

# Galapagos

**Thursday 19 October – Sunday 27 October 2006**

**Ecuador extension to Sunday 05 November 2006**

## **Trip Report**

### **Leaders:**

Mauricio (on the Beluga)

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

John Muddeman

Pablo León (mainland)

Iván (mainland driver)

### **Thursday 19th October**      transfer to Quito

We all met at the departure gate in Madrid airport. Just... Despite being a little late for take-off, we made good time and after the frankly cold, tedious and short-on-food journey arrived at Quito airport in fine weather. Unfortunately, only half the baggage appeared however, and after filling out reclaim forms were met by our local agent and transferred to the hotel.

It being late by our personal clocks, we checked into the hotel. Those who needed to wandered into town to buy vital necessities for a couple of days, but given the time difference we still managed to get to bed in good time in preparation for an early start the following day.

### **Friday 20th October**      transfer to Galápagos via Guayaquil and start of cruise

Check-in delays meant we raced through and went straight onto the plane after a good walk across the tarmac. The plane was new and excellent though, while the views of the Andes were as good as I've seen, the snow-capped peaks of the Antisana, Cotopaxi and Chimborazo volcanoes making a simply stunning sight.

Though we were due to stay on the plane in Guayaquil airport we were told to get off with all our things, though this did mean we saw a Great-tailed Grackle just before reboarding! We got away again on another nice aircraft and after our second 'meal' that morning the tension mounted as we began the descent to Baltra airport.

It was sunny, warm and windy when we landed. After sorting the luggage out we quickly hopped on the bus and headed to the quay with our guide, Mauricio. 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 Mark, Olga, Ludmilla, Anastasia and Lushia, we went to our rooms, organised our bags and then headed in to lunch.

We cruised up to North Seymour for the afternoon, starting with a practice drill on the bow, with a backdrop of passing frigatebirds, Swallow-tailed Gulls and Galápagos Shearwaters against a small cliff opposite.

Taking the pangas (inflatables) we headed for some rock steps up a small cliff. The stiff breeze had whipped up a choppy sea making the landing very 'interesting'. Blue-footed Boobies and Magnificent Frigatebirds raced past at eye-level while Swallow-tailed Gulls sheltered among the rocks almost at our feet. A mottled Galápagos Sea-lion sleeping on the edge of the path was so close it was overlooked by several!

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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. The first of several Land Iguanas and the small island race of Marine Iguana were looked at in detail. Some judicious pishing by Mauricio enticed in some incredibly close young Yellow Warblers plus a rather more flighty Small Ground Finch.

However, the star of the show were really the dozens and dozens of frigatebirds present, either nesting ludicrously low down in the fringe of low saltbush around the island or as they passed over continuously in flight. The Magnificent Frigatebirds formed small scattered colonies, some down at just knee height and completely ignoring our presence and as we returned, we contemplated the red pouches on several displaying males. We were also able to pick out a number of juvenile and a single female Great Frigatebirds among them.

Our return to the boat through the arid scrub dominated by the endemic Palo Santo or Incense Tree, and given little breeze here felt hot. The refreshing breeze by the steps though was a sign that the return was again a choppy sea and quite wet for a few of us! An interesting finale to this start!

We boarded the pangas and headed back to the boat before our evening meal, formal introduction to the crew and first call-over. Ah, and of course our first birthday celebration of this tour!

### **Saturday 21st October**

#### **Hood (Española!)**

After a long overnight cruise, the last 2 1/2 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 an entertaining couple of hours just walking the beach and practising snorkelling in the warm shallow waters. The dozens of Galápagos Sea-lions hauled up along the beach or surfing in on the small waves included large barking beachmasters, dozing females and suckling and playing youngsters. Several large males cared for their harems, though apart from the odd shouting match and half-hearted chase, 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 fairly quiet for birds, despite the numerous inquisitive Hood Mockingbirds along the length of the beach and a Galápagos Hawk which passed on a couple of occasions. However, patience was finally rewarded with a couple of brief Galápagos Flycatchers, plus two male Small Ground Finches and a superb Large Cactus Finch feeding in the incense trees.

Several Pacific Green Turtles popped their heads out of the sea offshore, a few also cruising along just below the surface. The shoreline was also attractive with single Wandering Tattler and Ruddy Turnstone on the sandy beach and a superb immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron in some rocks which flew in with a small octopus wrapped round its beak and face! A couple of the red-and-black patchy Marine Iguanas were also hauled out on the rocks and a lovely brick-red headed female Española Lava Lizard climbed out of a hole on the back of the beach for a few of us.

Most detoured via the boat in their snorkelling gear and headed off to Turtle Rock nearby for the first proper snorkel session. King Angelfish, Pacific Creolefish, Blue-chinned Parrotfish and Mexican Hogfish were all noted amongst other species. The water was cool enough to get through to the snorkellers though, and they 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 a few Elliot's Storm-petrels, while after mooring off Punta Suarez 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 notable swell meant it was interesting getting onto the rock outcrop we had to use instead of the usual rock steps, since occasional large breakers were swamping these! However, lots of Galápagos Sea-lions and plenty of Marine Iguanas meant the first cameras were soon out to take our minds off the difficult landing!

We stood by the lighthouse for a while, listening to Maurice talking about the walk and its wildlife, with the breakers still rolling in just offshore. Walking quite quickly to get away from other 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 Red-billed Tropicbirds and vigilant Magnificent Frigatebirds, with a few Swallow-tailed Gulls along the cliffs. In the distance, a few Waved Albatrosses wheeled over the cliffs ahead, forming a spectacular sight.

We paused to watch the antics of the groups of Red-billed Tropicbirds speeding past overhead, then after climbing up past a cove with a large Nazca Booby colony, various Swallow-tailed Gulls and an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron, we suddenly reached a flatter open area with a few albatrosses. A large chick nestled between the rocks while a small gang of adults loafed off to one side. Further ahead, a couple of pairs were half-heartedly going through their courtship rituals, with a little calling, head shaking and waving, and bill-fencing - a lovely sight, especially as spray was periodically blowing across them, the birds' 'bushy eyebrows' and peculiar gaze giving them a very strange air.

A Galápagos Hawk sat by its nest on a tall rock, while one or two others hung overhead along the updraft above the cliff. The cliff top viewpoint overlooking the famous blow-hole gave us terrific views as the swell powered in, though a pair of courting Nazca Boobies on a nest encircled by us seemed completely oblivious to everything!

More albatrosses, both boobies and Swallow-tailed Gulls were also noted from the final viewpoint, overlooking the sea and cliffs to the E, with two albatrosses watched waddling out to the edge, then pausing before opening their wings and launching themselves out into the air where they were immediately transformed into aerial masters.

The walk back across the island through scrub was great in the late afternoon, even with a few albatross eggs along the path, even under the bushes. A superb adult Galápagos Dove feed unconcernedly right beside the path as we passed. Access to the last bit of shore was denied by a large bull sea-lion who refused to move despite gentle chivvying, though a couple of Wandering Tattlers were noted along the shore as a result!

We rounded off with superb views of a Lava Heron which strolled across the rocks of the causeway just in front, flicking its tail as it went. A fine end to another superb day.

## **Sunday 22nd October**

### **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 brackish lagoon behind.

After a short couple of talks about how the islands have been formed, and more specifically how this island was rich in lapli cinder, we left the olivine-rich beach where we'd made a wet landing. A couple of Ruddy Turnstones hacked away at the Green Urchins and a fine adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron stood dead still beside a Ghost Crab hole ready for its occupant to mistakenly think the coast was clear now we'd passed.

We took the short walk down to a viewpoint over the edge of the pool. Arriving in silence we were treated to close range views of a small flock of Least Sandpipers, plus a pair of Black-necked Stilts, with a number of Greater Flamingos and White-cheeked Pintails feeding quietly in the shallow water behind.

Back via the beach we took a walk E through taller scrub and trees where Small Ground Finches and a couple of Galápagos Flycatchers were watched. The back-markers also noted more Least and two White-rumped Sandpipers in another bay while those in front had seen two Medium Ground Finches. Another lake view revealed a Whimbrel at point blank range, while a raised viewpoint gave super panoramic views of the lake and surroundings, including nesting flamingos.

We emerged from the scrub to look over a lovely white sand beach where a Semipalmated Plover and two Sanderling fed along the waterline. After looking at several species of

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beached jellyfish, including a tiny species of Portuguese Man-of-War, paddling was allowed but strictly restricted to the edge. The reason rapidly became apparent when several Diamond Stingrays were seen drifting along in the wash zone just feet from the water's edge! A small shark also patrolled along in the deeper water back from the wash zone in the hopes of finding a wayward stingray. Numerous very shy Ghost Crabs peppered the upper beach, but largely eluded the photographers.

Returning, we again noted a few endemic green-leaved plants, including Black and White Mangrove and Leatherleaf.

A short journey round the corner took us close to Champion Island, where one group went swimming while another took a panga to look at the birds. A good move since it's the only site for Charles Mockingbird, which we quickly saw, but also had super views of Galápagos Shearwaters, Common Noddies, Swallow-tailed Gulls, Red-billed Tropicbirds and a Lava Heron of most note.

Lunch was taken en route towards Post Office Bay, though not until we'd noted a few Elliot's Storm-petrels, Magnificent and a single Great Frigatebird perched on the boat booms and an adult winter plus a first-winter Franklin's Gull.

Most of the group left soon after arrival to enjoy the beach and swimming from the shore, then all joined later for the 'official' trip to Post Office Bay and its barrel. The history of the islands and the significance of the post office barrel were put to the fore. Indeed, the fact that no-one claimed the Galápagos until 1932 reinforced how inhospitable they really are for settlement.

The rest 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 expectations high for seeing some of the deeper water species. However, as is typical for pelagic species, our encounters with the different species were a rather patchy affair.

A few Elliot's Storm-petrels kept us company at the start, allowing us to get our eye in on these, though it wasn't until sometime later that we saw our first and only Wedge-rumped (= Galápagos) Storm-petrel of the day. A few small pale birds were seen at distance, but we finally started to see small groups of these rising from the water and passing well off the boat – Phalaropes! We eventually hit an area with large numbers feeding and despite the rather dull light were able to see both Red-necked and the scarcer Grey Phalaropes in mixed flocks. They were also attractive to another bird in the form of a predatory Arctic (or possibly Long-tailed) Skua, which set up a terrific chase after one individual, we finally giving a little cheer as the phalarope twisted and turned time and time again and eventually escaped, just when it seemed it had no chance!

A Dark-rumped (= Galápagos) Petrel was also noted passing at distance, then another one closer, though as we watched, so this flew well ahead and then settled on the sea with two more! Not only that, but dead in our path, and we watched all three take off as we approached, before they flew off in separate directions. A couple more before the light finally failed us were further good sightings of this rare bird. We rounded off with a distant Waved Albatross passing across the wake of the boat, but soon called it quits as the lights of Puerto Ayora began to twinkle in the distance as darkness fell.

We moored at just after 7 pm for a peaceful nights sleep.

### **Monday 23rd October**

Santa Cruz - tortoises and the highlands

Breakfast at 7 a.m. and off around 8 as usual. The pangas moored at the usual harbour pier then we took taxis to the Charles Darwin Research Foundation centre.

We toured the station under mostly thick cloud, meaning plenty of birds and insects were active, including Galápagos Mockingbirds, Galápagos Lava Lizards and Galápagos Blues, plus a wide range of finches including a good number of fine-plumaged male finches - Cactus, 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 fairly

violent discussion in Giant Tortoise terms, with head rearing, open-mouthed gaping and some hissing!

The twists and turns of the tortoise rearing and reintroduction program were discussed and after working our way round the pens we rounded off with drinks or ice-creams and even a little retail therapy in the shop there.

Walking back through town most noticed a fine Great Blue Heron and two adult plus a juvenile Lava Gull on a small pier close to the little fish market. Fortunately we had time for some shopping, internet connecting and postcard and stamp buying before assembling again, this time to take a bus to the 'highlands' at 12:30. The drive took us up through the urban part of Puerto Ayora, then up through a series of zones including farming and transition zones to our lunch spot at Altair. Several Smooth-billed Anis and Cattle Egrets were seen en route. Numerous Small Ground Finches fed in the grass beside the tables.

We finished off with a visit to Steve's farm at about 400 m a.s.l. The walk through the woodland and fields revealed plenty more of the commoner finches, but our main aim here was to admire the numerous Giant Tortoises in the wild. And we saw plenty! Several Galápagos Flycatchers were also noted, while a few of us took the opportunity to collect several grapefruits hanging on the trees, which we tried later and were delicious! Our last birds included a few adult White-cheeked Pintail and their ducklings, a Semipalmated Plover and a Whimbrel.

We finished off with coffees and lemon grass teas with views out to the SW to both Floreana, and also the Sierra Negra volcano of SE Isabela. Interesting to think we'd wake up on the opposite side of it tomorrow!

After our usual 7 p.m. dinner including birthday celebration, we set sail a fraction 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 24th October**

### Isabela W coast

We finished cruising just before breakfast. After looking down on a couple of Galápagos Penguins passing just feet from the side of the boat we embarked on the pangas and then 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 and a fine 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 -like 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.

A few of us were also able to quickly see a couple of the rather scarce Galápagos Martins as they glided past feeding, though we were treated to numerous repeat viewings throughout our walk of up to four at once!

Given the harshness of the apparently flat lava field, 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. A Smooth-billed Ani or two kept up a noisy presence. In the next and much larger pool, several outrageously pink Flamingos strolled sedately through the shallows while numerous Common Moorhens were also present. Several ages of their chicks were present, while dozens more dragonflies were also a sign of being highly successful. We stood and contemplated the scene for some time, though as we passed a much smaller pool shortly ahead a Black-necked Stilt flew across to give us fine views, and a lucky few also saw a Blue-winged Teal rise up quickly and nip across back to the larger pool where it promptly went out of sight.

The remainder of the walk brought us back round past a couple more pools, one with lots of Spot-winged Glider plus a lime-green dragonfly species, and a single Flamingo plus Semipalmated Plover on the next. We rounded off with a good watch at a large rock-pool close to the sea where two or three White-tipped Reef Sharks cruised sedately under a

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large rock ledge, though the sun appeared to put them off from swimming out into more open water. A Pacific Green Turtle popped its head up a few times early on but then vanished, while numerous Yellow-finned and Barred Snappers, plus 5 Porcupinefish were also noted.

We cruised towards Elizabeth Bay eating lunch on the way, the highlight being a small group of three or four feeding Bottle-nosed Dolphins well off to one side, though sadly they ignored the boat instead of coming in to take a look. A Galápagos Petrel and adult Franklin's Gull were somewhat scant reward for almost an hour's watching though, despite plentiful Galápagos Shearwaters and Elliot's Storm-petrels.

The snorkellers going out at 2:30 had a special encounter in the large pools they visited, where numerous Pacific Sea Turtles were concentrated, and so fish were largely ignored!

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 Turtles, especially in the shallowest muddy-bottomed areas. Several Spotted Eagle Rays were a delight, and a shoal of Galápagos Mullet fed just under the surface. Birds were good too, including Striated and Lava Herons, a superb Blue-footed Booby at point blank range, and calling Galápagos Mockingbirds. Several Galápagos Penguins also kept us entertained with their swimming antics, though a pair in the rocks hid deep in their nesting cave as we approached in the strong sunlight. 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 towards the islets called Las Marielas. A few Blue-footed Boobies were coming in to roost, but since a stiff breeze was affecting one side and choppy swell the other, conditions were difficult and we headed back aboard while there was still plenty of light for the choppy landing.

### **Wednesday 25th October** Isabela and Fernandina

We upped anchor early, at c.4:15 a.m. in order to reach Urbina Bay for just before breakfast. The good swell was sending worrying large looking waves directly towards our small landing beach, but actually, when we arrived, they were not a problem given the shallow water at the entrance to the bay. After a wet landing on the fairly steep beach, fortunately without anyone taking an unwanted swim, we scampered up to the high water mark.

The rich scrub housed a large number of birds, with many flying down from the higher Palo Santo woodland inland. Finches included numerous Small Ground, plenty of Medium Ground, a single Large Ground and a couple of Small Tree Finches, though most kept deep in cover. Galápagos Mockingbirds kept up an almost continuous chorus and Mangrove Warblers were common too. Dozens of Galápagos Carpenter Bees were nectaring on the abundant flowers, but so mobile that photographing them was not at all easy!

A number of magnificent Land Iguanas had hauled themselves out of their burrows to sun themselves or wander about, with a pair in the shade of one tree and several very fine males looking rather imposing. The flowers here were good too, with Yellow Cordia and Galápagos Cotton sporting their fine yellow flowers, tiny yellow Blackstick flowers attracting large numbers of the bees and some huge examples of Poison Apple among the Incense Tree dominated scrub.

After walking through an area of uplifted mangrove, with tree 'carcasses' scattered around and plenty of the iguanas we headed back towards the main path, fortunately bumping into a Dark-billed Cuckoo en route. Sadly, this was as elusive as usual and evaded being seen by a few of the party.

The cruise before lunch took us through the narrow Bolivar Channel between Fernandina and Isabela, where a total of 21 Galápagos Petrels, lots of Galápagos Shearwaters, plenty of Common Noddies and a few Elliot's Storm-petrels were passing. A superb Lava Gull which had jumped aboard at Urbina Bay had decided not to hitch a ride, probably given the presence of a couple of Magnificent Frigatebirds almost throughout the cruise. A small group of Bottle-nosed Dolphins appeared just in front at one point but were clearly more intent on fishing, passing behind us immediately and then disappearing.

We moored just off Punta Espinosa, Fernandina and soon went our excursion there at 1:30 pm. A dry landing at the point lead us straight into the middle of dozens of sunbathing and extremely approachable Marine Iguanas. A wonderful sight! A few large males were head shaking and attempting to attract mates, though most seemed intent on just getting back onshore after a feed and warming up. Otherwise there were a few piles containing dozens of these archaic-looking reptiles on the black lava or even in the shade of the adjacent mangrove trees.

Near the point was a pair of Galápagos Cormorants with a chick, this thrusting its head down its parent's neck as we arrived for a good show! It was kept in very close contact with the adult though, especially given a Galápagos Hawk perched nearby on the outer rocks, probably with its eye on some hatchling Marine Iguanas on a small promontory nearby, but potentially dangerously close for the baby cormorant. Another group of adult cormorants on the outer point were loafing and preening in the hot sun.

Our return was punctuated briefly by a few birds. Firstly a Wandering Tattler stood its ground on the shoreline giving fine views, while 5 Ruddy Turnstones flew in to feed at close range, then we noticed an American Oystercatcher sat down on sand among the black lava, presumably on its nest, its red beak glowing in the sun. A small group of Whimbrel sat on the rocks by the pier where we embarked for our return.

Back on board we rapidly set sail north across 'Whale Bay', though an increasing stiff breeze and notable swell made observing cetaceans all but impossible. A large number of Galápagos Petrels were present though, plus a couple of Galápagos Storm-petrels, while non-bird sightings included a number of flying fish spooked by the boat.

The timing was excellent and we made a toast to passing the equator shortly before dusk. Indeed, a small party of Galápagos Fur Sea-lions even came out from the cliffs past the boat to take a look, and as we rounded Cabo Berkeley, the wind and waves dropped and we started cruising peacefully along the NW coast of Isabela as the sun fell. Dinner was taken on the move, and we went to bed as we cruised SE.

#### **Thursday 26th October**      Santiago + Bartolomé

Having moored at around 1:45 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 the dark-sand beach we immediately noticed a Galápagos Hawk keeping a watchful eye on a recently pupped sea-lion, and indeed it came down for the afterbirth. However, a large barking Galápagos Sea-lion male patrolling the shore came onto the beach and made an aggressive move towards us, so we soon moved away.

We headed off along the shore path after a short historical introduction to the island by Maurice. A Galápagos Flycatcher was a nice introduction shortly ahead. The flattish 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 numerous Lava Heron, American Oystercatcher, several Semipalmated Plover, and a few Whimbrel and Wandering Tattler. We had magnificent views of all of these under the cloudy skies.

We continued on looking at the remarkable rock formations along 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 superb Yellow-crowned Night Heron attracted attention, but this was the habitat for a 'nearly new' species for us - the Galápagos Fur Sea-lion. Five were present here though we'd already spotted one on the way! Their small size, large eyes and ears, darker coat and thick necks being noticeably different from the abundant Galápagos Sea-lions.

The return walk was along the nicely flat and dusty path, and Maurice was soon lifting a few flat rocks and found a number of the small Galápagos Scorpions hiding there.

The snorkelling from the beach was good, with the drop-offs by a rocky outcrop playing host to large numbers of fish, including the usual Panamic Sergeant Major, Blue-chinned

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Parrotfish and Galápagos Ring-tailed Damsel, plus a few Orange-bellied Triggerfish and Giant (=Hieroglyphic) Hawkfish amongst others.

Some sea-watching while cruising before lunch turned up another Wedge-rumped Storm-petrel, these being remarkably scarce this autumn, plus plenty of Nazca Boobies and Galápagos Shearwaters. After lunch it started to get breezy and the wind seemed to be good for seabirds too, with two Common Terns on the sea an excellent find, while a passing Galápagos Shark and several Manta Rays hurling themselves from the water an amazing sight!

We finally approached Isla Bartolomé, and disembarked shortly afterwards to take the board walk up to the peak, seeing the *Tiquilia* mat plant and hearing about exactly how the volcanic action had formed the island en route. 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 tubes, as well as views to nearly all the other islands possibly visible from here. Two small groups of Bottle-nosed Dolphins passing just offshore were a fine sight.

Back on board we either took a swim from the beach, or a snorkel round Pinnacle Rock or took a quick panga ride to photograph penguins. And all were highly successful, the snorkellers even having three penguins in the water just in front!

Leaving rather later than planned in order to fix a part for a broken-down fishing boat was not so bad. With 45 minutes of light left we headed SE towards N Santa Cruz with a stiff S wind pushing lots of seabirds into the channel. Hundreds of Galápagos Shearwaters were present, then a few Galápagos Petrels put in an appearance, though best of all were three separate Madeiran Storm-petrels which paralleled the boat for some time and long enough for us to easily take in their larger size and differences in plumage compared to the Elliot's and Wedge-rumped we'd already seen. The identity of the owner of a huge black fin which stuck out of the water at one point will forever remain a mystery!

Arriving off Black Turtle Cove about 7:15 pm we quickly rounded off the day with a celebratory cocktail to bid our farewells to the crew and fellow passengers. A fine end to this part of the tour.

### **Friday 27th October** transfer to mainland + Quito city tour

Our last few hours on the Galápagos started with a bang when we were off at 6 a.m. for a mangrove panga ride in Black Turtle Cove. This was quiet in the calm conditions under continuous cloud, though a light breeze ruffled the surface on our return.

Lines of Blue-footed Boobies adorned the shoreline lava as we entered, these soon flying to join a wheeling flock already present, all looking for their fishy breakfast. More and more poured in until 5-600 were present wheeling overhead, the whole flock diving in in a funnel-formation into one small area after prey, leaving not a single bird in the air for a few seconds; an amazing sight.

The very high tide meant fish were rather poor, though a fine group of White-tipped Reef Sharks lurked alongside a channel as we paddled through. A couple of Lava Herons clung to the ends of the mangrove trees trying to snatch fry from the still waters below, while single Whimbrel and Black-necked Stilt flew across calling.

As we left a couple of Brown Pelicans and Blue-footed Boobies plus 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. We killed the remaining time by sitting in the little cafe surrounded by finches, 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 Mauricio and the few crew members present to meet the incoming Travelling Naturalist / Limosa group and were eventually off. The flights were fine and uneventful, being better than in July since we didn't stop at San Cristobal. After leaving Guayaquil cloud meant little was visible except for the black ash being thrown up through the white cloud by the erupting Tungurahua volcano, the ash flattening off at 22000 ft!

Arrival at Quito early afternoon meant that we were straight off on the Quito City tour with our guide Gloria. This was fascinating and ended in the main square of old Quito, though we were physically tired by the end, the altitude being of note!

As Elizabeth, Olwen, Kerstin and John were 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 Grand Mercure Alameda.

### **Saturday 28th October**      extension - transfer via Yanacocha reserve to Mindo

Having bade our farewells to the other party members the night before it was only a late exit (due to a large French group causing chaos in the lobby) that we saw Elizabeth and Olwen again just as we were about to pull off. Pablo had come with Iván as our team, and we set off through the quiet city traffic.

Climbing up an old cobbled road we headed out through hillsides of grassland and the dreaded *Eucalyptus* plantations, with just one proper stop en route for some small birds in the scrub, including a couple of Azara's Spinetails. Rufous-collared Sparrows and Great Thrushes were common, while a Pallid Dove in a tree and a Tawny Antpitta crossing the road were both only seen by a lucky few.

We climbed and climbed, noting plenty more Great Thrushes on the way, stopping briefly for an immature Variable Hawk, which was then mobbed by a couple of American Kestrels.

We finally reached the Yanacocha reserve, a beautiful area of cloud forest clinging to the steep mountainsides at a mere 3500m... Stepping out to start the walk we noted the chill air and midges at this altitude!

The winding walk along an almost flat trail across a mountainside was fantastic. Small birds had to be teased out of the incredibly species rich thick cover and trees coated with epiphytes and the identification fun began. A Smokey Bush-tyrant was a drab starter, but we rapidly found a mixed species flock, and Masked, Glossy and Black Flowerpiercers were remarkably common, several showy Spectacled Whitestarts put in an appearance, but a Black-chested and several Scarlet-bellied Mountain-tanagers were just stunning! Other oddities in the flock included Sierran Elaenia and the delectable Blue-backed Conebill and Pearled Treerunner!

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 plenty of Buff-winged Starfrontlets and Sapphire-vented Pufflegs overpowered for much of the time. A couple of Tyrian Metaltails popped in for brief feeds along with single Green-crowned and Fawn-breasted Brilliants. An extraordinary sight!

Sadly our time here was curtailed as a thunderstorm suddenly rolled in, and it was raining and then hailing hard before we could all make it back to the bus for shelter...

Lunch was an excellent box lunch which we ate by the bus somewhat down the entrance road once we were away from the continuing storm and hail lying on the trackside!

We continued down the old Nono-Mindo road, making a few stops for birds including a very flighty Andean Guan, Band-tailed Pigeons and a small group of Turquoise Jays, which were a treat. Lower down we finally noted the extraordinary-looking Silver-leaved *Cecropia* trees, which mark the true cloud forest zone. Indeed lower down when we stopped in warmer conditions just half an hour before dusk, it was to try and locate the noisy birds calling opposite. After a few minutes of anxiety, a stunning male Cock-of-the-Rock flew across the valley and into the trees and gave away the location of a good-sized lek of these extraordinary birds, displaying in the trees opposite. What a sight!

We reached Séptimo Paradise shortly after dark, and 'checked-in' with time for a little unpacking and a shower before dinner.

### **Sunday 29th October**      Séptimo Paradise + Mindo

Our pre-breakfast jaunt saw us convening at just before 6 a.m. for coffee, though it was already quite light outside given a cloudless sky. Here at c. 1500 m in altitude it was cool

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enough for fleeces. After a couple of minutes marvelling at a few impressive moths on the walls we started our short walk.

We heard our first birds. Several pairs of Rufous Motmots called in the forest, with Golden-headed Quetzals, Andean Solitaire and Scaled Antpitta also joining in the dawn chorus. Our first sightings included Dusky-capped and Golden-crowned Flycatchers, Blue-grey Tanagers, Buff-throated Saltators and House Wren. Ignoring the hummingbirds at the feeders we walked a little towards the entrance and soon added Lemon-rumped Tanager, though calling Slaty Spinetails remained hidden. A small flock of Maroon-tailed Parakeets fed high in a tree though the scope picked them out well. A Golden-headed Quetzal flashed past, though on its return was partly visible for a while before diving down deep into the forest again.

The walk along the entrance track was very quiet, despite a brief Ornate Flycatcher, while our return found us watching a female Swallow Tanager, and high in trees opposite a couple of Golden Tanagers.

Watching from in front of the building was an inspired choice as a Chocó Toucan flew in to perch in full sun high on a dead branch, giving magnificent views. It suddenly got nervous, and a Roadside Hawk drifted across to take its place! A quick look behind the main house into some bushes revealed two Swainson's and an Ecuadorian Thrush feeding on berries.

After a fine breakfast at 8 a.m. we started a different walk, this time down the valley. The sun was now hot and the birds already seemingly almost no-existent, but the butterflies and even spiders were terrific, both in variety and for colour! Calling Plumbeous Pigeons, Toucan Barbets and singing Grey-breasted Wood-wrens were new, but very few birds were seen, despite a distant American Black Vulture.

The tower platform at the bottom of the valley had great views, but no visible birds, despite shrieking Scale-crested Pygmy-tyrants and Streaked Flycatcher. Though raptors seemed likely given the thermals, only a couple of Turkey Vultures were noted over the ridge. We sat and watched for some time though, discussing different aspects of the forest with Pablo. Patience paid off and finally a large raptor circled up slowly in front of the steep forested slopes, and despite some discussion as to its ID, a superb Barred Hawk wheeled up front before turning back over the ridge and disappearing into mist which was starting to blow in.

This was a turning point, with falling temperatures and increased bird activity again. In fact, after taping out a pair of Long-tailed Antbirds, we heard a raptor calling in the forest. Pablo was coaxed into playing a recording of Collared Forest-falcon and after just a minute or so an adult Barred Forest-falcon came out of the forest like a rocket and almost took his hand off before disappearing again just a couple of seconds later! Wow!

This extra delay also meant that we bumped into a terrific flock of birds shortly ahead, including Cinnamon and Black-and-white Becards, Slate-throated Whitestarts, Thick-billed and Golden-bellied Euphonias, Red-faced Spinetail, Lineated Foliage-gleaner and several Tropical Parulas amongst others! In fact it was difficult to know where to look, and only once it had passed on were we able to really think through what each one of had seen!

Another Chocó Toucan was a great way to round off the morning, though sadly finding single dead Tawny-bellied Hermit and female Club-winged Manikin under lodge windows was a bit sad.

With a break after lunch we readjusted at 3:45 due to my embarrassingly late return, taking the bus down to Mindo. Stopping to overlook the Rio Mindo we noted a Black Phoebe on the river, but a large flock of birds just yards away was simply stunning. Squirrel Cuckoo, Olivaceous Piculet, Ruddy and Scale-throated Foliage-gleaners, Tyrannine and Spotted Woodcreepers, Red-eyed Vireos and Red-faced and Slaty Spinetails were all present amongst the constantly moving flock, making it very hard to get everyone onto everything!

Further down we saw a few very distant passing Red-billed Parrots and the front-markers noted a Pale-mandibled Araçari cross the road, but two male Swallow Tanagers and a Western Wood-pewee were seen by all, as well as the amazing trail of leaf-cutter ants

taking back their prized plant cuttings towards their nest. Rain started though, so we jumped back in and started heading down to the Nambillo river. The cry of a large bird off to one side saw Anna finding a superb Rufous Motmot perched in full view. Another call shortly ahead was probably the first time someone has ever shouted having spotted a caterpillar while on a moving bus (!) and we stooped to admire an enormous saturnid moth caterpillar on a barbed wire fence strand!

Sitting in the bus on the Nambillo river bridge revealed little except Blue-and-white Swallows, and given the rain we started to back-track. However, since dusk was already coming we sat in the bus beside a small rock cutting. Once darkness had fallen the flashlight almost immediately picked out a resting female Lyre-tailed Nightjar high up on the rock face, and using the scope we all had terrific views, occasionally of its huge reflecting eyes, too. A stunning end to the day.

**Monday 30th October** Milpe Cloudforest Reserve, Pedro Vicente Maldonado track, Silanche River Cloudforest Reserve.

An early start saw us breakfasting at 5:45 and out at 6:30 a.m. We headed down and west towards a new cloudforest reserve. A quick stop for fuel en route turned into a full-scale birdwatching operation when two Bronze-winged Parrots dropped into a nearby tree, a Masked Water-tyrant sat on a petrol pump and a couple of Pacific Horneros wandered around looking for food!

Pulling into the reserve entrance a Smokey-brown Woodpecker was a great sighting from the bus! After paying our entry fees, where we also noted large numbers of moths on the walls, we spent some time watching hummingbird feeders as the rain fell. A few White-whiskered Hermits were one of the stars amongst numerous Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds, Green-crowned Woodnymphs and Green-crowned Brilliants, while a Strong-billed Woodcreeper working a large tree was impressively powerful and a huge owl butterfly on some fruit on a bird table was spectacularly large.

Once the rain eased we walked down towards the forest noting a few birds on the way, with the first stop turning up first a stunning summer-plumaged male Blackburnian Warbler and then a tiny hummingbird perched high in some dead flowers. A superb male Green Thorntail! Walking down the trail we noted a Squirrel Cuckoo, though 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, and after a short wait we were presented with a couple of superb males close in front displaying for all their worth between bouts of flying up to the canopy to forage for a little food.

It then started to get very complicated as a mixed flock started coming past overhead in the canopy, but views were complicated and like later on along the trail, it was a question of trying to see any bird then later work it out despite what Pablo and I were saying! We saw our first Plain-brown and Wedge-billed, a few Ochre-breasted Tanagers and Yellow-throated Bush-tanagers, and one or two rather dull-looking Tawny-breasted Flycatchers occasionally flashing their yellow crowns or rumps at us! We also listened to a couple of loud White-backed Fire-eyes, saw the tail of a Broad-billed Motmot, a flash of blue as a Purple Honeycreeper went through, lots of little shadows sneaking off through the undergrowth and only Anna managed to see one of the male Golden-winged Manakins present. Cloud-forest birdwatching can be very frustrating stuff at times!

We finally called it quits, walking out to find a male Yellow-bellied Siskin by the entrance, while a couple of us managed to spot a green-backed hummingbird with long flashing white tail as if worked some trees then cruised up the road - a Purple-crowned Fairy!!

The cloud was still quite thick and hopes were high as we continued on and down. Another stop saw us contemplating a busy flock of marauding Pale-mandibled Araçaris beside the road, while they flushed a Pale-vented Pigeon which landed out in the open too.

Turning just after Pedro Vicente Maldonado we took a gravel track down towards the Rio Silanche where the rain had fortunately kept the dust down. We took a look by the river where Variable Seedeaters, Buff-throated Saltators, a pair of tiny Common Tody-flycatchers and lots of Lemon-rumped Tanagers were present. A Green-backed Heron flew across into a marsh from the river where a Solitary Sandpiper fed. The calling

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White-throated Crakes refused to show, though half the group while waiting for it saw a Fasciated Tiger-heron fly past!

We took the vehicle on and down a seemingly endless track, but not before seeing a Pacific Parrotlet drop into the grass and in the search for it found a male Crimson Finch! We ended up at the entrance to the Silanche River Bird Reserve, where lunch was taken on the steps of the house in dead still and mild conditions.

The walk down was quite remarkable. We had not gone more than a few yards into the forest when we realised that a large flock was passing through. A Chocó Woodpecker came in fed just yards away, while a small group of tiny birds moving through the undergrowth included Dot-winged Antwrens, a pair of Western Slaty-antshrikes, a Slaty Antwren and a couple of Chestnut-backed Antbirds. Ants were obviously on the move here! Montane and Streak-headed Woodcreepers also gave fine views.

We finally pulled ourselves away and continued down a very quiet trail. A largish bird flying was a female trogon, but it was only when a male appeared that we could clinch the ID as Western White-tailed Trogon. A loud snapping sound shortly revealed the presence of White-bearded Manikins, though it was some time before we could better just seeing the undergrowth moving! However, two males suddenly appeared in full view just in front, though half the group were engrossed in photographing an extraordinary little butterfly which mimicked a piece of leaf cut off by leaf-cutter ants! Indeed, the total absence of leaf-cutters was noted, though long trails flanked by hundreds of pieces of discarded material were noted, and we could only assume they'd retreated to their nests after an army ant invasion of the area.

Another Broad-billed Motmot perched ahead off to one side but slipped off into the forest almost unseen, while passing Scaly-naped Amazons passing over made plenty of noise. In fact, we stopped for a small group of these which dropped into the forest and then started 'singing': quite the most extraordinary raucous parrot-song possible! The delay was definitely in our favour, since although most of us never saw them, two high-flying Chestnut-fronted Macaws passing over calling loudly were seen as silhouettes by a few.

The quite long return path was very humid indeed, though a Buff-rumped Warbler kept us entertained as it waved its tail around in the gloom in front of us along the path, a couple of Pale-mandibled Araçaris gave excellent views and the delay to try and photograph this meant we were able to watch a superb male Guayaquil Woodpecker pass over via various trees en route.

Though it was quite late, a chance encounter meant the group returned from the bus where they were about to embark, to a little patch of woodland to try and unravel the complexities of a large group of small birds in a mixed flock again. Cinnamon Becards, Spotted and Streak-headed Woodcreepers, Pacific Antwren and the ant-shrikes all vied for attention among the undergrowth, with a Bananaquit putting in a brief show too. The return was also punctuated, first for a Golden-hooded Tanager, then for two White-bearded Manikins which finally sat out in full view at close range for everyone! What luck! A singing Southern Nightingale Wren by the bus as we departed was a lovely sound too!

The return saw little of note despite a Striped Cuckoo on the track, and we were exhausted returning in the dark after a long day out.

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October** Septimo Paradise, transfer via Mitad del Mundo, Papallacta Pass and lake, Cabanas San Isidro

Another pre-breakfast walk was as fascinating as normal, though we concentrated on the hummingbirds. Indeed this was particularly good given chilly and damp conditions which kept other bird activity to a relative minimum. That said, the Golden-crowned Flycatchers screamed at us from dawn and a pair of Swallow-tanagers sallying from an exposed tree-top were a lovely sight.

The hummingbirds included a pair of White-necked Jacobins, a Green Violet-ear, a few Purple-bibbed Whitetips and Empress Brilliants, a couple of Fawn-breasted Brilliants, one or two Brown Incas, plus several Booted Racket-tails, Violet-tailed Sylphs and Purple-

throated Woodstars amongst the numerous Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds, Green-crowned Woodnymphs and Green-crowned Brilliants! Indeed, we added a further species just before leaving after breakfast when a superb White-tailed Hillstar made a showy, though brief visit.

We headed back towards Quito along the paved road, on an excellent surface, only stopping to look at the fresh corpse of a juvenile Barred Forest-falcon which had tragically been hit by a vehicle. However, it was fascinating to see how its plumage differed from the description in the field guide of this extremely elusive raptor!

A shortish stop at the Mitad del Mundo equator monument was not only an interesting diversion, but also some terrific birds. A few Sparkling Violet-ears fed among the flowering trees, a stunning pair of Vermilion Flycatchers perched out in the open, seemingly completely unafraid of the hordes of passing kids, an Aplomado Falcon flew past behind the monument, and a couple of stunning male Black-tailed Trainbearers with their enormous tails fed in the trees and eventually gave good views! 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 70 m or so off the true line (though the indigenous people in fact had previously got its location right to within inches!).

Having finally worked our way through Quito and its extraordinary road system (!) we started the climb up towards the Papallacta Pass, and given that the usual roadside lunch stop had suffered from fly-tipping, we continued on to the end of the old road. A fabulous choice as it turned out with a juvenile Andean Condor flying across just after we arrived, which then perched visibly on a cliff before sailing off again! It actually reappeared again twice briefly, while attention later turned to a pair of Carunculated Caracaras flying over the opposite ridge giving reasonable scope views. A superb pair of Brown-backed Chat-tyrants, a Black Flowerpiercer and a high-flying Andean Gull rounded off our stop here!

We continued up and east, pausing again at the Pass where a pair of Variable Hawks hovered over the crest and a White-tailed Deer peered down quietly from a little ridge. A few Plumbeous Sierra-finches and Bar-winged Cinclodes were noted as we started to walk down, with numerous Andean flowers also of special note, especially to the photographers. Other birds were difficult though, with a few hummingbirds present but exceptionally flighty. A Blue-mantled Thornbill was seen passingly well, but an Ecuadorian Hillstar was a rocket fly-by!!

Time was really running away though, so we started down with just one more stop in mind. Another detour took us onto the old road again, this time passing just behind the Papallacta Lake. A judicious stop saw us looking at the top end of the lake with shallow water. A few Yellow-billed Pintail, moderate numbers of Andean Teal and a juvenile Andean Gull were all present. Penny also came up trumps when looking at these, remarking that a coot was swimming past. And so it was, a very unusual Andean Coot, and difficult to see here. However, more was present, and while looking to relocate a Greater Yellowlegs found by Judith we also discovered single Pectoral and Spotted Sandpipers, while a final look at the coot (now on the far bank) revealed that the two teal beside it were actually Blue-winged Teal!

We had to leave in a hurry, pushing on down the largely good road towards our destination, though a couple of stops were required when the snow and glacier clad peak of the Antisana volcano suddenly emerged from the evening cloud in all its glory.

We finally reached Cabañas San Isidro after dark, but after another very rewarding day

### **Wednesday 1st November**

Cabañas San Isidro

Our usual 6 a.m. start found a few of us watching the local birds around the lights, picking off the small collection of moths present, with a couple of the remarkable Inca Jays put in an early showing for the earliest risers.

Things seemed quiet to start with but we were soon looking at Pale-edged Flycatchers and Brown-capped Vireos, while single male Summer Tanager, Azara's Spinetail, Capped Conebill and Canada Warbler livened things up, and a pair of diminutive Rufous-crowned Tody-flycatchers were a treat. The bushes just before the breakfast room held a smart

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Glossy-black Thrush, and the hummingbird feeders were quite busy. A Bronzy Inca, Long-tailed Sylphs, Chestnut-breasted Coronets and Collared Incas were the most notable species.

We rounded off with visits to see the antpittas being fed... Indeed, two or three stunning Rufous-crowned Antpittas finally came out of the undergrowth to feed on the worms, provided giving a beautiful display. Nearby, we then stood for a considerable time waiting for a White-bellied Antpitta to show on another trail, though we finally gave up as breakfast was getting late! However, no more than seconds after we'd turned our backs and gone out of sight it appeared, only Pablo and John managing the briefest of views before it shot off again into the undergrowth...

The morning was spent working some trails in old forest below the cabins, and this turned out to be an inspired choice. Just a few minutes after entering the forest we bumped into a stunning Powerful Woodpecker female working the upper forest, giving terrific views given a near-absence of middle tree layer. Taking a side trail we rapidly found the first of a few small mixed flocks, which we worked hard for the rest of the morning seeing a series of brightly-coloured tanagers, a few flycatchers, plenty of Slate-throated Whitestarts and Blackburnian Warblers and Yellow-throated and Common Bush-tanagers. Perhaps best of all, though only seen by a few was a Tayra - a black marten - sitting on and then crossing the path. A couple of Grey-tailed Squirrels were seen by all though.

We took a break after lunch, readjourning at 3:30 for another forest walk, this time below San Isidro. Sadly, though we managed to do some walking and enjoy the scenery, rain set in on the back of a small thunderstorm, and though we managed brief views of two Russet-backed Oropendolas flying over, only Charles managed to spot a Plush-capped Finch feeding in some bamboo.

We returned early to relax, look through the photos and books, do the bird list and finally before dinner, even try for nighthawks by the lights, but the rain seemed to have spoiled play! Even the San Isidro Owl refused to appear for the second night running...

### **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

#### San Isidro and Sierra de Guacamayos

A 5:45 a.m. start to try to see one or two special birds of San Isidro. However, the conditions the night before didn't produce much of a crop of moths on the lights and some of the birds seemed to know it! That said, we still saw a terrific number of birds, including Azara's Spinetail, a number of Black-billed Peppershrikes, plenty of Pale-edged Flycatchers, lots of Common Bush-tanagers and a Blackpoll Warbler. This was increased much further when a feeding flock moved through by the upper light and we rapidly added Blue-winged Mountain-tanager, a male Summer Tanager, Russet-crowned (singing) and Citrine Warblers and Black-eared Hemispingus to the day list! The undoubted high point though was when a small flock of Speckle-faced Parrots flew in to trees close to the cabins and gave excellent views. Judith was especially pleased, having just set foot out of the door!

We rounded off by walking towards the hummingbird feeders. En route though we stopped to see both a female Lawrence's Thrush and singing Andean Solitaire at very close range! The 'usual' hummingbirds today also included a male Gorgeted Woodstar and a couple of flighty Green Violetears. Another attempt to see the White-bellied Antpitta coming to worms again failed, but all present had excellent views of a Long-tailed Antbird just over their heads.

The trip towards the Guacamayos ridge after breakfast was punctuated by a stop at the river Cosanga to see if there were any birds. Masses of Blue-and-white Swallows were present on the wires, while several Barn Swallows, migrants from the north, flitted low over the river where a couple of Spotted Sandpipers perched on the rocks. The stars here however were a stunning pair of Torrent Ducks on some rocks, which then popped in and out of the rapids before finally disappearing downstream. Not far along the road another raptor caught our eye and we got out to see a rather distant Gray Hawk circling before it dipped down over the trees.

It was actually clear at the ridge when we arrived, though true to form it soon clouded over and started drizzling, so before the rain really got heavy we returned and came back

out. The very different feel to the forest on totally different soil was quite evident though, despite being so close to San Isidro. A couple of Hooded Mountain-tanagers were the colourful highlights, while a mixed flock passing through was difficult to see well up against the bright cloudy sky.

Coming down we dropped out of the rain so tried a short walk along the roadside. A Cinnamon Flycatcher, two Smokey Bush-tyrants, several Beryl-spangled, two eastern Flame-faced and single Capped and Blue-and-black Tanagers were all well seen and enjoyed by those present.

Lunch was slightly perturbed by the friendly local male Masked Trogon which put in a noisy visit, so the photographers took good advantage! We left for our return towards the Papallacta area, only to bump into a feeding flock in woodland along the access track. A Streaked Tuftedcheek lived up to its name, while woodcreepers, a woodpecker and lots of small birds in the undergrowth gave us the slip, but still kept us on our toes! A Broad-winged Hawk circled rather high as we tried to get back on the bus, but a young one perched on a tree near the track shortly ahead gave excellent views.

A couple of short stops revealed a pair of Torrent Tyrannulets and their nest, a few Black Phoebes, fine single perched Band-tailed Pigeon and Smoke-coloured Peewee, flighty Inca Jays and Russet-backed Oropendolas and a high Peregrine Falcon as we worked our way towards Baeza. Birds seen from the vehicle included a couple of eastern Blue-grey and eastern Palm Tanagers. However, the most surprising stop was at a small bridge by the police check at Baeza. While both Iván and Pablo thought a dipper had been present on a log on the river, by the time we got there, 'only' a small group of Olivaceous Siskins, a couple of Yellow-browed Sparrows and a smart male Chestnut-bellied Seedeater were visible! A terrific spot despite the lorries and buses rumbling past at close range!

We reached Guango Lodge before dusk in quite clear and mild conditions, allowing us sometime to identify the hummers present before the photographers went into action! The feeders were quite busy with hummers, being a fine mix of Tourmaline Sunangels, Chestnut-breasted and Buff-tailed Coronets, Tyrian Metaltails, lots of Collared Incas, a few Mountain Velvetbreasts, a couple of Buff-winged Starfrontlets, plenty of Long-tailed Sylphs and male White-bellied Woodstars, while a couple of Sword-billed Hummingbirds were simply mind-blowing! A brief visit by a Glowing Puffleg was also noted by a few.

### **Friday 3rd November**

### **Guango Lodge + Papallacta Lake & Pass**

A fine and chilly start. A walk down towards the river revealed a frustratingly invisible but noisy mixed flock above us, which we found on the way back along the pipeline trail. Several White-banded Tyrannulets and numerous Blackburnian Warblers and Grey-headed Bush-tanagers kept us looking repeatedly at dots moving through the canopy, but a Rufous-breasted Chat-tyrant was a delight. A Pearled Treerunner also gave superb views, though some Slaty Brush-finches were difficult to see, the young ones apparently being largely blackish... A male Mountain Avocetbill was very briefly visible feeding on flowers but just escaped being seen by anyone except John and Pablo.

We returned to the feeders, stopping en route when a delightful Black-crowned Warbler came out to feed in full view for several minutes at point blank range. Marvellous!

The feeders were especially good just after breakfast and our exit was delayed as we watched these gems and their extraordinary behaviour and antics in their squabbles over the feeders. All the species of the previous evening were present except the puffleg, but a 'pair' of Gorgeted Woodstars put in an appearance, and the last new bird was a diminutive but delightful female Mountain Avocetbill which fed and sat at extremely close range to Andy, but sadly rapidly disappeared when approached by Neil!

We climbed steeply towards the Papallacta Lake, where the cloud was high and sun broke through for much of the time. Despite masses of weekenders coming from Quito on this bank holiday, the old road was much quieter and we got out to walk most of the length of the lake, watching as we went. A Neotropical Cormorant looked rather out of place, but not so a courting pair of Andean Gulls on a little island of rock. Several Andean Teal 'quacked' on the water while a Blue-winged Teal flew in too. Despite several fishermen,

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the mud at the far end was attractive to waders, single Greater Yellowlegs, Semipalmated Plover and White-rumped Sandpiper being present.

It was clear up top though, so we headed for the pass and the antenna track. Stunning views over the surrounding páramo and lakes were had as we ascended, plus views of several Plumbeous Sierra Finches and Bar-winged Cinclodes, and a Páramo Seedeater and Brown-bellied Swallow. These were all also seen well when we descended on foot having taken a walk round the area of the antennas where a pair of Stout-billed Cinclodes wandered around. A couple of Páramo Ground-tyrants also gave good views as we came down, though a Tawny Antpitta was much briefer and only really noted by Charles.

Lunch was taken overlooking the lake while this was terminated quite rapidly given a thunderstorm rolling on over the top where we'd been before. Not before we'd seen a group of three Baird's Sandpipers on the lake though! The rain started and rapidly became hail, though no sooner were we below this than a raptor off to one side got us out and we were able to enjoy no less than three different Puna Hawks either in flight or perched on the surrounding hillsides. A lovely sight!

We started down the old road, seeing relatively little, though once down a bit further the first of two Black-billed Shrike-tyrants got us out and we started a good walk down the track in lovely walking conditions. Two raptors over the ridge opposite turned out to be a pair of Black-chested Buzzard-eagles, which came in and landed, giving terrific views despite the distance.

The scrub below us held a few birds too, though we only caught the back end of a small flock passing through, including a Cinereous Conebill, Black Flowerpiercers and a Rufous-naped Brush-finch. A 'pair' of Black-tailed Trainbearers perched below us though were simply exquisite, the male's tail seemingly with a life of its own! We then watched the amazing spectacle of c. 200 White-collared Swifts feeding in the area, with some very close fly-pasts and plenty of their, at times, parrot-like calling!

We finally got back in to start the descent to Quito, only to turn the first corner and find a small flock of Hooded Siskins on roadside bushes and ground plants, and while studying these also noted a single Andean Siskin and a few Páramo Seedeaters.

We called it a day quite late and headed back into and through Quito, the city being virtually a ghost town given the bank holiday, What a relief! Arriving at c. 5:30 p.m., we bade our farewells to our driver Ivan, and then to Pablo, and after an hour came down for our 'welcome' drink and went out again with the second TN/Limosa group for a meal at La Ronda. The final call-over was taken after a slightly late dinner.

### **Saturday 4th November** Quito and return

Our final day is basically a rest for the morning with time for a good lunch, then away on an early evening flight. This went as usual, Deborah from Enchanted Expeditions picking us up, and a few Eared Doves en route were our last birds!

After the usual stop-over and incomprehensible security check in Guayaquil, we took the long flight back to Madrid without problems. I hope that the transfer in Madrid went OK and the group reached Heathrow safely.

The final (non leader-only) total of birds seen and/or heard was a terrific 258. 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.

## Galápagos bird & animal lists October 2006:

Sites: **Ba** = Bartolomé; **BTC** = Black Turtle Cove; **CDF** = Charles Darwin Foundation; **CI** = Champion Island; **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* 2 PC and 1 CI on 2nd, plenty at various sites on 24th, 2 UB on 25th and 4 Ba on 26th.

#### ALBATROSSES

*Diomedidae*

#### Waved Albatross

*Diomedea irrorata* 0+ on and just off PS, Española on 21st, 1 at sea on 22nd and 2 off PM on 24th.

#### PETRELS & SHEARWATERS *Procellariidae*

**Dark-rumped (Galápagos) Petrel** *Pterodroma phaeopygia* Excellent numbers: 6-7 e.r. on 22nd, 1 PM and 1 EB on 24th, 150+ e.r. on 25th and 35+ at sea on 26th.

#### Galápagos Shearwater

*Puffinus subalaris* Seen daily in moderate to variable number except on 23rd. Hundreds - thousands at sea 22nd and 24th - 27th.

#### STORM-PETRELS

*Hydrobatidae*

**Elliott's (=White-vented) Storm-Petrel** *Oceanites gracilis* Common: noted daily in small to moderate number at sea and from the coast.

**Wedge-rumped (=Galápagos) Storm-Petrel** *Oceanodroma tethys* Very scarce: 1 e.r. on 22nd, 4 on 25th and 3 on 26th.

#### Madeiran Storm-Petrel

*Oceanodroma castro* Three at sea on afternoon of 26th gave good views.

#### TROPICBIRDS

*Phaethontidae*

#### Red-billed Tropicbird

*Phaethon aethereus* 4+ NS on 20th, 15+ PS on 21st, several CI including a well-grown chick on 22nd, 1 on 23rd and 4 at sea on 25th.

#### BOOBIES & GANNETS

*Sulidae*

#### Blue-footed Booby

*Sula nebouxii* Common, widespread and seen daily in moderate to large number, especially 600+ in BTC on 27th.

#### Nazca Booby

*Sula granti* Much less common, though seen daily except on 23rd and 27th.

#### CORMORANTS

*Phalacrocoracidae*

**Galápagos Flightless Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax harrisi* Excellent views of plenty at various sites on 24th and 25+ PE and other sites on 25th.

#### PELICANS

*Pelicanidae*

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<b>Brown Pelican</b>	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	Common, widespread and seen daily at numerous sites.
<b>FRIGATEBIRDS</b>	<i>Fregatidae</i>	
<b>Magnificent Frigatebird</b>	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	Generally common, though abundant on and around NS on 20th, then daily in very variable number thereafter.
<b>Great Frigatebird</b>	<i>Fregata minor</i>	15+ breeding on NS on 20th, plus a male perched on the boat on 22nd.
<b>HERONS &amp; BITTERNS</b>	<i>Ardeidae</i>	
<b>Great Blue Heron</b>	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Singles PC and POB on 22nd, PA on 23rd, EB on 24th and also Pto.E on 26th.
<b>Cattle Egret</b>	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	4-5 over POB on 22nd, lots Sta Cruz on 23rd and 2 PM on 24th.
<b>Green-backed (=Striated) Heron</b>	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	1 adult PM and a juvenile EB on 24th, with another probable BTC on 27th.
<b>Lava (=Galápagos) Heron</b>	<i>Butorides sundevalli</i>	Seen daily in ones and twos except on 20th, but with plenty Pto.E on 26th and BTC on 27th.
<b>Yellow-crowned Night-heron</b>	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	Singles GB and PS n 21st, PC and CI on 22nd and Pto.E on 26th.
<b>FLAMINGOES</b>	<i>Phoenicopteridae</i>	
<b>Greater Flamingo</b>	<i>Phoenicopus ruber</i>	c. 25+ PC inc a few nests on 22nd and 6 PM on 24th.
<b>WILDFOWL</b>	<i>Anatidae</i>	
<b>White-cheeked Pintail</b>	<i>Anas bahamensis</i>	c. 12 PC on 22nd and 3 ad. + 5 juvs TF on 23rd.
<b>Blue-winged Teal</b>	<i>Anas discors</i>	1 briefly PM on 24th.
<b>HAWKS</b>	<i>Accipitridae</i>	
<b>Galápagos Hawk</b>	<i>Buteo galapagoensis</i>	Good numbers: 2 GB and 3 PS on 21st, 1 UB and 2 PE on 25th and 2 Pto.E on 26th.
<b>RAILS &amp; COOTS</b>	<i>Rallidae</i>	
<b>Common Moorhen</b>	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	c.9 PM on 24th.
<b>OYSTERCATCHERS</b>	<i>Haematopodidae</i>	
<b>American Oystercatcher</b>	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	Two PS on 21st, 2 PE on 25th and 3 pairs Pto.E on 26th.
<b>AVOCETS &amp; STILTS</b>	<i>Recurvirostridae</i>	
<b>Black-necked Stilt</b>	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	2 PC on 22nd, 3 PM on 24th and 1 BTC on 27th.
<b>PLOVERS</b>	<i>Charadriidae</i>	
<b>Semipalmated Plover</b>	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	One PC on 22nd, singles PA and TF on 23rd, 1 PM on 24th and 4-5 Pto.E on 26th.
<b>SANDPIPERS</b>	<i>Scolopacidae</i>	
<b>(Hudsonian) Whimbrel</b>	<i>Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus</i>	Singles PC and POB on 22nd, PA and TF on 23rd, 4 PE on 24th, 5-6 Pto.E on 26th and 1 BTC on 27th.

<b>Wandering Tattler</b>	<i>Heteroscelus incanus</i>	Common: one GB and 4+ PS on 21st, 3+ CI on 22nd, 2 PA on 23rd, 1 PM on 24th, 3+ PE on 25th and sev. Pto.E on 26th.
<b>(Ruddy) Turnstone</b>	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Relatively common: 2-8 seen daily at various sites except on 24th and 27th.
<b>Red-necked Phalarope</b>	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Relatively common at sea: 100s at sea on 22nd and 25th, plus 25+ on 26th.
<b>Grey Phalarope</b>	<i>Phalaropus fuligula</i>	Much scarcer but always present in mixed phalarope flocks: plenty on 22nd, several on 25th and 2 e.r. on 26th.
<b>Sanderling</b>	<i>Calidris alba</i>	2 at PC on 22nd.
<b>Least Sandpiper</b>	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	16 at PC on 22nd.
<b>Baird's Sandpiper</b>	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	One on the beach at GB on 21st was this species and not the following as I first thought from Andy's photo.
<b>White-rumped Sandpiper</b>	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	Two at PC on 22nd were a good find.
<b>GULLS</b>	<i>Laridae</i>	
<b>Lava Gull</b>	<i>Larus fuliginosus</i>	3-5 NS on 20th, 2 ad + 1 j PA on 23rd and 1 UB on 25th.
<b>Franklin's Gull</b>	<i>Larus pipixcan</i>	An ad w and 1st-w at sea on 22nd, 1 ad. PA on 23rd and an adult w e.r. on 24th.
<b>Swallow-tailed Gull</b>	<i>Larus furcatus</i>	20+ NS on 20th, lots PS on 21st, c.10 CI on 22nd, 1 e.r. on 25th and 40+ e.r. on 26th.
<b>TERNs</b>	<i>Sternidae</i>	
<b>Common Tern</b>	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Two sat on the sea e.r. were a great find on 26th!
<b>Brown (Common) Noddy</b>	<i>Anous stolidus</i>	Widespread and locally common: seen in small - moderate number daily, except on 21st and 23rd.
<b>SKUAS</b>	<i>Stercorariidae</i>	
<b>Skua sp.</b>	<i>Stercorarius sp.</i>	An immature, almost certainly an Arctic Skua S. parasiticus was at sea chasing Red-necked Phalaropes on 22nd.
<b>PIGEONS &amp; DOVES</b>	<i>Columbidae</i>	
<b>Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)</b>	<i>Columba livia</i>	Several in Quito on 20th and 27th.
<b>Eared Dove</b>	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>	A few in Quito on 20th and 27th.
<b>Galápagos Dove</b>	<i>Zenaida galapagoensis</i>	Seen on 4 days: 5+ NS on 20th, 1 GB and 3 PS on 21st, 2 PE on 25th and 1 Pto.E on 26th.
<b>ANIS</b>	<i>Crotophagidae</i>	
<b>Smooth-billed Ani</b>	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	Various from the bus and in highlands of Sta Cruz on 23rd and both PM and EB on 24th.
<b>NEW WORLD CUCKOOS</b>	<i>Coccyidae</i>	

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<b>Dark-billed Cuckoo</b>	<i>Coccyzus melacoryphus</i>	One UB on 25th.
<b>TYRANT FLYCATCHERS</b>	<i>Tyrannidae</i>	
<b>Vermilion Flycatcher</b>	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	One-two juvs UB on 25th.
<b>Galápagos Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiarchus magnirostris</i>	Two GB on 21st, 3+ PC on 22nd, 4 CDR and 8+ TF+ on 23rd, 1 UB on 25th and 2 Pto.E on 26th.
<b>SWALLOWS &amp; MARTINS</b>	<i>Hirundinidae</i>	
<b>Southern (Galápagos) Martin</b>	<i>Progne modesta</i>	4+ PM on 24th and 2 UB on 25th.
<b>THRUSHES</b>	<i>Turdidae</i>	
<b>Great Thrush</b>	<i>Turdus fuscater</i>	Lots Quito on 27th.
<b>MOCKINGBIRDS &amp; THRASHERS</b>	<i>Mimidae</i>	
<b>Galápagos Mockingbird</b>	<i>Nesomimus parvulus</i>	Lots Sta Cruz on 23rd, a few various sites on 24th, plenty UB on 25th and plenty Pto.E on 26th.
<b>Charles Mockingbird</b>	<i>Nesomimus trifasciatus</i>	2+ CI on 22nd.
<b>Hood Mockingbird</b>	<i>Nesomimus macdonaldi</i>	Lots GB and PS, Española on 21st.
<b>NEW WORLD SPARROWS &amp; BUNTINGS</b>	<i>Emberizidae - Emberizinae</i>	
<b>Large Ground-Finch</b>	<i>Geospiza magnirostris</i>	Two CDR on 21st and 1 UB on 25th.
<b>Medium Ground-Finch</b>	<i>Geospiza fortis</i>	Quite widespread in small number: 2 PC on 22nd, plenty CDR on 23rd, plenty UB on 25th and a few airport on 27th.
<b>Small Ground-Finch</b>	<i>Geospiza fuliginosa</i>	The commonest and most widespread species, and seen daily.
<b>Small Cactus-Finch</b>	<i>Geospiza scandens</i>	Two CDR on 23rd and 1+ airport on 27th.
<b>Large Cactus-Finch</b>	<i>Geospiza conirostris</i>	One GB on 21st.
<b>Vegetarian Finch</b>	<i>Camarhynchus crassirostris</i>	Two CDR on 23rd.
<b>Large Tree-Finch</b>	<i>Camarhynchus psittacula</i>	Two TF on 23rd and sev. UB on 25th.
<b>Small Tree-Finch</b>	<i>Camarhynchus parvulus</i>	Several CB and 1 Pto.E on 26th.
<b>Warbler Finch</b>	<i>Certhidea olivacea</i>	Just one GB and 2 PS on 21st.
<b>Rufous-collared Sparrow</b>	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>	Plenty Quito on 27th.

<b>NEW WORLD WARBLERS</b>	<i>Parulidae</i>	
<b>Mangrove / Yellow Warbler</b>	<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.
<b>NEW WORLD ORIOLES</b>	<i>Icteridae</i>	
<b>Great-tailed Grackle</b>	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	One Guayaquil airport on 20th.
<b>MAMMALS</b>		
<b>CARNIVORES - Sea-lions</b>	<i>Carnivora - Otariidae</i>	
<b>Galápagos Fur Sea-lion</b>	<i>Arctocephalus galapagoensis</i>	One of the best kept until last: 12+ e.r. near Cape Berkeley on 25th, then 6 at Pto.E on 26th. Recent studies still can't decide if this is in fact 'just' a subspecies of the Southern Fur Sea-lion or not.
<b>Galápagos (Californian) Sea Lion</b>	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>	Very common and widespread, including on landings and close encounters while snorkelling.
<b>CETACEANS - Marine Dolphins</b>	<i>Cetacea - Delphinidae</i>	
<b>Bottle-nosed Dolphin</b>	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Three-four EB on 24th, 3-4 e.r. on 25th and 8+ off Ba on 26th.
<b>RODENTS - Mice &amp; Voles</b>	<i>Rodentia - Muridae</i>	
<b>Mouse sp.</b>	? <i>Mus sp.</i>	One dead on Sta Cruz on 23rd was a curious find.
<b>REPTILES</b>		
<b>Galápagos Lava Lizard</b>	<i>Microlophus albemarlensis</i>	A few seen NS on 20th, then daily various sites from 23rd.
<b>Española Lava Lizard</b>	<i>Microlophus delanonis</i>	Good numbers seen GB and PS on 21st.
<b>Floreana Lava Lizard</b>	<i>Microlophus grayi</i>	4+ PC on 22nd.
<b>Marine Iguana</b>	<i>Amblyrhynchus cristatus</i>	Seen daily in very variable number. Commonest and biggest on W Isabela and Fernandina.
<b>Galápagos Land Iguana</b>	<i>Conolophus subcristatus</i>	Eight NS on 20th and c.12 UB on 25th were impressive animals.
<b>Galápagos Giant Tortoise</b>	<i>Geochelone elephantopus</i>	40+ individuals of the ssp. <i>porteri</i> at TF on 23rd.
<b>Pacific Green Turtle</b>	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Common and widespread and seen daily from 21st, except on 23rd, including large numbers during panga rides and some when snorkelling.

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**FISH: taxonomy and systematic order follow Humann & Deloach 2003**

		20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>King Angelfish</b>	<i>Holocanthus passer</i>		Y	Y		Y		Y	
<b>Razor Surgeonfish</b>	<i>Prionurus laticlavus</i>	Y		Y				Y	
<b>Yellowfin Tuna</b>	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>						Y		
<b>Striped / Yellow-tailed Mullet</b>	<i>Mugil cephalus rammelsbergi</i>		Y						
<b>Galápagos / Silver Mullet</b>	<i>Mugil galapagensis</i>					Y			
<b>Black-striped Salema / Brown-striped Snapper</b>	<i>Xenocys jessiae</i>			Y					
<b>Yellow-tailed Snapper</b>	<i>Lutjanus novemfasciatus</i>					Y			
<b>Barred Snapper</b>	<i>Hoplopagrus guentheri</i>					Y			
<b>Galápagos Ringtail Damsel</b>	<i>Stagastes beebei</i>			Y		Y		Y	
<b>Panamic Sergeant Major</b>	<i>Abudefduf troschelii</i>		Y	Y		Y		Y	
<b>Scissortail Chromis</b>	<i>Chromis atrilobata</i>		Y						
<b>Flag Cabrilla</b>	<i>Epinephelus labriformis</i>			Y				Y	
<b>Pacific Creolefish</b>	<i>Paranthias colonus</i>		Y	Y				Y	
<b>Azure Parrotfish</b>	<i>Scarus compressus</i>			Y					
<b>Blue-chin Parrotfish</b>	<i>Scarus ghobdan</i>		Y	Y				Y	
<b>Chameleon Wrasse</b>	<i>Halichoeres dispilus</i>					Y			
<b>Cortez Rainbow Wrasse</b>	<i>Thalassoma lucasanum</i>			Y				Y	
<b>Mexican / Streamer Hogfish</b>	<i>Bodianus diplotaenia</i>		Y	Y		Y		Y	
<b>Panamic Fanged / Large-banded Blenny</b>	<i>Ophioblennius steindachneri</i>			Y				Y	
<b>Bravo Clinid</b>	<i>Labriosomus dendriticus</i>			Y					
<b>Giant / Hieroglyphic Hawkfish</b>	<i>Cirrhitus rivulatus</i>		Y					Y	
<b>Bullseye / Concentric Pufferfish</b>	<i>Sphoeroides annulatus</i>	Y				Y	Y	Y	
<b>Guineafowl</b>	<i>Arothron</i>			Y					

<b>Pufferfish</b>	<i>melaegris</i>						
<b>[Spotted] Porcupinefish</b>	<i>Diodon hystrix</i>				Y		
<b>Orangeside / Yellow-bellied Triggerfish</b>	<i>Sufflamen verres</i>	Y	Y				Y
<b>Trumpetfish</b>	<i>Aulostomus chinensis</i>				Y		
<b>Reef Cornetfish</b>	<i>Fistularia commersonii</i>	Y					
<b>Tiger Snake Eel</b>	<i>Myrichthys tigrinus</i>			Y			
<b>Galápagos Shark</b>	<i>Carcharhinus galapagensis</i>						Y
<b>White-tipped Reef Shark</b>	<i>Triaenodon obesus</i>				Y		Y
<b>Golden Cow-nosed Ray</b>	<i>Rhinoptera steindachneri</i>			Y			
<b>Diamond Sting Ray</b>	<i>Dasyatis brevis</i>		Y		Y	Y	
<b>Spotted Eagle Ray</b>	<i>Aetobatus narinari</i>				Y		
<b>Manta Ray</b>	<i>Manta hamiltoni</i>	Y			Y	Y	Y
<b>Flying fish</b>	? <i>Exocetus</i> sp.	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y

*also seen on snorkels:*

<b>Chocolate-chip Sea Star</b>	<i>Nidorellia armata</i>	Y	Y				
<b>Panamic Cushion Star</b>	<i>Pentaceraster cumingi</i>	Y					Y
<b>Blue Sea Star</b>	<i>Phataria unifascialis</i>	Y					
<b>Red Sun Star</b>	<i>Heliaster cumingi</i>	Y					

<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>						

**Octopus sp.**

**BUTTERFLIES**

Galápagos blue	<i>Leptodes parrhasioides</i>	Several PA on 23rd.
Galápagos sulphur	<i>Phoebis sennae marcellina</i>	Several PA on 23rd.
Queen Butterfly	<i>Danaus gillipus</i>	Singles PC and POB on 22nd.

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### DRAGONFLIES

Spot-winged glider	<i>Pantava hymenaea</i>	Lots PM on 24th and PE on 25th.
Lime-green dragonfly		A couple of males PM on 24th.

### OTHER INSECTS

Large Painted Locust	<i>Schistocerca melanocera</i>	Only seen daily 24th - 26th.
Small Painted Locust 25th.	<i>Schistocerca literosa</i>	Notably uncommon and only noted on 24th and 25th.
Yellow Paper Wasp 22nd - 25th.	<i>Polistes versicolor</i>	A quite common introduced pest: noted daily
Galápagos Carpenter Bee numbers seen 21st - 25th.	<i>Xylocopa darwini</i>	Quite common and very widespread, small numbers seen 21st - 25th.
Cottony Cushion Scale	<i>Icerya purchasi</i>	A few PC on 22nd.
Galápagos Green-eyed Horsefly presence!	<i>Tabanus vittiger</i>	A couple of bites on 22nd were testament to their presence!
Galápagos Ladybird	<i>Cylonea sanguinea</i>	One UB on 25th.
Crimson Speckled moth	<i>Utetheisa ornatrix</i>	One EB on 24th.

### OTHER TAXA

Yellow Scorpion	<i>Hadruidoidea maculatus galapagoensis</i>	Five+ Pto.E on 26th.
Sally Lightfoot Crab coastal sites.	<i>Grapsus grapsus</i>	Abundant and widespread, seen daily and at all coastal sites.
Semi-terrestrial Hermit Crab	<i>Coenobita compressus</i>	Two PC on 22nd.
Ghost Crab	<i>Ocypode gaudichaudii</i>	Lots PC on 22nd.

## Mainland birds

Sites: e.r. = en route ; CSI = Cabañas San Isidro ; 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; OPR = Old Papallacta Road ; PL = Papallacta Lake ; PP = Papallacta Pass ; RC = Río Cosanga ; RS = Río Silanche ; SP = Séptimo Paraíso Lodge ; Si = 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*

**CORMORANTS** *Phalacrocoracidae*

**Neotropic (Olivaceous) Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus (olivaceus)* One PL on 3rd.

**HERONS & BITTERNS** *Ardeidae*

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

**Green-backed (Striated) Heron** *Butorides striatus* One RS on 30th.

**Fasciated Tiger-heron** *Tigrisoma fasciata* One RS on 30th.

**WILDFOWL** *Anatidae*

**Torrent Duck** *Merganetta armata* A stunning pair RC on 2nd were a treat.

**Andean (Speckled) Teal** *Anas flavirostris* At PL 12+ on 31st and c. 12 there on 3rd.

**Yellow-billed Pintail** *Anas georgica spinicauda* Just 6+ PL on 31st.

**Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors* Two at PL on 31st and 1 there on 3rd.

**AMERICAN VULTURES** *Catharidae*

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* 4 SP on 29th, plenty at various sites on 30th, plenty SP on 31st and 2+ Q on 3rd.

**American Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus* 3+ SP and 2 Mi on 29th, 100+ various sites on 30th, a few Q en route on 31st and plenty Q e.r. on 3rd.

**Andean Condor** *Vultur gryphus* A juv OPR on 31st was a treat.

**HAWKS** *Accipitridae*

**Black-chested (Barred) Hawk** *Leucopternis princeps* 1 ad SP on 29th.

**Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle** *Geranoaetus melanoleucus* A pr e.r. OPR on 3rd.

**Roadside Hawk** *Buteo magnirostris* One SP on 29th, 2 perched and one flying e.r. on 30th and 1 CSI on 1st.

**Grey Hawk** *Buteo nitidus* A bird showing characters of this species near the RC on 2nd, but it was out of range both altitudinally and geographically.

**Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus* Two CSI on 2nd.

**Puna (Variable) Hawk** *Buteo poecilochrous* One imm. Y area on 28th, 2 PP on 31st and 3 PP plus 1 e.r. on 3rd. Interestingly, this species is still split in the latest 'Raptors of the World', though curiously there seems to have been a mix of the birds we saw at the PP on 3rd, seemingly with both the higher altitude Gurney's or Puna Hawk *B. poecilochrous* s.s. and the slimmer-winged Red-backed Hawk *B. polyosoma*. But as the Ecuador guide states, telling these apart is a "nightmare"!

**FALCONS & CARACARAS** *Falconidae*

**Carunculated Caracara** *Phalcoboenus carunculatus* A pair + 1 other along the OPR on 31st.

**Barred Forest-falcon** *Micrastur ruficollis* A bird calling SP on 29th was lured in using a tape and made a high-speed pass at close range. A dead juvenile near SP on the paved road e.r. on 31st was a tragic find.

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<b>American Kestrel</b>	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	One Q and 3+ Y on 28th, 2 e.r. on 30th and several e.r. on 31st.
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	One e.r. towards Baeza on 2nd was all too brief.
<b>Applomado Falcon</b>	<i>Falco femoralis</i>	One MM on 31st was a surprise!
<b>GUANS &amp; CHACHALACAS</b>	<i>Cracidae</i>	
<b>Andean Guan</b>	<i>Penelope montagnii</i>	A very poorly seen bird along the N-M on 28th.
<b>RAILS &amp; COOTS</b>	<i>Rallidae</i>	
<b>White-throated (-breasted) Crake</b>	<i>Laterallus albigularis</i>	Two calling RS on 28th.
<b>Slate-coloured (Andean) Coot</b>	<i>Fulica ardesiaca</i>	One PL on 31st was a surprise.
<b>PLOVERS</b>	<i>Charadriidae</i>	
<b>Semipalmated Plover</b>	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	One at PL on 3rd.
<b>SANDPIPERS</b>	<i>Scolopacidae</i>	
<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b>	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	Singles PL on 31st and 3rd.
<b>Solitary Sandpiper</b>	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	One RS on 30th.
<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b>	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	Three PL on 31st, 3 RC and 1 e.r. on 2nd and 3 PL on 3rd.
<b>Baird's Sandpiper</b>	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	Three on a pool PP on 3rd.
<b>White-rumped Sandpiper</b>	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	One PL on 3rd.
<b>Pectoral Sandpiper</b>	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	A single, probably female (based on small size) at PP on 31st.
<b>GULLS</b>	<i>Laridae</i>	
<b>Andean Gull</b>	<i>Larus serranus</i>	One OPR and 3 PP on 31st, plus a displaying pr and 5 others PL on 3rd.
<b>PIGEONS &amp; DOVES</b>	<i>Columbidae</i>	
<b>Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)</b>	<i>Columba livia</i>	Plenty e.r. around Q on 28th and 31st, a few e.r. on 2nd and plenty around Q on 3rd and 4th.
<b>Band-tailed Pigeon</b>	<i>Columba fasciata</i>	15+ N-M on 28th, 2-3 SP on 29th, lots e.r. on 31st and sev. e.r. on 2nd.
<b>Plumbeous Pigeon</b>	<i>Columba plumbea</i>	Just 1 seen and several heard SP on 29th.
<b>Ruddy Pigeon</b>	<i>Columba subvinacea</i>	Two down on the N-M road on 28th and 1 seen and others heard Mp on 30th.
<b>Pale-vented Pigeon</b>	<i>Columba cayennensis</i>	One e.r. on 30th.
<b>Eared Dove</b>	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>	Common in Q and surroundings on 28th, 31st and 3rd.
<b>Ruddy Ground-dove</b>	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	Heard singing SP on 29th and 31st.
<b>White-tipped Dove</b>	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	Two along the N-M road on 28th.
<b>Pallid Dove</b>	<i>Leptotila pallida</i>	One e.r. from Q on 28th.
<b>PARROTS</b>	<i>Psittacidae</i>	
<b>Chestnut-fronted Macaw</b>	<i>Ara severa</i>	Two in flight high over Si on 30th.
<b>Maroon-tailed Parakeet</b>	<i>Pyrrhura melanura</i>	Six SP on 29th and several Mp and heard Si on 30th.
<b>Pacific Parrotlet</b>	<i>Forpus coelestis</i>	One Si on 30th.

<b>Red-billed Parrot</b>	<i>Pionus sordidus</i>	Six Mi on 29th.
<b>Speckle-faced (White-capped) Parrot</b>	<i>Pionus tumultuosus</i>	Six CSI on 2nd.
<b>Bronze-winged Parrot</b>	<i>Pionus chalcopterus</i>	Two perched and 2 flying over e.r. on 30th.
<b>Scaly-naped Amazon</b>	<i>Amazona mercenara</i>	Several in flight at Si on 30th.
<b>ANIS</b>	<i>Crotophagidae</i>	
<b>Smooth-billed Ani</b>	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	2 Mi on 29th, 10+ at various sites on 30th and 1 e.r. near Baeza on 2nd.
<b>Striped Cuckoo</b>	<i>Tapera naevia</i>	One in the road briefly Si on 30th.
<b>NEW WORLD CUCKOOS</b>	<i>Coccyzidae</i>	
<b>Squirrel Cuckoo</b>	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	Singles Mi and RM on 29th and 2 Mp on 30th.
<b>NIGHTJARS</b>	<i>Caprimulgidae</i>	
<b>Lyre-tailed Nightjar</b>	<i>Luropsalis lyra</i>	A female near Mi on 29th was a great find in the rain!
<b>SWIFTS</b>	<i>Apodidae</i>	
<b>Chestnut-collared Swift</b>	<i>Streptoprocne rutila</i>	Lots RS and Si on 30th.
<b>White-collared Swift</b>	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>	Quite common: 6+ N-M on 28th, lots S on 29th, plenty OPR on 31st and hundreds there again on 3rd.
<b>Grey-rumped Swift</b>	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>	Several of this small species over Mp on 30th.
<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>	<i>Trochilidae</i>	
<b>White-whiskered Hermit</b>	<i>Phaethornis yaruqui</i>	Three+ Mp on 30th.
<b>Tawny-bellied Hermit</b>	<i>Phaethornis syrmatophorus</i>	Three CSI on 1st.
<b>White-necked Jacobin</b>	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	A 'pair' SP on 31st.
<b>Green Violet-ear</b>	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>	One SP on 31st and 2 CSI on 2nd.
<b>Sparkling Violet-ear</b>	<i>Colibri coruscans</i>	Several MM on 31st, several CSI on 1st and plenty there on 2nd.
<b>Green Thorntail</b>	<i>Popelairia conversii</i>	A superb male Mp on 30th.
<b>Green-crowned Woodnymph</b>	<i>Thalurania fannyi</i>	Common at Mp on 30th and SP on 31st.
<b>Andean Emerald</b>	<i>Agyrtria franciae</i>	Several SP on 29th and lots there 30th and 31st, plus sev. Mp on 30th.
<b>Rufous-tailed Hummingbird</b>	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>	sev. various sites on 29th, plenty Mp and SP on 30th and again at SP on 31st.
<b>Speckled Hummingbird</b>	<i>Adelomyia melanogenys</i>	3+ N-M on 28th, then sev. CSI on 1st and 2nd, plus 1 GL on 2nd and sev. there on 3rd.
<b>Purple-bibbed Whitetip</b>	<i>Urosticte benjamini</i>	A f SP on 29th and 2-3 there on 31st.
<b>Fawn-breasted Brilliant</b>	<i>Heliodoxa rubinoides</i>	Good numbers: 1 Y on 28th, a 'pair' SP on 31st, a few CSI on 1st and 2nd, and 1+ GL on 2nd and 3rd.
<b>Green-crowned Brilliant</b>	<i>Heliodoxa jacula</i>	One Y on 28th, lots Mp and several SP on 30th and several SP again on 31st.
<b>Empress Brilliant</b>	<i>Heliodoxa imperatrix</i>	Sev. SP on 29th and 30th and a 'pair' + a f there on 31st.
<b>Ecuadorian Hillstar</b>	<i>Oreotrochilus chimborazo</i>	One very briefly PP on 31st.
<b>White-tailed Hillstar</b>	<i>Urochroa bougeri</i>	A super bird briefly SP on 31st.
<b>Mountain Velvetbreast</b>	<i>Lafresnaya lafresnayi</i>	Notably scarce: One PL on 31st and at GL 2+ on 2nd and 1+ on 3rd.

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<b>Great Sapphirewing</b>	<i>Pterophanes cyanopterus</i>	6+ at Y on 28th.
<b>Bronzy Inca</b>	<i>Coeligena coeligena</i>	A few CSI on 1st and 2nd.
<b>Brown Inca</b>	<i>Coeligena wilsoni</i>	1-2 SP from 29th – 31st.
<b>Collared Inca</b>	<i>Coeligena torquata</i>	Sev GL on 1st and lots there on 2nd, plus plenty GL on 2nd and 3rd.
<b>Buff-winged Starfrontlet</b>	<i>Coeligena lutetiae</i>	25+ Y on 28th and 2-3 GL on 2nd and 3rd.
<b>Sword-billed Hummingbird</b>	<i>Ensifera ensifera</i>	3+ GL on 2nd and 3rd.
<b>Buff-tailed Coronet</b>	<i>Boissonneaua flavescens</i>	2-3 GL on 2nd and 3rd.
<b>Chestnut-breasted Coronet</b>	<i>Boissonneaua matthewsii</i>	Sev GL on 1st and lots there on 2nd, plus plenty GL on 2nd and 3rd.
<b>Tourmaline Sunangel</b>	<i>Heliangelus exortis</i>	One GL on 2nd but lots there on 3rd.
<b>Glowing Puffleg</b>	<i>Eriocnemis vestitus</i>	One briefly GL on 2nd.
<b>Sapphire-vented Puffleg</b>	<i>Eriocnemis luciani</i>	10+ Y on 28th.
<b>Booted Racket-tail</b>	<i>Ocreatus underwoodii</i>	At SP 2 mm on 29th, 1 m on 30th and plenty there on 31st.
<b>Black-tailed Trainbearer</b>	<i>Lesbia victoriae</i>	Two mm MM on 31st and a 'pair' OPR on 3rd.
<b>Tyrian Metaltail</b>	<i>Metallura tyrianthina</i>	6+ Y on 28th and plentiful GL on 2nd and 3rd.
<b>Blue-mantled Thornbill</b>	<i>Chalcostigma stanleyi</i>	One PP on 31st.
<b>Mountain Avocetbill</b>	<i>Opisthoprora euryptera</i>	A 'pair' GL on 3rd.
<b>Long-tailed Sylph</b>	<i>Aglaiocercus kingi</i>	Sev GL on 1st and lots there on 2nd, plus plenty GL on 2nd and 3rd.
<b>Violet-tailed Sylph</b>	<i>Aglaiocercus coelestis</i>	Few to lots SP on 29th - 31st.
<b>Purple-crowned Fairy</b>	<i>Heliothryx barroti</i>	A superb bird in flight Mp on 30th.
<b>Purple-throated Woodstar</b>	<i>Calliphlox mitchellii</i>	Sev SP daily from 29th – 31st.
<b>White-bellied Woodstar</b>	<i>Chaetocercus mulsant</i>	A few CSI on 1st and 2nd and lots GL on 2nd and 3rd.
<b>Gorgeted Woodstar</b>	<i>Chaetocercus heliodor</i>	A m CSI on 2nd and a 'pair' GL on 3rd.
<b>TROGONS</b>	<i>Trogonidae</i>	
<b>Golden-headed Quetzal</b>	<i>Pharomachrus auriceps</i>	Notably elusive: 2+ heard SP on 29th, 1 there on 31st and heard CSI on 1st.
<b>(Western) White-tailed Trogon</b>	<i>Trogon (viridis) chionurus</i>	3+ Si on 30th.
<b>Masked Trogon</b>	<i>Trogon personatus</i>	Heard SP on 31st, a male CSI on 1st and 2nd. Now a complex of 3 probable species: Masked Trogon <i>T. (personatus) assimilis</i> in the west,
<b>Highland Trogon T.</b>	<i>(personatus) temperatus</i>	in the E highlands and Amazonian
<b>Trogon T.</b>	<i>(personatus) personatus</i>	in the E lowlands (as at CSI).
<b>MOTMOTS</b>	<i>Momotidae</i>	
<b>Broad-billed Motmot</b>	<i>Electron platyrhynchum</i>	Just brief singles Mp and Si on 30th.
<b>Rufous Motmot</b>	<i>Baryphthengus martii</i>	Lots heard SP and 1 Mi on 29th.

<b>Highland Motmot</b>	<i>Momotus aequatorialis</i>	Heard CSI on 2nd.
<b>NEW WORLD BARBETS</b>	<i>Capitonidae</i>	
<b>Toucan Barbet</b>	<i>Semnornis ramphastinus</i>	Several heard duetting SP on 29th.
<b>TOUCANS</b>	<i>Ramphastidae</i>	
<b>Pale-mandibled Araçari</b>	<i>Pteroglossus erythropygius</i>	Three+ SP and 1 Mi on 29th, and lots at various sites on 30th.
<b>Chocó Toucan</b>	<i>Ramphastos brevis</i>	3 singles and others heard SP on 29th, and h both Mp and Si on 30th.
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>	<i>Picidae</i>	
<b>Olivaceous Piculet</b>	<i>Picumnus olivaceus</i>	One Mi on 29th.
<b>Scarlet-backed Woodpecker</b>	<i>Veniliornis callonotus</i>	One Si on 30th.
<b>Smoky-brown Woodpecker</b>	<i>Veniliornis fumigatus</i>	One Mp on 30th.
<b>Red-rumped Woodpecker</b>	<i>Veniliornis kirkii</i>	One Si on 30th; not Chocó Woodpecker as we thought at the time.
<b>Powerful Woodpecker</b>	<i>Campephilus pollens</i>	A f CSI on 1st.
<b>Guayaquil Woodpecker</b>	<i>Campephilus gayaquilensis</i>	A m Si on 30th.
<b>WOODCREEPERS</b>	<i>Dendrocolaptidae</i>	
<b>Tyrannine Woodcreeper</b>	<i>Dendrocincla tyrannina</i>	One Mi on 29th.
<b>Plain-brown Woodcreeper</b>	<i>Dendrocincla fuliginosa</i>	One Mp on 30th.
<b>Wedge-billed Woodcreeper</b>	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>	Singles Mp and Si on 30th.
<b>Strong-billed Woodcreeper</b>	<i>Xiphocolaptes promeropyrynchus</i>	1 Mp on 30th.
<b>Spotted Woodcreeper</b>	<i>Xiphorhynchus erythropygius</i>	Singles Mi on 29th and Si on 30th.
<b>Streak-headed Woodcreeper</b>	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>	1 Si on 30th.
<b>Montane Woodcreeper</b>	<i>Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger</i>	One+ Si on 30th.
<b>OVENBIRDS</b>	<i>Furnariidae</i>	
<b>Bar-winged Cinclodes</b>	<i>Cinclodes fuscus</i>	Several PP on 31st and 3rd.
<b>Stout-billed Cinclodes</b>	<i>Cinclodes excelsior</i>	3 PP on 3rd.
<b>Pacific Hornero</b>	<i>Furnarius cinnamommeus</i>	Three e.r. on 30th.
<b>Andean Tit-Spintail</b>	<i>Leptasthenura andicola</i>	One PP on 31st.
<b>Azara's Spintail</b>	<i>Synallaxis azarae</i>	Two near Y on 28th, h OPR on 31st, then singles CSI on 1st and 2nd.
<b>Dark-breasted Spintail</b>	<i>Synallaxis albigularis</i>	Heard CSI on 1st.
<b>Slaty Spintail</b>	<i>Synallaxis brachyura</i>	Heard SP and 2 Mi on 29th, 2 RS on 30th and heard SP on 31st.
<b>Red-faced Spintail</b>	<i>Cranioleuca erythrops</i>	One seen and a few heard SP and 2 Mi on 29th, plus 1 Mp on 30th.
<b>Pearled Treerunner</b>	<i>Margarornis squamiger</i>	Singles Y on 28th and GL on 3rd.
<b>Streaked Tuftedcheek</b>	<i>Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii</i>	One CSI on 2nd.
<b>Lineated Foliage-gleaner</b>	<i>Syndactyla subalaris</i>	Singles SP on 29th and Mp on 30th.
<b>Scaly-throated (Spectacled) Foliage-gleaner</b>	<i>Anabacerthia variegaticeps</i>	Singles Mi on 29th and Mp on 30th.
<b>Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner</b>	<i>Phylidor rufus</i>	One SP on 29th.
<b>Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner</b>	<i>Automolus ochrolaemus</i>	One Si on 30th.
<b>TYPICAL ANTBIRDS</b>	<i>Thamnophilidae</i>	

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<b>Western Slaty-antshrike</b>	<i>Thamnophilus atrinucha</i>	A superb pair seen repeatedly at Si on 30th.
<b>Slaty Antwren</b>	<i>Myrmotherula schisticolor</i>	One m Si on 30th.
<b>Pacific Antwren</b>	<i>Myrmotherula pacifica</i>	A m Si on 30th.
<b>Dot-winged Antwren</b>	<i>Microrhopias quixensis</i>	A few Si on 30th.
<b>Long-tailed Antbird</b>	<i>Drymophila caudate</i>	Two seen and others heard SP on 29th, plus 1 CSI on 2nd.
<b>Chestnut-backed Antbird</b>	<i>Myrmeciza exsul</i>	Two Si on 30th.
<b>Spot-backed Antbird</b>	<i>Hylophylax naevia</i>	One seen by Penny only CSI on 1st.
<b>ANTTHRUSHES &amp; ANTPITTAS</b>	<i>Formicariidae</i>	
<b>Rufous-breasted Antthrush</b>	<i>Formicarius rufipectus</i>	Heard SP on 29th and 31st.
<b>Scaled Antpitta</b>	<i>Grallaria guatemalensis</i>	Heard SP on 29th and 31st.
<b>Chestnut-crowned Antpitta</b>	<i>Grallaria ruficapilla</i>	2-3 seen closely at CSI on 1st.
<b>White-bellied Antpitta</b>	<i>Grallaria hypoleuca</i>	Heard CSI on 1st and 2nd.
<b>Tawny Antpitta</b>	<i>Grallaria quitensis</i>	One seen briefly and others heard near and in Y on 28th, and 1 seen and others heard PP on 3rd.
<b>Slate-crowned Antpitta</b>	<i>Grallaricula nana</i>	Heard GL on 3rd.
<b>TAPACULOS</b>	<i>Rhinocryptidae</i>	
<b>Nariño Tapaculo</b>	<i>Scytalopus vicinior</i>	Heard SP on 29th and 31st.
<b>Spillman's Tapaculo</b>	<i>Scytalopus spillmanni</i>	Heard CSI on 1st.
<b>TYRANT FLYCATCHERS</b>	<i>Tyrannidae</i>	
<b>Sooty-headed Tyrannulet</b>	<i>Phyllomyias griseiceps</i>	Two Si on 30th.
<b>Sierran Elaenia</b>	<i>Elaenia pallatangae</i>	5+ various sites on 28th.
<b>White-throated Tyrannulet</b>	<i>Mecocerculus leucophrys</i>	One Y on 28th.
<b>Rufous-winged Tyrannulet</b>	<i>Mecocerculus calopterus</i>	Singles Mp on 30th and SP on 31st.
<b>White-banded Tyrannulet</b>	<i>Mecocerculus stictopterus</i>	Two GL on 2nd and several there on 3rd.
<b>Torrent Tyrannulet</b>	<i>Serpophaga cinerea</i>	5+ at various sites on 2nd.
<b>Streak-necked Flycatcher</b>	<i>Mionectes striaticollis</i>	Two CSI on 1st.
<b>Rufous-breasted Flycatcher</b>	<i>Leptopogon rufipectus</i>	One CSI on 1st.
<b>Marble-faced Bristle-tyrant</b>	<i>Phylloscartes ophthalmicus</i>	Singles Si on 30th and CSI on 1st.
<b>Tawny-breasted Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiobius villosus</i>	One-two Mp on 30th.
<b>Scale-crested Pygmy-tyrant</b>	<i>Lophotriccus pileatus</i>	Lots heard SP and Mi on 29th, one seen Mp and others heard Si on 30th.
<b>Rufous-crowned Tody-tyrant</b>	<i>Poecilatriccus ruficeps</i>	A gorgeous pair briefly CSI on 1st.
<b>Common Tody-flycatcher</b>	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>	Two RS and 1+ Si on 30th.
<b>Ornate Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiotriccus ornatus</i>	One + heard SP on 29th, sev. Mp and sev. heard Si on 30th.
<b>Cinnamon Flycatcher</b>	<i>Pyrrhomyias cinnamomea</i>	One GR on 2nd.
<b>Smoke-coloured Pewee</b>	<i>Contopus fumigatus</i>	1 CSI on 1st and 1 e.r. on 2nd.
<b>Western Wood-Pewee</b>	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	One Mi on 29th.
<b>Black Phoebe</b>	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	2 RM on 29th, and sev. various sites on 2nd.
<b>Vermilion Flycatcher</b>	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	Two pairs MM on 31st.

<b>Rufous-breasted Chat-tyrant</b>	<i>Ochthoeca rufipectoralis</i>	One GL on 3rd.
<b>Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant</b>	<i>Ochthoeca fumicolor</i>	2 OPR and 1 PP on 31st.
<b>Smoky Bush-tyrant</b>	<i>Myiotheretes fumigatus</i>	One Y on 28th, 2 GR on 2nd and 1 GL on 3rd.
<b>Black-billed Shrike-tyrant</b>	<i>Agriornis montana</i>	2-3 OPR on 3rd.
<b>Páramo Ground-Tyrant</b>	<i>Muscisaxicola alpina</i>	2-3 PP on 3rd.
<b>Masked Water Tyrant</b>	<i>Fluvicola nengeta</i>	Two e.r. including in petrol station on 30th.
<b>Dusky-capped Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>	Two SP on 29th and 31st and 1 Mp on 30th.
<b>Pale-edged Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiarchus cephalotes</i>	Sev CSI on 1st and 2nd.
<b>Boat-billed Flycatcher</b>	<i>Megarhynchus pitangua</i>	A pair RS on 30th.
<b>Social Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	plenty at various sites inc Mp and Si on 30th.
<b>Golden-crowned Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiodynastes chrysocephalus</i>	A family SP on 29th and 31st.
<b>Streaked Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>	Heard SP on 29th and 2 Si on 30th.
<b>Tropical Kingbird</b>	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	Seen daily in small to large number from 29th – 2nd.
<b>Cinnamon Becard</b>	<i>Pachyramphus cinnamomeus</i>	Plenty SP on 29th, plenty Si on 30th and 1 SP on 31st.
<b>Black-and-white Becard</b>	<i>Pachyramphus albogriseus</i>	A pair SP on 29th, 1 Si on 30th and a m CSI on 2nd.
<b>One-coloured Becard</b>	<i>Pachyramphus homochrous</i>	A few at various sites 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 29th, but numerous displaying males Mp on 30th.
<b>White-bearded Manakin</b>	<i>Manacus manacus</i>	Plenty, mostly unseen displaying males, at Si on 30th.
<b>Golden-winged Manakin</b>	<i>Masius chrysopterus</i>	2+ Si on 30th were only really seen by Anna.

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<b>COTINGAS</b>	<i>Cotingidae</i>	
<b>Andean Cock-of-the-rock</b>	<i>Rupicola peruviana</i>	A lek of 7-10 displaying males seen N-M on 28th.
<b>SWALLOWS &amp; MARTINS</b>	<i>Hirundinidae</i>	
<b>Brown-bellied Swallow</b>	<i>Notiochelidon murina</i>	Common in the highlands on 31st and 3rd.
<b>Blue-and-white Swallow</b>	<i>Notiochelidon cyanoleuca</i>	Common and widespread; noted daily except on 30th and 3rd and 4th.
<b>Southern Rough-winged Swallow</b>	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>	One SP and 2 Mi on 29th and plenty at various sites on 30th.
<b>Barn Swallow</b>	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Plenty at various sites on 2nd.
<b>WAGTAILS &amp; PIPITS</b>	<i>Motacillidae</i>	
<b>Páramo Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus bogotensis</i>	One PP on 31st and one in a different spot PP on 3rd.
<b>WRENS</b>	<i>Troglodytidae</i>	
<b>Rufous Wren</b>	<i>Cinnycerthia unirufa</i>	One upper N-M on 28th.
<b>Sepia-brown (Sharpe's) Wren</b>	<i>Cinnycerthia olivascens</i>	One + heard SP on 29th, 1 + heard CSI on 1st and heard again there on 2nd.
<b>Sedge (Grass) Wren</b>	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	One watched singing and plenty heard PP and OPR on 3rd.
<b>House Wren</b>	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Noted daily at a few sites from 29th – 31st. Sometimes now treated as a separate sp. Southern House Wren.
<b>Mountain Wren</b>	<i>Troglodytes solstitialis</i>	Heard SP, Mi, CSI and GL on various dates, but only one seen CSI on 2nd.
<b>Grey-breasted Wood-wren</b>	<i>Henicorhina leucophrys</i>	Common: heard daily at various sites on 29th, 30th, and 2nd, but 2+ seen CSI on 1st.
<b>Song Wren</b>	<i>Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus</i>	Heard Mp on 30th.
<b>Southern Nightingale-wren</b>	<i>Microcerculus marginatus</i>	Two heard Si on 30th.
<b>THRUSHES</b>	<i>Turdidae</i>	
<b>Andean Solitaire</b>	<i>Myadestes ralloides</i>	Heard SP on 29th and 30th, plus one watched closely CSI on 2nd.
<b>Swainson's Thrush</b>	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	Two SP on 29th and 1 CSI on 1st.
<b>Great Thrush</b>	<i>Turdus fuscater</i>	Common at altitude: noted on 28th, 31st, and 2nd – 4th.
<b>Glossy-black Thrush</b>	<i>Turdus serranus</i>	One CSI on 1st and 2nd.
<b>Ecuadorian Thrush</b>	<i>Turdus maculirostris</i>	Just one SP on 29th.
<b>JAYS &amp; CROWS</b>	<i>Corvidae</i>	
<b>Turquoise Jay</b>	<i>Cyanolyca turcosa</i>	5+ N-M on 28th and 1 GL on 2nd and 6+ GL on 3rd.
<b>Inca Jay</b>	<i>Cyanocorax yncas</i>	Lots CSI early on 1st and sev CSI and e.r. on 2nd.
<b>NEW WORLD SPARROWS and BUNTINGS</b>	<i>Emberizidae - Emberizinae</i>	
<b>Rufous-collared Sparrow</b>	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>	Common: seen daily!
<b>Yellow-browed Sparrow</b>	<i>Ammodramus aurifrons</i>	Two Baeza on 2nd.
<b>Plumbeous Sierra-Finch</b>	<i>Phrygilus unicolor</i>	3+ Y on 28th, 6+ PP and area on 31st and 12+ there on 3rd.

<b>Variable Seedeater</b>	<i>Sporophila aurita</i>	Plenty at various sites on 30th and a male SP on 31st.
<b>Yellow-bellied Seedeater</b>	<i>Sporophila nigricollis</i>	2 mm SP on 29th.
<b>Chestnut-bellied Seedeater</b>	<i>Sporophila castaneiventris</i>	A superb m Baeza on 2nd.
<b>Lesser Seedfinch</b>	<i>Oryzoborus angolensis</i>	A m Mi on 29th and 2 Si on 30th.
<b>Páramo Seedeater</b>	<i>Catamenia homochroa</i>	Several PP+ on 3rd.
<b>Rufous-naped Brush-finch</b>	<i>Atlapetes rufinucha</i>	One fly-by along the OPR on 3rd.
<b>Slaty Brush-finch</b>	<i>Atlapetes schistaceus</i>	3+ GL on 3rd.
<b>White-winged Brush-finch</b>	<i>Atlapetes leucopterus</i>	Just 1 N-M on 28th.
<b>Chestnut-capped Brush-finch</b>	<i>Buarremon brunneinuca</i>	Singles CSI on 1st and 2nd.
<b>Crimson Finch</b>	<i>Rhodospingus cruentus</i>	A lovely m Si on 30th.
<b>PLUSH-CAPPED FINCH</b>	<i>Emberizidae - Catamblyrhynchinae</i>	
<b>Plush-capped Finch</b>	<i>Catamblyrhynchus diadema</i>	Just 1 very briefly CSI on 1st.
<b>CARDINALS &amp; GROSBEAKS</b>	<i>Emberizidae - Cardinalinae</i>	
<b>Southern Yellow Grosbeak</b>	<i>Pheucticus chrysogaster</i>	2 e.r. to Y on 28th and 5 GL on 3rd.
<b>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</b>	<i>Pheucticus leudovicianus</i>	A fine female photographed by Judith at CSI on 1st.
<b>Buff-throated Saltator</b>	<i>Saltator maximus</i>	Lots at SP, Mp and Si from 29th - 31st.
<b>Black-winged Saltator</b>	<i>Saltator atripennis</i>	Just 1 Si on 30th.
<b>TANAGERS</b>	<i>Emberizidae - Thraupinae</i>	
<b>Common Bush-tanager</b>	<i>Chlorospingus ophthalmicus</i>	Lots CSI on 1st and 2nd.
<b>Yellow-throated Bush-tanager</b>	<i>Chlorospingus flavigularis</i>	Sev Mp on 30th.
<b>Yellow-whiskered Bush-tanager</b>	<i>Chlorospingus parvirostris</i>	One CSI on 1st was originally mis-recorded as a yellow-throated bush-tanager.
<b>Ashy-throated Bush-tanager</b>	<i>Chlorospingus canigularis</i>	Singles SP and RS on 29th.
<b>Grey-hooded Bush-tanager</b>	<i>Cnemoscopus rubirostris</i>	Common GL on 3rd.
<b>Superciliaried Hemispingus</b>	<i>Hemispingus superciliaris</i>	Singles Y and N-M on 28th.
<b>Black-eared Hemispingus</b>	<i>Hemispingus melanotis</i>	3+ CSI on 2nd.
<b>Ochre-breasted Tanager</b>	<i>Chlorothraupis stolzmanni</i>	Sev. Mp on 30th.
<b>Summer Tanager</b>	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	A m CSI on 1st and 2nd.
<b>Lemon-(Flame-)rumped Tanager</b>	<i>Ramphocelus flammigerus</i>	Common and seen daily at various sites on 29th – 31st.
<b>Blue-grey Tanager</b>	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	6+ SP on 29th, plenty various sites on 30th and 1 e.r. on 2nd.
<b>Palm Tanager</b>	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	Plenty at various sites on 30th and 2 briefly e.r. on 2nd.
<b>Blue-capped Tanager</b>	<i>Thraupis cyanocephala</i>	2 CSI on 1st.
<b>Hooded Mountain-tanager</b>	<i>Buthraupis Montana</i>	2 GR on 2nd.
<b>Black-chested Mountain-tanager</b>	<i>Buthraupis eximia</i>	Singles Y and N-M on 28th.
<b>Scarlet-bellied Mountain-tanager</b>	<i>Anisognathus igniventris</i>	4+ Y on 28th.
<b>Blue-winged Mountain-tanager</b>	<i>Anisognathus somptuosus</i>	Three+ CSI on 1st and 2 there on 2nd.
<b>Thick-billed Euphonia</b>	<i>Euphonia lanirostris</i>	One m SP on 29th, and sev Mp and Si on 30th.

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<b>Orange-bellied Euphonia</b>	<i>Euphonia xanthogaster</i>	Plenty SP on 29th, and a m CSI on 1st.
<b>Golden Tanager</b>	<i>Tangara arthus</i>	Plenty SP+ on 29th and 1+ Mp on 30th.
<b>Silver-throated Tanager</b>	<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>	One RS on 30th.
<b>Saffron-crowned Tanager</b>	<i>Tangara xanthocephala</i>	Good numbers CSI on 1st and various sites on 2nd.
<b>Flame-faced Tanager</b>	<i>Tangara parzudakii</i>	Two+ SP on 29th, 1 CSI on 1st and 2 GR on 2nd.
<b>Blue-naped Chlorophonia</b>	<i>Chlorophonia cyanea</i>	One CSI on 1st.
<b>Glistening-green Tanager</b>	<i>Chlorochrysa phoenicotis</i>	1-2 Mp on 30th.
<b>Golden-naped Tanager</b>	<i>Tangara ruficervix</i>	Two N-M on 28th and 2+ CSI on 1st.
<b>Blue-necked Tanager</b>	<i>Tangara cyanicollis</i>	Singles SP on 29th and Mp on 30th.
<b>Golden-hooded Tanager</b>	<i>Tangara larvata</i>	A singles Si on 30th was a terrific find.
<b>Beryl-spangled Tanager</b>	<i>Tangara nigroviridis</i>	One N-M on 28th, a few CSI on 1st and a few various sites on 2nd.
<b>Blue-and-black Tanager</b>	<i>Tangara vassorii</i>	Singles GR on 2nd and GL on 3rd.
<b>Black-capped Tanager</b>	<i>Tangara heinei</i>	Two CSI on 1st and 2 GR on 2nd.
<b>Scarlet-thighed Dacnis</b>	<i>Dacnis venusta</i>	A m SP on 29th.
<b>Purple Honeycreeper</b>	<i>Cyanerpes caeruleus</i>	A pair Mp on 30th.
<b>White-sided Flowerpiercer</b>	<i>Diglossa albilatera</i>	One GL on 2nd.
<b>Glossy Flowerpiercer</b>	<i>Diglossa lafresnayii</i>	Plenty Y on 28th.
<b>Black Flowerpiercer</b>	<i>Diglossa humeralis</i>	Lots Y on 28th, 1 OPR on 31st and sev at various sites on 3rd.
<b>Bluish Flowerpiercer</b>	<i>Diglossopsis caerulescens</i>	Sev CSI on 1st and 2nd and 1+ GL on 3rd.
<b>Masked Flowerpiercer</b>	<i>Diglossopsis cyanea</i>	Plenty Y on 28th and sev GL and e.r. on 2nd.
<b>SWALLOW-TANAGER</b>	<i>Emberizidae - Tersiniinae</i>	
<b>Swallow-Tanager</b>	<i>Tersina viridis</i>	A f SP and 2 mm Mi on 29th, 1 m e.r. on 30th and a pair SP on 31st.
<b>BANANAQUIT</b>	<i>Coerebidae</i>	
<b>Bananaquit</b>	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	Just 1 Si on 30th.
<b>NEW WORLD WARBLERS</b>	<i>Parulidae</i>	
<b>Tropical Parula</b>	<i>Parula pitiayumi</i>	Plenty SP+ on 29th and sev Mp on 30th.
<b>Blackburnian Warbler</b>	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	Common. 1-2 daily from 28th – 30th and 2-10+ daily from 1st – 3rd especially at CSI.
<b>Blackpoll Warbler</b>	<i>Dendroica striata</i>	1-2 CSI on 2nd.
<b>Olive-crowned Yellowthroat</b>	<i>Geothlypis semiflava</i>	A m RS on 30th.
<b>Canada Warbler</b>	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	1 CSI on 1st and 3+ there on 2nd.
<b>Slate-throated Whitestart (Redstart)</b>	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>	Common on 29th and 30th in W and again on 1st and 2nd (CSI+) in E.
<b>Spectacled Whitestart (Redstart)</b>	<i>Myioborus melanocephalus</i>	A higher altitude species: plenty Y and N-M on 28th, 2+ GR and 1+ GL on 2nd and lots GL on 3rd.
<b>Black-crested Warbler</b>	<i>Basileuterus nigrocristatus</i>	One GL on 3rd.
<b>Buff-rumped Warbler</b>	<i>Basileuterus fulvicauda</i>	One Si on 30th.

<b>Russet-crowned Warbler</b>	<i>Basileuterus coronatus</i>	Two CSI on 2nd.
<b>Citrine Warbler</b>	<i>Basileuterus luetoviridis</i>	Three+ CSI on 2nd.
<b>Three-striped Warbler</b>	<i>Basileuterus tristriatus</i>	Four+ SP on 29th.
<b>Cinereous Conebill</b>	<i>Conirostrum cinereum</i>	One PL on 31st and 1 GL on 3rd.
<b>Blue-backed Conebill</b>	<i>Conirostrum sitticolor</i>	One Y on 28th.
<b>Capped Conebill</b>	<i>Conirostrum albifrons</i>	Two mm CSI on 1st, sev CSI on 2nd and 2 GL on 3rd.
<b>VIREOS</b>	<i>Vireonidae</i>	
<b>Black-billed Peppershrike</b>	<i>Cyclarhis nigrirostris</i>	5+ CSI on 2nd gave stunning views for this elusive species.
<b>Red-eyed Vireo</b>	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Common in W from 29th – 31st.
<b>Brown-capped Vireo</b>	<i>Vireo leucophrys</i>	Sev CSI on 1st and plenty there on 2nd.
<b>FINCHES</b>	<i>Fringillidae</i>	
<b>Hooded Siskin</b>	<i>Carduelis magellanicus</i>	A small flock of 6+ OPR on 3rd. ONLY this species was actually present. The possible male Andean Siskin was not (given some black on the throat of the bird seen) despite a different head pattern and was presumably a young male Hooded.
<b>Olivaceous Siskin</b>	<i>Carduelis olivacea</i>	A small group of 4+ at Baeza on 2nd was a treat.
<b>Yellow-bellied Siskin</b>	<i>Carduelis xanthogastra</i>	A superb m in the Mp car park trees on 30th.
<b>NEW WORLD ORIOLES</b>	<i>Icteridae</i>	
<b>Russet-backed Oropendola</b>	<i>Psarocolius angustifrons</i>	Two seen and lots heard CSI on 1st, and sev at CSI and e.r. on 2nd.
<b>Scarlet-rumped (Subtropical) Cacique</b>	<i>Cacicus uropygialis</i>	Just 1 CSI on 2nd.
<b>Yellow-billed Cacique</b>	<i>Amblycercus holosericeus</i>	A good flock CSI on 2nd.
<b>Shiny Cowbird</b>	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>	Sev e.r. on 30th.
<b>MAMMALS</b>		
<b>CARNIVORES - Mustelids</b>	<i>Carnivora - Mustelidae</i>	
<b>Tayra</b>	<i>Eira barbara</i>	One seen by one or two at CSI on 1st!
<b>EVEN-TOED UNGULATES - Camels</b>	<i>Artiodactyla - Camelidae</i>	
<b>Llama</b>	<i>Lama guanicoe</i>	Twelve+ e.r. on 31st, 2+ e.r. on 2nd and a few e.r. on 3rd were farmed animals.
<b>EVEN-TOED UNGULATES - Deer</b>	<i>Artiodactyla - Cervidae</i>	
<b>White-tailed Deer</b>	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	One PP on 31st was a surprise.
<b>RODENTS - Squirrels</b>	<i>Rodentia - Sciuridae</i>	
<b>Western Red-tailed Squirrel</b>	<i>Sciurus ?granatensis</i>	Two SP on 29th and 1 Mp on 30th.
<b>Grey-tailed Squirrel</b>	<i>Sciurus sp.</i>	Two CSI on both 1st and 2nd.
<b>RODENTS - Agoutis</b>	<i>Rodentia - Dasyproctidae</i>	

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**Black Agouti** *Dasyprocta fuliginosa* One Si on 30th seen by Judith.

**LAGOMORPHS - Rabbits & Hares***Lagomorpha - Leporidae*

**Brazilian Rabbit** *Sylvilagus brasiliensis* Plenty Y, PP and highland areas on 28th, 31st and again on 3rd.

*I would like to express my sincere thanks to you all for making this such an enjoyable trip. It was certainly something rather special, what with 3 birthdays, my 10-year anniversary as a guide, a 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and a formal retirement! A remarkable 'coincidence'!*

*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 under Mauricio's tutorage only really repeated by the hummingbirds at feeders on the mainland under Pablo's eye, though sedate the hummers were not! The 'almost everything's different in a flock in forest on the mainland' factor certainly kept us on our toes there too.*

*Highlights were too many to express here, but ranged from "the whole thing!" to single species such as the Waved Albatross experience or the hummingbirds at the feeders.*

*This winter I hope to add a new photopage to my website for both Galápagos and the extension, 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,*

*John Muddeman*

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