

# Galapagos

**Thursday 6 July – Sunday 16 July 2006**

**Ecuador extension to Sunday 23 July 2006**

## Trip Report

### Leaders:

Juan (on the Beluga)

Captain Santiago Ramos, barman George + remainder of the crew of the Beluga

John Muddeman

Francisco Enrique (mainland)

Fatima (guide) + William (driver) in Quito

### Thursday 6th July      transfer to Quito

We all met at the departure gate in Madrid airport. Despite being a little late for take-off, we made good time and after the journey were met at the airport and even admired the peak of Cotopaxi from the bus (the views of the Andes from the plane had been excellent).

It being late by our personal clocks, we checked into the hotel and got to our rooms by 6 p.m. either went to bed, in preparation for an early start the following day or had a light dinner before turning in.

### Friday 7th July      transfer to Galápagos via Guayaquil and start of cruise

A later flight than normal saw us leaving the hotel at 6:30 am, then going through formalities in Quito airport (ably assisted by Deborah our Enchanted Expeditions representative) before taking the short hop to Guayaquil. A beautifully clear morning meant we could appreciate the scale of the mountains around us, and those on the left-hand side had prolonged views of the Andean chain and snow-capped peaks of a few of the volcanoes along its length.

Waiting for the refuelling to finish in Guayaquil airport we finally got away, and after our third 'meal' that morning the tension mounted as we began the descent to Baltra airport...

It was cloudy when we landed - lovely! We quickly hopped on the bus and headed to the quay with our guide, Juan. After noting the first of the local wildlife, including numerous Sea-lions on the bus shelter benches and Common Noddies, Blue-footed Boobies and Brown Pelicans flying past just yards away, we picked up the pangas to take us to our vessel. Several Magnificent Frigatebirds were also cruising over at height and a couple of Elliot's Storm-petrels skittered over the water, completing a terrific introduction to the islands' wildlife.

We boarded the boat and after an introductory talk, including 'formally' meeting our fellow passengers Steven and Eva, Emma and Dyfed and Pebble, we went to our rooms to drop our bags and then headed straight in to lunch.

We cruised up to N Seymour for the afternoon, starting with our first snorkelling session in quite warm, though choppy water- and between passing Scalloped Hammerhead sharks on the surface! Those remaining on board were treated to views of a small cliff opposite with Swallow-tailed Gulls and small flocks of breeding Galápagos Shearwaters which swept back and forth in front.

Taking the pangas (inflatables) we headed for some rock steps up a small cliff. A Lava Heron flew past but landed out of sight, while Blue-footed Boobies raced past at eye-level and Frigatebirds cruised past just over our heads.

We worked our way round the coast, leaving the rather leafless and arid scrub until later, noting nesting Blue-footed Boobies and trying to get views of the calling finches in the scrub.

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The first of several Land Iguanas was looked at in detail and also some incredibly close juvenile Yellow Warblers plus attendant females. Juan's sharp eyes also picked out two Red-footed Boobies flying past along the shoreline - excellent finds since they are very difficult to see away from the breeding islands.

The fringe of low saltbush around the island seemed to be ideal for breeding Frigatebirds. Dozens and dozens of Magnificent Frigatebirds formed small colonies, scattered about, some down at just knee height and completely ignoring our presence. We were also able to pick out a number of juvenile, female and one or two male Great Frigatebirds among them, though the red pouches on the displaying males were what obviously caught our eye the most.

One or two Marine Iguanas were seen, being small and black, adding to the amazing spectacle unfolding before us. Our return to the boat through the arid Palo Santo or Incense Tree scrub was in cooling conditions with the sun sinking low to the west. What a finale to this start!

We boarded the pangas and headed back to the boat before our evening meal and first call-over.

### **Saturday 8th July** Hood (Española!)

After a long overnight cruise, the last few hours moored were a relief to many, and we rose to find ourselves opposite the white sand beach of Gardner Bay. Here we experienced our first wet landing, and spent a couple of hours just walking the beach and enjoying the numerous Galápagos Sea-lions. These were sun-bathing or surfing in on the small waves. Several beach-masters cared for their harems, though apart from the odd shouting match and head-rearing, no real antagonism was seen, and despite us walking past just feet away on occasions, they hardly stirred.

The scrub bordering the back of the beach was remarkably quiet for birds, despite the inquisitive Hood Mockingbirds around us on the beach and a Galápagos Hawk which passed on a couple of occasions. However, sitting down in a small hollow in the green vegetation we finally saw the three species of 'Darwin's finches' present: a fly-by large-beaked Large Cactus Finch, several Small Ground Finches and the small stub-tailed and -winged Warbler Finch. A couple of Pacific Green Turtles popped their heads out of the sea all too briefly.

Back on the boat we rapidly changed into our snorkelling gear and headed off to Gardner Island nearby. After the initial immersion shock of having much cooler Humboldt Current water entering the wetsuits than the day before, we rapidly forgot everything as a few sea-lions accompanied us as we swam along the side of a cliff and came to swim around and below us. The fish were also good, with the visibility being superb and allowing views down to 10 or 15m. King Angelfish were scattered about, being the most spectacular of those present, plus huge schools of tiny Black-striped Salemas. The water was cool enough to get through to us though, and we returned to shower and warm up, the soup for starters at lunch being a fine way to shake off any potential after-effects.

Our cruise along the coast later provided views of plenty of Galápagos Shearwaters and a few Elliot's and Wedge-rumped (or Galápagos) Storm-petrels, while later on a couple of huge distant seabirds were a sign of things to come...

Our panga dry landing in the afternoon was at Punta Suárez. The swell meant it was interesting getting onto the rock steps as we landed, while plenty of Galápagos Sea-lions and lots of Marine Iguanas meant the first cameras were out even before the second boat had reached the shore! A Lava Heron flew in noisily before pitching onto the breakwater boulders at close range.

Walking quickly to get away from other landing groups, we soon reached an area along the coast with nesting boobies. A few Blue-footed were present, while good numbers of smart and often noisy Nazca Boobies were scattered by the path and along the cliff edge. The air above was filled with noisy White-tailed Tropicbirds, Galápagos Shearwaters and Swallow-

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tailed Gulls, while in the distance, hundreds of Waved Albatrosses wheeled over the cliffs ahead, forming a spectacular sight.

After climbing up past a cove with various Swallow-tailed Gulls and an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron, we suddenly reached a flatter open area with a few pairs of the albatrosses. A tiny chick nestled between its parent and a rock (!), though we soon moved on to watch the amazing courtship rituals, with calling, head shaking and waving, sky-pointing, bill clattering and touching and open-mouthed postures - simply stunning, especially given their extraordinary 'bushy eyebrows' and peculiar gaze.

The albatross numbers increased ahead, especially near the famous blow-hole where a good swell was giving a fine display, and we noted a couple more chicks with their parents and later, even a few abandoned eggs. Large numbers of albatrosses were gliding continuously up and down the coast, providing a stunning spectacle, while some of the numerous Marine Iguanas returning to land were having a tough time of landing in the white water at the cliff base.

The cliff top ahead held a surprise in the form of a soaking as a huge wave blew spray over the top of the cliff, though it barely affected two noisy pairs of Galápagos Hawks hanging in the wind just over the cliff top and sometimes just overhead!

The walk back across the island through scrub was great in the late afternoon, with many albatrosses en route, even under the bushes, while the remains of several storm-petrels, presumably Elliot's, were found along the track, victim of the hawks. On the last bit of shore a fine American Oystercatcher flew in calling. Dusk was approaching fast and this seemed to trigger the smaller birds into moving, with large numbers of Galápagos Doves and a few Large Cactus Finches flying in to feed in the scrub near the lighthouse. A fine end to another superb day.

### Sunday 9th July      Floreana

A better night's sleep for most once we'd moored about 1 a.m. We woke up to find ourselves a little way off Punta Cormorant. The morning excursion was over to the beach, where a relatively rich flora was growing on the dunes between the beach and a hyper-saline lagoon behind.

A walk E took us through tall scrub where Medium Tree Finch and a couple of Galápagos Flycatchers were watched. The local Floreana Lava Lizards were also common, especially by a little raised knoll from where we contemplated the whole of the pool and its inhabitants. Here we had views of the outrageously pink Flamingos (including some on nests) and plenty of White-cheeked Pintail. Ahead, a female Large Ground Finch feed unconcernedly just yards away and a couple of Medium Ground Finches posed up in the top of a Palo Santo tree, but below us, for some time.

We emerged from the scrub to look over a lovely white sand beach. Paddling was strictly restricted to the edge, and the reason became apparent when several sting rays were seen drifting along in the wash zone just feet from the water's edge! A number of Pacific Green Turtles had hauled themselves up to lay their eggs, leaving behind the nest pits from which emerged several tracks of hatchling turtles. Other distinctive tracks on the beach included Yellow-crowned Night Heron, a wader, probably Wandering Tattler, a rat, and the holes and sand balls of the very shy Ghost Crabs. The Sally Lightfoot Crabs were much more approachable though and kept us occupied on the rocky outcrop halfway along the beach, while two Ruddy Turnstones and a Grey Plover flew in to the beach to feed as we passed the time away.

En route to another viewpoint over the lagoon we paused to look at various endemic plants included Black and White Mangrove, leatherleaf and the all but dead remains of the *Scalesia* bushes on the tuff cone lava sand. A couple of Semipalmated Plovers and a roosting pair of Black-necked Stilts also provided more variety.

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Juan insisted we try snorkelling at Devil's Crown, despite the strong currents, and this was an inspired choice. We leapt in to find quite warm water simply teeming with fish. Pacific Creolefish were in abundance, along with shoals of many other species, including a stunning group of King Angelfish and spawning Rainbow Wrasse. The current was very strong, so we were soon out again, so we headed back for a second go, this time outside! Juan tried to point out some hiding White-tipped Reef Sharks on the bottom, though a couple of Pelican Barracuda, a 'mackerel' and the appearance of a few Pacific Green Turtles were a simply fantastic sight.

Lunch was taken in Post Office Bay, which we visited later, the history of the islands and the significance of the post office barrel put to the fore. Indeed, the fact that no-one claimed the Galápagos until 1932 reinforced how inhospitable they really are for settlement.

Most of the afternoon was taken up with the cruise to Santa Cruz and we finally moored in the evening at Puerto Ayora. The cruise was fascinating though, with a constant entourage of White-rumped and (fewer) Elliot's Storm-petrels plus three Dark-rumped (= Galápagos) Petrels passing, and about half a dozen Waved Albatrosses cruising around. Although we started very well, detouring for a mobile pod of Common Dolphins which disappeared before we reached them, leaving us instead with several blows close by of a fine rorqual whale, probably Bryde's, this was clearly bettered when a large pod of Bottle-nosed Dolphins headed for the boat, three or four staying with us for c. 20 minutes, riding the bow wave and leaping out at intervals - a truly wonderful sight and well worth getting out of bed for a snoozing few! Another little group of 5 or 6 made some spectacular leaps in the wake of the boat just after sunset, a marvellous ending to a really exciting day.

### **Monday 10th July** Santa Cruz - tortoises and the highlands

Breakfast at 7 a.m. and off just before 8. The panga ride to the Charles Darwin Research Foundation produced a Lava Gull, American Oystercatcher and a couple of Ruddy Turnstones, while the rock pools just after landing were alive with small fish, including Yellow-tailed Damselfish and a couple of small fighting octopus!

We toured the station under thick cloud, meaning plenty of birds and insects were active, including Galápagos Mockingbirds, Galápagos Sulphurs and Galápagos Blues, plus a wide range of finches including a good number of fine-plumaged male finches - Cactus, Small and Large Tree and the notably large Vegetarian being of most note. It was clear that the water put out for the tortoises produced ideal habitat for adult males of the various species present, with many more black or black-headed birds present than normal. Poor old Lone George apparently turns his nose up at the two female tortoises put into his pen, though he looked almost smug as he tucked into his fresh food, while the females, obviously a bit miffed at having been snubbed for the last 30 years were having a violent discussion in Giant Tortoise terms, one veritably sprinting away from the other (in tortoise terms) when it backed off!

The ups and downs of the tortoise rearing and reintroduction program were discussed and we rounded off with a little retail therapy in the shop there which took longer than expected, but those outside were able to watch the massed finches looking for snacks at the bar (!).

Walking back through town, where a superb Great Blue Heron stood hopefully on the pavement (!) by the little fish market and a Lava Gull wolfed down some scraps, we got back spot on time for lunch. We were off again on the pangas at 2 p.m. sharp and jumped into a bus for a drive up to the 'highlands' and endemic *Scalesia* forest. This took us through the urban part of Puerto Ayora, and then up through a series of zones including farming and transition zones until we reached the moss-draped trees in the tree *Scalesia* stands. Several Smooth-billed Anis and Cattle Egrets were seen en route.

Finches were common, including both Large- and Small Tree-finches and a few Small Ground Finches as well. A Galápagos Flycatcher and several noisy Galápagos Mockingbirds put in an appearance, being noticeably short-billed and 'cleanly' marked here. We emerged suddenly on the edge of one of 'Los Gemelos' (The Twins) pit craters, where an ancient empty

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lava tube has collapsed down, revealing the multiple layers of lava flows from volcanic explosions around its walls. Large numbers of bright Galápagos Doves were present here and across the road, while a superb Woodpecker Finch was the first bird watched hunting through the moss before reaching the second crater!

We took a wander down a trail adjacent to the crater here, ending up with a view over the *Scalesia* canopy, bright green after moderate winter rains. A passing Galápagos Martin was a good find, but sadly didn't hang around. We looked well at the forest here, admiring the mosses and lichens literally dripping from the trees, while a bit of searching revealed epiphytic Galápagos Orchids and Bromeliads on the trees and (well-named) Cat's Claw bushes. A few rather small and pale chiffchaff-like Warbler Finches were noted as we left.

We came down to visit the tortoise farm, walking up through some Cuban Cedar woodland first to a lava tube, where a pair of gorgeous Barn Owls slept unconcernedly as we approached to within a couple of yards. Our quest for Vermilion Flycatcher was unsuccessful, but on one of the farms turned over to looking after part of the island's population of Giant Tortoises, we weren't disappointed and several of these enormous beasts were sedately grazing in the fields. After a quick drink with the owner, we made our way back down to Puerto Ayora, half the group staying in the town for an hour to indulge in a little retail therapy and internet or telephone access!

After a slightly later dinner and call-over we set sail a little after nine for our longest night crossing of the tour. This was a little rolling, but those who had slept before (nearly all of us) were able to sleep again.

### Tuesday 11th July      Isabela W coast

For those who were lucky, we were still cruising for our destination when we awoke at 6, started our breakfast on the move and were away in the pangas at 7:30. We approached the shore through the mangroves growing on the edge of the black lava flow. Before disembarking we noted our first Pacific Green Turtles peering from the surface, a fine Porcupine Fish and paused just yards away from a seemingly headless and one-legged Galápagos Flightless Cormorant having a deep sleep!

We climbed out onto the slippery end of a remarkable black lava flow. The strangely contorted shapes of this pahoehoe and a-a lava were simply fascinating, and the way it was fracturing and breaking up, and down (!) were discussed and explained. The endemic Lava Cactus *Brachycerius nesioticus* formed little clumps like a hand of colourful gherkins, and a smattering of small plants were dotted widely across the lava, eking out an existence from the minimal amount of rain that falls here (c. 25cm every century - truly desertic!). A few of us were also able to see a distant example of the rather scarce Galápagos Martin as it glided around feeding, though only one or two could hear a calling Whimbrel in the mangroves.

Little was to prepare us for the sudden appearance of a muddy-bottomed pool, surrounded by a narrow belt of rushes and *Cyperus* sedge, with Poison Apple bushes flanking the near shear walls all around. Spot-winged Glider dragonflies buzzed around in quantity and a couple of Moorhens were present. These have successfully colonised a series of these pools and in the next and much larger one, at least four ages of chicks were present, and dozens more dragonflies were also a sign of being highly successful.

The sight of this large pool with two bathing Magnificent Frigatebirds, two Pied-billed Grebes, lots of Moorhens, and four bright pink Flamingos was simply extraordinary though! We sat here and contemplated the scene for some time.

The remainder of the walk brought us back round to a large rock-pool where no less than five White-tipped Reef Sharks cruised sedately around at times, a Pacific Green Turtle popped its head up but soon disappeared under a ledge and good numbers of fish, including Dog and Barred Snappers were present. Just before re-boarding we contemplated one of the largest Marine Iguanas on the islands, draped over the edge of a lava crevasse and looking for all the world like a small dinosaur.

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The numerous snorkellers noted the 'refreshing' water temperature, but managed to see a total of up to 5 Green Turtles and a Pacific Beakfish eating a sea-star, despite rather murky water. Those back on board talked over the number of birds we seen and almost immediately added another when a fine Great White Egret landed in front of the black lava on the shore!

We cruised for lunch noting just one Galápagos Petrel of real note until suddenly we came across massed Galápagos Shearwaters on the sea. Ahead, a shoal of small Yellowfin Tuna where 'boiling' on the surface as they fed, attracting thousands of the shearwaters in the wake, and the next feeding frenzy we passed within feet, close enough to see the tuna among the boiling water. A really astonishing sight.

Juan gave a lecture on the geology of the islands, though the second snorkel session was cancelled due to the poor visibility around La Marielas islets.

The afternoon was taken up with a panga ride into the extensive Elizabeth Bay mangroves. The high tide meant access was easy, and the tranquil waters inside were full of Pacific Green and even a few Hawksbill Turtles, especially in the shallowest muddy-bottomed areas. Birds were scarce, but included the odd finch flying over and calling Galápagos Mockingbirds. And apart from the odd coughing "tree-lions", it was the profound silence once we were paddling round with the engines off which was just a delight.

We came out again and headed straight towards the islets called Las Marielas. A few Blue-footed Boobies were coming in to roost on the exposed side, but a wonderful number of Galápagos Penguins were hauled out or coming in to roost as the evening approached, and we had stunning views of over 50 in the end!

### Wednesday 12th July Isabela and Fernandina

We upped anchor early, at 4 a.m. in order to reach Urbina Bay for just after breakfast. Thick cloud meant it was cooler but very humid, but this was fine. After a wet landing on a steep beach, fortunately without anyone taking an unwanted swim, we scampered up to the high water mark where a number of amusing Semi-terrestrial Hermit Crabs hid among the seaweed.

The rich scrub housed a good number of finches including Small Ground Finches and a fine male Small Tree Finch, though most kept deep in cover. Galápagos Mockingbirds kept up an almost continuous chorus and Mangrove Warblers were abundant too. Plenty of Large-tailed Skippers were present among the flowers, with dozens of Galápagos Carpenter Bees nectaring on the abundant flowers. Several magnificent Land Iguanas had hauled themselves out of their burrows to try and sun themselves, while one female was excavating her burrow under a Poison Apple tree. The flowers here were good too, with Yellow Cordia and Galápagos Cotton sporting their fine yellow flowers, tiny yellow Blackstick flowers attracting the bees and some huge examples of Poison Apple among the Incense Tree dominated scrub.

Our walk back took us along the shore where a Whimbrel and a flock of Ruddy Turnstones was only bettered by adult Great Blue and Green-backed Herons, though some amazing rock pools were teeming with baby fish including Razor Surgeonfish, Concentric Puffer, a tiny Three-banded Butterflyfish and Flag Cabrilla, but perhaps best of all, a small octopus and a superb Jewelled Moray.

The cruise before lunch took us through the narrow channel between Fernandina and Isabela, where 1000s of Galápagos Shearwaters and plenty of Common Noddies, Elliot's and a few Wedge-rumped Shearwater were passing. An unexpected passenger was a superb Lava Gull which hitched a ride almost the entire way on one of the pangas! While before we went down for lunch, a Madeiran Storm-petrel came alongside and around the boat for several minutes.

We moored just off Punta Espinosa, Fernandina and soon after went for a snorkel. Despite the rather turbid water, this was very productive, including a couple of Port Jackson Sharks, several Pacific Green Turtles and a range of mostly large fish.

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A dry landing at the point was immediately followed by boot removal to get through the flooded mangroves! The thick cloud was keeping iguana activity to an absolute minimum, though a few large males were head shaking and attempting to attract mates. Otherwise there were a few piles containing dozens of these archaic-looking reptiles on the black lava.

Shortly ahead was a small group of Galápagos Cormorants, some large chicks being present, while a pair at a nest were a fine sight on a little lava promontory.

Our return was punctuated by two Sea-lion incidents. First a hungry youngster came up from where it been frolicking in the shallows to call forlornly for its mother. Only after some time did its sleeping mother respond, and the youngster then raced across the beach as fast as it could towards her to be fed! The same shallows also saw a returning male bull find an interloper on its patch, and after a brief violent struggle in the shallows the intruder beat a very hasty retreat into open water hotly pursued by the beach-master for c. 100 m!

The return was a little delayed as we contemplated a small group of Whimbrels and Ruddy Turnstones on the rocks. We soon set sail north and although only had about an hour's light, used it to see what was out to sea. A shark on the surface was almost run-over by the boat, a couple of distant rorquals were seen blowing and a skua, almost certainly Pomarine flew past off the bow, proving that you can never tell what's going to be seen while cruising! Wedge-rumped Storm-petrels started to appear in moderate number too.

### Thursday 13th July    Santiago + Bartolomé

Having moored at around 3 a.m. we awoke to yet another new setting, this time Puerto Egas, Santiago. This was a double snorkel day for the keen, the first being directly after our morning excursion onto the island, which was across the dry, dusty and rather flat coastal area.

Arriving to a barking Galápagos Sea-lion male patrolling the shore we headed off along the coastal path after a brief historical introduction by Juan. A Galápagos Flycatcher was our first for a couple of days and a sign of things to come, with a good diversity of birds present. The flat lava field bordering the sea and covered with algae and rock pools was terrific for wildlife, with Galápagos Sea-lions, Sally Lightfoot Crabs and Marine Iguanas in abundance, plus birds including American Oystercatcher, two Grey and a Semipalmated Plover, and a few Wandering Tattlers. Pride of place though went to a Galápagos Hawk which flew in to a fresh sea-lion pup carcass and ate in front of us for at least 15 minutes. The photographers approached to within yards, and the whole time this was going on, the sea offshore was alive with a big feeding school of Bottle-nosed Dolphins, Juan estimating between 100-150 present, including a few with calves passing just yards off the rocky coast! It couldn't have been better!

We continued on looking at the remarkable rock formations in the beach, then headed out onto the lava to some deep-water inlets cutting straight in from the sea. The 'usual' Marine Iguanas and a Yellow-crowned Night Heron attracted attention, but this was the habitat for a new species- the Galápagos Fur Sea-lion. A large male was resting on a rock shelf, with a remarkably approachable female lounging in a small cleft in the lava, their small size, large eyes and ears and thick necks being noticeably different from the abundant Galápagos Sea-lions. But it was a playful pup, leaping repeatedly out of the water in frantic jesting with a young Sea-lion which was the star.

The return walk saw yet more Galápagos Hawks and a small female Yellow Scorpion hiding under a flat rock.

The snorkelling from the beach was great, with the drop-offs by a rocky outcrop playing host to large numbers of fish, including the usual Panamic Sergeant Major, Blue-chinned Parrotfish and Galápagos Ring-tailed Damselfish, plus a few Orange-bellied Triggerfish and Giant (=Hieroglyphic) Hawkfish amongst others and specialities including a Calico Lizardfish, Coral Hawkfish and a young Green Moray. A Green Turtle or two showed up again, just for variety but a White-tipped Reef Shark slid past underneath almost unnoticed!

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Lunch was taken on the move, this time towards Isla Bartolomé, allowing us time afterwards to watch the Elliot's and Wedge-rumped Storm-petrels and just relax in the hot sun (especially since we hadn't seen much!).

The afternoon started with a wet landing and stroll over the dunes to a warm water beach where shadowy White-tipped Reef Sharks patrolled the shallows looking for stingray prey! We followed this with a terrific snorkel round Pinnacle Rock, with highlights including a couple of penguins for two of the group, plus a wide variety of fish including yet more Pelican Barracudas. At 4:30 p.m. we rounded off with the short panga ride to Bartolomé to take the board walk up to the peak, seeing the *Tiquilia* 'forest' en route. OK, so Mat Plant gives a better idea of the scale of it!

We eventually climbed the 360 or so steps to the peak, enjoying the marvellous views from and near the top, including a series of small spatter and parasitic cones and collapsed lava tunnels, as well as views to nearly all the other islands possibly visible from here.

We rounded off the day with a celebratory cocktail at 7 p.m. to bid our farewells to the crew and fellow passengers. A fine end to this part of the tour, or so it seemed...

### **Friday 14th July**      transfer to mainland + Quito city tour

Our last few hours on the Galápagos were started with a bang when we were off at 6 a.m. for a mangrove panga ride in Black Turtle Cove. This was amazingly quiet in the flat calm conditions under continuous cloud.

Brown Pelicans crashed in to grab fish, the Brown Noddies in close company often landing on their heads to snatch the tiny fish escaping from their bills. Numerous Lava Herons clung to the ends of the mangrove trees trying to snatch fry from the still waters below, while a few Great Blue Herons and Great White Egrets were up in the trees. A Whimbrel was perched high in a dead snag.

Fish were varied, including a small group of Black-tipped Sharks, a single White-tipped Reef Shark and for the second panga, single large Spotted Eagle Ray and Marbled Stingray. A group of resting snooks (fish!) in the mangroves looked like a group of predatory zander! Two Hawksbill Turtles were a fine end among the trees, despite a few Galápagos Martins flying over, while perched on the lava as we left a Brown Pelican, two Blue-footed Boobies and a dainty Common Noddy gave point blank views.

We took our last breakfast then headed for the airport, just a few minutes away by bus, but not before stepping over a female sea-lion lying across the gangway!

We killed the remaining time by pottering about the stands buying last-minute bargains; getting our Galápagos stamps in our passports and posting those so well travelled postcards!

We bade our final farewells to Juan and the few crew members present to meet the incoming groups and were eventually off. The flights were fine and uneventful, though a little late from the start.

Arrival at Quito mid-afternoon meant we were straight off on the Quito City tour with Luis our driver (our driver from here on) and our guide Gloria. This was fascinating and ended in the main square of old Quito, though we were physically exhausted by the end, the altitude being of note!

As Simon was leaving us, we also had a farewell dinner in the fine old restaurant of La Ronda, before eventually turning in to another night in the Tryp Alameda.

### **Saturday 15th July**      extension - transfer via Yanacocha reserve to Mindo

We bade our farewells to Simon early on, and then made a leisurely exit at just after 8 a.m., not helped by a large group of Germans leaving at the same time. Pablo had joined Luis as our team, and we set off through the quiet city traffic.

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Climbing up an old cobbled road we headed out through hillsides of grassland and the dreaded *Eucalyptus* plantations, with just one stop en route for some small birds in the scrub including our first hummingbirds: Sparkling Violet-ear, Sapphire-vented Puffleg and high-flying Black-tailed Trainbearers. A couple of Rufous-collared Sparrows, Great Thrushes and very flighty Black Flowerpiercers completed the fray.

We climbed and climbed, noting plenty more Great Thrushes on the way, stopping briefly for a dark Variable Hawk, and just before the Yanacocha reserve for a superb adult Black-chested Buzzard-eagle circling below us!

We drove to the Yanacocha reserve, a beautiful area of cloud forest clinging to the steep mountainsides at a mere 3500m... Stepping out to get the entry permits we noted the chill air at this altitude!

The winding walk along an almost flat trail across a mountainside was fantastic. Small groups of birds had to be teased out of the incredibly species rich thick cover and trees coated with epiphytes and the identification fun began. Glossy and Black Flowerpiercers were quite common, a couple of showy Spectacled Whitestarts put in an appearance, an all-dark Plain-breasted Hawk cruised past and a stunning adult red-backed Variable Hawk which circled up from below us was just stunning! A couple of mountain-tanagers were all too brief, though a Scarlet-bellied sat out in view near a Red-crested Cotinga for long enough to see it in the scope.

These IDs were fine, but when we reached the first set of hummingbird feeders we were left a little bemused. Great Sapphirewings held court on size and elegance, but a few Shining Sunbeams and plenty of Buff-winged Starfrontlets overpowered for much of the time. The flashing white in the tails of White-tailed Hillstars in the scrub gave them away, but one like this at a feeder was a brief Mountain Velvetbreast! While the little white boots of the Sapphire-vented Pufflegs were fun to see, Tyrian Metaltails kept popping in continuously. What an extraordinary sight!

The next hummingbird feeders were a little quieter though a female Sword-billed Hummingbird with its astonishing bill was notable and Brian was lucky enough to see the silhouette of a tiny male Rainbow-bearded Thornbill perched in the tip of a tree before it flashed off.

Our troop back was less exciting, since we stopped less, though the views down the valley were stunning. Lunch was an excellent box lunch which we ate by the bus.

We continued down the old Nono-Mindo road, noting the extraordinary-looking Silver-leaved *Cecropia* trees, and took a couple of short walks along the roadside. The first was cold and breezy, though a couple of White-capped Dippers were seen by most, some Plumbeous Pigeons flew over high and a small group of Turquoise Jays were a treat. Nothing was calling though, so we stopped lower down in warmer conditions. This gave us the most frustrating record of the day, with a group of displaying male Cock-of-the-Rocks in the trees in the little valley opposite being noisy, but remaining totally unseen. So close, yet so far!

We reached Séptimo Paraiso some time after dark, though not before refuelling en route where we saw a massive moth clinging to the petrol station roof...

## The Travelling Naturalist & Limosa Holidays Galapagos & Ecuador, July 2006, Trip Report

### Sunday 16th July Séptimo Paraiso + Mindo

Our pre-breakfast jaunt saw us convening at 5.50 for coffee and we walked out of the front door just after 6. Here at c. 1500 m in altitude it was cool enough for fleeces. After a couple of minutes marvelling at the assorted moths on the walls we started our short walk.

The light was just starting when we heard our first birds, several pairs of Rufous Motmots calling in the forest, with Golden-headed Quetzals and an Andean Solitaire then joining in. Our first sightings included Lemon-rumped, Golden, Silver-throated and Blue-grey Tanagers, Black-winged and Buff-throated Saltators and a Maroon-tailed Parakeet sitting out in the open. Along the entrance track a female Masked Trogon slipped quietly off, a calling Golden-headed Quetzal gave brief views, Montane, Spotted and Wedge-billed Woodcreepers were all seen, a Slate-throated Whitestart sang noisily from the canopy and an Ornate Flycatcher sallied out from its perches. The return was also superb, with a singing Ruddy Pigeon and a small flock of Red-billed Parrots landing close by in a tree, giving fine scope views.

A tiny but noisy Scale-crested Pygmy-tyrant and calling Rufous-breasted Antthrushes remained firmly hidden, though a calling Wattled Guan led us to extend the walk up along one of the slope trails. This turned out to be an inspired choice, since as we walked up so a Chocó Toucan flew past, a Tyrannine Woodcreeper sat out in front, a Red-rumped Toucanet perched over our heads and the calling male Wattled Guan came in perched in front, though only long enough for a few to see before it flapped clumsily off. As we returned, so another Golden-headed Quetzal male sat above us calling constantly until we had to walk away. Just stunning!

After a rather later than expected breakfast we started a different walk, sadly finding a dead female Club-winged Manikin under a lodge window, but two Bat Falcons hawking high overhead were nice. The sun was now hot and the birds almost no-existent, but the butterflies were phenomenal, both in variety and for colour! In fact, we really saw nothing more than some distant Turkey Vultures and a few Swallow-tailed Kites, and the calling Dusky Pigeons remained firmly hidden.

We returned to the hummingbirds feeders, the forerunners seeing a superb Long-tailed Antbird and a couple of Yellow-throated Bush-tanagers en route, though it was the feeders which were the star turn. Several Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds held sway, though Green-crowned Brilliants and Andean Emeralds were frequent, and other species included a male White-necked Jacobin, male and female Purple-throated Woodstar, a White-whiskered Hermit, Western Emerald, Purple-bibbed White-tip and Green-crowned Woodnymph amongst others!

After lunch at 1 p.m. we took a break and readjourned at 4, taking the bus down to Mindo.

The track from the village produced our first Pacific Horneros and a Masked Water Tyrant, while further down we had 'fun' trying to pick out a Scarlet-backed Woodpecker moving among the foliage and noted our first Smoke-coloured Pewee. A calling Great Tinamou in the background was rather mournful. Back in the bus we had to jump off again when a Lineated Woodpecker was feeding on a roadside tree, its 'woody woodpecker' head pattern being a shocking red.

Standing on the Cinca river bridge revealed little at first, though Blue-and-white Swallows were watched hawking, even passing underneath us, and a Black Phoebe was on the river rocks. As dusk fell though, so a female Cock-of-the-Rock flew under the bridge several times, finally giving great views to all. To cap it all, a Bat Falcon also appeared low, just up river, and flew over plucking a small bird it was grasping in flight, the feathers floating down in front of us!

The finale was something else though, since we headed for a little rock cutting. Our flashlight almost immediately picked out a resting female Lyre-tailed Nightjar, soon followed by a male with its extraordinary tail streamers. Pablo started imitating the male, only for the female to drop down and land just feet away from him in front on the ground! A stunning end to the day.

## The Travelling Naturalist & Limosa Holidays Galapagos & Ecuador, July 2006, Trip Report

**Monday 17th July** Milpe Cloudforest Reserve, Pedro Vicente Maldonado track, Silanche River Cloudforest Reserve, Séptimo Paradise until after dark.

An early start saw us out at 6 a.m. and heading down and west towards a new cloudforest reserve. After paying our entry fees, where we also noted large numbers of moths on the walls and several hummingbirds at feeders including Empress Brilliant and White-whiskered Hermit, we walked down into the forest seeing our first Masked Trogon female. Some passing Bronze-winged Parrots went over high, like others during our visit, but we soon reached a spot in tall forest where a strange 'beeping' sound was repeated at intervals around us. These were displaying Club-winged Manakins, but we didn't actually see them until right at the end of our wait, since a huge mixed flock started coming past and lingered overhead almost the entire time!

As we returned to the man road, a couple of Blue-necked Tanagers caused us to get out, but they disappeared before anyone could see them, again! However, we rapidly also found Variable Seedeater, a circling Roadside Hawk, two Azara's and a Slaty Spinetail up a tree, a stunning male Swallow Tanager and a Lesser Goldfinch for good measure!!

Cloud was visible lower down and after a detour round one village where the local festivities were in full swing we took a turning just after Pedro Vicente Maldonado. Sadly, the heavy traffic coming from a local clay mine meant we could only stop once we were past the latter, but a few birds included Blue-black Grassquit, White-thighed Swallow, White-throated Kingbird (thanks to Brian), Yellow-bellied Elaenia and Sooty-headed Tyrannulets. The sun started to come through so we took the vehicle on and down a seemingly endless track. We ended up at the entrance to the Silanche River Bird Reserve, where an early lunch was taken, despite the distraction of a little puppy!

The walk down was quite remarkable. A loud snapping sound revealed the presence of White-bearded Manikins, though the best we could do was see the undergrowth moving! A trogon down the path where Army Ants swarmed was the first of a couple of Western White-tailed Trogons. A lovely bird, as was a Broad-billed Motmot perched shortly ahead!. A couple of Masked Tityras were found when looking to refind an unusually elusive Squirrel Cuckoo.

A stop at a 'good' corner turned out to be inspired. A large mixed flock fed in the undergrowth and canopy and over the course of an hour or more we saw a range of remarkable species, including Guayaquil Woodpecker, Black-striped Woodcreeper, Unicoloured Treehunter, Dot-winged Antwren, Cinnamon and One-coloured Becards, A White-bearded Manakin (for a lucky few), and Ochre-breasted, White-lined, Guira, Tawny-crested, Green-and-gold, Rufous-throated and Bay-headed Tanagers! What a spot! Calling Tawny-breasted Tinamou and Southern Nightingale Wren were interesting too!

We finally pulled ourselves away, and walked back down a side-track only to bump into a series of Trogons, including Northern Violaceous and a family of Black-throated! It was getting very confusing! The sun came out again, so we started back again, only to watch two Buff-rumped Warblers swinging their tails around on the track in front.

We were back at our lodge after an hour and a half to find thick cloud. Ideal! We rounded off with a good session at the hummingbird feeders, including Green Violet-ear, Empress Brilliant, a Brown Inca, a superb male White-tailed Hillstar, but probably best of all, a stunning male Velvet-purple Coronet. A Pale-mandibled Araçari even came in to have a look round, definitely up to no good!

A quick trip out after dinner found a calling Mottled Owl, but despite tapping at a few spots, this was the closest we got!

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**Tuesday 18th July** Séptimo Paraiso, transfer via Mitad del Mundo, Papallacta Pass + lake, Guango Lodge

Another pre-breakfast walk was as fascinating as normal. Wattled Guan, Chocó Toucan and Rufous Motmot formed an interesting post-dawn chorus! For a change we walked down towards the tower platform, with very little showing, despite a Powerful Woodpecker heard drumming in the valley. As the sun rose and warmed the forest, so a few birds became active, and Yellow-crowned Flycatchers, two distant Blue-winged Mountain Tanagers and a passing Dusky Pigeon were new sightings.

The return was punctuated on a couple of occasions though when a calling male Wattled Guan led us to spot a nearby female creeping among the trees, and near the end a Chocó Toucan flew over before landing in a tree with a fruit in its beak, finally being seen well by all those present!

We left after a latish breakfast, though stopped before even leaving the grounds when a few bush-tanagers and other birds were flitting around on the fences. A good thing since we'd forgotten the box lunch!

We noted plenty of Turkey and American Black Vultures from the bus (though nowhere near as many as the day before), but there were several dozen Swallow-tailed Kites wheeling over the cloud forest in the crystal clear conditions. We continued towards Quito, only pausing for a large pale raptor, a superb Barred Hawk gliding over, while we had cloud-free views of the Cayambe, Antisana and Cotopaxi volcanoes as we approached the capital. A shortish stop at the Mitad del Mundo equator monument not only was an interesting diversion, but also produced a White-rumped Hawk and a stunning male Black-tailed Trainbearer with an enormous tail! The monument marks where the world was discovered / proven to be round. This lies on the equatorial line measured in 1736, which recent GPS readings has shown to be just a mere 60 m or so off the true line (though the indigenous people in fact had previously got its location right to within inches!).

Lunch was in an arid agricultural area on the road to the Papallacta Pass. The still clear conditions boded well and a female Black-backed Grosbeak and five passing Andean Gulls appeared for variety! We continued up and east, pausing for a pair of Carunculated Caracaras plus their two young over a distant ridge, then a Variable Hawk and then again at a trout farm for a superb Andean Gull and a flock of four Andean Teal.

Just after the pass we turned onto a track servicing the antennas on the top, which were just cloud free! We struggled on up almost to the top, with the first off the bus seeing two flying Andean Lapwing, but not so the rest of us :- ( However, as we walked down, the cloud now rapidly rolling down and the temperature cold, so the first of several Tawny Antpittas was found out in the open by Sue. We also managed fine views of a Plumbeous Sierra-finch and incredibly close views of an immature Variable Hawk which put in a fine exhibition. Despite not seeing virtually anything else we soldiered on, but the cold finally got through to us, and we got back in and headed onwards.

Another detour took us onto the old road, this time passing behind the Papallacta Lake, where a plenty of Yellow-billed Pintail and a few Andean Teal were present, and a juvenile and brief adult Black-chested Buzzard-eagle put in a showing.

We soon reached the lodge before dusk in chilly conditions, and the feeders were busy with hummers, being a fine mix dominated by Tourmaline Sunangels, Chestnut-breasted Coronets and Tyrian Metaltails, plus a few Collared Incas, Mountain Velvetbreasts, Buff-winged Starfrontlets, Long-tailed Sylphs and White-bellied Woodstars, while a Sword-billed Hummingbird or two were simply mind-blowing!

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### Wednesday 19th July Guango Lodge + San Isidro

Our usual 6 a.m. start found us watching hummers from the porch, though a few stunning Turquoise Jays soon put in a showing in their search for moths from around the lights.

The feeders were busy again with the same selection of species as the evening before, though we soon left for a walk through the forest towards the river. This was very quiet, unfortunately rather setting the standard for the morning, and the chilly conditions probably didn't help. White-banded Tyrannulets and Great Thrushes were the most common, while a few other birds also appeared, but even the river and return along part of the road was birdless. So we returned to watch the feeders again just before breakfast, then again just afterwards!

We set off again in the hopes of finding more by following the oil pipeline path, with a couple of Black-eared Hemispingus, Blue-and-black Tanagers and a small group of noisy Hooded Mountain Tanagers of most note. Unfortunately drizzle set in so we returned to the lodge in the bus and 'hummered' it again. The rain eased and our driver, Luis walked down a path only to find a superb female Mountain Trogon, the upland race of Masked Trogon. Though this quite quickly disappeared, it then reappeared with its mate in the lodge car park! We spent considerable time watching this fantastic pair of birds as they fed in the trees close by, often just yards away, the cameras working away furiously.

We bade out the rest of the morning by either watching the hummingbirds or in part with another walk down to the river, this time turning up a few dapper Slaty-backed Chat-tyrants, while on our return we also found Smoky Bush-tyrant and Blue-backed Conebill for variety.

The sky brightening and the drizzle soon stopped when we left after another filling lunch. We took the winding road down and east, carefully negotiating numerous potholes, dodgy-looking bridges and even areas under work which had been swept away in large mudslides on the often viciously steep slopes. We stopped a couple of times along visible bits of the rivers, each time drawing blanks apart from the odd dipper (!), though on the very last bridge before turning to our lodge, there was our goal, and a stunning pair of Torrent Ducks adorned the top of a rock in the middle of the stream. Scopes and cameras were quickly out, though they leapt and swam their way up and were soon out of sight round a corner. We turned our attention to the other side of the road for a few minutes and when returning to the bus found them back again! Wonderful!

The short drive along the entrance track went smoothly and we made San Isidro in good time. Good enough to readjourn for just over an hour before dusk to take a walk in the forest here. Not before watching a superb Amazonian Trogon male though... And this was something of a revelation, with the towering trees dripping with epiphytes and a soggy forest floor carpeted with a dense maze of shade loving ferns and other plants. It was also eerily quiet at times, though an invisible Immaculate Antbird screamed from a few feet away as we returned. We finished off with a hummingbird watch, though at 6:15 went up to the car park to watch and wait. Though a little later than hoped, an impressively large and short-tailed Rufous-bellied Nighthawk made several passes by the various lights as it hawked for insects, leaving us with only 15 minutes to shower before dinner!

Dinner was a bit special too, since when half-way through the main course, the word went out that THE owl was visible, and we rushed out with all the other visitors to the lodge to see the famous San Isidro owl sat in a tall *Cecropia* tree - with the help of some powerful torches and borrowed binoculars for most!

### Thursday 20th July San Isidro + Sierra de Guacamayos

A 6 a.m. start again to make the most of the day. After light rain for most of the night, little did we realise what was in store...

We walked out to light drizzle still, though this stopped intermittently. Walking near the lights a loud flapping announced the arrival of a large bird, and a superb Highland Motmot

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perched in the small bushes nearby! The male trogon from yesterday reappeared and stayed with us until breakfast, often just a couple of yards away! While trying to get views for everyone of a bold Grey-breasted Wood-wren, Bluish Flowerpiercers, flycatchers, tyrannulets and Common Bush-tanager, Pablo suddenly froze and pointed to the grass under the bushes. Incredibly, a pair of gorgeous Chestnut-crowned Antpittas were hopping around in full view feeding on the moths in the grass! Not only that, but one reappeared a couple of times, even allowing the other group to be rounded up and come down to see it! In fact we just stayed in the one spot for c. 30 minutes watching a procession of birds, now boosted by the arrival of numerous noisy Northern Mountain Caciques, Inca Jays and a couple of Russet-backed Oropendolas!

We rounded off down at the hummingbird feeders again, where a mixed flock went through, though rather high, a Yellow-vented Woodpecker with them, but perhaps most noteworthy was the arrival of a Black Agouti, which came in to feed on some maize, and once settled, completely ignored us! A couple of Eastern Red-tailed Squirrels were also noted in the trees.

Our morning excursion was to the nearby Guacamayos ridge. The ridge was (typically) cool, with thick cloud and spitting rain as we arrived, but fortunately remained dry enough to allow us to walk along a section of trail through this ethereal forest. Birds were notably absent, despite a single Hooded Mountain-tanager, a Grass Wren and two Tawny-faced Gnatwrens for the fortunate! The plants really impressed though, with enormous numbers of ferns and even extravagantly large club-mosses in the almost permanently damp conditions.

Return was early given that rain started in earnest. It paused for a while as the dropped down from the ridge, allowing us a few minutes out and time to find Flame-faced Tanager and a couple of Pearled Tree-runners among a small mixed flock.

Sitting it out in the mirador until lunch, the rain was light enough to allow a few birds to pass, including Beryl-spangled Tanager and Blue-winged Mountain-tanager.

The rain finally eased at c. 4 p.m. and half an hour later we took a short drive down to old forest towards Caucheras to see what was moving. Birds were very thin on the ground, despite singing Equatorial Rufous-vented Tapaculo (the name being longer than the bird!) and both Slate-throated and Spectacled Whitestarts within 5 minutes of each other. A flock of birds in high canopy just refused to show though Brian managed to spot a Pale-eyed Thrush and two Plushcap Finches shot out of the bamboo right beside us and flashed past overhead before we could get good views.

We returned to the hummingbird feeders to round off the day, where the Black Agouti showed yet again, and returned to the cabins with a pause en route for the Rufous-bellied Nighthawk which powered over round the lights and also heard a calling Collared Forest-falcon down in the forest.

After dinner we again briefly saw the undescribed San Isidro owl.

### **Friday 21st July**      San Isidro + Papallacta Lake & Pass

Another overcast but mild and still start. We started as usual towards the main building and the lights. A pair of Highland Motmots came in briefly, but were typically skittish, our friendly male trogon reappeared right in front. A Rusty-margined Flycatcher reconfirmed that it always pays to look twice at everything, with a Pale-edged Flycatcher coming to within feet. The Grey-breasted Wood-wren, Inca Jays and Subtropical Caciques all reappeared along with White-tailed Tyrannulets, while more cryptic species hunting through the bushes for moths were Black-billed Peppershrike and Common Bush-tanager. The Rufous-crowned Antpitta also showed, but only really once in the open, so photos were off, but just seeing it was a treat.

Things quietened down, and even down by the hummingbirds feeders things were relatively quiet, so a few of us walked down the slippery trail into the towering old cloud-forest. A few tanagers sped over the canopy top. It was very quiet, though the atmosphere of simply being

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in this forest was worth the walk. We returned to find we'd missed a Grass Wren (probably the first for the estate and way out of range). A quick stroll to the entrance gate was rather unrewarding despite excellent views of the local Russet-backed Oropendolas, including one on its enormous hanging nest.

We returned briefly to the lights on our way towards the dining room for breakfast, seeing nothing new, but a brief pause to look for the singing pepper-shrike led to Keith spotting the pair of antpittas on the 'short-cut' track. One of these bounced up towards us giving wonderful views in excellent light and the videos and cameras had their fill!

A little time after breakfast for packing and settling up led to a strange event. As we waited by the parked bus, a male Crimson-mantled Woodpecker flew into the windscreen and went into shock in a nearby bush. Watching it for a while we realised it was in trouble and John went in to catch it. Fortunately, it was docile but alert, and after just a minute or two 'came round' and started to get more lively, finally flying off to a different higher location where it appeared to recover.

Sad to leave, especially given yet more excellent food here developed by Doña Carmen Bustamante, our host, we'd had a terrific time and still had another opportunity at the Papallacta Pass if conditions were good. A couple of short stops produced another White-capped Dipper, plenty of Chestnut-collared Swifts, and a calling Roadside Hawk and a Black Phoebe at a petrol station where two impressively large female dobsonflies were also 'admired'.

Climbing steeply towards the Papallacta Pass the weather began to cloud up considerably, but was still encouragingly high. We again detoured onto the old road and went round the back of the Papallacta Lake. This turned out to be a good choice, with two adult Black-chested Buzzard-eagles going down into the valley and their well-grown chick again circling round close, an Andean Gull on a nest and a few Andean Teal and plenty of Yellow-billed Pintails on the lake.

The scrub held a few birds too, including a lovely Scarlet-bellied Mountain-tanager, two Red-crested Cotingas and a couple of Cinereous Conebills. It was chilly in a cold breeze and light drizzle though, so we started down the old road.

Birds from the bus or during two short walks included two Bar-winged Cinclodes, two Agile Tit-tyrants and two fine Brown-backed Bush-tyrants, a couple of Plumbeous Sierra-finches and flighty Paramo Seedeaters, and slightly lower, a couple of flying Puna Hawks. Our last stop was for a Black-billed Shrike-tyrant eating a snail, flashing off its impressive mostly white tail.

We called it a day quite early and headed for Quito, hoping (largely correctly) to avoid the rush-hour traffic. Arriving at 4 p.m. on the dot, we bade our farewells to our driver Luis, and then Pablo, and after a good rest had our final call-over over a notably late dinner (ably aided by the remarkably laid-back drinks' service beforehand!).

The final (non leader-only) total of birds was 204, plus 23 species which had only been heard. A reflection of the amazing biodiversity of the Ecuadorian Andes and subtropics, and especially of the extraordinary cloud forests we visited mainly around Mindo and San Isidro.

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### Galápagos bird & animal lists July 2006:

Sites: **Ba** = Bartolomé; **BTC** = Black Turtle Cove; **CDF** = Charles Darwin Foundation; **EB** = Elizabeth Bay; **GA** = Guayaquil airport; **GB** = Gardner Bay; **LG** = Los Gemelos; **NS** = North Seymour (island); **PA** = Puerto Ayora; **PE** = Punta Espinosa; **PC** = Punta Cormorant; **PM** = Punta Moreno; **POB** = Post Office Bay; **PS** = Punta Suarez; **Pto.E** = Puerto Egas; **Q** = Quito; **SC** = Santa Cruz (island); **TF** = Tortoise Farm; **UB** = Urbina Bay

### BIRDS

#### PENGUINS Spheniscidae

Galápagos Penguin *Spheniscus mendiculus* 4 PC and 1 POB on 9th, a few PM and 0+ EB on 11th, 2 PE on 12th and 2 Ba on 13th.

#### GREBES Podicipedidae

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* 2 PM on 11th were a surprise.

#### ALBATROSSES Diomedidae

Waved Albatross *Diomedea irrorata* 1000+ on and just off PS, Española on 8th, 8-10 at sea on 9th.

### PETRELS

#### & SHEARWATERS Procellariidae

Dark-rumped (Galápagos) *Pterodroma phaeopygia* Only small numbers: 2 off NS on 7th, 3 at sea on Petrel 9th and 1 from Beluga on 12th.

Galápagos Shearwater *Puffinus subalaris* Seen daily in moderate to variable number from 7th - 13th, except on 10th, including thousand passing PS, Española on 8th and 1000s at sea on 11th and 12th.

#### STORM-PETRELS Hydrobatidae

Elliott's (=White-vented) Storm Petrel *Oceanites gracilis* Common: noted at sea and from the coast in variable number daily, including 50-100 n a couple of cruises.

Wedge-rumped (=Galápagos) Storm-Petrel *Oceanodroma tethys* Also common, but in more variable number than Elliott's; seen daily except on 10th, with 20+ en route on both 9th and 12th.

Madeiran Storm-Petrel *Oceanodroma castro* One at sea on 12th very close to the boat was excellent.

#### TROPICBIRDS Phaethontidae

Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus* Relatively scarce: 10+ NS on 7th, lots PS and near Hood on 8th, and singles DC and at sea on 9th.

#### BOOBIES & GANNETS Sulidae

Blue-footed Booby *Sula nebouxii* Common, widespread and seen daily in moderate to large number, especially in colonies but also in the Bolivar Channel on 12th.

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Nazca Booby	<i>Sula granti</i>	Much less common and apart from good Numbers breeding on Hood on 8th, one - 3 at sea on 7th, 9th, 12th and 13th.
Red-footed Booby	<i>Sula sula</i>	Two dark phase birds passing along the NS coast on 7th were an excellent find by Juan.
<b>CORMORANTS</b>	Phalacrocoracidae	
Galápagos Flightless	<i>Phalacrocorax harrisi</i>	Excellent views of 6+ PM and 10+ Cormorant EB on 11th and 3+ UB and 15 PE on 12th.
<b>PELICANS</b>	Pelicanidae	
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	Common, widespread and seen daily at numerous sites.
<b>FRIGATEBIRDS</b>	Fregatidae	
Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	Abundant on and around NS on 9th, then daily in very variable number thereafter.
Great Frigatebird	<i>Fregata minor</i>	Only positively identified on NS where 15+ breeding, plus a juvenile PC on 9th.
<b>HERONS &amp; BITTERNs</b>	Ardeidae	
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Singles PA on 10th and UB on 12th, 1-2 Pto.E on 13th and 2 BTC on 14th.
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Lots PA and highlands 10th, then 3+1 BTC on 14th.
American Great White Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	One PM on 12th and 2 BTC on 14th.
Green-backed Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	Just 1 adult UB on 12th and 1 Pto.E (=Striated) on 13th.
Lava (=Galápagos) Heron	<i>Butorides sundevalli</i>	Seen daily except on 9th: 1-3 at various sites on 7th, 8th, 10th, 12th and 13th, and 6+ BTC on 14th.
Yellow-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	An adult plus a juv. PS on 8th, 1 PA on 10th and an adult Pto.E on 13th.
<b>FLAMINGOES</b>	Phoenicopteridae	
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	25+ PC inc and few nests on 9th and 4 PM on 11th.
<b>WILDFOWL</b>	Anatidae	
White-cheeked Pintail	<i>Anas bahamensis</i>	35+ PC on 9th and 2 PM on 11th.

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<b>HAWKS</b>	Accipitridae	
Galápagos Hawk	<i>Buteo galapagoensis</i>	Excellent numbers: 1 juv NS on 7th, 1 GB and 5+ PS on 8th, 1 PM n 11th, 1 ad + 1 juv UB and 1 PE on 12th, 4+ Pto.E, 10 Buccaneer Bay and 1 Ba on 13th.
<b>RAILS &amp; COOTS</b>	Rallidae	
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	15+ at PM on 11th.
<b>OYSTERCATCHERS</b>	Haematopodidae	
American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	One PS on 8th, 1 PA on 10th, 2 UB and 4 PE on 12th and 4 Pto.E on 13th.
<b>AVOCETS &amp; STILTS</b>	Recurvirostridae	
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	Just 2-3 distant birds PC on 9th.
<b>PLOVERS</b>	Charadriidae	
Grey (=Black-bellied) Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	One PC on 9th and 2 P to.E on 13th.
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	Two PC on 9th and singles PE on 12th and Pto.E on 13th.
<b>SANDPIPERS</b>	Scolopacidae	
(Hudsonian) Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus</i>	Heard PM and 1 EB on 11th, 1 UB and 4 PE on 12th, 1 Pto.E on 13th and 1 BTC on 14th.
Wandering Tattler	<i>Heteroscelus incanus</i>	One PS on 8th and 2-3 Pto.E on 13th.
(Ruddy) Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Notably frequent: Two PC on 9th, PA on 10th and PM on 11th, 8 UB and 5 PE on 12th and 4+ Pto.E on 13th.
<b>GULLS</b>	Laridae	
Lava Gull	<i>Larus fuliginosus</i>	One briefly NS on 7th, 2 PA on 10th, 3 PM on 11th, 1 UB to PE on 12th, and singles BTC and Baltra landing on 14th.
Swallow-tailed Gull	<i>Larus furcatus</i>	Six-10 NS on 7th, lots PS on 8th, a few PC and 2 at sea except on 9th and 1 at sea on 13th.
<b>TERNs</b>	Sternidae	
Brown (Common) Noddy	<i>Anous stolidus</i>	Widespread and locally common: seen in small - moderate number daily, except on 8th, including sitting on pelican's heads on 7th and 14th.

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<b>SKUAS</b>	<b>Stercorariidae</b>	
Skua sp.	<i>Stercorarius</i> sp.	One, almost certainly a Pomarine Skua was at sea W of Isabela on 12th.
<b>PIGEONS &amp; DOVES</b>	<b>Columbidae</b>	
Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>	Several in Quito shortly before flight on 7th.
Galápagos Dove	<i>Zenaida galapagoensis</i>	Seen on 5 days, with several Baltra on 7th and 14th, plus + NS on 7th, plenty PS on 8th, plenty LG on 10th and 3 Pto.E on 13th.
<b>ANIS</b>	<b>Crotophagidae</b>	
Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	Various from the bus and in highlands of Sta Cruz on 10th and several UB on 12th.
<b>BARN OWLS</b>	<b>Tytidae</b>	
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	A beautiful pair roosting in highlands of Sta Cruz on 10th.
<b>TYRANT FLYCATCHERS</b>	<b>Tyrannidae</b>	
Galápagos Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus magnirostris</i>	One NS on 7th, 2+ PC on 9th, 3+ CDRS and 5+ TF on 10th, and 2 Pto.E on 13th.
<b>SWALLOWS &amp; MARTINS</b>	<b>Hirundinidae</b>	
Southern (Galápagos) Martin	<i>Progne modesta</i>	Two briefly LG on 10th, 1 distantly PM on 11th and 3 BTC on 13th.
<b>MOCKINGBIRDS &amp; THRASHERS</b>	<b>Mimidae</b>	
Galápagos Mockingbird	<i>Nesomimus parvulus</i>	Lots Sta Cruz on 10th, several each PM and EB on 11th, lots UB and a few PE on 12th and plenty Pto.E on 13th.
Hood Mockingbird	<i>Nesomimus macdonaldi</i>	6+ GB and lots PS, Española on 8 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>NEW WORLD SPARROWS &amp; BUNTINGS</b>	<b>Emberizidae - Emberizinae</b>	
Large Ground-Finch	<i>Geospiza magnirostris</i>	A 'pair' PC on 9th, several Sta Cruz on 10th and EB on 11th and a few Pto.E on 13th.
Medium Ground-Finch	<i>Geospiza fortis</i>	Quite widespread in small number: 3 NS on 7th, a 'pair' PC and 2 POB on 9th and plenty at various sites Sta Cruz on 10th.
Small Ground-Finch	<i>Geospiza fuliginosa</i>	The commonest and most widespread species, and seen daily except on 9th.
Small Cactus-Finch	<i>Geospiza scandens</i>	Several CDRS on 10th.

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Large Cactus-Finch	<i>Geospiza conirostris</i>	One fly-by male GB and 2 males PS on 8th.
Vegetarian Finch	<i>Camarhynchus crassirostris</i>	One CDRS and 3 LG on 10th
Large Tree-Finch	<i>Camarhynchus psittacula</i>	A few CDRS on 10th.
Medium Tree-Finch	<i>Camarhynchus pauper</i>	3+ PC on 9th.
Small Tree-Finch	<i>Camarhynchus parvulus</i>	A few CDRS and lots LG and Sta Cruz highlands on 10th.
Woodpecker Finch	<i>Camarhynchus pallidus</i>	One in the highlands at LG on 10th.
Warbler Finch	<i>Certhidea olivacea</i>	A few GB and plenty PS on 8th and 3+ LG on 10th.

### NEW WORLD WARBLERS Parulidae

Mangrove / Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia / aestivalis</i>	Common and widespread and seen on all days, inc numerous juveniles. Some call this Mangrove Warbler, a species in its own right, while others call it a subspecies of Yellow Warbler.
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### MAMMALS

#### CARNIVORES - Sea-lions

*Carnivora - Otariidae*

#### Galápagos Fur Sea-lion

*Arctocephalus galapagoensis*

One of the best kept until last: 3 at Pto.E and 2 Buccaneer Cove on 13th. Recent studies still can't decide if this is in fact 'just' a subspecies of the Southern Fur Seal or not.

#### Galápagos (Californian) Sea Lion

*Zalophus californianus*

Very common and widespread, including on landings and close encounters while snorkelling.

#### CETACEANS - Marine Dolphins

*Cetacea - Delphinidae*

#### Common Dolphin

*Delphinus delphis*

A large group of 50+ between Floreana and SC on 9th were a little distant, but good.

#### Bottle-nosed Dolphin

*Tursiops truncatus*

Two pods of 35 and 6 between Floreana and SC on 9th were terrific, plus an amazingly large group of 100+ watched from the shore at Pto.E on 13th.

#### CETACEANS - Rorquals

*Cetacea - Balaenopteridae*

#### Minke / Bryde's Whale

*Balaenoptera acutorostrata / edeni*

One between Floreana and SC on 9th and 3 en route between Isabela and Fernandina on 12th were not possible to identify to species but probably Bryde's Whales.

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<b>RODENTS - Mice &amp; Voles</b>	<i>Rodentia - Muridae</i>	
<b>Black Rat</b>	<i>Rattus rattus</i>	Tracks on beach PC on 9th.
<b>Brown Rat</b>	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	1 TF on 10th.
<b>REPTILES</b>		
<b>Galápagos Lava Lizard</b>	<i>Microlophus albemarlensis</i>	Seen NS, various sites on 10th, PM, UB and PE, Pto.E and Ba.
<b>Española Lava Lizard</b>	<i>Microlophus delanonis</i>	Good numbers seen PS on 8th.
<b>Floreana Lava Lizard</b>	<i>Microlophus grayi</i>	Plenty PC on 9th.
<b>Marine Iguana</b>	<i>Amblyrhynchus cristatus</i>	Seen daily from 7th - 13th (except on 9th) in very variable number. Commonest and biggest on W Isabela and Fernandina.
<b>Galápagos Land Iguana</b>	<i>Conolophus subcristatus</i>	6-7 NS on 7th and 5-6 UB on 12th were impressive animals.
<b>Galápagos Giant Tortoise</b>	<i>Geochelone elephantopus</i>	Plenty of wild individuals of the ssp. <i>porteri</i> at TF on 10th.
<b>Pacific Green Turtle</b>	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Remarkably common at sea and seen daily from 8th, except on 10th, including large numbers during panga rides and some when snorkelling.
<b>Hawksbill Turtle</b>	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Relatively common during panga rides in mangroves, inc. several EB on 11th.

FISH: taxonomy and systematic order follow Humann & Deloach 2003

		7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th
<b>King Angelfish</b>	<i>Holacanthus passer</i>	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	
<b>Barberfish</b>	<i>Johnrandallia nigrirostris</i>			Y				Y	
<b>Threebanded Butterflyfish</b>	<i>Chaetodon humeralis</i>						Y		
<b>Razor Surgeonfish</b>	<i>Prionurus laticlavus</i>			Y		Y	Y	Y	
<b>Moorish Idol</b>	<i>Zanclus cornutus</i>			Y					
<b>Yellowfin Tuna</b>	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>					Y	Y		
<b>Pelican Barracuda</b>	<i>Sphyaena idiaestes</i>			Y					Y
<b>Cortes Chub</b>	<i>Kyphosus elegans</i>								Y
<b>Dusky Chub</b>	<i>Girella freminvilli</i>					Y	Y	Y	
<b>Striped / Yellow-tailed Mullet</b>	<i>Mugil cephalus rammelsbergi</i>								Y
<b>Galápagos / Silver Mullet</b>	<i>Mugil galapagensis</i>					Y			
<b>Longfin Halfbeak</b>	<i>Hemiramphus saltator</i>								Y
<b>Galápagos Grunt</b>	<i>Orthopristis forbesi</i>					Y			
<b>Black-striped Salema / Brown-striped Snapper</b>	<i>Xenocys jessiae</i>	Y	Y	Y					Y
<b>White Salema</b>	<i>Xenichthys agassizi</i>	Y							
<b>Pacific Dog Snapper</b>	<i>Lutjanus novemfasciatus</i>					Y			
<b>Barred Snapper</b>	<i>Hoplopagrus guentheri</i>					Y			

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<b>Giant Damselfish</b>	<i>Microspathodon dorsalis</i>				Y		Y	Y
<b>Galápagos Ringtail Damselfish</b>	<i>Stagastes beebei</i>	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
<b>Yellow-tailed Damselfish</b>	<i>Stagastes arcifrons</i>	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Panamic Sergeant Major</b>	<i>Abudefduf troschelii</i>	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Scissortail Chromis</b>	<i>Chromis atrilobata</i>							Y
<b>Flag Cabrilla</b>	<i>Epinephelus labriformis</i>		Y	Y			Y	Y
<b>Leather Bass</b>	<i>Dermatolepis dermatolepis</i>							Y
<b>Pacific Creolefish</b>	<i>Paranthias colonus</i>			Y			Y	Y
<b>Bumphead Parrotfish</b>	<i>Scarus perrico</i>	Y						
<b>Blue-chin Parrotfish</b>	<i>Scarus ghobdan</i>	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
<b>Bicolored / Red-lipped Parrotfish</b>	<i>Scarus rubroviolaceus</i>						Y	Y
<b>Loosetooth Parrotfish</b>	<i>Nicholsina denticulata</i>							Y
<b>Chameleon Wrasse</b>	<i>Halichoeres dispilus</i>							Y
<b>Spinster Wrasse</b>	<i>Halichoeres nicholsi</i>							Y
<b>Cortez Rainbow Wrasse</b>	<i>Thalassoma lucasanum</i>			Y	Y		Y	Y
<b>Mexican / Streamer Hogfish</b>	<i>Bodianus diplotaenia</i>	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y
<b>Blacktip Cardinalfish</b>	<i>Apogon atradorsatus</i>			Y				Y
<b>Panamic Fanged / Large-banded Blenny</b>	<i>Ophioblennius steindachneri</i>		Y	Y			Y	Y
<b>Sabertooth Blenny</b>	<i>Plagiotremus azaleus</i>							Y
<b>Bravo Clinid</b>	<i>Labriosomus dendriticus</i>							Y
<b>Pacific Leopard Flounder</b>	<i>Bothus leopardinus</i>							Y
<b>Giant / Hieroglyphic Hawkfish</b>	<i>Cirrhitus rivulatus</i>			Y				Y
<b>Coral Hawkfish</b>	<i>Cirrhichthys oxycephalus</i>							Y
<b>Calico Lizardfish</b>	<i>Synodus lacertinus</i>							Y
<b>Bullseye / Concentric Pufferfish</b>	<i>Sphoeroides annulatus</i>	Y					Y	Y
<b>Guineafowl Pufferfish</b>	<i>Arothron melaegris</i>	Y						
<b>[Spotted] Porcupinefish</b>	<i>Diodon hystrix</i>				X			
<b>Balloonfish</b>	<i>Diodon holocanthus</i>						Y	Y
<b>Orangeside / Yellow-bellied Triggerfish</b>	<i>Sufflamen verres</i>			Y				Y
<b>Finescale Triggerfish</b>	<i>Balistes polylepis</i>							Y
<b>Pacific Beakfish</b>	<i>Oplegnathus insignis</i>						Y	Y
<b>Trumpetfish</b>	<i>Aulostomus chinensis</i>							Y
<b>Reef Cornetfish</b>	<i>Fistularia commersonii</i>			Y			Y	Y
<b>Galápagos Garden Eel</b>	<i>Taenioconger klausewitzi</i>	Y						
<b>Tiger Snake Eel</b>	<i>Myrichthys tigrinus</i>	Y						Y
<b>Panamic Green Moray</b>	<i>Gynothorax castaneus</i>							Y
<b>Jewel Moray</b>	<i>Muraena lentiginosa</i>							Y
<b>Galápagos Bullhead / Port Jackson Shark</b>	<i>Heterodontus quoyi</i>						Y	Y
<b>Scalloped Hammerhead Shark</b>	<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	Y						
<b>Blacktip Shark</b>	<i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i>					Y		Y
<b>White-tipped Reef Shark</b>	<i>Triaenodon obesus</i>				Y		Y	Y
<b>Marbled Ray</b>	<i>Taeniura meyeri</i>							Y
<b>Diamond Sting Ray</b>	<i>Dasyatis brevis</i>	Y		Y				Y
<b>Spotted Eagle Ray</b>	<i>Aetobatus narinari</i>	Y					Y	Y
<b>Manta Ray</b>	<i>Manta hamiltoni</i>						Y	Y
<b>"Mackerel"</b>					Y			
<b>Snook sp</b>	<i>Centropomus sp</i>							Y

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*also seen on snorkels:*

<b>Banded Sea Star</b>	<i>Luidia bellonae</i>
<b>Chocolate-chip Sea Star</b>	<i>Nidorellia armata</i>
<b>Panamic Cushion Star</b>	<i>Pentaceraster cumingi</i>
<b>Blue Sea Star</b>	<i>Phataria unifascialis</i>
<b>Pyramid Sea Star</b>	<i>Pharia pyramidata</i>
<b>Red Sun Star</b>	<i>Heliaster cumingi</i>
<b>Slate Pencil Urchin</b>	<i>Eucidaris thouarsii</i>
<b>Hatpin (Black) Urchin</b>	<i>Diadema mexicanum</i>
<b>Green Sea Urchin</b>	<i>Lytechinus semituberculatus</i>
<b>White Sea Urchin</b>	<i>Tripneustes depressus</i>
<b>Sea Cucumber sp.</b>	<i>Holothuria atra</i>
<b>Sea Cucumber sp.</b>	<i>Stichopus fuscus</i>

**BUTTERFLIES**

<b>Galápagos blue</b>	<i>Leptodes parrhasioides</i>	Only noted CDRS on 10th
<b>Galápagos sulphur</b>	<i>Phoebis sennae marcellina</i>	Noted CDRS on 10th, UB on 12th and 2 Pto.E and 1 Ba on 13th.
<b>Large-tailed Skipper</b>	<i>Urbanus doranthus</i>	Plenty UB on 12th.

**DRAGONFLIES**

<b>Spot-winged glider</b>	<i>Pantava hymenaea</i>	Quite common and noted daily from 9th - 12th.
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**OTHER INSECTS**

<b>Large Painted Locust</b>	<i>Schistocerca melanocera</i>	Only common greenest hot areas: UB on 12th and Pto.E and Ba on 13th.
<b>Small Painted Locust</b>	<i>Schistocerca literosa</i>	Widespread in small number and seen on 7th, 9th, 11th, 12th and 13th.
<b>Yellow Paper Wasp</b>	<i>Polistes versicolor</i>	An all-too-common introduced pest and noted daily 9th - 12th.
<b>Galápagos Carpenter Bee</b>	<i>Xylocopa darwini</i>	Quite common and very widespread, small numbers seen 7th and 9th - 12th.
<b>Galápagos Green-eyed Horsefly</b>	<i>Tabanus vittiger</i>	Several bites on 9th were testament to their presence!
<b>Galápagos Field Cricket</b>	<i>Gryllus abditus and/or galapageius</i>	Heard commonly on SC.

**OTHER TAXA**

<b>Silver Argiope</b>	<i>Argiope argentata</i>	A few UB on 12th.
<b>Star Spider</b>	<i>Gasteracantha servillei</i>	One or two noted.
<b>Galápagos Scorpion sp.</b>	<i>Centruroides exsul</i>	Just one small one POB on 9th.
<b>Yellow Scorpion</b>	<i>Hadruioides maculatus galapagoensis</i>	One Pto.E on 13th.

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<b>Sally Lightfoot Crab</b>	<i>Grapsus grapsus</i>	Abundant and widespread, seen daily and at all coastal sites.
<b>Semi-terrestrial Hermit Crab</b>	<i>Coenobita compressus</i>	One PC on 9th, and several UB on 12th and on 13th.
<b>Ghost Crab</b>	<i>Ocyropode gaudichaudii</i>	Several PC on 9th, 1 UB on 12th and several on 13th.

### Mainland birds

Sites: **e.r.** = en route ; **GL** = Guango Lodge; **SG** = Sierra de Guacamayos ridge; **Mi** = Mindo; **Mp** = Milpe ; **MM** = Mitad del Mundo ; **M-E** = Mindo - El Cinto road ; **N-M** = old Nono-Mindo road ; **Q** = Quito; **PL** = Papallacta Lake ; **PP** = Papallacta Pass ; **SI** = San Isidro lodge; **SP** = Séptimo Paraíso Lodge ; **SR** = Silanche River road + reserve ; **Y** = Yanacocha reserve  
Codes: sev. = several; m/m = m/s; f/f = female/s; juv./juvs. = juvenile/s

### **BIRDS** *seen, or seen & heard*

#### **HERONS & BITTERNs** *Ardeidae*

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* Plenty SP and M-E on 16th, plenty various sites on 17th and plenty SP on 18th.

#### **WILDFOWL** *Anatidae*

**Torrent Duck** *Merganetta armata* A stunning pair near SI on 19th were a treat.

**Speckled (Speckled) Teal** *Anas flavirostris* 4 e.r. and 4 PL on 18th and 6 PL on 21st.

**Yellow-billed Pintail** *Anas georgica spinicauda* 25 PL on 18th and just c. 20 there on 21st.

#### **AMERICAN VULTURES** *Cathartidae*

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* 10+ SP and plenty M-E on 16th, 100+ various sites on 17th and lots en route on 18th.

**American Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus* 10+ SP and a few M-E on 16th, 200+ various sites on 17th and a few en route on 18th.

#### **HAWKS** *Accipitridae*

**American Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus* 5-6 SP on 16th, 20+ various sites on 17th and lots en route Mi area on 18th.

**Plain-breasted Hawk** *Accipiter ventralis* Just 1 poorly seen bird Y on 15th.

**Black-chested (Barred) Hawk** *Leucopternis princeps* 1 ad e.r. on 18th.

**Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle** *Geranoaetus melanoleucus* An adult near Y on 15th, a juv + an ad PL on 18th and 2 ads + 1 juv there on 21st.

**Roadside Hawk** *Buteo magnirostris* One Mp on 17th, 1 perched e.r. on 19th and 1 heard e.r. on 21st.

**White-rumped Hawk** *Buteo leucorrhous* Some post-trip research confirms this as the hawk seen at MM on 18th.

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<b>Puna (Variable) Hawk</b>	<i>Buteo poecilochrous</i>	4 Y area on 15th, 1 e.r. and 1 PL on 18th and 2-3 PP area on 21st. Interestingly, this is split in the latest 'Raptors of the World', with the birds we saw all probably pertaining to the higher altitude Gurney's or Puna Hawk <i>B. poecilochrous</i> s.s. rather than the slimmer winged Red-backed Hawk <i>B. polyosoma</i> .
<b>FALCONS &amp; CARACARAS</b>		<i>Falconidae</i>
<b>Carunculated Caracara</b>	<i>Phalcoboenus carunculatus</i>	A pair + 2 juvs and another pair e.r. up to the PP on 18th.
<b>American Kestrel</b>	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	A pair on wires e.r. and a f MM on 18th.
<b>Bat Falcon</b>	<i>Falco ruficularis</i>	2-3 SP and 1 M-E on 16th.
<b>GUANS &amp; CHACHALACAS</b>		<i>Cracidae</i>
<b>Wattled (Piping-) Guan</b>	<i>Aburria aburri</i>	A male seen and another heard SP on 16th, 2 mm heard there on 17th and a female seen and a male heard there on 18th.
<b>Sickle-winged Guan</b>	<i>Chamaepetes goudotii</i>	One very briefly N-M on 15th.
<b>PLOVERS</b>		<i>Charadriidae</i>
<b>Andean Lapwing</b>	<i>Vanellus resplendens</i>	2 seen by just a couple at PP 18th.
<b>GULLS</b>		<i>Laridae</i>
<b>Andean Gull</b>	<i>Larus serranus</i>	One + 5 en route to PP on 18th, 2 over GL on 19th and a pair PL on 21st.
<b>PIGEONS &amp; DOVES</b>		<i>Columbidae</i>
<b>Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)</b>	<i>Columba livia</i>	Plenty e.r. on 15th, plenty MM on 18th and plenty again e.r. on 21st.
<b>Band-tailed Pigeon</b>	<i>Columba fasciata</i>	Several N-M on 15th and heard SP on 18th.
<b>Plumbeous Pigeon</b>	<i>Columba plumbea</i>	Several N-M on 15th and 3 SP on 18th.
<b>Ruddy Pigeon</b>	<i>Columba subvinacea</i>	2 seen and others h SP on 16th, h various sites on 17th, h SP on 18th and h GL on 19th.
<b>Dusky Pigeon</b>	<i>Columba goodsoni</i>	Several h SP on 16th and one in flight and another heard there on 18th.
<b>Eared Dove</b>	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>	Common in Q and surroundings on 15th and 21st, and seen various sites on 18th.
<b>White-tipped Dove</b>	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	1 Mp on 17th.
<b>PARROTS</b>		<i>Psittacidae</i>
<b>Scaly-naped Amazon</b>	<i>Amazona mercenara</i>	Regular in flight at SI where 24+ on 20th and 12 SI on 21st.
<b>Maroon-tailed Parakeet</b>	<i>Pyrrhura melanura</i>	One SP on 16th, 3 Mp on 17th and 3 SP on 18th.
<b>Red-billed Parrot</b>	<i>Pionus sordidus</i>	A couple of flocks in flight N-M on 15th, c.8 SP and 1 M-E on 16th.
<b>Bronze-winged Parrot</b>	<i>Pionus chalcopterus</i>	30+ flying over Mp on 17th.

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<b>ANIS</b>	Crotophagidae	
<b>Smooth-billed Ani</b>	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	2 M-E on 16th and a few e.r. on 17th.
<b>NEW WORLD CUCKOOS</b>	Coccyzidae	
<b>Squirrel Cuckoo</b>	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	Just one very brief bird SR on 17th.
<b>TYPICAL OWLS</b>	Strigidae	
<b>San Isidro Owl</b>	<i>Ciccaba sp.</i>	One SI on 19th and 20th.
<b>NIGHTJARS</b>	Caprimulgidae	
<b>Rufous-bellied Nighthawk</b>	<i>Lurocalis rufiventris</i>	A single SI on 19th - 21st.
<b>Lyre-tailed Nightjar</b>	<i>Luropsalis lyra</i>	A 'pair' M-E were a delight on 16th.
<b>SWIFTS</b>	Apodidae	
<b>Chestnut-collared Swift</b>	<i>Streptoprocne rutila</i>	Lots e.r. on 21st on E slope.
<b>White-collared Swift</b>	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>	Quite common: daily from 15th to 18th and also on 21st.
<b>Spot-fronted Swift</b>	<i>Cypseloides cherriei</i>	A long-tailed swift, probably this species over SI on 21st.
<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>	Trochilidae	
<b>White-whiskered Hermit</b>	<i>Phaethornis yaruqui</i>	1 SP on 16th and 1-2 there on 17th, plus 2+ Mp on 17th.
<b>White-necked Jacobin</b>	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	1 m SP on 16th and a 'pair' there on 17th.
<b>Brown Violet-ear</b>	<i>Colibri delphinae</i>	3+ SP on 16th and 17th.
<b>Green Violet-ear</b>	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>	One SP on 17th and 1 SI on 21st.
<b>Sparkling Violet-ear</b>	<i>Colibri coruscans</i>	Several Y and e.r. on 15th, 2+ SP n 16th and 1-2 there on 17th.
<b>Western Emerald</b>	<i>Chlorostilbon melanorhynchus</i>	Several SP on 16th and a f there on 18th.
<b>Green-crowned Woodnymph</b>	<i>Thalurania fannyi</i>	A f SP on 16th, several there and 2 pairs Mp on 17th.
<b>Andean Emerald</b>	<i>Agyrtria francae</i>	Several SP on 16th and lots there on 17th.
<b>Rufous-tailed Hummingbird</b>	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>	Lots SP on 16th and 17th, lots Mp on 17th and a few SP on 18th.
<b>Speckled Hummingbird</b>	<i>Adelomyia melanogenys</i>	2-3 GL on 18th and 19th, plenty SI on 19th - 21st, and 1 PP on 21st.
<b>Purple-bibbed Whitetip</b>	<i>Urosticte benjamini</i>	2 mm + f SP on 16th and 5+ there on 17th.
<b>Fawn-breasted Brilliant</b>	<i>Heliodoxa rubinoides</i>	Two SP on 16th and 17th, 1+ Mp on 17th, and 1-2 SI from 19th-21st.
<b>Green-crowned Brilliant</b>	<i>Heliodoxa jacula</i>	Several SP on 16th and 17th.
<b>Empress Brilliant</b>	<i>Heliodoxa imperatrix</i>	2+ SP and 5+ Mp on 17th.
<b>Ecuadorian Hillstar</b>	<i>Oreotrochilus chimborazo</i>	Amazingly, a m M-E on 16th and 1 PL on 18th.
<b>White-tailed Hillstar</b>	<i>Urochroa bougeri</i>	2 e.r. on 15th and a male SP on 17th.
<b>Shining Sunbeam</b>	<i>Aglaeactis cupripennis</i>	Several at Y on 15th, 1 PL on 18th and 21st.
<b>Mountain Velvetbreast</b>	<i>Lafresnaya lafresnayi</i>	One Y on 15th and 2 GL on 18th and 19th.
<b>Great Sapphirewing</b>	<i>Pterophanes cyanopterus</i>	Several at Y on 15th.

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<b>Bronzy Inca</b>	<i>Coeligena coeligena</i>	6-10 SI from 19th - 21st.
<b>Brown Inca</b>	<i>Coeligena wilsoni</i>	1 SP on 17th and 18th.
<b>Collared Inca</b>	<i>Coeligena torquata</i>	Sev GL on 18th and lots there on 19th, plenty SI from 19th - 21st.
<b>Buff-winged Starfrontlet</b>	<i>Coeligena lutetiae</i>	Plenty Y on 15th, several GL on 18th and plenty there on 19th.
<b>Sword-billed Hummingbird</b>	<i>Ensifera ensifera</i>	A f Y on 15th, a few GL on 18th and several there on 19th.
<b>Buff-tailed Coronet</b>	<i>Boissonneaua flavescens</i>	3 GL on 19th.
<b>Chestnut-breasted Coronet</b>	<i>Boissonneaua matthewsii</i>	Lots GL on 18th and 19th and also at SI from 19th - 21st.
<b>Velvet-purple Coronet</b>	<i>Boissonneaua jardini</i>	A stunning m SP on 17th.
<b>Tourmaline Sunangel</b>	<i>Heliangelus exortis</i>	Common GL on 18th and 19th.
<b>Sapphire-vented Puffleg</b>	<i>Eriocnemis luciani</i>	Several e.r. and plenty Y on 15th.
<b>Booted Racket-tail</b>	<i>Ocreatus underwoodii</i>	2+ pairs SP on 16th and several there on 17th.
<b>Black-tailed Trainbearer</b>	<i>Lesbia victoriae</i>	Several e.r. on 15th and a superb m MM on 18th.
<b>Viridian Metaltail</b>	<i>Metallura williami</i>	Several Y on 15th.
<b>Tyrian Metaltail</b>	<i>Metallura tyrianthina</i>	Plentiful GL on 18th and 19th.
<b>Rainbow-bearded Thornbill</b>	<i>Chalcostigma herrani</i>	A very brief male Y on 15th.
<b>Long-tailed Sylph</b>	<i>Agelaiocercus kingi</i>	Several GL on 18th and 19th and lots SI from 19th - 21st.
<b>Violet-tailed Sylph</b>	<i>Agelaiocercus coelestis</i>	2 mm + 1 f SP on 16th and 2 mm there on 17th.
<b>Purple-throated Woodstar</b>	<i>Calliphlox mitchellii</i>	A pair SP on 16th and plenty there on 17th.
<b>White-bellied Woodstar</b>	<i>Chaetocercus mulsant</i>	Plenty GL on 18th and 19th, and a few SI on 19th and 20th.
<b>Gorgeted Woodstar</b>	<i>Chaetocercus heliodor</i>	A f GL and a m SI on 19th, then 2 mm + 1 f SI on 20th and a 'pair' there on 21st.
<b>TROGONS</b>	<i>Trogonidae</i>	
<b>Golden-headed Quetzal</b>	<i>Pharomachrus auriceps</i>	3 N-M on 15th, a pair SP and a juv M-E on 16th and 1 seen and others h SP on 18th.
<b>(Western) White-tailed Trogon</b>	<i>Trogon (viridis) chionurus</i>	Several SR on 17th.
<b>Masked Trogon</b>	<i>Trogon personatus</i>	Now a complex of 3 species. <i>T. (personatus) assimilis</i> in the west: a f SP on 16th and a f Mp on 17th. Highland Trogon <i>T. (personatus) temperatus</i> in the E highlands: a pair GL on 19th. Amazonian Trogon <i>T. (personatus) personatus</i> in the E lowlands: 3 mm SI on 19th, 1 m there on 20th and 21st.
<b>Black-throated Trogon</b>	<i>Trogon rufus</i>	A male and 2 juvs SR on 17th.
<b>Northern Violaceous Trogon</b>	<i>Trogon caligatus</i>	A male SR on 17th.
<b>MOTMOTS</b>	<i>Motmotidae</i>	
<b>Broad-billed Motmot</b>	<i>Electron platyrhynchum</i>	Heard SP on 16th - 18th, and 2 seen SR on 17th.

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<b>Highland Motmot</b>	<i>Momotus aequatorialis</i>	1 SI on 20th and 2 there on 21st were excellent.
<b>NEW WORLD BARBETS</b>		<i>Capitonidae</i>
<b>Red-headed Barbet</b>	<i>Eubucco bourcierii</i>	A pair Mp on 17th.
<b>TOUCANS</b>		<i>Ramphastidae</i>
<b>Crimson-rumped Toucanet</b>	<i>Aulacorhynchus haematopygus</i>	One SP on 16th and 3 there on 18th.
<b>Pale-mandibled Araçari</b>	<i>Pteroglossus erythropygius</i>	Singles SR and SP on 17th and 2 SP on 18th.
<b>Chocó Toucan</b>	<i>Ramphastos brevis</i>	2 singles SP and h M-E on 16th, h SR on 17th and 1 + sev h SP on 18th.
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>		<i>Picidae</i>
<b>Scarlet-backed Woodpecker</b>	<i>Veniliornis callonotus</i>	2 M-E on 16th.
<b>Red-rumped Woodpecker</b>	<i>Veniliornis kirkii</i>	Two+ SR on 17th.
<b>Yellow-vented Woodpecker</b>	<i>Veniliornis dignus</i>	1 SI on 20th.
<b>Crimson-mantled Woodpecker</b>	<i>Piculus rivolii</i>	One SI on 20th and a male, inc in the hand there on 21st.
<b>Lineated Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	A male SR on 17th.
<b>Guayaquil Woodpecker</b>	<i>Campephilus gayaquilensis</i>	One male M-E on 16th.
<b>WOODCREEPERS</b>		<i>Dendrocolaptidae</i>
<b>Tyrannine Woodcreeper</b>	<i>Dendrocincla tyrannina</i>	One SP on 16th.
<b>Wedge-billed Woodcreeper</b>	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>	One SP on 16th and 1-2 SR on 17th.
<b>Montane Woodcreeper</b>	<i>Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger</i>	2+ SP on 16th, 2+ SR on 17th, sev SI on 20th and plenty there on 21st.
<b>Spotted Woodcreeper</b>	<i>Xiphorhynchus erythropygius</i>	One SP on 16th.
<b>Black-striped Woodcreeper</b>	<i>Xiphorhynchus lacrymosus</i>	1-2 SR on 17th.
<b>OVENBIRDS</b>		<i>Furnariidae</i>
<b>Bar-winged Cinclodes</b>	<i>Cinclodes fuscus</i>	2 PP on 21st.
<b>Pacific Hornero</b>	<i>Furnarius cinnamomeus</i>	2 M-E on 16th and several various sites on 17th.
<b>Andean Tit-Spinetail</b>	<i>Leptasthenura andicola</i>	2 PP on 21st.
<b>Azara's Spinetail</b>	<i>Synallaxis azarae</i>	2 Mp and h SR on 17th, and 1 SI on 21st.
<b>Slaty Spinetail</b>	<i>Synallaxis brachyura</i>	1 Mp + 2 SR on 17th.
<b>Pearled Treerunner</b>	<i>Margarornis squamiger</i>	Several SG on 20th.
<b>Montane Foliage-gleaner</b>	<i>Anabacerthia striaticollis</i>	One SI on 20th.
<b>Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner</b>	<i>Automolus ochrolaemus</i>	One M-E on 16th, 1 Mp on 17th and h SP on 18th.

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<b>Uniform Tree-hunter</b>	<i>Thripadectes nobilis</i>	1-2 SR on 17th.
<b>TYPICAL ANTBIRDS</b>	<i>Thamnophilidae</i>	
<b>Dot-winged Antwren</b>	<i>Microrhoptias quixensis</i>	One m SR on 20th.
<b>Long-tailed Antbird</b>	<i>Drymophila caudata</i>	Heard N-M on 15th, 1 SP on 16th, h SP on 18th and h SI on 20th.
<b>ANTTHRUSHES &amp; ANTPITTAS</b>	<i>Formicariidae</i>	
<b>Chestnut-crowned</b>		
<b>Antpitta</b>	<i>Grallaria ruficapilla</i>	A pair seen and another heard SI on 19th and 20th and the pair seen again on 21st.
<b>Tawny Antpitta</b>	<i>Grallaria quitensis</i>	Heard Y on 15th, excellent views of 4-5 PP on 18th and h there on 21st.
<b>TYRANT FLYCATCHERS</b>	<i>Tyrannidae</i>	
<b>Sooty-headed Tyrannulet</b>	<i>Phyllomyias griseiceps</i>	3-4 SR on 17th.
<b>Golden-faced Tyrannulet</b>	<i>Zimmerius chrysops</i>	2 SR on 17th.
<b>Yellow-bellied Elaenia</b>	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>	1 SR on 17th.
<b>White-tailed Tyrannulet</b>	<i>Mecocerculus poecilocercus</i>	2+ SI on 20th and 21st.
<b>White-banded Tyrannulet</b>	<i>Mecocerculus stictopterus</i>	Plenty GL on 19th.
<b>Torrent Tyrannulet</b>	<i>Serpophaga cinerea</i>	2 e.r. on 19th and 3 e.r. on 20th.
<b>Streak-necked Flycatcher</b>	<i>Mionectes striaticollis</i>	One SI on 20th
<b>Marble-faced Bristle-tyrant</b>	<i>Phylloscartes ophthalmicus</i>	Plenty at various sites on 17th and 1 SI on 20th.
<b>Ornate Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiobicicus ornatus</i>	Two SP on 16th, 2 Mp on 17th and 1 SP on 18th.
<b>Smoke-coloured Pewee</b>	<i>Contopus fumigatus</i>	1 M-E on 16th, and 1 SI on 20th and 21st.
<b>Western Wood-Pewee</b>	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	One SI on 20th.
<b>Black Phoebe</b>	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	2-3 M-E on 16th, 1 SR on 17th, sev e.r. on 19th, 1 e.r. on 20th and 1 e.r. on 21st.
<b>Slaty-backed Chat-tyrant</b>	<i>Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris</i>	3 GL on 19th.
<b>Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant</b>	<i>Ochthoeca fumicolor</i>	2 PP on 21st.
<b>Smoky Bush-tyrant</b>	<i>Myiotheretes fumigatus</i>	4 GL on 19th.
<b>Black-billed Shrike-tyrant</b>	<i>Agriornis montana</i>	1 e.r. PP on 18th and 2 e.r. PP on 21st.
<b>Paramo Ground-Tyrant</b>	<i>Muscisaxicola alpina</i>	Several Y on 15th and 1 e.r. PP on 18th.
<b>Masked Water Tyrant</b>	<i>Fluvicola nengeta</i>	2 M-E on 16th and 3 Mp on 17th.
<b>Pale-edged Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiarchus cephalotes</i>	Singles SI on 20th and 21st.

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<b>Rusty-margined Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>	One SI on 20th and 2 SI on 21st.
<b>Social Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	Several SR on 17th, 2 SP on 18th and 2 SI on 20th.
<b>Golden-crowned Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiodynastes chrysocephalus</i>	Several SP on 18th.
<b>Streaked Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>	Four SR on 17th.
<b>White-throated Kingbird</b>	<i>Tyrannus albogularis</i>	One SR on 17th.
<b>Tropical Kingbird</b>	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	Seen daily in small to large number from 16th - 21st.
<b>Cinnamon Becard</b>	<i>Pachyramphus cinnamomeus</i>	Plenty at several sites on 17th.
<b>Black-and-white Becard</b>	<i>Pachyramphus albogriseus</i>	A female SI on 20th.
<b>One-coloured Becard</b>	<i>Pachyramphus homochrous</i>	A few at various sites on 17th.
<b>Masked Tityra</b>	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>	A pair SR on 17th.
<b>MANAKINS</b>	<i>Pipridae</i>	
<b>Club-winged Manakin</b>	<i>Machaeropterus deliciosus</i>	A dead female under a window SP on 16th, but several displaying males Mp on 17th.
<b>White-bearded Manakin</b>	<i>Manacus manacus</i>	One male seen and others heard SR on 17th.
<b>COTINGAS</b>	<i>Cotingidae</i>	
<b>Red-crested Cotinga</b>	<i>Ampelion rubrocristata</i>	One Y on 15th and 2 PL on 21st.
<b>Andean Cock-of-the-rock</b>	<i>Rupicola peruviana</i>	A lek of males heard N-M on 15th and a f M-E on 16th.
<b>SWALLOWS &amp; MARTINS</b>	<i>Hirundinidae</i>	
<b>Brown-bellied Swallow</b>	<i>Notiochelidon murina</i>	Abundant in the highlands on 15th, 18th, 19th and 21st.
<b>Blue-and-white Swallow</b>	<i>Notiochelidon cyanoleuca</i>	Common and widespread; noted daily.
<b>White-thighed Swallow</b>	<i>Neochelidon tibialis</i>	A few SR on 17th.
<b>Southern Rough-winged Swallow</b>	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>	Several M-E on 16th and SR on 18th.
<b>GNATCATCHERS</b>	<i>Poliptilidae</i>	
<b>Tawny-faced Gnatcatcher</b>		<i>Microbates cineriventris</i> One SR on 17th and 2 SG on 20th.
<b>DIPPERS</b>	<i>Cinclidae</i>	
<b>White-capped Dipper</b>	<i>Cinclus leucocephalus</i>	3 N-M on 15th, 2 M-E on 16th, 1 GL and 3 e.r. on 19th and 2 e.r. on 20th.
<b>WRENS</b>	<i>Troglodytidae</i>	
<b>Rufous Wren</b>	<i>Cinnycerthia unirufa</i>	A pair Y on 15th.
<b>Sedge (Grass) Wren</b>	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	Heard SG on 20th and 1 seen SI on 21st, both well out of range.

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<b>House Wren</b>	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Noted daily at a few sites from 16th - 19th. Sometimes now treated as a separate sp. Southern House Wren.
<b>Mountain Wren</b>	<i>Troglodytes solstitialis</i>	Noted daily at a few sites from 18th - 21st.
<b>Grey-breasted Wood-wren</b>	<i>Henicorhina leucophrys</i>	Heard daily at various sites from 15th - 19th, then seen and heard SI 20th and 21st.
<b>THRUSHES</b>	<i>Turdidae</i>	
<b>Andean Solitaire</b>	<i>Myadestes ralloides</i>	Heard N-M on 15th and SP 16th - 18th, and 1 seen SI on 20th.
<b>Pale-eyed Thrush</b>	<i>Platycichla leucops</i>	One SI on 20th.
<b>Great Thrush</b>	<i>Turdus fuscater</i>	Common at altitude; sev. Y on 15th and daily from 18th - 21st.
<b>Ecuadorian Thrush</b>	<i>Turdus maculirostris</i>	One SP on 18th.
<b>JAYS &amp; CROWS</b>	<i>Corvidae</i>	
<b>Turquoise Jay</b>	<i>Cyanolyca turcosa</i>	4-5 N-M on 15th and 6+ GL on 19th.
<b>Inca Jay</b>	<i>Cyanocorax yncas</i>	Lots SI and area on 20th and 21st.
<b>NEW WORLD SPARROWS and BUNTINGS</b>	<i>Emberizidae - Emberizinae</i>	
<b>Rufous-collared Sparrow</b>	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>	Common: seen Q on 15th and daily at various sites from 17th - 21st.
<b>Plumbeous Sierra-Finch</b>	<i>Phrygilus unicolor</i>	Several PP on 18th and 21st.
<b>Blue-black Grassquit</b>	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>	One m SR on 17th.
<b>Variable Seedeater</b>	<i>Sporophila aurita</i>	Several Mp and SR on 17th.
<b>Yellow-bellied Seedeater</b>	<i>Sporophila nigricollis</i>	A m + 2 ff Mp on 17th and 1 SP on 18th.
<b>Paramo Seedeater</b>	<i>Catamenia homochroa</i>	2 briefly PP on 21st.
<b>Dull-coloured Grassquit</b>	<i>Tiaris obscura</i>	A few at various sites on 17th.
<b>Pale-naped Brush-finch</b>	<i>Atlapetes pallidinucha</i>	2 SP on 18th and 1 GL on 19th.
<b>Tricoloured Brush-finch</b>	<i>Atlapetes tricolor</i>	2 Y on 15th and 1+ SP on 18th.
<b>PLUSH-CAPPED FINCH</b>	<i>Emberizidae - Catamblyrhynchinae</i>	
<b>Plush-capped Finch</b>	<i>Catamblyrhynchus diadema</i>	2 briefly SI on 20th.
<b>CARDINALS &amp; GROSBEAKS</b>	<i>Emberizidae - Cardinalinae</i>	
<b>Black-backed Grosbeak</b>	<i>Pheucticus aureoventris</i>	2 ff e.r. on 18th.
<b>Buff-throated Saltator</b>	<i>Saltator maximus</i>	2 SP on 16th, several SR on 17th and several SP on 18th.
<b>Black-winged Saltator</b>	<i>Saltator atripennis</i>	Several SP on 16th and 18th.
<b>TANAGERS</b>	<i>Emberizidae - Thraupinae</i>	
<b>Grass-green Tanager</b>	<i>Chlorornis riefferii</i>	One SP on 16th.

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<b>Common Bush-tanager</b>	<i>Chlorospingus ophthalmicus</i>	Several SI on 20th and 1-2 there on 21st.
<b>Dusky Bush-tanager</b>	<i>Chlorospingus semifuscus</i>	Several Mp on 17th and 2 SP on 18th.
<b>Yellow-throated Bush-tanager</b>	<i>Chlorospingus flavigularis</i>	2 SP on 16th and 1+ Mp on 17th.
<b>Black-eared Hemispingus</b>	<i>Hemispingus melanotis</i>	Several GL on 19th.
<b>Ochre-breasted Tanager</b>	<i>Chlorothraupis Stolzmanni</i>	Sev. Mp and 1 SR on 17th.
<b>White-shouldered Tanager</b>	<i>Tachyphonus luctuosus</i>	Sev. SR on 17th.
<b>White-lined Tanager</b>	<i>Tachyphonus rufus</i>	One Mp on 17th.
<b>Tawny-crested Tanager</b>	<i>Tachyphonus delatarii</i>	Several SR on 17th.
<b>Lemon-(Flame-)rumped Tanager</b>	<i>Ramphocelus flammigerus</i>	Common and seen daily 16th – 19th.
<b>Blue-grey Tanager</b>	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	A few daily from 16th - 18th and 2 e.r. on 20th.
<b>Palm Tanager</b>	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	Two M-E on 16th and sev. various sites on 17th.
<b>Black-chested Mountain-tanager</b>	<i>Buthraupis eximia</i>	Two Y on 15th.
<b>Hooded Mountain-tanager</b>	<i>Buthraupis montana</i>	One Y on 15th, 6+ GL on 19th and 1 SG on 20th.
<b>Scarlet-bellied Mountain-tanager</b>	<i>Anisognathus igniventris</i>	Sev. Y on 15th and 1 PL on 21st.
<b>Blue-winged Mountain-tanager</b>	<i>Anisognathus somptuosus</i>	Two SP on 18th, 1-2 SI on 20th and sev there on 21st.
<b>Orange-bellied Euphonia</b>	<i>Euphonia xanthogaster</i>	Two mm SP on 17th, sev SP on 18th and sev SI on 20th.
<b>Green-and-gold Tanager</b>	<i>Tangara schrankii</i>	Sev SR on 17th.
<b>Golden Tanager</b>	<i>Tangara arthus</i>	Noted daily in moderate number from 16th - 18th.
<b>Silver-throated Tanager</b>	<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>	Two+ SP on 16th and 2 there on 18th.
<b>Saffron-crowned Tanager</b>	<i>Tangara xanthocephala</i>	Sev SI on 20th and 2 there on 21st.
<b>Flame-faced Tanager</b>	<i>Tangara parzudakii</i>	Sev SG on 20th and 2 SI on 21st.
<b>Rufous-throated Tanager</b>	<i>Tangara rufigula</i>	5-6 Mp and SR on 17th.
<b>Bay-headed Tanager</b>	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>	Sev at various sites on 17th.
<b>Blue-necked Tanager</b>	<i>Tangara cyanicollis</i>	One SR on 17th.
<b>Beryl-spangled Tanager</b>	<i>Tangara nigroviridis</i>	One SI on 20th.
<b>Blue-and-black Tanager</b>	<i>Tangara vassorii</i>	Plenty GL on 20th.
<b>Black-capped Tanager</b>	<i>Tangara heinei</i>	One SI on 20th.
<b>White-sided Flowerpiercer</b>	<i>Diglossa albilatera</i>	One GL on 19th.
<b>Glossy Flowerpiercer</b>	<i>Diglossa lafresnayii</i>	Plenty Y on 15th and 1 PL on 21st.
<b>Black Flowerpiercer</b>	<i>Diglossa humeralis</i>	4-5 Y on 15th and 1 PL on 21st.
<b>Bluish Flowerpiercer</b>	<i>Diglossopsis caerulea</i>	Sev SI on 20th and 21st.

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<b>Masked Flowerpiercer</b>	<i>Diglossopsis cyanea</i>	One GL on 19th and sev SI on 20th and 21st.
<b>Guira Tanager</b>	<i>Hemithraupis guira</i>	Plenty Mp and SR on 17th.
<b>SWALLOW-TANAGER</b>	<i>Emberizidae - Tersininae</i>	
<b>Swallow-Tanager</b>	<i>Tersina viridis</i>	A superb m Mp on 17th.
<b>BANANAQUIT</b>	<i>Coerebidae</i>	
<b>Bananaquit</b>	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	Just 1 Mp on 17th.
<b>NEW WORLD WARBLERS</b>	<i>Parulidae</i>	
<b>Tropical Parula</b>	<i>Parula pitiayumi</i>	Two M-E on 16th and 2+ Mp on 17th.
<b>Slate-throated Whitestart (Redstart)</b>	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>	One SP on 16th, 1 Mp on 17th, 2 SP on 18th and singles SG and SI on 20th.
<b>Spectacled Whitestart (Redstart)</b>	<i>Myioborus melanocephalus</i>	Sev Y on 15th, 2 PL on 18th, plenty GL on 19th and sev SI on 20th.
<b>Black-crested Warbler</b>	<i>Basileuterus nigrocristatus</i>	One GL on 19th.
<b>Buff-rumped Warbler</b>	<i>Basileuterus fulvicauda</i>	2 SR on 17th.
<b>Three-striped Warbler</b>	<i>Basileuterus tristriatus</i>	One N-M on 15th, 1 SP on 16th and 2 there on 18th.
<b>Cinereous Conebill</b>	<i>Conirostrum cinereum</i>	One Y on 15th and 2 PL on 21st.
<b>Blue-backed Conebill</b>	<i>Conirostrum sitticolor</i>	Three GL on 19th.
<b>VIREOS</b>	<i>Vireonidae</i>	
<b>Black-billed Peppershrike</b>	<i>Cyclarhis nigristrostris</i>	Heard SI on 20th and 21st, with 1 seen there on 21st.
<b>Red-eyed Vireo</b> on 20th.	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Seen daily in small number 16th - 18th, plus 1 SI on 20th.
<b>FINCHES</b>	<i>Fringillidae</i>	
<b>Lesser Goldfinch</b>	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	One Mp and 2 SR on 17th.

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### NEW WORLD ORIOLES *Icteridae*

**Russet-backed Oropendola** *Psarocolius angustifrons* Two e.r. on 19th, sev at various sites on 20th and plenty SI on 21st.

**Scarlet-rumped (Subtropical) Cacique** *Cacicus uropygialis* Noted SI daily from 19th - 21st.

**(Northern) Mountain Cacique** *Cacicus chrysonotus* Just 1 e.r. on 19th.

#### Heard only:

### TINAMOUS *Tinamidae*

**Great Tinamou** *Tinamus major* One heard calling M-E on 16th.

**Tawny-breasted Tinamou** *Nothocercus julius* One heard calling SR on 17th.

### FALCONS & CARACARAS *Falconidae*

**Collared Forest-falcon** *Micrastur semitorquatus* 1 calling SI the evenings of 20th and 21st.

### TYPICAL OWLS *Strigidae*

**Mottled Owl** *Ciccaba virgata* One heard calling SP on 17th.

### MOTMOTS *Motmotidae*

**Rufous Motmot** *Baryphthengus martii* Heard SP on 16th - 18th.

### NEW WORLD BARBETS *Capitonidae*

**Toucan Barbet** *Semnornis ramphastinus* Heard SP on 16th and 18th.

### WOODPECKERS *Picidae*

**Powerful Woodpecker** *Campephilus pollens* One drumming SP on 18th.

### OVENBIRDS *Furnariidae*

**Rufous Spinetail** *Synallaxis unirufa* Heard SP from 16th - 18th.

### TYPICAL ANTBIRDS *Thamnophilidae*

**Immaculate Antbird** *Myrmeciza immaculata* Heard SI on 19th.

### ANTTHRUSHES & ANTPITTAS *Formicariidae*

**Rufous-breasted Antthrush** *Formicarius rufipectus* Heard SP on 16th and 18th.

**Scaled Antpitta** *Grallaria guatemalensis* Heard Mp on 17th.

**White-bellied Antpitta** *Grallaria hypoleuca* Heard daily SI on 19th - 21st.

### TAPACULOS *Rhinocryptidae*

**Rufous-vented Tapaculo** *Scytalopus femoralis* Heard SI on 20th and 21st.

**Nariño Tapaculo** *Scytalopus viciniior* Heard SP on 18th.

### TYRANT FLYCATCHERS *Tyrannidae*

**Scale-crested Pygmy-tyrant** *Lophotriccus pileatus* Heard SP on 16th and various sites on 17th.

**Common Tody-flycatcher** *Todirostrum cinereum* Heard SP on 16th.

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<b>WRENS</b>	<i>Troglodytidae</i>	
<b>Bay Wren</b>	<i>Thryothorus nigricapillus</i>	Heard M-E on 16th and h SR on 17th.
<b>White-breasted Wood-wren</b>	<i>Henicorhina leucosticta</i>	Heard SI on 20th.
<b>Song Wren</b>	<i>Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus</i>	Heard SR on 17th.
<b>Southern Nightingale-wren</b>	<i>Microcerculus marginatus</i>	Heard Mp on 17th.
<b>THRUSHES</b>	<i>Turdidae</i>	
<b>Dagua Thrush</b>	<i>Turdus daguae</i>	One h SP on 16th.
<b>MAMMALS</b>		
<b>CARNIVORES - Dogs</b>	<i>Carnivora - Canidae</i>	
<b>Andean (Culpeo) Fox</b>	<i>Dasycon culpaeus</i>	Scats PP on 21st!
<b>EVEN-TOED UNGULATES - Camels</b>	<i>Artiodactyla - Camelidae</i>	
<b>Llama</b>	<i>Lama guanicoe</i>	Two e.r. on 19th and several on 21st were farmed animals.
<b>Alpaca</b>	<i>Lama pacos</i>	5-6 e.r. on 18th and a farmed herd down from PP on 21st.
<b>RODENTS - Squirrels</b>	<i>Rodentia - Sciuridae</i>	
<b>Red-tailed Squirrel</b>	<i>Sciurus granatensis</i>	Best treated as two spp.:
<b>Western Red Squirrel</b>	<i>Sciurus sp.</i>	1 SP on 16 <sup>th</sup> and 1 SR on 17 <sup>th</sup> . The only sp. found W of the Andes.
<b>Subtropical Red Squirrel</b>	<i>Sciurus granatensis</i>	5+ SI on 20th and lots there on 21st. The mountain-dwelling red squirrel of the east.
<b>RODENTS - Agoutis</b>	<i>Rodentia - Dasyproctidae</i>	
<b>Black Agouti</b>	<i>Dasyprocta fuliginosa</i>	One SI on 20th gave terrific views.
<b>LAGOMORPHS - Rabbits &amp; Hares</b>	<i>Lagomorpha - Leporidae</i>	
<b>Brazilian Rabbit</b>	<i>Sylvilagus brasiliensis</i>	Plenty PP and area on 18th and again on 21st.

### OTHER TAXA

There was an enormous range of creepy, crawly and fluttery things, especially moths and butterflies at SP and moths at SI. It is impossible to do justice to them here, though of most note were the owl butterfly at SP on 16th, a small whip snake (*Dipsas* sp.) there on the same date, 2 *Leptodactylus* frogs there on also on 16th and one there on 18th, the calling tree frog *Hyla albifrons* also there on 16th, the little *Anolis* lizard there on the same date, the funky flatworm at Mp on 17th, and the large Rhinoceros Beetle male at SP on 18th and a different species at SI on 20th were beauties!

*I would like to express my sincere thanks to you all for making this a fun and exciting trip. It was very much a trip of two halves, though very complementary, with the relatively sedate pace of seeing lots of the same at wonderfully close range on Galápagos only really repeated by the hummingbirds at feeders on the mainland, though sedate they were not! The 'almost everything's different in a flock in forest on the mainland' factor certainly kept us on our toes there.*

*Highlights were really too many to express here, but ranged from "the whole thing!" to single species such as the Waved Albatross experience. on the islands, it included the fact that*

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*you do see all and relatively easily on Galápagos, and the numerous TV documentaries to date not detracting from this! The storm-petrels in the wake of the boat featured, while watching the arrival of the pod of Bottle-nosed Dolphins and then their antics under the prow of the boat for a long time featured highly. The Lava Gull landing on the boat and coming for a ride, the extraordinary feeding frenzies of Yellowfin Tuna, plus noddies and shearwaters, the Galápagos Hawk feeding on a dead sea-lion pup just feet away from us, and swimming with turtles and especially Galápagos Sea-lions were all great moments! On the mainland extension our penultimate pre-breakfast outing at San Isidro, including the mixed feeding flock near the hummingbird feeders ranked alongside the marvellous Torrent Ducks, which not only put in a last-ditch appearance but performed so well, but the squirrels and Black Agouti also got a look-in, as did just experiencing the incredible cloud forest, especially at San Isidro. I also put in a vote for the extraordinary views of the Lyre-tailed Nightjars, not only the male with his incredible tail, but also the female flirting with Pablo!!!*

*Brian and Keith are putting together a short (!) video of the trip, which I hope can also be boosted by others' photos. I also hope to add a new photopage to my website for both Galápagos and the extension sometime this autumn, which will be viewable on [www.iberianwildlife.com](http://www.iberianwildlife.com)*

*I look forward to seeing you again soon. Very best wishes to all,*

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