but we weren’t having much luck. When the excursion was about to end, we approached the bird feeders to observe the hummingbirds. Suddenly, I saw a very rare bird: it was a Fawn-breasted Brilliant. This was the second time I had seen this hummingbird in Machu Picchu, and last time was a new register for the area. We observed the bird throughout the day with other Inkaterra Explorer Guides, as well as our resident biologist”, recalls José Lavilla.