Andean torrent ducks (*Merganetta armata leucogenis*) perched in the raging waters of the Chancay River in Peru. These ducks live in some of the most powerful and fast flowing rivers of the Andes. They are remarkably strong swimmers and are able to dive and fly at altitudes from sea level to greater than 4500 m, where barometric pressure and oxygen availability are low. Dawson et al. (pp. 3719-3728) examined their mitochondrial physiology by comparing the respiratory capacities of permeabilized fibers, activities of 16 key metabolic enzymes, and myoglobin content in muscles between high- and low-altitude populations of this species. Photo credit: Kevin McCracken.