

**The  
Travelling  
Naturalist  
&  
Limosa  
Holidays**

**Galápagos & Ecuador**

**Thursday 25 October – Sunday 02 November 2007  
Ecuador extension to Sunday 11 November 2007**

# Galápagos Islands & Ecuador

Thursday 25 October - Saturday 02 November, 2007

**Principal leader:** Tim Earl  
**Local leader:** Darwin Alvarez  
**Skipper of M/Y Beluga:** Captain Santiago

**Highlights:**

- Two Bryde's Whales, one of which cut straight across our bows showing its distinctive rostrum ridges. Five were seen the following day including a female and calf.
- Galápagos Mockingbirds which always had time to come down and be friendly.
- The courtship of Waved Albatross, seen often on film but oh so wonderful in real life.
- Beluga was an excellent size for our group, the crew helpful to a fault and the food wonderful. Her only fault is the noise of engines when we are cruising but we soon got used to that.
- Dancing Blue-footed Boobies.
- Snorkelling, for many of us the first time we tried it, which 'just got better every time'.
- Walking on the amazing lava beds of western Isabela Island. We were so pleased that our tour included this remarkable part of the Galápagos.
- The tranquillity of several places we visited, including being paddled around mangrove swamps. It was easy to believe that nobody else was on earth.
- The shout of delight as our only Vermillion Flycatcher was found.
- Seeing Giant Tortoises in the wild.
- The walk on Española Island past Blue-footed Boobies, Swallow-tailed Gulls, Nazca Booby colony, courting Waved Albatrosses and ending at a fantastic blow-hole.
- The geology of the islands: various 'species' of lava, the 'hot-spot' and its associated volcanoes, collapsed calderas and plains of solidified magma.
- Perhaps most significant of all was following in the footsteps of Charles Darwin and seeing the finches and mockingbirds which shaped his ideas and gave rise to the Theory of Evolution.
- Bird voted top of the trip was Waved Albatross closely followed by Blue-footed Booby. Mammal voted to the same elevated height was Bottlenosed Dolphin, a late but spectacular contender which beat off Galápagos Sea-lion and Bryde's Whale. But really, they were all wonderful... even the snot-firing Marine Iguanas.

This was a brilliant tour with a super group of people who took great delight in the geology, plants, animals and birds of these amazing islands. We were doubly blessed with Darwin Alvarez as local guide. He was knowledgeable, patient, a great swimmer and first rate bloke to work with. In addition, however, as he was often addressed thus: "Darwin, what's this?" one had the sensation of being with his namesake Charles Darwin. As at least one group member referred to Beluga as The Beagle and hey-presto, we were there... back 172 years with the Great Man himself. Mention must also be made of Captain Santiago and the crew of Beluga who transported us around this remarkable archipelago in comfort, safely, punctually and with great consideration, kindness and food.

I enjoyed leading everyone around Galápagos and hope that some of you will join me on other Travelling Naturalist or Limosa Holidays tours soon.

**Tim Earl**

**Guernsey, November 2007**

**tim@naturalist.co.uk**

## **DAILY DIARY**

**Thursday 25 October** To Quito, Ecuador

All but two of us met at Heathrow terminal 2 for an uneventful but slightly late flight to Madrid where we were transferred to our boarding area in the architectural award-winning terminal 4... or at least to within half a kilometre of the gate. What a vast place it is. We were among the last to arrive at the aircraft to find that five of us had been upgraded to business class. A Kestrel was seen on take off thus adding Spain to this year's country-list.

The flight was uneventful arriving in Quito on time. After an easy immigration and baggage reclaim we were met by Enchanted Expeditions representative Fatima and transferred to the Grand Hotel Mercure which proved to be excellent.

Our body clocks allowed us to turn in on arrival and get up early with no pain. Some decided to stay up and enjoyed a snack at the hotel.

**Friday 26 October** To the Galápagos

Overcast on the mainland with temperature of 12°C in Quito and 22°C in Guayaquil.

We met Lez and Jean at our 5am breakfast which was excellent. They had arrived after us last evening flying in via Miami. Our departure for Guayaquil was on time and gave views of volcanoes to those on the left (port) side of the aircraft. Following refuelling we left for the Galápagos at 9am arriving at 10.50 after a second hot breakfast. Guayaquil provided views of Great-tailed Grackle for some while others had seen two Black Vultures and a couple of Great Egrets on final approach. Several Cattle Egrets were feeding on the airfield.

Things really started in earnest as we walked from the plane at Baltra airport stumbling into several Darwin's Finches... probably Small Ground Finches. Sadly, they proved what people had said before we came out to the Galápagos: Darwin's finches are notoriously difficult to identify. The great man had an advantage as he shot his specimens and was able to examine them up close comparing different birds each next to the other. Our guide Darwin (we rubbed our ears in disbelief when he introduced himself) Alvarez gave us a warm welcome and encouraged the purchase of postcards (more of that later), while waiting for the luggage which was identified and not seen again until it arrived in our cabins.

A Galápagos Dove and a Lava Lizard were seen before we took the short bus ride to Baltra harbour. What a sight greeted us. The MY Beluga looked brilliant at anchor in the bay. We were not welcomed at the harbour, however. Indeed one of the sleeping Galápagos Sea Lions growled at us for getting too close let alone suggesting it moved from its public-bench bed so that we could sit down. Magnificent Frigatebirds were soaring overhead, Common Noddies came past and... nodded at us, while the first Blue-footed Boobies passed overhead. This was a great start. And it got even better when the dingy taking us to our cruise-vessel was circled by an Elliot's Storm-petrel.

The MY Beluga is fascinating. The stained pine finish gives her public areas a graceful quality while the cabins are spacious with good sized bathrooms. With an original group size of 14 we had her for our exclusive use, a wonderful treat.

We sailed for North Seymour immediately while allocating cabins and within 30 minutes could hear the anchor being dropped. Galápagos Shearwaters and a lone Galápagos Shark were spotted while on passage but a leaping Manta Ray spotted by Darwin could not be located. Our arrival was marked by the discovery of bright blue seabirds, a really puzzling sight for me until I realised that white-bellied Galápagos Shearwaters were reflecting the colour of the water.

After a delicious lunch we waited for the ship's whistle to blast summoning us to the mandatory safety drill which, in true Galápagos National Park style, was punctuated with gasps as individuals noted passing Red-billed Tropicbirds, Swallow-tailed Gulls and, for a group 'oooooh', a Pacific Green Turtle which popped up to watch us try on our lifejackets. A quiet hour followed (we were too excited for a siesta) in which Nazca Boobies were seen and many more Red-billed Tropicbirds came past. Hundreds of Galápagos Sea-lions were on a distant sand-bar and more sharks swam past. Using a scope on the cliff nearby gave great views of Sally-lightfoot Crabs and more Swallow-tailed Gulls, a surprisingly chunky species.

The first trip ashore in rubber boats known as pangas was interesting as quite a swell was running. Their drivers Anhil and Georgie (pronounced hor-hey) are greatly experienced and we were quickly ashore safely. It took ages to set off, however, as interesting things kept popping up: Noddies feeding on small fish forced to the surface by Yellow-finned Tuna, sea-lions torpedoing past, and many birds patrolling the low cliff-top within inches of us.

Our two-hour walk was slow, gentle, fascinating and had the bonus of over-running. There was just so much to see and investigate that we shot through our 5pm departure time in what seemed like seconds. Animals even came to us as we walked along the well-marked path. Blue-footed Boobies danced for us, male Magnificent Frigatebirds inflated their throat sacks waving wings at passing females in excitement, Small Ground Finches, Galápagos Doves and Yellow Warblers perched in the Incense Trees (also called Palo Santo trees) to get us on their visitor check-lists. Several green-sheened Great Frigatebirds were spotted, the first by Rob, and we became expert at separating their golden-headed young from the white-headed Magnificent chicks.

Returning to the beach we were able to compare Land and Marine Iguanas (the latter looked like piles of dead seaweed when gathered together in groups). Rob was leading the charge once more spotting Galápagos Martins and we had great views of Noddies perching on the heads of Brown Pelicans before darting into the water after doubly unfortunate fish which had escaped from the pelicans' huge beak-pouches. A Black Rat, victim of an extermination programme which had been totally successful in the case of this shrivelled victim, was found and we noted three species of wintering or migrating waders – two Turnstones plus single Sanderling and Wandering Tattler.

All great things have to be brought to a close and as a most beautiful sun set we arrived at the Beluga tired, late and elated.

Our first daily brief for the following day was followed by a party to meet the crew and introduce ourselves to them, another delicious meal and a weary call-over before retiring to our cabins.

**Saturday 27 October** Española (Hood Island) Gardener Bay and Suarez Point

Overcast most of the day, some garua (misty drizzle) early,

I started a tradition on another ship of meeting every day between 6am and breakfast for a wildlife vigil. It worked well in the Galápagos too. When we gathered in the early morning light with cups of tea or coffee Beluga was anchored off Española after an eight-hour over-night voyage which had been rather noisy for some who appeared bleary-eyed.

The pay-off was seeing the wild world start its daily round. In particular we saw our first Wedge-rumped Storm Petrel, several Madeiran Storm Petrels, Nazca Boobies and a lone Whimbrel of the North American race *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus* (some say it is a separate species). Several Pacific Green Turtles were seen close to the boat (one set of tracks could be seen up the beach) and lots of Galápagos Sea-lions rolled their way past us.

We went ashore via a wet landing after breakfast and spent a gentle two hours bimbly along the sandy beach watching a range of wildlife. First to attract attention were the inquisitive Española Mockingbirds which were gasp-inducingly tame. Shift dried seaweed with a toe and they swooped in to feed on any invertebrates disturbed (a good example of man replacing the natural actions of tortoises, surely? – Ed).

Darwin's Finches were next up as entertainers – we saw all three of the island's species together: Small Ground Finch was becoming familiar by now allowing us to compare with Large Cactus Finch which had a huge beak. A lone Warbler Finch in contrast had evolved a small thin beak and was much paler than the other two.

A Wandering Tattler allowed some to get photographs, turtles and sea-lions were watched swimming in the body of incoming rollers while Marine Iguanas, bigger and brighter than those on North Seymour, chewed happily on Sea Lettuce. A Galapagos Hawk was spotted over Gardener Island, the first of a few seen during the day. They seemed more like corvids in flight with quite pointed wings even when soaring.

Great fun and games ensued back on Beluga as we selected and squeezed into snorkelling gear. There was much self criticism of body shape, accentuated by the rubber suits, but kindly nobody made comment about anyone else. It mattered little once we were in quite deep water swimming along the base of Gardener Island's cliffs. It was more like flying than swimming as the water was so clear we could see Sting Rays on the bottom five metres below us. Fish appeared in shoals and we wondered at their stunning range of colours. Darwin helped us to identify many of them as listed below.

Towards the end of the swim we were ambushed by a young male Galápagos Sea-lion which sped towards us weaving wildly while releasing a stream of bubbles. The creature took delight in our mock lunges and sped around, under and on occasions, when we dived, above us. It was thrilling to sport with the creature which clearly enjoyed its regular contact with *Homo sapiens*. Thanks boy, we did too.

Fish soup started our lunch, banishing any cool feelings we might have after the swim (although nobody was cold) and after another delicious meal we retired to the decks or our cabins to sleep it all off.

The afternoon's activities began at 3pm by which time we had anchored off Suarez Point at the western end of Española. A strong swell was running and it looked as if we would have a wet 'dry-landing'. In the event it was decided to land on a beach in a true 'wet landing'. From the start it was obvious that there was more wildlife on the island than previous walks. Marine Iguanas were lying in heaps for warmth, occasionally one would snort out grains of salt from its nostrils. Blue-footed Boobies were nesting in good numbers and we were able to watch courtship between many of the pairs. Overhead were a few Magnificent Frigatebirds, lots of Swallow-tailed Gulls and Nazca Boobies – we found colonies of both the latter a little later in the afternoon. Out at sea hundreds of Galápagos Shearwaters were whizzing past accompanied by boobies and our first Wave Albatrosses. These looked like jumbo-jets compared with the Airbus boobies and ATP shearwaters. Two American Oystercatchers were roosting on rocks along with several more active Wandering Tattlers.

Our progress was impeded by the quantity of birds and animals we encountered. And the experience was enhanced by the excellent organisation of groups visiting these oh-so popular islands. Each cruise boat is given an itinerary it has to adhere to ensuring that there are never more than three at any site. The wildlife guides then sort out the order in which groups go ashore ensuring that they do not run into each other. The result is that large numbers of people visit the islands and enjoy what is close to a pristine experience.

Moving up onto the island, we studied the seabird colonies (I was desperate to push on to see the nesting albatrosses but we rightly took the visit at a snail's pace to get the most from it) and watched Galápagos Doves at close quarters. Sleeping Galápagos Sea-lions were everywhere and we had to be careful not to step on them.

We eventually arrived at the area in which Waved Albatrosses nest and were greeted by the sight of a pair conducting their intricate courtship ritual. It was fascinating and we watched for some time before dragging ourselves away. Even this was difficult as four Galápagos Hawks turned up to distract us. Our last main stop was on a cliff-top overlooking a blowhole which was sending great spouts of water into the air... larger than usual, we were told, due to the big swell.

Returning to Beluga (happily later than planned again) we rushed preparation for the evening and turned up at 6.45pm to be briefed about the next day's activities.

**Sunday 28 October** Floreana, Champion Island and the Post Box

Overcast at first then sunny and warm, 26°C

I awoke to views of Venus and Saturn from my cabin window but cloud came up and by daybreak it was overcast but warm. We were anchored off Cormorant Point, Floreana, and our early morning wildlife watch resumed. It produced a new species in the form of a Great Blue Heron spotted some distance away on a stack. Our regulars – Magnificent Frigatebirds, Blue-footed and Nazca Boobies, Galápagos Shearwaters and Elliot's Storm Petrels were in abundance. Green Turtles and Galápagos Sea-lions were also common.

Breakfast had been brought forward to 6.45am to allow time later in the day to visit Champion Island. We were in the pangas by 7.30 and making our way along a cliff to the beach and a wet landing.

There were many waders on the lapli cinder strand, all picking around in washed up seaweed. New to our list were Semipalmated and Grey Plovers but Turnstones, several Sanderling and two Whimbrel were good to see too.

Heading inland we soon reached a salt-lagoon which held nine Greater Flamingos, 15 White-cheeked Pintails and a Wilson's Phalarope. A pair of Yellow Warblers fed happily on insects found on the salty sand at our feet.

Darwin led the group off but some of us lingered after I heard a 'peep' call – several waders had flown in including two Semipalmated Sandpipers and a few Black-necked Stilts. Suddenly, we noticed two Least Sandpipers at our feet and marvelled at their size: hardly bigger than the Yellow Warblers yet had migrated here from the high Arctic.

Hurrying to join the others, we stopped to admire hundreds of Fiddler Crabs on a tiny beach under a few black mangrove trees. The holes of Ghost Crabs were also seen (but not their occupants) as was a lone Semi-terrestrial Hermit Crab.

We caught up with the others who pointed out a Floreana Lava Lizard and a stunning male Medium Ground Finch. In return we showed them the waders on the other side of the pool. Returning to the beach we stopped to admire a splendid Galápagos Flycatcher which behaved obligingly.

A snorkelling session followed with most people enjoying greater success with the equipment and seeing more as a result. Top of the oohs were lots of Pacific Green Turtles which swam beneath us and starfish of at least three kinds including the oddly-named Chocolate-chip Starfish.

The fish seen were as colourful and dramatic as yesterday's but sadly no sharks turned up... maybe next time. All agreed that the experience was like flying as we looked through clear water at the fantastic life beneath. There were oohs of a different kind when I fell forward getting into the panga and dislocated a finger which looked a bit grotesque. Happily it popped back fairly easily and all was well.

Our next visit was unscheduled – we sailed around part of Champion Island (landing was not allowed) looking for the rare and endangered Charles Mockingbird. Two showed up well after a few minutes and we were able to contrast its Pied Wagtail-like appearance with that of the Española Mockingbird. It was fascinating to think that the appearance of these species in particular led Darwin to his theories of evolution.

Post Office Bay was our next landing and we made use of the special barrel to send our cards, bought at the airport, back to loved ones. Whether a passing ship will have passengers inclined to deliver them only time will tell.

After yet another award-winning lunch we set off for the five-hour crossing to Santa Cruz Island and Puerto Ayora. Much of the time was spent on deck watching the sea for dolphins and whales, without success. The fact that nobody left the covered deck (our chef Pedro even brought pop-corn up to sustain us) was testament to their tenacity: the reward was a brilliant succession of seabirds including 22 Waved Albatrosses, two Galápagos Petrels, a rare and endangered species, plus lots of more familiar tropicbirds, boobies, shearwaters and storm petrels. An Arctic Skua was a good migrant to see as was a flock of 15 or so Red-necked Phalaropes which settled on the sea as we watched. As another stunning sunset was enjoyed I found what was probably a Markham's Sooty Storm Petrel, a species with no white rump and a fitting reward for the time we all put in.

It was pleasant to be anchored instead of motoring overnight, despite a sloppy swell in the harbour.

**Tuesday 29 October** Santa Cruz Island and Giant Tortoises

Overcast with sunny spells, cloudy on Santa Cruz, warm 29°C but cooler in the highlands

Waking up in Punta Ayora after a good night's sleep most of us met between 6 and 6.30am for the wildlife watch. Lots of Cattle Egrets were seen flying from a roost and a single Great Egret crossed the harbour towards a Great Blue Heron in a mangrove tree.

We went ashore at 8am and walked up to the Darwin Centre via the town centre, a jetty and the fish market. The jetty produced excellent views of Lava Gulls which had the most interesting calls: a little bark followed by the a call similar to Laughing Gull and ending with the maniacal laugh of a Kookaburra. Brown Pelicans begging for fish heads and guts were joined by a Great Blue Heron. It gave up – an example one of the pelicans should have followed, but did not. Instead it grabbed a huge fish head which fitted well into its beak-pouch but was too big to be swallowed. Eventually the bird got rid of it. We were all of a mind: *'A wonderful bird is the pelican. Its beak can hold more than its belly can.'*

Whimbrel. Wandering Tattler and Semipalmated Plover were seen on the muddy creek while a Yellow-crowned Night Heron roosting in a mangrove evaded detection until Kay came passed at the back of the group.

The Darwin Centre is famous for its breeding programme of the various sub-species of Galápagos Tortoises but it also has a great range of endemic plants which attract a correspondingly wide variety of finches. Button, Black, White and Red Mangroves were all examined as was the highly toxic Poison Apple (everything associated with this tree is lethal – fruit, leaves, bark, thorns, sap, probably even the carbon dioxide its gives off – I held my breath). After seeing the breeding programme we wandered around various pens looking for, and finding, Lonesome George, a tortoise which is the last of its kind.

On the bird front we saw two male and a female Large Ground Finches, three female Vegetarian Finches and a couple of Smooth-billed Anis.

Lunch was at a restaurant which seemed to be surrounded by Small Ground Finches until Keith wheedled out a superb male Vegetarian Finch. Driving higher (in a bus) we reached Los Gemelos, the Twin Craters – two huge sink-holes created when molten lava dropped away down the mountain and the crispy crust sank into the ground. The vegetation in them was lush and green while on the rim were several flowering plants including *Ageratum coyizoides*, with pretty blue petals.

A female Vermillion Flycatcher raised hopes of a bright red male but we could not find one although Small and Large Tree Finches and loads of Woodpecker Finches entertained us royally. Michael was particularly glum at having missed seeing the brilliantly coloured male Vermillion Flycatcher so I asked the bus driver to proceed slowly down the airport road in the hope of finding one. He and Kay G called simultaneously when one was spotted inducing a great roar of delight from Michael.

Somewhat elated, we drove to Rancho Primisius where there were many huge wild Galápagos Tortoises which we were advised not to approach closely for fear of habituating them to humans (this rule seemed a little over the top to me. Visitors should be told not to touch them but surely pictures comparing sizes with people are okay?). A flock of nine feeding Whimbrel took off calling loudly and a few minutes later 30 or so went past in V-formation. After a coffee, made from Galápagos beans, or ice cream we offered the young man selling refreshments, a woman from the gift stall and a couple of other lads to join us for a lift to their homes in Punta Ayora.

We had an early briefing and dinner before sailing for Isabela Island at 8pm.

**Wednesday 30 October** Isabela Island

Clear and sunny, a few clouds 29°C, cold water 15°C

Our morning wildlife watch started 30mins earlier than normal as we had been motoring all night and were approaching the west coast of Isabela, an area known for cetaceans. As ever we were rewarded – not by seeing dolphins or whales but with great views of our first Flightless Cormorants. At least 20 were seen including six on a guano-stained lava platform.

Streams of Blue-footed Boobies were coming out from a nearby roost and scores of Galápagos Shearwaters were feeding in the wide bay we anchored in. Most birds and animals were quite familiar to us by now but a passing Flamingo and one more Madeiran Storm Petrel delighted us.

The morning trip ashore at Punta Moreno was a surprise and delight. We stepped onto a volcanic landscape with pahoehoe (rope-lava) and ah-ah lava interspersed with solidified rivers of magma. Lava and Candelabra Cacti, Darwin's Shrub and *Acamassi* plants growing among the rocks. Lava tubes beneath the crust had collapsed in places creating deep fissures – it was like looking into the centre of the earth. And in other places retreating magma had caused great indentations a little like badly sunken sponge cakes.

Sea water had seeped into some of these indentations and, as ever, life had sprung up. The first pond we investigated had a *Cyperus* sedge fringe, Spot-winged Gliders and Golden-tipped Damselflies buzzed around or clung to the reeds and Pond Skaters rowed across the surface. Beneath lurked death in the form of a large Barred Snapper which must have gained entry as an egg carried on a bird's foot or which drifted through the lava fissures. Once in the pond it would have eaten all its fellows to become Leviathan of the Pond.

Our second pond was even more impressive with three Flamingos, lots of Moorhens and four White-cheeked Pintails. A duck which slipped into a sedge-bed at the far end was probably a Blue-winged Teal but I cannot be sure. Magnificent Frigatebirds were using the pond as a bath hitting the water with a splash, drifting upwards for a minute or two while the salt in their plumage dissolved and then shaking their wings in flight with a loud noise which sounded like drying laundry flapping in the wind.

We had spent too long investigating (a feature of this tour in which there is so much to see) and had to change into snorkelling gear quickly once back on board Beluga. The water was colder than previously and had less visibility but our swim produced another set of wonderful submarine experiences. These included swimming with Pacific Green Turtles which seemed amazingly tame, watching a Sea Horse found by Darwin and discovering all three urchins – Pencil, Black Spiny and Green.

Our afternoon trip was in the pangas to explore the Elizabeth Bay mangroves, starting with a couple of monsters which were 45 years old and as many feet high, dropping aerial roots down from this great height. An inlet led to an old lava run on which Galápagos Penguins were nesting. We saw and heard four, two of which investigated us by swimming under the pangas. 'Tree-lions' were the next target: these were Galápagos Sea-lions which were sleeping on thick mangrove branches quite unconcerned by our presence. Galapagos Mockingbirds were plentiful as were 'Mangrove Warblers', the local race of Yellow Warbler considered by some to be a separate species. Eventually the time came for us to leave and we returned to Beluga in rather choppy conditions.

**Wednesday 31 October** Isabela, Fernandina and Whale Bay

Overcast with long sunny spells, 29°C

With a great deal to do today I was given permission to crack the whip and move things along a little. My first suggestion was that those who were woken by the Beluga sailing at 5am get up for a cuppa and an early wildlife watch. Once again we were rewarded for our efforts with shoals of yellow-finned Tuna forcing small fish to the surface where they attracted the attention of thousands of Galápagos Shearwaters, hundreds of Common Noddies and a fair number of Blue-footed Boobies. A small pod of Bottlenosed Dolphins was seen at a distance as we arrived at Urvina Bay still on Isabela's west coast.

Breakfast was advanced to 6.45am and at 7.30 we left for the bay and a fairly long walk over a section of lava which had been under the sea until 1954 when volcanic activity raised it to its present giddy height of two metres above sea level. We admired calciferous worm tubes, barnacle shells and a great deal of coral, especially at the farthest end of our walk. Here huge brain corals sat like boulders next to the path.

The area was alive with scores of Galápagos Mockingbirds and Darwin's Finches: we identified Vegetarian, Small and Medium Ground Finches. Giant Galápagos Tortoises were seen too – timid creatures so unlike their cousins we had seen on Santa Cruz. The five Land Iguanas we saw were huge impressive beasts worthy of the large breeding holes they dig in the sand. Among the many plants we were shown were Lance-leafed Darwin's Shrub (another daisy plant), Darwin's Cotton, which has red and yellow leaves on the same bush, and Yellow Cordia. Poking around on the beach like schoolchildren on a trip to the seaside, we saw Lizard Fish and Mullet, Hermit Crabs and on the beach-head Semi-terrestrial Hermit Crabs. A Feral Cat was seen crossing the beach, a pathetic creature which looked starved.

Plans for snorkelling were abandoned as the visibility was down to one metre so those who wanted to cool off swam from Beluga. I won the competition for best whale impersonation, apparently. Beluga then sailed for Punta Espinosa on Fernandina. Many Red-necked and Grey Phalaropes were seen on the way.

Landing at the point was easy although walking up the lava bed to the top of the beach was more of a challenge – we took great care not to tread on any of the hundreds of Marine Iguanas sunning themselves and entering head-nodding battles which sometimes developed into jaw-locking contests of strength.

Keith suddenly shouted as he spotted a Dark-billed Cuckoo which posed well on rocks and in mangrove trees for all to see. The group was led off down to colonies of Flightless Cormorants and Blue-footed Boobies while I studied the sea for whale spouts. I was able to tell Captain Santiago where I thought the animals might be seen.

A Blue Heron, Whimbrels making light work of Sally Lightfoot Crabs, a leg at a time, and lots of Common Noddies wheeling over water boiling with small fish driven up to the surface by Galápagos Penguins were admired before we returned to the boat and set off across Whale Bay. It lived up to its name as we saw two Bryde's Whales.

I had seen their spouts from the land and was able to direct Captain Santiago straight to them. He manoeuvred the boat so that one came up alongside and across our bows, so close we were able to see the three rostrum ridges in front of the spout which distinguish this species. This generated great excitement in me as they were the first whales several members of the group had seen (and a lifer mammal for me).

Crossing Whale Bay was full of excitement as we saw many Galápagos Petrels, a most beautiful bird, some sitting on the water. Phalaropes were abundant too with thousands of Red-necked and almost as many Greys. Madeiran and Wedge-rumped Storm Petrels were seen making for a first rate trip.

Geologists had their interests stimulated as we approached Cape Berkeley where volcanic activity had produced huge cliffs, a vast tunnel through the rock to a lake we could not see and, after rounding the point, the remains of a caldera which we sailed across, nearing the Equator. A small colony of Galápagos Fur Sea-lions (they are smaller, have short snouts, longer flippers and bigger eyes than Galápagos Sea-lions).

At about 6.15 we congregated in Captain Santiago's office (the Bridge) to watch as Beluga slowed and finally crossed into the Northern Hemisphere. To much flash photography we raised a glass in celebration.

The boat continued through the night finally mooring at about 1.45am off Point Egas, James Island.

**Thursday 1 November** Puerto Egas, James Island and Bartolomé Island

Overcast but clearing to give a fine day 32°C

Rain overnight left the seats damp so we assembled on the dry top deck for our pre-breakfast vigil. Yellow-finned Tuna were pushing small fish to the surface to be snatched by Common Noddies. They in turn were being harassed by Magnificent Frigatebirds which snatched the fish. Pacific Green Turtles and Galápagos Sea-lions were in the water and Blue-footed Boobies wheeled overhead. It really was idyllic.

A wet landing at Puerto Egas was followed by a short walk across the island on which the outstanding species were Galápagos Flycatchers, Large and Medium Ground Finches, several Whimbrels, six Turnstones and three Semipalmated Plovers.

Our target species was Galápagos Fur Sea-lion which Darwin found for us on a wave-washed rock. A second was found sleeping in a crevice: their preferred resting sites are out of the sun. He explained that the animals have large eyes because they are nocturnal but that Galápagos Fur Sea-lions avoid hunting at times of the full moon when they are liable to attack by sharks and Orcas. A Yellow-crowned Night Heron was also found and admired at close quarters – so close that a passing American did not realise he was a couple of metres from the bird.

We enjoyed a snorkelling session from the beach which took us out to nearby rocks that were teeming with fish including Orange-bellied Triggerfish, Panamic Sergeant Major, Blue-chinned Parrotfish and Galápagos Damsels. A couple of Hieroglyphicfish (Giant Hawkfish) were getting aggressive as they were clearly fighting over territory.

Dolphin-spotting was our next activity as we motored to Bartolomé Island. Poor views were had of both Bottlenosed and Spinner Dolphins plus the occasional Manta Ray hurling itself out of the water. A Red-footed Booby was seen resting on a Nazca Booby colony just before we anchored for lunch.

Our well-structured day continued with the last, and some said best, snorkelling adventure of the trip. We swam with Galápagos Penguins. About eight were in the sunken caldera we swam in, four on land the others bobbing in the sea like long black and white corks. Swimming up to those on a platform just above the sea, I was lifted up by a wave to within a metre of the birds. They turned not a feather and continued preening, billing and cooing. So unconcerned were they that when I turned around some minutes later the romantic pair were consummating their union. Two of the birds swimming allowed me to approach them and swim alongside gently for some time. When they stopped I did too. And then suddenly one came right up to my face mask and pecked at the glass. It was an amazing moment for me but seeming not the penguin which swam off with its pal leaving behind an astonished member of the human race.

The snorkellers returned (reluctantly for this was a brilliant session) to Beluga, changed and we all went ashore to climb the 110-metre peak on Bartolomé, happily served by a boardwalk to protect the fragile volcanic surface. That achieved we came down again keen to start a short whale-watching cruise on our way to Black Turtle Cove on Santa Cruz Island. We had seen dolphins leaping, Manta Rays hurling themselves out of the sea and whale spouts so were eager to get afloat.

Our expectations were met in abundance. Within minutes I again directed Captain Santiago towards surfacing whales and once more we encountered firstly two animals, then a third followed by a female and calf. This was as good as whale-watching gets. In addition we saw a spout on three occasions which veered left instead of shooting straight into the air – a characteristic of Sperm Whale. Sadly, we never saw the animal and thus it had to go down as a 'possible'.

Excitement over we turned and headed towards Santa Cruz and our mooring spot for the night. Most went down to their cabins but some of us stayed on the observation deck watching the occasional Galápagos Petrel go past when leaping dolphins were spotted ahead. Within minutes we were among the biggest pod of Bottlenosed Dolphins I have ever seen. There were probably more than 100 leaping out of the water, surfing our stern waves and generally enjoying themselves.

What a finale...

**Friday 2 November** Black Turtle Cove and return to Quito

Sunny and 27°C in Galápagos, cloudy with rain in Quito 17°C

Our last morning together followed by our only meal as a group around one table.

We started the day with a gentle panga ride around Black Turtle Cove at 6am watching White-tipped and Black-tipped Reef Sharks, Turtles for the last time and birds which included our first Striated Heron. The crew organised us and our luggage after breakfast and we were soon at the airport waiting for the (delayed) flight to Quito. Arriving too late for the booked city tour, we transferred by bus to the Mercure Hotel with Christian (our driver for the next week). He took us down to La Ronda restaurant where a private room accommodated our good spirits and local musicians entertained us. We particularly like the rain-maker instrument.

Farewells were said to those leaving for the UK in the morning and we turned in.

**ANNOTATED CHECK LIST**

E = species endemic to the Galápagos EB = endemic breeding species

**BIRDS**

<b>WILDFOWL</b>		<b>Family Anatidae</b>	
1	White-cheeked Pintail (EB)	<i>Anas bahamensis galapagensis</i>	About 20 on Floreana lagoon. one at Ranch Primisius. four at Elizabeth Bay.
<b>PENGUINS</b>		<b>Family Spheniscidae</b>	
2	Galápagos Penguin (E)	<i>Spheniscus mendiculus</i>	Seen on four days with a maximum of 60 along the west coast of Isabela. snorkellers swam with them off Bartolomé.
<b>ALBATROSSES</b>		<b>Family Diomedidae</b>	
3	Waved Albatross	<i>Phoebastria irrorata</i>	Many individuals and a diffuse colony on Española. Voted bird of the trip.
<b>PETRELS &amp; SHEARWATERS</b>			<b>Family Procellariidae</b>
4	Galápagos (Dark-rumped) petrel (E)	<i>Pterodroma phaeopygia phaeopygia</i>	Two between Floreana and Santa Cruz. an amazing 43 as we crossed Whale Bay, Isabela. This was one of the top trip birds.
5	Galápagos Shearwater (E)	<i>Puffinus subalaris</i>	The 'blue shearwater' first seen off North Seymour was common daily, sometimes abundant.
<b>STORM PETRELS</b>			<b>Family Hydrobatidae</b>
6	Elliot's White-vented Storm Petrel (EB)	<i>Oceanites gracilis galapagoensis</i>	Common between the islands, in bays and around Beluga when she was at anchor.
7	Wedge-rumped Storm Petrel (EB)	<i>Oceanodroma tethys tethys</i>	Two off Española Island. two between Floreana and Santa Cruz. three off Isabela. two on the way to Bartolomé.
8	Band-rumped Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma castro</i>	About 15 seen over five days.
9	Markham's Sooty Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma markhami</i>	One, probably of this species, between Floreana and Santa Cruz.
<b>FLAMINGOS</b>			<b>Family Phoenicopteridae</b>
10	Greater Flamingo (EB)	<i>Phoenicopus roseus glyphorhynchus</i>	Nine on Floreana lagoon. three on the lava-walk at Punta Moreno, Isabela.
<b>HERONS, BITTERNS</b>		<b>Family Ardeidae</b>	
11	Yellow-crowned Night Heron (EB)	<i>Nyctanassa violacea pauper</i>	Immature on Santa Cruz. an adult at Puerto Egas, James Island.
12	Lava Heron (E)	<i>Butorides sundevalli</i>	Seen on six days. maximum six on our final mangrove panga trip at Black Turtle Cove.
13	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	One on the final mangrove panga trip at Black Turtle Cove.
14	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Several on the airstrip at Guayaquil. one on Española, a rare bird for this island. common on Santa Cruz.
15	Great Blue Heron (EB)	<i>Ardea herodias cognata</i>	One on Floreana, three on Santa Cruz. three on the final mangrove panga trip at Black Turtle Cove.
16	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	A few seen on landing at Guayaquil. one at Punta Ayora, Santa Cruz. one at Punta Moreno.
<b>TROPICBIRDS</b>			<b>Family Phaethontidae</b>

17	Red-billed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>	Many off North Seymour. and nesting on Hood, Floreana and Champion islands.
	<b>FRIGATEBIRDS</b>		<b>Family Fregatidae</b>
18	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	Abundant daily.
19	Great Frigatebird	<i>Fregata minor</i>	A few adults and about six chicks on North Seymour.
	<b>PELICANS</b>		<b>Family Pelecanidae</b>
20	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	Common daily.
	<b>GANNETS, BOOBIES</b>		<b>Family Sulidae</b>
21	Blue-footed Booby	<i>Sula nebouxii</i>	A good colony on North Seymour gave us opportunities to watch the adults dancing and feeding young. common daily.
22	Red-footed Booby	<i>Sula sula</i>	One on a stack of the north coast of James Island.
	<b>CORMORANTS</b>		<b>Family Phalacrocoracidae</b>
23	Flightless Cormorant (E)	<i>Phalacrocorax harrisi</i>	About 50 on arrival at Isabela and the following day.
	<b>NEW WORLD VULTURES</b>		<b>Family Cathartidae</b>
24	American Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	One or two seen on landing at Guayaquil.
	<b>KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES</b>		<b>Family Accipitridae</b>
25	Galápagos Hawk (E)	<i>Buteo galapagoensis</i>	Two soaring off Española (Hood) Island, six more seen that day. three on Bartolomé.
	<b>RAILS, CRAKES, COOTS</b>		<b>Family Rallidae</b>
26	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	One in a tortoise 'wallow' on Santa Cruz. about 10 on the lava-walk at Punta Moreno.
	<b>OYSTERCATCHERS</b>		<b>Family Haematopidae</b>
27	American Oystercatcher (EB)		<i>Haematopus palliatus</i> Recorded on five days with five on St James and Bartolomé islands.
	<b>STILTS, AVOCETS</b>		<b>Family Recurvirostridae</b>
28	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	Seven at Point Cormorant.
	<b>PLOVERS</b>		<b>Family Charadriidae</b>
29	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	One at Point Cormorant.
30	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	Seen on four days, maximum three at Bartolomé Island.
	<b>SANDPIPERS, SNIPES</b>		<b>Family Scolopacidae</b>
31	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Common daily. A flock of 30 seen flying in V-formation and one observed dismembering a Sally-lightfoot Crab.
32	Wandering Tattler	<i>Heteroscelus incanus</i>	Common daily. with up to 15 seen in a day.
33	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Recorded on four days, maximum 15.
34	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Recorded on two days, maximum 10.
35	Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	Two at Point Cormorant.
36	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	Two at Point Cormorant.
37	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	One on the lagoon at Point Cormorant.
38	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Thousands seen around Isabela Island.
39	Red Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Thousands seen around Isabela Island.

**GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS**

40 Lava Gull (E) *Larus fuliginosus*

41 Swallow-tailed Gull (E) *Creagrus furcatus*

42 Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*

**SKUAS**

43 Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

**PIGEONS, DOVES**

44 Common Pigeon *Columba livia*

45 Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*

46 Galápagos Dove (E) *Zenaida galapagoensis*

**CUCKOOS**

47 Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*

**TYRANT FLYCATCHERS**

48 Vermilion Flycatcher (EB) *Pyrocephalus rubinus nanus*

49 Galápagos Flycatcher (E) *Myiarchus magnirostris*

**SWALLOWS, MARTINS**

50 Galápagos Martin (E) *Progne modesta*

**MOCKINGBIRDS**

51 Galápagos Mockingbird (E) *Nesomimus parvulus*

52 Charles (Floreana) Mockingbird (E) *Nesomimus trifasciatus*

53 Hood Mockingbird (E) *Nesomimus macdonaldi*

**NEW WORLD WARBLERS**

54 Mangrove Warbler (E) *Dendroica erithachorides*

**NEW WORLD SPARROWS**

55 Large Ground Finch (E) *Geospiza magnirostris*

56 Medium Ground Finch (E) *Geospiza fortis*

57 Small Ground Finch (E) *Geospiza fuliginosa*

58 Common Cactus Finch (E) *Geospiza scandens*

59 Large Cactus Finch (E) *Geospiza conirostris*

60 Vegetarian Finch (E) *Camarhynchus crassirostris*

**Family Laridae**

About 10 around the fish market on Santa Cruz. one hitched a ride on the port panga as we left Urvina Bay, a regular occurrence apparently.

About 10 pairs on North Seymour. two mobbed by Magnificent Frigates off Española. maximum 250 around Hood Island.

Common daily. seen perched on Brown Pelicans' heads off North Seymour.

**Family Stercorariidae**

One seen on the crossing between Floreana and Santa Cruz.

**Family Columbidae**

Common in towns.

Our first bird in Ecuador.

A few almost daily.

**Family Cuculidae**

Seen on three days, maximum 10 on Santa Cruz.

**Family Tyrannidae**

A female raised hopes on Santa Cruz and these were realised when a male was watched later.

Seen on four days.

**Family Hirundinidae**

Seen on only three days, maximum six on North Seymour.

**Family Mimidae**

Common on Santa Cruz and Isabela with a maximum of 50 at Urvina Bay.

Two seen on Champion Island, the species' last stronghold.

Common only on Española (Hood) Island.

**Family Parulidae**

Common daily (split from Yellow Warbler). A bright and almost constant companion.

**Family Emberizidae**

Two males and a female on Santa Cruz. a pair at Urvina Bay, Isabela.

Seen on four days with a maximum of three on Santa Cruz.

Common daily, our first and last Galápagos birds replacing House Sparrows at the airport.

Singles at Point Cormorant and at the Charles Darwin Centre, Punta Ayora.

One of three species of Darwin's Finches seen on Española where 10 were seen.

A male and three females on Santa Cruz. one at Urvina Bay.

61	Large Tree Finch (E)	<i>Camarhynchus psittacula</i>	A pair on Santa Cruz.
62	Small Tree Finch (E)	<i>Camarhynchus parvulus</i>	Three on Santa Cruz. one at Urbina Bay.
63	Woodpecker Finch (E)	<i>Camarhynchus pallidus</i>	About five seen and several more heard on Santa Cruz.
64	Warbler Finch (E)	<i>Certhidea olivacea</i>	Six on Española Island. two on Santa Cruz and one at Espinosa Point.

## MAMMALS

### MICE, RATS, VOLES & GERBILS

1	House Rat (Black Rat)	<i>Rattus rattus</i>	
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### CATS

2	Wild Cat	<i>Felis silvestris</i>	
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### EARED SEALS

3	Galápagos Fur Sea-lion (E)	<i>Arctocephalus galapagoensis</i>	
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4	California Sea-lion (EB)	<i>Zalophus californianus wallebacki</i>	
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### APES

5	Human	<i>Homo sapiens</i>	
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### RORQUALS (BALEEN WHALES)

6	Bryde's Whale	<i>Balaenoptera brydei</i>	
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### SPERM WHALES

7	Great Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter catodon</i>	
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### MARINE DOLPHINS

8	Bottlenosed Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	
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9	Spinner Dolphin	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>	
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### Family Muridae

One victim of an extermination programme on North Seymour.

### Family Felidae

One on a beach at Urbina Bay, Isabela Island. two long-dead following eradication programmes.

### Family Otariidae

Five at Cape Berkeley. two on James Island.

Common daily. one swam with us at great speed when we were snorkelling.

### Family Hominidae

Subspecies *H.s. rubberoides* seen on a number of occasions. Some in our pangas.

### Family Balaenopteridae

Two seen shortly after entering 'Whale Bay', Isabela. Four and a calf seen the following day between Port Egas and Bartolomé Island. This was a highlight species.

### Family Physeteridae

An unseen whale spouting to the left was probably this species.

### Family Delphinidae

A few off Port Egas, James Island. a huge pod of about 100 between Bartolomé and Santa Cruz on our last full day. Voted mammal of the trip.

A few off the north coast of James Island.

## REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

### TORTOISES

1	Galápagos Tortoise (E)	<i>Geochelone elephantopus</i>	
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### HARD-SHELLED SEA TURTLES

2	Pacific Green Turtle (E)	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	
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### TYPICAL LIZARDS

3	Galapagos Lava Lizard (E)	<i>Microlophus sp.</i>	
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3	Española Lava Lizard (E)	<i>Microlophus sp.</i>	
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4	Florentina Lava Lizard (E)	<i>Microlophus sp.</i>	
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### Family Testudinidae

Scores on Santa Cruz. two truly wild on Isabela.

### Family Cheloniidae

Common daily, a delight to see when snorkelling.

### Family Lacertidae

Common almost daily except on Hood and Floreana.

A few on Española .

A few on Florentina.

**IGUANAS**

- 6 Marine Iguana (E) *Amblyrhynchus cristatus*
- 5 Galápagos Land Iguana *Conolophus subcristatus*

**Family Iguanadae**

A few seen on North Seymour were small and dark. those on Point Espinosa were huge. Seen daily

A few on North Seymour. five at Urvina Bay.

**FLUTS**

- 1 Galápagos Blue *Leptodes parhasioides* One at the Darwin Centre, Santa Cruz.

**FISH**

Sergeant Major  
Trigger  
Yellow-tailed Surgeon  
Hieroglyphic  
King Angel  
Mexican Hog  
Damsel  
Cardinal  
Flag Carilla  
Idolo Morro  
Porcupine Puffer  
Blue-chinned Parrot  
Dusky Chub

Harlequin Wrasse  
Concentric Puffer  
Golden Grouper  
Sea Horse  
Red Sea-urchin  
Barred Snapper  
Lizard Fish  
Chameleon Fish  
Chocolate-chip Starfish  
Panamic Cushion Starfish  
Spiny Starfish  
Sea Cucumber

**OTHER TAXA**

Green Sea Urchin  
Black Sea Urchin  
Pencil (Spineless Urchin)  
Galápagos Ant  
Galápagos Centipede  
Large Painted Locust

Yellow Paper Wasp  
Galápagos Carpenter Bee  
Galápagos Ladybird  
Spot-winged Glider  
Golden-tailed Damselfly

**HEAVENLY BODIES**

Observed on the nights of 30 and 31 October, 2007

Andromeda Galaxy  
Milky Way  
Plaeides (Seven Sisters)  
Small Magellanic Cloud

NGC 47 Tucanae  
Cassiopeia  
Saturn  
Venus

# Ecuador extension

Saturday 3 to Saturday 11 November, 2007

**Participants:** Keith Gooday, John and Daphne Sulston, Rob and Kay Grimmond, Lez and Jean Warren, Michael Ruggins

**Principal leader:** Tim Earl

**Local leader:** Pablo León

**Driver:** Christian

**Highlights:**

- Hearing and seeing two Andean Cock-of-the-rocks displaying in an 'enchanted wood'.
- The primary forest at San Isidro which was absolutely wonderful.
- Exploring the area above Papallacta Pass at 14,000ft in mist and rain was thrilling. The altitude was a challenge we all met well and the birds were a great pay-off.
- All the hummingbird feeding stations were spectacular but that at the Guango Lodge was magical. Highlight species there included Swordbill, Collared Inca and Long-tailed Sylph, all of which were competitors for bird of the trip.
- Torrent Ducks which behaved more like dippers than the White-capped Dippers. Their territorial interaction was also fascinating.
- The food throughout the trip was excellent and frequently Ecuadorian but that at Cabañas San Isidro was outstanding and worthy of its gourmet description below.
- The Ecuadorian people were friendly, pleasant and helpful. We enjoyed visiting their country.

This was a brilliant tour with a super group of people who enjoyed the birds, varied and dramatic scenery and wonderful hospitality of Ecuador. We all enjoyed each other's company and the occasional bottle of wine which helped some endure and occasional funny story. Bird of the trip was Andean Cock-of-the-rock but only after two counts and my casting vote could they be separated from Torrent Duck. In truth, it was a dead heat. Red-tailed Squirrel gained the top mammal spot but only by dint of persistence. I thought the Llama nomination was worthy of more votes.

This was my first tour to Ecuador and it more than met my expectations. I thank you all for putting up with my humour (actually you were most polite to laugh so much) and hope that the trip home was more of an adventure than drudgery. I look forward to seeing some of you again on a Travelling Naturalist or Limosa Holidays tour soon.

**Tim Earl**

**Guernsey, November 2007**

**tim@naturalist.co.uk**

## DAILY DIARY

**Saturday 3 November** Quito, Yanacocha reserve and on to Séptimo Paradiso

Rain, in thick cloud at 3,300m, overcast with drizzle lower down, 17°C

Birds which Inca people knew well remained hidden to us despite walking a path built by them. Our footsteps along an Inca trail were muffled by thick fog – in reality the low cloud (3,300m) which shrouded Yanacocha reserve prevented us seeing the gems of this mountain-top sanctuary, not the least of which should have been a spectacular view.

We left Quito in pouring rain but at least that had stopped by the time we reached Yanacocha. We stopped on the way up to admire the snow-topped Cayambo Volcano which straddles the Equator, seeing a few Rufous-collared Sparrows at the same time. Hedgerows gave us views of Plumbeous Sierra Finches and Paramo Seed eaters and Great Thrushes proved numerous.

But our main outing of the day along the Inca trail of Yanacocha was shrouded in cloud. We went slowly in the thin air and were pleased to stop at the first of two hummingbird feeding stations where Buff-winged Starfrontlets were chasing off smaller Sapphire-vented Pufflegs. Glossy and Black Flowerpiercers were joined briefly by their Masked cousin.

At the second stop a small feeding flock came through. This was heralded by a Bar-bellied Woodpecker, found by Keith, which gave great views. Three Spectacled Whitestarts showed well but star of the group was a Pearled Treerunner, a delightful bird which posed nicely for us. A pair of Tricoloured Brush Finches was seen soon after.

Returning to the bus, still in thick cloud and lamenting the loss of wonderful views, we enjoyed a packed lunch punctuated by the calls of Tawny Antpitta and a visit by a party of Turquoise Jays. A Tyrian Metaltail put in a brief appearance just before our departure.

Driving down the mountain in drizzle we stopped occasionally when Pablo spotted birds in the cloud-forest. Bar-tailed Pigeons led us to Hooded Mountain Tanagers and more Turquoise Jays. Arriving at the Rio Alambi we watched our first Blue-and-white Swallows perched on wires and hawking insects while a smart Western Wood Peewee perched up for us.

It was just about dark when we arrived at the Séptimo Paradiso and settled in to our quaint rooms before a delicious dinner.

**Sunday 4 November** Séptimo Paradiso, Mindo and the Rio Nambillo

Clear, sunny and warm, some cloud in the afternoon 22°C

This was a brilliant day with kinder weather giving access to some super birds. We started on the Séptimo Paradiso 30-metre walk... to the car park. It took two hours before breakfast and we ended with 40 species seen.

The start was inauspicious when another group got up at 3.50am and noisily woke the rest of us before leaving. However, starting at the steps of the hotel at 6am our red-eyed participants saw equally Red-eyed Vireos, Dusky-capped Flycatcher and a Lemon-rumped Tanager. A Golden-crowned Flycatcher was hawking insects off the side of the hotel, only to be joined by a Dusky Bush Tanager and Southern House Wren as scores of Cattle Egrets flew over.

The hummingbirds were active at conveniently numbered feeders, among them Purple-throated Woodstar, White-necked Jacobin, Violet-tailed Sylph, Purple-bibbed White-tip and Andean Emerald. Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds were numerous while Booted Racket-tail, Brown, Green and Sparkling Violet-ears brightened up the scene. Perhaps the queen of them all was Empress brilliant, an absolutely beautiful bird.

An hour after gathering we still had not moved from the lodge steps so we set off determinedly. It took a while to reach the car park as we watched Slate-throated Whitestarts, Bay-headed Tanager and Black-winged Saltator on the way. A Black Phoebe perched on the roof, unaware that it should have been on rocks in a river.

Once in the car park birds still popped up: two Azara's Spinetails in a bush, a Rufous Spinetail building its nest, Ashy-headed Tyrannulet and Marble-faced Bristle-tyrant flitting around, plus a couple of Maroon-tailed Parakeets which flew over. A Roadside Hawk perched on its favourite dead tree – we were to see it several times over the next three days – but star of the show for many were five Chocó Toucans which were getting ready for a raiding party on some unsuspecting victim.

Tanagers were flitting through the trees presenting their usual identification problems but jointly we managed to see Blue-grey, Swallow, Bay-headed, Beryl-spangled and several Lemon-rumped, a species which became familiar to us. Andean Solitaire and Toucan Barbet (eventually to be voted a contender for bird of the trip) were added to the list of birds heard. And all these were before breakfast... what a start.

A cute little nest-like structure tucked into the roof of the boardwalk was pointed out to us after breakfast. It was a Barbtail roost, we were told before being invited to insert two fingers and feel the perch built inside by the bird. We were on our way down a path leading to a viewing platform just below the lodge.

Black and Turkey Vultures were seen soaring – they had probably dismissed the smells of Collared Peccaries which had been sleeping in the undergrowth. Pablo pointed out their nifty nests. The vultures were joined by two pale birds which we finally decided were Broad-winged Hawks. Tropical Kingbirds and Social Flycatchers were examined closely but the frenetic pace of early morning had passed and we exercised our spotting skills on birds such as Scaly-crested Pygmy-tyrant, Ornate Flycatcher and stunning butter-balls called Golden Tanagers.

A lunch stop at the hummer feeders added Brown Inca and the pretty White-whiskered Hermit to our list (hummers may be difficult to identify as they zip between feeder and undergrowth but their names are like jewels from Pandora's box). Rob saw Blue-necked Tanager, Lesser Goldfinch and Variable Seedeater while others were enjoying a (noisy) siesta.

Our afternoon outing was down to the nearby Mindo River where we saw another contender for the BoT prize in the form of a Sunbittern. This is a shy species but our bird was at the perfect distance – far enough away to be unaware of us and near enough to give great views as it picked among the rocks like a huge crane or swam on the river as duck might. It was a happy scene which we enjoyed among many. These included watching Pacific Hornero and examining their oven-shaped mud nests and admiring a perched Bat Falcon which was fine-tuning its plumage ready for an evening's cricket (hunting bats is hardly cricket – Ed). We watched a Buff-rumped warbler picking around rocks on the river bank and two stunning Torrent Tyrannulets hawking flies from their watery abode. After watching some passing Grey-rumped and White-collared Swifts we moved on down to the Nambillo River where a Snowy Egret was feeding happily – we were able to compare it with our Little Egrets back home – and Kay found us a White-capped Dipper, one of our hoped-for species.

Our last stop was at a quarry where a Rufous-bellied Nighthawk shot past as we arrived and a female Swallow-tailed Nightjar found roosting on a ledge. We watched her hawking insects for some time before returning to the lodge for a delicious meal (they featured throughout this trip).

**Monday 5 November** Silanche reserve and area, Séptimo Paradiso  
17°C

We saw new birds even before the day had really started when a Montane Woodcreeper started feeding on moths lying on a boardwalk outside the dining room. We were having an early breakfast and watched a pair in a nearby shrub a few minutes later – one of the many species attracted to the lodge's high population of stranded moths. The early start took us to a quarry on the Silanche road where, in the most unlikely of environments, we enjoyed great views of a Silver-throated Tanager swiftly followed by a Purple-crowned Fairy, a regular hummingbird in the area. Tropical Gnatcatchers turned up next and delighted us with their feeding technique. Some of the birds seen the previous day were around too and we were able to consolidate our knowledge of them. A Sepia-brown Wren showed briefly but a pair of Golden-olive Woodpeckers were much less timid and watched us looking at them.

Both Black-winged and Buff-throated Saltators were seen well allowing comparisons to be made. Black-capped Tody Flycatcher is an uncommon bird which we were pleased to see but a Western White-tailed Trogon which was calling loudly never put in an appearance. Pablo could hear an Olivaceous Piculet and its appearance was a great delight. The bird kept low and we needed a light-pen pointer to show where it was feeding. Little Cuckoos are also skulkers but again fortune shone on us and we had good views of one which was calling. A Blue-necked Tanager was the last new bird of the stop which had been so good we were a) reluctant to leave and b) late on arrival at Silanche reserve. That was also due to a road-stop to admire a Masked Water-tyrant which looked like a cross between a Black-eared Wheatear and a Pied Wagtail, and a few Pale-mandibled Aracaris. A Guayaquil Squirrel ran across the road as we were watching them, the only one we saw on the trip which was somewhat lacking in mammal sightings. A palm plantation was home to a Pacific Flatbill and several Yellow-bellied Seedeaters were seen along the way.

Our 10am arrival at the reserve left it seemingly devoid of birds, except for Swallow-tailed Kite which Michael spotted as we were paying the entrance fees. However, we enjoyed looking at Wingless Wasps and columns of Leaf-cutter Ants, each individual waving its green parasol as they marched steadfastly towards their nest. Some lines were many metres long and we wondered how creatures with such limited brains could be so brilliantly organised in the execution of their role in the forest's life.

A faint twittering noise heralded the appearance of a feeding flock of birds which steadily moved towards us until the canopy above and trees around were alive with flitting birds. This was what we had been hoping for and we set about finding and identifying the individual species. It was not easy but that is the challenge of rainforest birding and soon Pablo and I with the help of everyone who spotted birds, were pointing out Streaked Flycatcher, Plain Xenops, Ochre-breasted and Tawny-crested Tanagers. Wedge-billed Woodcreepers put in an appearance as things began to get busy: White-shouldered Tanager, Cinnamon Becard and Lineated Foliage-gleaner (the names are just as amazing as the birds in Ecuador) were seen well while a Black-headed Ant-thrush and drumming Lineated Woodpecker were heard.

A Guira Tanager, while being a good bird to see, marked the start of the flock's departure and soon we were reduced to a Marble-faced Bristle-tyrant and a Brown-capped Vireo, and then silence. We walked along the path in the direction the birds had taken but it was all over... until I spotted a tiny dark shape in the canopy, a Western Blue-crowned Manakin. This was a great bird to see just before we retired to the bus, happy with the day's results, to eat a packed lunch and, for me at least, enjoy 40 winks.

A flock similar to that of the morning turned up as we left the bus. It charged through the territory of White-bearded Manakins which were able to see briefly. An Orange-billed Sparrow was the terrestrial representative of the flock giving great views when it crossed a path. Tawny-crested and White-shouldered Tanagers had also joined the throng together with a Smoky-brown Woodpecker. A Masked Trogon was the last new bird to be found and after some difficulty most had good views. Happily, those who missed it were to catch up a few days later.

We retired to a high observation tower to finish our visit but the jungle was quiet by this time and a few distant raptors were all we could summon-up. These were mainly vultures but a possible Laughing Falcon could not be definitely pinned down. Two Ruddy Doves were also seen before we climbed down and left for the hotel.

A planned visit to a café which has feeders for tanagers had to be dropped when we learned that the owners had gone to Mindo for the day and not opened up. We returned to Séptimo Paradiso and spent the last hour of daylight watching the brilliant hummingbird feeders.

**Tuesday 6 November** Y-junction , Mitad del Mundo, Cayambe-Coca reserve, Guango Lodge  
17°C

Travelling days can be birdless but not this one... it was a cracker throughout. We started at a large bright streetlight at the hill-top overlooking Séptimo Paradiso. The 'Y-junction' light (turned off by 6.15am, of course) is famous for birds drawn in daily to feast on the moths which are attracted in their thousands and then roost in surrounding bushes.

It was almost like watching television with a succession of gems appearing just a few feet from us. A Strong-billed Woodcreeper was waiting for us when we tumbled out of the bus, picking its victims from the wooden light-pole. Blue-winged Mountain, Dusky Bush and Flame-faced Tanagers were next up although the latter was seen only by the leaders. A glorious male Summer Tanager made up for the disappointment giving stunning views until I distracted everyone with a call for a Crimson-rumped Toucanet which looked much larger than it should as we were so close. A Spotted Woodcreeper was fairly easy to see but a Pacific Tuftedcheek in bamboo just below the road-level was quite a challenge with a rich reward for it was a glorious bird.

A Squirrel Cuckoo was next on stage, galloping around the branches like the mammal after which it is named and hogging the lime-light. That changed when another three turned up... what a show. Pewees are not showy birds but the Smoke-coloured Pewee turned out to be a gorgeous creature despite its lack of colour.

No, if it is colour you want then the bird of the morning was a fabulous Toucan Barbet the multi-toned plumage of which was anything but gaudy (as the field-guides might suggest). That we were excited and on something of a high when we returned to Séptimo Paradiso for breakfast was quite understandable. It was a great outing.

The journey to our next accommodation had all the hall-marks of a drab day. Labouring back up over the pass, stopping at a kiss-me-quick tourist centre, flogging through Quito's traffic, through the 14,000ft-mark and then a long journey to Guango Lodge. But it was terrific.

We took a metalled road back to the outskirts of Quito which were reached before several of us had finished a cat-nap. There, at the Mitad del Mundo, we wandered around flowering trees looking for hummers. Amazingly, the first seen was a Giant Hummingbird but it played hard to get so we all went and straddled the Equator, posing for each other's photos.

The brilliant Black-tailed Trainbearer (the name always reminds me of watching our own glorious Queen's coronation on an early snow-flecked television screen) lived up to its reputation as did our first Vermilion Flycatcher of the extension tour. It and a female, which was completely different from that seen in the Galápagos, sat on light-cowls watching the tourists stream past. Amazingly, among them was a man who waved at me vigorously – Finnish birder Antero Topp leads the Travelling Naturalist tours of Estonia with me each spring and was escorting a group of his countrymen and women. They had arrived from Amsterdam a few hours earlier. It really is a small Mundo.

We went on to find a mixed flock of Hooded and Andean Siskins, Rob and Kay saw Southern Yellow Grosbeak and our first Variable Hawk flew over.

After crossing Quito we started rising with Pablo counting down the feet until the Papallacta Pass was reached. At 14,000ft we thought 'that's it, top of the Mundo'.

Not so. Turning left we climbed further, entered the Cayambe-Coca reserve and immediately flushed a Puna Hawk (now lumped with Variable Hawk) which flew off carrying our first Brazilian Rabbit. Happily for the animal breathing had ceased so for some it was a mammal non-tick. We were to see plenty later in the day, However. Sadly it was raining and rather thick in the Scotch-mist department so we ate our sandwiches overlooking a pond and looked for birds around the bus. Bar-winged Cinclodes was the only reward although a Tawny Antpitta was calling plaintively.

After parking the bus a kilometre further up the mountain most of us walked back down the track peering into the mist searching for the Paramo specialities. Stout-billed Cinclodes were seen emerging from burrows in clay banks but they vanished into the mist. Luckily it cleared as we approached the picnic spot and birds were caught in view. Two or three Tawny Antpittas were seen, a great bird to clap eyes upon as they are so secretive, and a Many-striped Canastero which was like a Reed-warbler-Long-tailed tit cross.

The bus failed to appear and I volunteered to walk back to the car park, finding a Paramo Ground-tyrant on the way. My shouts and arm-waving brought the bus down and I was able to point out the bird to those who had not made the walk.

A little lower, close to the entrance, we stopped to look for another Paramo Ground-tyrant getting embroiled in a discussion about the differences between that and Spot-billed Ground-tyrant when a Carunculated Caracara soared over the brow of the hill but was largely ignored as the ground-tyrant debate continued. That was a shame as it was a great bird. A passing Paramo Seedeater provided poor views and we decided to head off for the lodge, passing the strong smell of a dead Quetos Skunk (so bad that it was still there four days later when we returned).

The day's birding was not over yet as we stepped out of the bus into a courtyard crammed with hummers zipping from one feeder to another, stars of which were several Sword-billed Hummingbirds whose beaks were longer than the birds' bodies. Great Sapphirewings, Speckled Hummingbird, Collared and Bronzed Incas all vied for our attention (the light had gone and pictures had to wait until the morning). Long-tailed Sylph and Tourmaline Sunangel, Gorgeted and White-bellied Woodstar, the names were as exotic as the birds and we finally went to our rooms excited about the morning.

**Wednesday 7 November** Pipeline trail, Guango Lodge, Cabañas San Isidro

Overcast but dry, 15°C

Several pockets of feeding birds were found before breakfast as we walked the pipeline trail towards the River Maspa where we wanted to look for Torrent Ducks. It was a surreal experience as the meadow we were in could have been anywhere in England yet the birds were distinctly exotic. Take the Lacrimose Mountain Tanager for example. A stunning black and yellow bird, it has a 'tear-drop' beneath the eye. We saw several as we walked the trail. A Cinereous Conebill was another goodie along with Dusky Piha (a difficult bird to see normally) and Rufous-breasted Chat-tyrant. Glossy-black Thrushes were common but only a pair of Black-and-white Tanagers were seen, although they were so stunning it would have been greedy to ask for more.

Among the small birds were White-banded Tyrannulet, Plain-tailed and Mountain Wrens, a few Sierran Elaenias plus a few birds we had seen already. These included Turquoise Jays which were hunting moths around the lodge, Spectacled Whitestarts and more Blackburnian Warblers. Sadly, the hoped-for Torrent Ducks were not at the river crossing.

We ended the walk by visiting a feeder for Chestnut-crowned Antpitta which, happily for him and us, put in an appearance. It had been a busy two hours but we were delighted with the quality of species seen. That continued after breakfast when we walked the trail in the opposite direction. I picked up a soaring raptor which turned out to be a Black-and-chestnut Eagle, a fine specimen which showed well for us all. The trail was quiet but on approaching the river from below we flushed a female Torrent Duck up-stream. A male was found below us and we were able to admire him until the female reappeared in conflict with another pair. What luck... we were able to see the interaction and study the birds' plumage closely. I finally decided that the interaction was because the duck could not come down to join her mate and the other pair were seeing her off from their territory. We left so that the duck could return to her drake which seemed quite unperturbed by the trouble she was in.

Returning to the lodge we admired many flowers and a Masked Trogon perched quietly in a copse. Some of us continued down the route we had taken in the early morning while others stopped at the lodge to watch hummers at the feeders. The walkers were rewarded with wonderful views of Inca Jay and another Dusky Piha before returning to watch hummers once more.

We left the Guango Lodge with some sadness after lunch and started to drop once more from the high Andes. A photo-stop produced some birds to with three raptors, one of which was identified as a Variable Hawk. The others were a possible Black-and-chestnut Eagle and a probable Black-chested Buzzard-eagle while among several small birds in roadside bushes was a Hooded Mountain Tanager.

We arrived at the Cabañas San Isidro at 4.30pm and were shown to our rooms after which we assembled at the lounge before visiting the Lodge's hummingbird feeders. A Swainson's Thrush was seen on the path to the feeders. Although no new species were seen we enjoyed familiarising ourselves with birds we had just left behind: Bronzy and Collared Incas, Chestnut-breasted Coronet and Long-tailed Sylph being the most obvious. Sparkling and Green Violet-ears, Fawn-breasted Brilliant and Spectacled Hummingbird were also recorded.

Some people managed to get onto a Subtropical (Scarlet-rumped) Cacique but most were happy to look for them in the morning. Our last bird of the day was the puzzling San Isidro Owl which possibly will be declared a new species once fully described. Pablo found one high in a palm and we were able to get good views using a torch.

**Thursday 8 November** Cabañas San Isidro, Sierra de Guacamayos and Cock-of-the-Rock walk

Clear becoming misty on the Sierra de Guacamayos, rain over lunch clearing later, 17°C

Late in coming but what a stunning bird of the trip... two male Andean Cocks-of-the-rock were watched for at least 10 minutes. We were cock-a-hoop, rocking and rolling with delight.

Our 6am pre-breakfast start was again a success with birds around the lodge feeding on moths attracted to the lights. Russet-backed Oropendolas – Gold Swingers to you and me – were the first up and about, swiftly followed by Inca Jays and Subtropical Caciques. A White-capped Parrot was found sitting quietly as we turned towards the refectory. Things hotted up more than a little for me when Rob found my first ever Canada Warbler – something of a boggy-bird and cause for celebration. We were to see several more during the day.

Olive-backed and Montane Woodcreepers were joined by Yellow-throated Bush-tanagers and a single Yellow-billed Cacique. A White-bellied Antpitta was heard (how we wished it would show itself) and a Black-billed Peppershrike was found singing in a low tree. A real turn up was Andean Solitaire which we saw well before retiring to the hummingbird feeders. In fact, they were not feeders as all were empty of sugar solution and several birds zipped around us expecting them to be filled. A few hummers even examined Daphne's red socks and one tried to sip nectar from Rob's nose – a weird mistake.

Breakfast was followed by a short bus ride to the superb Sierra de Guacamayos which has views down to Amazonia. Indeed the mist and low cloud swirling around had started like in the humid rainforests far below us. Our walk took us along the pipeline trail which was extremely quiet. After some time I began to worry that this would be a hike with no point – even the view was hidden in the mist. Suddenly we found a bird (a Rufous-chested Bush Tanager I think) and then another (Cinnamon Flycatcher) and a Blackburnian Warbler. In seconds we had a feeding flock around us.

It was a struggle getting people on to birds but we finally hit gold with Scaled and Black-chested Fruit-eaters together in the flock. A brilliant Crimson-mantled Woodpecker joined the throng along with a couple of pairs of Rufous Wrens, a Pearly Treerunner and a Common Bush Tanager. After staying with the birds for some time, we returned to the bus via a family of Rufous Wrens arriving just as Amazon rain started to come down in sheets.

Happily the thunder storm which rolled with us back to the lodge had passed after lunch and we set off along the slippery Cock-of-the-rock path. It was quiet. Very quiet, and I worried that this was going to be a blank afternoon. I had my picture taken next to a Cock-of-the-rock trail signpost, with fingers crossed.

It worked.

After watching a good feeding flock we suddenly heard the wails of Cock-of-the-rock. Within seconds we had located two cocks which were half-heartedly displaying to each other high in the trees. The view of them improved when they flew back a little and we had increasing difficulty in containing our excitement.

They were quite stunning: brilliant orange bodies, heads, crests and feet, black wings and a grey back. We watched them on and off, depending on their position, for about 15 minutes. It was a brilliant end to our final afternoon in the rainforest. I had my picture taken next to the Cock-of-the-rock signpost again, with thumbs up and a broad grin on my face this time.

The feeding flock had given us a few new birds including Saffron-crowned, White-sided and Flame-faced Tanagers, great views of an immature Golden-headed Quetzal and as a last gem, Golden-naped Tanager.

It was a cracking end to the day. We were particularly pleased that the birds were seen in their natural habitat displaying to each other.

**Friday 9 November** Cabañas San Isidro, Las Caucheras road, Papallacta Lake

Clear most of the day but heavy rain as we reached Quito 24°C at lower altitudes, 7°C at the lake

The excitement of yesterday's great birds added to quite sessions in the morning and 'final-day blues' made this something of an anticlimax.

We met at six to see many birds already recorded at San Isidro. A few managed to see Russet-crowned Warbler which was on our heard-only list. A late spot of Black-eared Hemispingus was our only new bird of the morning although spectacular success at two feeding stations made up for that. Both involved a young man whistling and flicking chopped up bits of worm to antpittas. The first resulted in a pair of Chestnut-crowned Antpittas hopping around my feet to feed (I hope my position did not ruin the pictures). Shortly afterwards we moved to another spot where the same procedure resulted in a White-chested Antpitta emerging from the jungle for a minute or so. We had seen two species of antpitta before breakfast and hearing Tawny Antpitta in the mountains later gave us three species in a day... something of a record, I believe. A Highland Motmot was heard just before we went into breakfast.

Las Caucheras road can be brilliant for feeding flocks and singing tapaculos but not today. We walked a kilometre looking for a feeding flock but even the hope of just one bird was dashed by the time we climbed back into the bus. A stop on some farmland produced sightings of raptor-dots, two Black Phoebes and some Blue-and-white Swallows. Some people who returned to the bus for water even missed the one new bird seen, a White-capped Tanager. It was keeping company with a Summer Tanager and Blue-grey Tanager.

Lunch perked us up... another gourmet Ecuadorian meal and quite delicious. It was clear that the kitchen was being run by cooking enthusiasts as all our meals here were varied, thoughtfully planned and prepared with a delicious result.

We tumbled into the bus after saying our farewells and headed up towards the Papallacta Pass. Just below it is a lake created when a recent eruption spewed lava across the Papallacta River damming it. There were a few new species for us with Andean Teal, Lapwing and Gull, Yellow-billed Pintail and Blue-winged Teal. Waders were represented by Greater yellowlegs, several Spotted and a Baird's Sandpiper.

We had the delight of watching Shining Sunbeams (the hummers, not shafts of light) feeding on wild flowers and hawking insects, a Brazilian Bunny or two and at least one Glossy Flowerpiercer which reminded us of our first day in the Andes.

Alas all good things come to an end and we set off for Quito sad that our final birding session had finished. The news that our city tour had been resurrected for the following morning lifted spirits until we hit the Friday traffic and crawled through the city. Rivers were in spate and the rain by now was torrential, a factor that was to affect our return home...

**Saturday 10 November** Quito city tour and a long journey started

Clear and cool, overcast 17°C

We awoke to the news that an Iberian Airbus had crashed on landing. Nobody was hurt but an emergency evacuation, smashed port wing and undercarriage had been a dramatic event for the city and was front page news. Speculation about the torrential rain being a factor was high on the list of causes – the aircraft was probably the one which would have returned to Madrid and then come back to pick us up. Whatever, the 48-hour closure of Quito airport meant trouble.

However, the rebooked city tour from earlier in the holiday was interesting although I remained behind to keep an eye on arrangements which were changing by the minute.

Iberia eventually decided to fly us to Guayaquil on a domestic carrier where the incoming aircraft from Madrid would land and pick us up. Lez and Jean were stuck in Quito as their flight to Miami had been cancelled and they were rebooked for Monday. Weather at Quito struck us, however, and after a seven-hour wait at the airport we were sent to a hotel for the night. Confusion reigned the following morning but we eventually got to Guayaquil, on to Madrid and arrived at Heathrow on Monday, 23 hours adrift.

ANNOTATED LIST OF SPECIES

BIRDS

	<b>WILDFOWL</b>		<b>Family Anatidae</b>
1	Torrent Duck	<i>Merganetta armata</i>	Two pairs in the river at Guango Lodge. A close contender for bird of the trip.
2	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	Two at Lake Papallacta.
3	Andean Teal	<i>Anas andium</i>	About six at Lake Papallacta.
4	Yellow-billed Pintail	<i>Anas georgica</i>	Six at Lake Papallacta.
	<b>HERONS, BITTERNS</b>		<b>Family Ardeidae</b>
5	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Common throughout.
6	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	One in the Nambillo River.
	<b>NEW WORLD VULTURES</b>		<b>Family Cathartidae</b>
7	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Common.
8	American Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	Common.
	<b>CARACARAS, FALCONS</b>		<b>Family Falconidae</b>
9	Carunculated Caracara	<i>Phalcoboenus carunculatus</i>	One, Cayambe-Coca reserve.
10	Barred Forest Falcon	<i>Micrastur ruficollis</i>	One Séptimo Paradiso Lodge.
11	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	A pair as we left Quito for the Andes.
12	Bat Falcon	<i>Falco ruficularis</i>	One near the Mindo River.
	<b>KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES</b>		<b>Family Accipitridae</b>
13	Swallow-tailed Kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	Two at the Silanche reserve.
14	Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle	<i>Geranoaetus melanoleucus</i>	One, probably of this species, near Cabañas San Isidro.
15	Roadside Hawk	<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>	Seen most days.
16	Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	Two on our first morning at Séptimo Paradiso.
17	Variable Hawk	<i>Buteo polyosoma</i>	One carrying Brazilian Rabbit at the Cayambe-Coca reserve; another the following day.
18	Black-and-chestnut Eagle	<i>Oroaetus isidori</i>	One from the Guango Lodge.
	<b>SUNBITTERN</b>		<b>Family Eurypygidae</b>
19	Sunbittern	<i>Eurypyga helias</i>	One in the Mindo River, a great find.
	<b>PLOVERS</b>		<b>Family Charadriidae</b>
20	Andean Lapwing	<i>Vanellus resplendens</i>	One at Lake Papallacta.
	<b>SANDPIPERS, SNIPES</b>		<b>Family Scolopacidae</b>
21	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	One at Lake Papallacta.
22	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	Five at Lake Papallacta.
23	Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	One at Lake Papallacta.
	<b>GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS</b>		<b>Family Laridae</b>
24	Andean Gull	<i>Larus serranus</i>	Two adults and an immature at Lake Papallacta.
	<b>PIGEONS, DOVES</b>		<b>Family Columbidae</b>
25	Common Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Common in towns.
26	Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	Seen most days.
27	Plumbeous Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas plumbea</i>	One near Yanacocha Reserve.
28	Ruddy Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas subvinacea</i>	Two at the Silanche reserve.
29	Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>	three at Séptimo Paradiso.
	<b>COCKATOOS, PARROTS</b>		Several in Quito.
30	Maroon-tailed Parakeet	<i>Pyrrhura melanura</i>	<b>Family Psittacidae</b> Two parties on our first morning at Séptimo Paradiso; six the following day.

31	Red-billed Parrot	<i>Pionus sordidus</i>	Six in flight over Mindo.
32	White-capped parrot	<i>Pionus tumultuosus</i>	Single early one morning, plus about 20 on the cock-of-the-rock trail, San Isidro.
33	Bronze-winged Parrot	<i>Pionus chalcopterus</i>	About 21 flew over the Mindo River.
	<b>CUCKOOS</b>		<b>Family Cuculidae</b>
34	Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	Seen most days.
35	Little Cuckoo	<i>Coccyua minuta</i>	One at the Silanche gravel quarry.
36	Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	Four at the Y-junction near Séptimo Paradiso.
37	San Isidro Owl	<i>Strix ???</i>	At least three seen and heard at Cabañas San Isidro.
	<b>NIGHTJARS</b>		<b>Family Caprimulgidae</b>
38	Rufous-bellied Nighthawk	<i>Lurocalis rufiventris</i>	One near the Nambillo River.
39	Swallow-tailed Nightjar	<i>Uropsalis segmentata</i>	One in the Nambillo Mine.
	<b>SWIFTS</b>		<b>Family Apodidae</b>
40	Chestnut-collared Swift	<i>Cypseloides rutilus</i>	Common.
41	White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>	Seen most days.
42	Grey-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>	Seen most days.
	<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>		<b>Family Trochilidae</b>
43	White-whiskered Hermit	<i>Phaethornis yaruqui</i>	Several on feeders at Séptimo Paradiso.
44	White-necked Jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	Several at Séptimo Paradiso.
45	Brown Violetear	<i>Colibri delphinae</i>	Several at Séptimo Paradiso.
46	Green Violetear	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>	Several at Séptimo Paradiso.
47	Sparkling Violetear	<i>Colibri coruscans</i>	A few most days.
48	Green-crowned Woodnymph	<i>Thalurania fannyi</i>	A few at Séptimo Paradiso.
49	Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>	Many at Séptimo Paradiso.
50	Andean Emerald	<i>Amazilia franciae</i>	Seven on our first morning at Séptimo Paradiso.
51	Speckled Hummingbird	<i>Adelomyia melanogenys</i>	Several at the Guango Lodge.
52	Fawn-breasted Brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa rubinoides</i>	One or two most days.
53	Green-crowned Brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa jacula</i>	Four at Séptimo Paradiso.
54	Empress Brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa imperatrix</i>	Three on our first morning at Séptimo Paradiso.
55	Bronzy Inca	<i>Coeligena coeligena</i>	Several at the Guango Lodge feeders.
56	Brown Inca	<i>Coeligena wilsoni</i>	Two at Séptimo Paradiso.
57	Collared Inca	<i>Coeligena torquata</i>	Several at the Guango Lodge.
58	Buff-winged Starfrontlet	<i>Coeligena lutetiae</i>	About 12 Yanacocha Reserve; a few at Guango Lodge.
59	Sword-billed Hummingbird	<i>Ensifera ensifera</i>	Several at the Guango Lodge.
60	Great Sapphirewing	<i>Pterophanes cyanopterus</i>	Several at the Guango Lodge feeders.
61	Giant Hummingbird	<i>Patagona gigas</i>	One at Mitad del Mundo.
62	Tourmaline Sunangel	<i>Helianthus exortis</i>	Several at the Guango Lodge.
63	Sapphire-vented Puffleg	<i>Eriocnemis luciani</i>	One at Yanacocha Reserve.
64	Purple-bibbed Whitetip	<i>Urosticte benjamini</i>	Six on our first morning at Séptimo Paradiso.
65	Booted Racket-tail	<i>Ocreatus underwoodii</i>	Several at Séptimo Paradiso.
66	Black-tailed Trainbearer	<i>Lesbia victoriae</i>	Several at the Mitad del Mundo centre, near Quito.
67	Tyrian Metaltail	<i>Metallura tyrianthina</i>	One in Yanacocha Reserve; a few at Guango Lodge.

68	Long-tailed Sylph	<i>Agelaiocercus kingi</i>	Several at the Guango Lodge.
69	Violet-tailed Sylph	<i>Agelaiocercus coelestis</i>	Seven on our first morning at Séptimo Paradiso.
70	Purple-crowned Fairy	<i>Heliothryx barroti</i>	One, Silanche gravel quarry.
71	Purple-throated Woodstar	<i>Calliphlox mitchellii</i>	Common at Séptimo Paradiso.
72	White-bellied Woodstar	<i>Chaetocercus mulsant</i>	Several at the Guango Lodge.
73	Gorgeted Woodstar	<i>Chaetocercus heliodor</i>	Several at the Guango Lodge.
	<b>TROGONS</b>		<b>Family Trogonidae</b>
74	Masked Trogon	<i>Trogon personatus</i>	One at the Silanche reserve; several sightings of 'Trojans' at Cabañas San Isidro.
75	Golden-headed Quetzal	<i>Pharomachrus auriceps</i>	One heard and one seen at Séptimo Paradiso.
	<b>KINGFISHERS</b>		<b>Family Alcedinidae</b>
76	Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megasceryle torquata</i>	One in the Nambillo River.
	<b>TOUCANS, BARBETS</b>		<b>Family Ramphastidae</b>
77	Crimson-rumped Toucanet	<i>Aulacorhynchaematopygus</i>	One heard near Séptimo Paradiso; seen at the Y-junction.
78	Pale-mandibled Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus erythropygius</i>	Five on the Silanche road.
79	Choco Toucan	<i>Ramphastos brevis</i>	Six on our first morning at Séptimo Paradiso.
80	Red-headed Barbet	<i>Eubuccobourcierii</i>	A female in the Silanche reserve.
81	Toucan Barbet	<i>Semnornis ramphastinus</i>	One heard on our first morning at Séptimo Paradiso. one seen brilliantly at the Y-junction.
	<b>WOODPECKERS</b>		<b>Family Picidae</b>
82	Olivaceous Piculet	<i>Picumnus olivaceus</i>	One at the Silanche gravel quarry.
83	Bar-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis nigriceps</i>	One showed well in Yanacocha Reserve.
84	Smoky-brown Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis fumigatus</i>	One at the Silanche reserve.
85	Golden-olive Woodpecker	<i>Piculus rubiginosus</i>	Two, Silanche gravel quarry.
86	Crimson-mantled Woodpecker	<i>Piculus rivolii</i>	One on Sierra de Guacamayos pipeline trail.
	<b>MANAKINS</b>		<b>Family Pipridae</b>
87	Blue-crowned Manakin	<i>Lepidothrix coronata</i>	One at the Silanche reserve.
88	White-bearded Manakin	<i>Manacus manacus</i>	About six at the Silanche reserve.
	<b>COTINGAS</b>		<b>Family Cotingidae</b>
89	Cinnamon Becard	<i>Pachyramphus cinnamomeus</i>	Two at the Silanche reserve.
90	Black-chested Fruiteater	<i>Pipreolalubomirskii</i>	A pair on the Sierra de Guacamayos pipeline trail.
91	Scaled Fruiteater	<i>Ampelioides tschudii</i>	One on Sierra de Guacamayos pipeline trail.
92	Andean Cock-of-the-rock	<i>Rupicolaperuvianus</i>	Two males watched for 10 minutes at Cabañas San Isidro, voted bird of the trip, just.
93	Dusky Piha	<i>Lipaugus fuscocinereus</i>	Two seen on the pipeline trail, Guango Lodge.
	<b>TYRANT FLYCATCHERS</b>		<b>Family Tyrannidae</b>
94	Ashy-headed Tyrannulet	<i>Phyllomyiascinereiceps</i>	One on our first morning at Séptimo Paradiso.
95	Sierran Elaenia	<i>Elaenia pallatangae</i>	Three seen on the pipeline trail, Guango Lodge.

96	Southern Beardless Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>	One heard at Séptimo Paradiso; two singles seen later in the trip.
97	White-tailed Tyrannulet	<i>Mecocerculus poecilocercus</i>	Singles at Cabañas San Isidro.
98	White-banded Tyrannulet	<i>Mecocerculus stictopterus</i>	Two seen on the pipeline trail, Guango Lodge; single at San Isidro.
99	Torrent Tyrannulet	<i>Serphopaga cinerea</i>	Pairs in the rivers Mindo and Maspá .
100	Marble-faced Bristle Tyrant	<i>Pogonotriccus ophthalmicus</i>	Several at the Silanche reserve.
101	Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant	<i>Lophotriccus pileatus</i>	Three at Séptimo Paradiso.
102	Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum nigriceps</i>	One at the Silanche gravel quarry.
103	Pacific Flatbill	<i>Rhynchocyclus pacificus</i>	One on the Silanche road.
104	Cinnamon Flycatcher	<i>Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus</i>	Quite common.
105	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Quite common in rivers.
106	Smoke-colored Pewee	<i>Contopus fumigatus</i>	One at the Y-junction near Séptimo Paradiso; a couple at Singles at Cabañas San Isidro.
107	Western Wood Pewee	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	One near Yanacocha Reserve.
108	Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus nanus</i>	At least three at the Mitad del Mundo centre, near Quito; one at Guayaquil airport was the last bird of the trip, hoorah!
109	Spot-billed Ground Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola maculirostris</i>	One, Cayambe-Coca reserve.
110	Paramo Ground Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola alpinus</i>	Two, Cayambe-Coca reserve.
111	Masked Water Tyrant	<i>Fluvicola nengeta</i>	One on the Silanche road.
112	Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca rufipectoralis</i>	One seen on the pipeline trail, Guango Lodge.
113	Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	Common.
114	Golden-crowned Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes chrysocephalus</i>	One on our first morning at Séptimo Paradiso.
115	Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>	One at the Silanche reserve.
116	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	Common.
117	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>	Two on our first morning at Séptimo Paradiso.
118	Pale-edged Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cephalotes</i>	One heard at Séptimo Paradiso. one seen at Cabañas San Isidro.
<b>ANTTHRUSHES, ANTPITTAS</b>			<b>Family Formicariidae</b>
119	Chestnut-crowned Antpitta	<i>Grallaria ruficapilla</i>	One at a feeder, Guango Lodge; two at a feeding station, Cabañas San Isidro.
120	White-bellied Antpitta	<i>Grallaria hypoleuca</i>	One heard another seen at a feeder in Cabañas San Isidro.
121	Tawny Antpitta	<i>Grallariaquitensis</i>	Heard at Yanacocha Reserve and elsewhere; three seen at Cayambe-Coca reserve.
<b>OVENBIRDS</b>			<b>Family Furnariidae</b>
122	Stout-billed Cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes excelsior</i>	Three at Cayambe-Coca reserve.
123	Bar-winged Cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes fuscus</i>	Six at Cayambe-Coca reserve.
124	Pacific Hornero	<i>Furnarius cinnamomeus</i>	Two birds and several nests near the Mindo River.
125	Many-striped Canastero	<i>Asthenes flammulata</i>	One, Cayambe-Coca reserve.
126	Rufous Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis unirufa</i>	One building a nest at Séptimo Paradiso.
127	Azara's Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis azarae</i>	Three on our first morning at Séptimo Paradiso.

128	Red-faced Spinetail	<i>Cranioleuca erythroptus</i>	One building a nest at Séptimo Paradiso.
129	Pearled Treerunner	<i>Margarornis squamiger</i>	One at the Yanacocha Reserve; three including one feeding young, Sierra de Guacamayos.
130	Pacific Tuftedcheek	<i>Pseudocolaptesjohnsoni</i>	One at the Y-junction near Séptimo Paradiso.
131	Lineated Foliage-gleaner	<i>Syndactyla subalaris</i>	Four sightings at the Silanche reserve.
132	Plain Xenops	<i>Xenops minutus</i>	Two at the Silanche reserve.
	<b>WOODCREEPERS</b>		<b>Family Dendrocolaptidae</b>
133	Plain-brown Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla fuliginosa</i>	One at the Y-junction near Séptimo Paradiso.
134	Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>	Three sightings during the tour.
135	Strong-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphocolaptespromeropirhynchus</i>	One at the Y-junction near Séptimo Paradiso.
136	Spotted Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchuserythroptus</i>	One at the Y-junction near Séptimo Paradiso.
137	Olive-backed Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus triangularis</i>	Three at Cabañas San Isidro.
138	Montane Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolapteslacrymiger</i>	Two at breakfast at Séptimo Paradiso; four, Silanche reserve.
	<b>VIREOS, GREENLETS</b>		<b>Family Vireonidae</b>
139	Black-billed Peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis nigrirostris</i>	Singles at Cabañas San Isidro.
140	Brown-capped Vireo	<i>Vireo leucophrys</i>	Common.
141	Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Common.
	<b>CROWS, JAYS</b>		<b>Family Corvidae</b>
142	Turquoise Jay	<i>Cyanolycaurcosa</i>	Four in and about five near Yanacocha Reserve; a few elsewhere.
143	Inca Jay	<i>Cyanocorax yncas</i>	Common at Cabañas San Isidro.
	<b>SWALLOWS, MARTINS</b>		<b>Family Hirundinidae</b>
144	Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Notiochelidon cyanoleuca</i>	Common to abundant.
145	Brown-bellied Swallow	<i>Notiochelidon murina</i>	A few at high altitudes.
146	Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>	Lots over the Nambillo River.
	<b>WRENS</b>		<b>Family Troglodytidae</b>
147	Rufous Wren	<i>Cinnycerthiaaurifrons</i>	A family on the Sierra de Guacamayos pipeline trail.
148	Sepia-brown (Sharpe's) wren	<i>Cinnycerthia olivascens</i>	Singles at Silanche reserve and Séptimo Paradiso.
149	Plain-tailed Wren	<i>Thryothorus euophrys</i>	A couple heard; one seen on the pipeline trail, Guango Lodge.
150	Bay Wren	<i>Thryothorus nigricapillus</i>	One, Silanche gravel quarry.
151	House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Common at Séptimo Paradiso.
152	Mountain Wren	<i>Troglodytes solstitialis</i>	Two seen on the pipeline trail, Guango Lodge.
153	Grey-breasted wood wren	<i>Henicorhina leucophrys</i>	Common but difficult to see (five were watched).
	<b>GNATCATCHERS</b>		<b>Family Polioptilidae</b>
154	Tropical Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila plumbea</i>	Two at the Silanche gravel quarry.
	<b>THRUSHES</b>		<b>Family Turdidae</b>
155	Andean Solitaire	<i>Myadestes ralloides</i>	One heard on arrival at Séptimo Paradiso; three seen at Cabañas San Isidro.

156	Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	One heard near the Yanacocha Reserve; several seen at Cabañas San Isidro.
157	Great Thrush	<i>Turdus fuscater</i>	Common daily.
158	Glossy-black Thrush	<i>Turdus serranus</i>	Several seen on the pipeline trail, Guango Lodge.
159	Ecuadorian Thrush	<i>Turdus maculirostris</i>	One at Séptimo Paradiso.
	<b>DIPPERS</b>		<b>Family Cinclidae</b>
160	White-capped Dipper	<i>Cinclus leucocephalus</i>	One in the Nambillo River. two on the Maspa River.
	<b>FINCHES</b>		<b>Family Fringillidae</b>
161	Thick-billed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia lanirostris</i>	Female, on our first morning at Séptimo Paradiso.
162	Orange-bellied Euphonia	<i>Euphonia xanthogaster</i>	Two at Séptimo Paradiso; single the next day.
163	Andean Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinescens</i>	Two pairs at the Mitad del Mundo centre, near Quito.
164	Hooded Siskin	<i>Carduelis magellanica</i>	Two pairs at the Mitad del Mundo centre, near Quito.
165	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	One at Séptimo Paradiso.
	<b>NEW WORLD WARBLERS</b>		<b>Family Parulidae</b>
166	Tropical Parula	<i>Parula pitiayumi</i>	One at Séptimo Paradiso.
167	Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	Common in the second half of the tour.
168	Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	One at Cabañas San Isidro.
169	Canada Warbler	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	Seven at Cabañas San Isidro.
170	Slate-throated Whitestart	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>	Common at low altitude.
171	Spectacled Whitestart	<i>Myioborus melanocephalus</i>	Common at higher altitudes.
172	Russet-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus coronatus</i>	Two singing near the Alambi River near Yanacocha Reserve; seen at Cabañas San Isidro.
173	Three-striped Warbler	<i>Basileuterus tristriatus</i>	One at Séptimo Paradiso.
174	Buff-rumped Warbler	<i>Phaeothlypis fulvicauda</i>	One on the Mindo River bank.
175	Russet-backed Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius angustifrons</i>	Common at Cabañas San Isidro.
176	Northern Mountain Caciue	<i>Cacicus leucoramphus</i>	Two seen on the pipeline trail, Guango Lodge; one at Cabañas San Isidro.
177	Yellow-billed Caciue	<i>Amblycercus holosericeus</i>	One at Cabañas San Isidro.
178	Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>	A few at Séptimo Paradiso.
	<b>BANANAQUIT</b>		<b>Family Coerebidae</b>
179	Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	One at the Silanche gravel quarry; one at the Silanche reserve.
	<b>BUNTINGS, NEW WORLD SPARROWS &amp; ALLIES</b>		<b>Family Emberizidae</b>
180	Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>	Common daily.
181	Tricolored Brush Finch	<i>Atlapetes tricolor</i>	Two seen Yanacocha Reserve. one heard at Séptimo Paradiso.
	<b>TANAGERS &amp; ALLIES</b>		<b>Family Thraupidae</b>
182	White-capped Tanager	<i>Sericossypha albo cristata</i>	One on Las Caucheras road, San Isidro.
183	Ochre-breasted Tanager	<i>Chlorothraupis stolzmanni</i>	One at the Silanche reserve.
184	Oleaginous Hemispingus	<i>Hemispingus frontalis</i>	One at Guango Lodge.
185	Black-eared Hemispingus	<i>Hemispingus melanotis</i>	Two at Cabañas San Isidro.
186	White-shouldered Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus luctuosus</i>	A pair at the Silanche reserve.
187	Tawny-crested Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus delatrii</i>	One at the Silanche reserve.
188	Lemon-rumped Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus flammigerus</i>	Common at Séptimo Paradiso.

189	Blue-grey Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	Reasonably common.
190	Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	One near the Mindo River; one the next day.
191	Hooded Mountain Tanager	<i>Buthraupis montana</i>	Three at Yanacocha Reserve; two on the way to Cabañas San Isidro.
192	Lacrimose Mountain Tanager	<i>Anisognathus lacrymosus</i>	Common on the pipeline trail, Guango Lodge.
193	Blue-winged Mountain Tanager	<i>Anisognathus somptuosus</i>	Three at the Y-junction near Séptimo Paradiso.
194	Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager	<i>Debusia daeniata</i>	One on the Sierra de Guacamayos pipeline trail.
195	Golden Tanager	<i>Tangara arthus</i>	Seen on three mornings.
196	Silver-throated Tanager	<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>	A pair at the Silanche gravel quarry.
197	Saffron-crowned Tanager	<i>Tangaraxanthocephala</i>	Two on the cock-of-the-rock trail, Cabañas San Isidro.
198	Flame-faced Tanager	<i>Tangara parzudakii</i>	One, Y-junction seen by leaders only; two, at the Sierra de Guacamayos.
199	Bay-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>	Poor views of one on our first morning at Séptimo Paradiso.
200	Golden-naped Tanager	<i>Tangara ruficervix</i>	Two on the cock-of-the-rock trail, Cabañas San Isidro.
201	Blue-necked Tanager	<i>Tangara cyanicollis</i>	Five seen over three days.
202	Beryl-spangled Tanager	<i>Tangara nigroviridis</i>	Quite common.
203	Blue-and-black Tanager	<i>Tangara vassorii</i>	Two seen on the pipeline trail, Guango Lodge.
204	Black-capped Tanager	<i>Tangara heinei</i>	A pair at the Y-junction near Séptimo Paradiso.
205	Swallow Tanager	<i>Tersina viridis</i>	One on our first morning at Séptimo Paradiso.
206	Guira Tanager	<i>Hemithraupis guira</i>	One at the Silanche reserve; one at the Y-junction.
207	Cinereous Conebill	<i>Conirostrum cinereum</i>	One seen on the pipeline trail, Guango Lodge.
208	Glossy Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa lafresnayii</i>	Six, Yanacocha Reserve; one on Guango Lodge pipeline trail.
209	Black Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa humeralis</i>	One or two in Yanacocha Reserve.
210	White-sided Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa albilatera</i>	One on the cock-of-the-rock trail, Cabañas San Isidro.
211	Bluish Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossopsis caerulescens</i>	One seen by Rob and Kay at Cabañas San Isidro.
212	Masked Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossopsis cyanea</i>	Quite common.
213	Plumbeous Sierra Finch	<i>Phrygilus unicolor</i>	Four on our way to Yanacocha Reserve; six, Papallacta Pass.
214	Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>	One near the Nambillo River; six the following day.
215	Variable Seedeater	<i>Sporophila corvina</i>	Common almost daily.
216	Yellow-bellied Seedeater	<i>Sporophila nigricollis</i>	A pair on the Silanche road; two the following day.
217	Paramo Seedeater	<i>Catamenia homochroa</i>	One or two, Yanacocha Reserve.
218	Yellow-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris olivaceus</i>	Several on the Silanche road.
219	Common Bush Tanager	<i>Chlorospingus ophthalmicus</i>	Two, Sierra de Guacamayos.
220	Dusky Bush Tanager	<i>Chlorospingus semifuscus</i>	Seen on three days.

221	Yellow-throated Bush Tanager	<i>Chlorospingus flavigularis</i>	Three at Cabañas San Isidro.
222	Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	Four seen on three days.
<b>GROSBEAKS, SALTATORS &amp; ALLIES</b>			
223	Southern Yellow Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus chrysogaster</i>	A pair at the Mitad del Mundo centre, near Quito.
224	Buff-throated saltator (H)	<i>Saltator maximus</i>	One heard at Séptimo Paradiso.
225	Black-winged Saltator	<i>Saltator atripennis</i>	One at Séptimo Paradiso.

### BIRDS HEARD BUT NOT SEEN

1	Crested Guan (H)	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>	One at Guango Lodge.
2	White-throated Crake (H)	<i>Laterallus albigularis</i>	One at the Silanche gravel mine.
3	Crested quetzal (H)	<i>Pharomachrus antisianus</i>	One heard near the Mindo River.
4	Highland Motmot (H)	<i>Momotus aequatorialis</i>	One at Cabañas San Isidro.
5	Rufous Motmot (H)	<i>Baryphthengus martii</i>	One at Séptimo Paradiso.
6	Lineated Woodpecker (H)	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	One drumming Silanche reserve.
7	Masked Tityra (H)	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>	One heard at Silanche reserve.
8	Long-tailed Antbird (H)	<i>Drymophila caudata</i>	One heard at Séptimo Paradiso.
9	Ash-colored Tapaculo (H)	<i>Myornis senilis</i>	One heard at Guango Lodge.
10	Nariño Tapaculo (H)	<i>Scytalopus vicinior</i>	One heard at the Y-junction .
11	Spillman's Tapaculo (H)	<i>Scytalopus spillmanni</i>	One heard at Séptimo Paradiso.
12	Black-headed Antthrush (H)	<i>Formicarius nigricapillus</i>	One heard, Silanche reserve.
13	Rufous-breasted Antthrush (H)	<i>Formicarius rufipectus</i>	One heard on our first morning at Séptimo Paradiso.
14	Tyrannine Woodcreeper (H)	<i>Dendrocinclatyrrannina</i>	Heard, but two seen by the leaders only at San Isidro.
15	Southern Nightingale-Wren (H)	<i>Microcerculus marginatus</i>	One heard, Silanche reserve.
16	Slaty Brush Finch (H)	<i>Atlapetes schistaceus</i>	One heard at Guango Lodge.
17	Grass-green Tanager (H)	<i>Chlorornis riefferii</i>	One heard Yanacocha Reserve.

### MAMMALS

<b>ARMADILLOS</b>			<b>Family Dasypodidae</b>
1	Nine-banded Armadillo	<i>Dasypus novemcinctus</i>	Rootings seen in most of the sites visited.
<b>SQUIRRELS</b>			<b>Family Scuridae</b>
2	Red-tailed Squirrel	<i>Sciurus granatensis</i>	Eight at Cabañas San Isidro.
3	Guayaquil Squirrel	<i>Sciurus stramineus</i>	One on the Silanche road.
<b>PECCARIES</b>			<b>Family Tayassuidae</b>
4	Collared Peccary (Javelina)	<i>Dicotyles tajacu</i>	Roosting site found and smelt at Séptimo Paradiso.

### REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

<b>TOADS</b>			<b>Family Bufonidae</b>
1	Ecuador Leaf Toad	<i>Bufo reticulata</i>	One at Cabañas San Isidro.
<b>FROGS</b>			<b>Ranidae</b>
2	Silanche Frog	<i>Leptodactylus sp.</i>	One at the Silanche reserve.

### OTHER TAXA

Lunidia Moth  
Sphinx Moth  
Leaf-cutter Ant  
Wingless Wasp  
Saturnid Moth (caterpillar)