Any visit to Galápagos, the aptly named ‘Enchanted Islands’ is guaranteed to be a wonderful wildlife experience, particularly if it involves a cruise around the archipelago in a specially chartered luxury motor yacht. And so it proved with the highly successful and enjoyable Birdquest / Wild Images tour this year, during which we had fantastic views of all 33 of the endemic and near-endemic Galápagos birds (based on the latest taxonomic changes) that it is possible to see. But it was the amazing creatures of Galápagos and their total lack of fear of humans that made the tour such a magical experience, allowing us intimate encounters with some of the most fascinating birds, mammals, reptiles and, for those who wished to snorkel, fish on our beautiful planet. And the photographic opportunities were endless...

Our itinerary involved a 10-night cruise aboard the well-appointed and extremely comfortable and stable Tip Top IV and took us to ten of the islands, providing a unique opportunity to see all of the ‘available’ endemic birds. Due to restrictions imposed by the Galápagos National Park Service, it is no longer possible to land at either of the two sites where the Critically Endangered and declining Mangrove Finch is still known to
occur, so we had to content ourselves with trying to find all the other species. We also saw virtually all of the endemic mammals and reptiles, as well as a wide range of the islands’ more notable invertebrates and plant life. Although our bird list of 65 species was not particularly exceptional (mid-summer is not the best time of year for a large bird list, since most of the North American shorebirds only occur in Galápagos during the northern winter), the views we managed to obtain of virtually all the other species were incredible, including 11 of the 12 species that are currently categorized as globally threatened.

There were very many highlights during the tour, but special mention should be made of the wonderful morning spent admiring Waved Albatrosses on Española, where we even had to step aside for birds making their way to their nests. We also saw a very close Galápagos Crane (or Rail) in the highlands of Isabela, and had excellent views of Floreana (Charles) Mockingbirds with recently fledged young at close quarters during a panga (dinghy) ride along the coast of the tiny island of Champion. Medium Tree Finches (also now categorized as Critically Endangered) were seen at point-blank range in the highlands of Floreana and we enjoyed the fantastic sight of Flightless Cormorants displaying off the north-west coast of Isabela. The evening gathering of Galápagos Petrels off Santiago (another of the Critically Endangered breeding endemics) was also a memorable experience, as were the encounters we had while walking amongst breeding colonies of Blue-footed, Nazca and Red-footed Boobies and displaying Great and Magnificent Frigatebirds. But for many of the participants the ‘bird sighting of the tour’ was the prolonged and very close views we were privileged to obtain of a Woodpecker Finch repeatedly breaking off twigs and using them to search for grubs – truly amazing!

The non-avian highlights included watching those lumbering giants, Galápagos Giant Tortoises, on both Isabela and on Santa Cruz; Marine Iguanas feeding actively on algae in the pounding surf along the coast of Isabela; Land Iguanas feeding on cacti on North Seymour and on Isabela; four species of endemic lava lizard; and, for those who opted to go snorkeling, a bewildering array of marine life, including innumerable colourful fishes and larger species such as Green Turtles, White-tipped Reef and Galápagos Sharks.

The tour began in Quito, where we spent a night in a very comfortable hotel before being transferred to the new airport to catch a morning flight to the island of Baltra, the principal ‘gateway’ to Galápagos. The first birds to be seen on arrival were Western Cattle Egrets from the plane as we came into land! (This species first colonized Galápagos in 1964 and is now a widespread breeder.) Having collected our luggage we were met by Martín Loyola, who was to be our local naturalist guide for the duration of our stay in the islands. After a short bus ride to the quay on Baltra from which we were to board the boat, we soon found the first of the Galápagos endemic birds, a Lava Gull (which sadly has the ignominious distinction of being the rarest gull in the world, with a total population of only 300–400 pairs), and also had our first views of Blue-footed Boobies, Brown Pelicans and Brown (or Common) Noddies feeding along the shore and Magnificent Frigatebirds soaring overhead. After a short while we donned our life-jackets and boarded the pangas to be transported to our motor yacht, the Tip Top IV, which was to be our home for the next 10 nights. Even during this short journey the first storm petrels were seen – Elliot’s Storm Petrels (formerly also called White-vented Storm Petrels) – feeding in the harbour. Having acquainted ourselves with the boat and our cabins, we had the introductory and statutory safety briefings, after which lunch was served while the captain navigated Tip Top IV towards the first island we were to visit, North Seymour.
After lunch we spent an hour or so watching the seabirds passing the boat and had soon seen our next Galápagos endemic, Galápagos Shearwater, many of which were flying very close past the boat on their way to their nesting burrows. This provided an excellent opportunity for the photographers on the tour to practice taking flight shots, and there was added variety in the form of Red-billed Tropicbirds flying overhead and Brown Noddies and many more Elliot’s Storm Petrels flying past. The storm petrel is a particularly mysterious species inasmuch as an endemic subspecies, *galapagoensis*, occurs commonly on Galápagos yet a nest has yet to be found! Other species seen from the boat included our first Swallow-tailed Gulls, with a small flock of adults and juveniles bathing nearby. Almost the entire world population of 10,000–15,000 pairs of this striking species breeds in Galápagos, although it is not strictly a Galápagos endemic as a few pairs breed on the Colombian island of Malpelo.

![Galápagos Shearwaters and Elliot’s Storm Petrels](image1.png)

**Galápagos Shearwaters (left) and Elliot’s Storm Petrels (right) were a common sight throughout the tour, with birds often flying very close to the boat or following in the wake (Andy Swash).**

During the middle of the afternoon we headed off in the pangas and made our first ‘dry’ landing. We were soon strolling leisurely through the large breeding colonies of Blue-footed Boobies and Great and Magnificent Frigatebirds – the main attractions on North Seymour. The breeding season was in full swing, with many of the boobies already having small chicks, while some were still on eggs and others were displaying, the males whistling plaintively, the females ‘quacking’ and pairs walking slowly and comically around each other with a lifted gait to display their striking blue feet. There was also a great deal of activity amongst the frigatebirds, and the mixed colony provided an excellent opportunity to compare these two very similar species side by side and to admire their elaborate displays, with many of the males having their red gular pouch inflated like a balloon and vibrating their spread wings whenever a female came near.

![Great Frigatebird](image2.png)

**A male Great Frigatebird showing the diagnostic green gloss to the mantle feathers (Gill Swash).**
On North Seymour we also came across our first Darwin’s Finches, the almost ubiquitous Small Ground Finch and a few Medium Ground Finches, as well as a handful of Galápagos Doves. During our walk across North Seymour we also came across seven large Land Iguanas, some of which were feeding actively and making for some memorable photos. Back on board we rounded off the afternoon with the daily checklist and a delicious meal followed by an early night during which we set sail for Genovesa (Tower), the most northerly island on our journey and situated to the north-east of the archipelago.

When we awoke next morning, we were anchored in the flooded caldera of Genovesa, home to the world’s largest colony of Red-footed Boobies. The sky was full of birds, as boobies and frigatebirds (here mainly Great) streamed by on their way to and from their nesting sites in the interior of the island, and Galápagos Shearwaters, Swallow-tailed Gulls and Red-billed Tropicbirds patrolled the steep cliffs. Our first landing of the day, early in the morning and before other visitors were about, was at Darwin Bay. Here, Swallow-tailed and Lava Gulls, Galápagos Sea Lions and fiddler crabs were observed on the beach, and huge numbers of Red-footed Boobies and Great Frigatebirds were seen nesting in the mangroves. About 90% of the Red-footed Booby population on Genovesa are of the brown phase, but we soon found a few white-phase birds sitting precariously on their flimsy nests in the bushes.

Two forms of Red-footed Booby occur in Galápagos, with brown phase birds such as this individual out-numbering white phase birds by a ratio of about ten to one (Andy Swash).
Darwin’s Finches were much in evidence and we quickly found the four species present on this island: Sharp-beaked Ground Finch (the subspecies *acutirostris* is endemic to Genovesa and here fills the niche of Small Ground Finch that is common and widespread in the archipelago but absent from Genovesa), Large Cactus Finch (of the small-billed subspecies *propinqua* that is endemic to Genovesa), Large Ground Finch, and Grey (or Dusky) Warbler-Finch (of the subspecies *mentalis* that is endemic to Genovesa). Galápagos Doves, Galápagos Mockingbirds (of the subspecies *bauri* which is endemic to Genovesa) and Mangrove Warblers were very common, and we also found over 20 Yellow-crowned Night Herons, a Striated Heron and a couple of Ruddy Turnstones. Also worthy of note were six Smooth-billed Anis that were seen in the mangroves; this species was introduced into Galápagos some years ago and has now become established on many of the islands (although due to its potential impact on the native birds, an eradication programme is currently being planned).
Before lunch, there was an opportunity, for those who wished, to go snorkeling, with the crystal-clear water giving spectacular views of many colourful fishes, and shortly afterwards a chance to take a sea kayak along the bottom of the cliffs. Once the temperature had started to drop in the middle of the afternoon, a panga ride across the bay and along the base of the cliffs provided excellent opportunities to photograph Red-billed Tropicbirds on their nests and in flight, and Galápagos Fur Seals, before we disembarked at Prince Philip’s Steps.
A short climb up to the top of the island brought us to El Barranco where we encountered a large mixed colony of Red-footed and Nazca Boobies, which were ridiculously tame and highly photogenic. Having walked slowly to the other side of the island we eventually arrived at a huge colony of Wedge-rumped Storm Petrels nesting on a plateau running back from the cliff tops (the birds in Galápagos are of the nominate subspecies *tethys* that is endemic to the archipelago). These birds, which are unusual amongst storm petrels in visiting their nest site during the day, were present in their thousands, darting backwards and forwards over the lava and occasionally alighting briefly before disappearing into the crevices in which they were nesting. Careful scanning soon revealed a number of Galápagos Short-eared Owls (the dark subspecies that is endemic to Galápagos, *galapagoensis*, may well represent a distinct species) waiting patiently near storm petrel burrows for a bird to appear. In total, six owls were seen, the last of which was encountered right next to the path; it appeared to be oblivious to our presence, allowing photos to be taken at very close range. By early evening we were back onboard Tip Top IV and after another excellent dinner we departed for the long overnight journey to the next island in our itinerary, Santiago (James).
The form of Short-eared Owl that occurs on Galápagos, galapagoensis, is currently treated as a subspecies, but is very distinctive. Genovesa is probably the best place to see them – where Wedge-rumped Storm Petrels form their staple diet (Andy Swash).
The following morning, we found ourselves moored in James Bay (Puerto Egas) on the western end of Santiago, having travelled 60 nautical miles from Genovesa. After an early breakfast we headed of in the pangas, landed on the beach and then set off on a trail just inland through the scrubby vegetation. The vegetation here was much more reminiscent of savanna than anything we had seen so far and we immediately started seeing more insects – with Monarch and Queen Butterflies being particularly conspicuous. Here our first Galápagos (Large-billed) Flycatcher was found and many Small Ground Finches were busily feeding. A few Small Tree Finches were also seen and our first Common Cactus Finch put in a brief appearance. There were also good numbers of Galápagos Mockingbirds present (these birds being of the subspecies *personatus*), and about ten Galápagos Doves were seen. We returned along the shoreline, where there were many opportunities to photograph basking Marine Iguanas – which were so tame that one had to be careful not to tread on them by mistake! A few waders were observed, including Hudsonian Whimbrels, a couple of Wandering Tattlers, two Semipalmated Plovers and some American Oystercatchers (of the subspecies *galapagensis*, which as its name implies is endemic to Galápagos – although the population is believed to number only about 300 individuals). We also saw our first Galápagos Hawk circling overhead and had excellent views of our first Lava Herons, as well as a few more Yellow-crowned Night Herons. Basking Galápagos Fur Seals and innumerable Sally Lightfoot Crabs were also very photogenic. Just before we returned to the beach, a cloud of butterflies, comprising at least four species, was seen feeding and mating in a couple of flowering trees, and Large Galápagos Painted Locusts were very much in evidence.

![Two Galápagos endemics, Lava Heron and Sally Lightfoot Crab feeding happily together! (Andy Swash).](image1)

Told by its short muzzle and rather boggle-eyed appearance, the endemic Galápagos Fur Seal was almost exterminated by hunting. Thankfully, numbers have now recovered and they are often seen along rocky shores (Andy Swash).

![Told by its short muzzle and rather boggle-eyed appearance, the endemic Galápagos Fur Seal was almost exterminated by hunting. Thankfully, numbers have now recovered and they are often seen along rocky shores (Andy Swash).](image2)
Soon after returning to the boat the snorkelers headed off to a nearby rocky promontory and were rewarded for their efforts with good views of White-tipped Reef Shark, Green Turtles and an octopus. While having lunch, we cruised the short distance to Buccaneer Cove just along the coast. Here it was with considerable relief that we saw a speedboat approaching – on board being the four tour participants who had unfortunately missed their flight connections and arrived in Quito too late to catch the flight to Baltra on which the rest of the group had travelled. Tired but delighted to have caught up with the tour, they had some lunch and their safety briefing before we all headed off on a panga ride along the coast where we had very close views of Swallow-tailed Gulls and nesting Brown (or Common) Noddies, as well as Lava Heron and Nazca and Blue-footed Boobies. After returning to the boat we cruised south for 30 minutes or so to Espumilla Beach. The surrounding mangroves and trail through the wooded interior were alive with Darwin’s Finches. ‘Pishing’ elicited an amazing reaction, with sometimes dozens of birds flying in to investigate, some even flying around our heads. Most of the finches were Small and Medium Ground Finches although a few Large Ground Finches were also seen. Other highlights during our afternoon walk were incredibly close views of Galápagos Hawks, which were totally unconcerned by our presence, another Galápagos (Large-billed) Flycatcher, a few Small Tree Finches, a few Galápagos Mockingbirds (of the subspecies *personatus*) and six White-cheeked Pintails (of the endemic Galápagos subspecies *galapagensis*) on a lagoon behind the mangroves. As we walked back along the beach, watching the setting sun, Galápagos Petrels started to appear on the horizon – and on returning to the boat we found ourselves surrounded by dozens of these Critically Endangered birds, some passing close by and calling as they returned to their nests in the highlands of Santiago.

A Galápagos Hawk waiting patiently for a passing meal (Sue Casson).  

A juvenile Galápagos Mockingbird, subspecies *personatus* (Andy Swash).

Hundreds of Galápagos Petrels were seen off Santiago at dusk before heading inland to their breeding colonies (Andy Swash).
We awoke the next morning to find ourselves cruising slowly along the north coast of Isabela and those up early were treated to the wonderful sight of the sun rising through the mist surrounding Wolf Volcano. The next hour or so of seawatching produced good views of a few Galápagos Petrels, our first Band-rumped (Madeiran) Storm Petrels – a species that we were only ever to encounter well out to sea, several Wedge-rumped Storm Petrels and many Elliot’s Storm Petrels. While we were having a later-than-usual breakfast, the boat navigated to Punta Vicente Roca on the north-west tip of Isabela and dropped anchor. During this journey we had crossed the Equator into the southern hemisphere and were invited by the captain to visit the bridge to see 0° come up on the chart plotter. Soon after arriving at Punta Vicente Roca, we boarded the pangas and spent a couple of hours cruising below the nearby cliffs and around the cove. Rafts of feeding Brown (or Common) Noddies, Galápagos Shearwaters and pattering Elliot’s Storm Petrels allowed us to approach within touching distance, allowing some excellent photographic opportunities, and a Galápagos Hawk circled overhead. On the cliffs, nesting Brown Noddies and resting Blue-footed Boobies also allowed a very close approach. However, our first two Galápagos Penguins sitting on the boulder beach, and the Flightless Cormorants rather stole the show! The cormorants, in particular, put on an amazing performance, with pairs going through their almost choreographed display ritual (reminiscent of some grebes) within arm’s reach of the pangas, some of the males trying to impress the females with beaks full of seaweed.

The first Galápagos Penguin seen during the tour – an adult showering in the spray from the pounding surf (Andy Swash).
The snorkelers who took to the water for the remainder of the morning also had amazing views of cormorants, penguins and Galápagos Sea Lions underwater, but the huge Green Turtles brushing past provided a surreal experience. While we were having lunch, the boat made the relatively short journey across the Bolivar Channel to moor off the north-west coast of Fernandina at Punta Espinoza. Soon after lunch we landed at the only visitor site on the island and spent the first part of the afternoon watching the antics at the large colony of Marine Iguanas on the shore – as ever, oblivious to our presence. Here we also saw our first Great Blue Herons, one of which was watched hunting and seen to catch and swallow a baby iguana. We then walked out across the stark landscape of a relatively recent lava flow, admiring the many Lava Cacti that had managed to colonize the area, before sitting quietly by a mangrove-lined creek watching a large group of Green Turtles as they came in from the sea for the night. We also saw three Galápagos Mockingbirds (those on Fernandina being of the nominate subspecies parvulus) and a few Mangrove Warblers. On our way back to the boat, we encountered our only snake of the tour, a Fernandina Snake. Once back onboard the Tip Top IV, a large raft of Galápagos Shearwaters was seen gathering in the bay. As dusk approached they took off and spiralled up into the sky before heading inland – though quite where these birds go still remains a mystery.
The form of Great Blue Heron that occurs on Galápagos is an endemic subspecies, cognata (Andy Swash).

As one of the tour participants said when we landed on Fernandina and were faced with hordes of Marine Iguanas “Imagine being shipwrecked here not knowing that these beautiful beasts are in fact vegetarians!” (Andy Swash).
Overnight, Tip Top IV navigated back across the Bolivar Channel and when we awoke the following morning we were moored in Bahía Urvina on Isabela. After the usual early breakfast, we headed off in the pangas and landed on the black sand beach. Before we had even left the beach we were delighted to see five Galápagos Martins, including one adult male, swooping low along the shore – this species is now categorized as Endangered and is becoming one of the most difficult of the Galápagos endemics to track down. Our next new species was Galápagos Giant Tortoises, one of which was blocking our path, making for some memorable photographs. (The subspecies here is vandenburghi, which is restricted to Alcedo Volcano and makes its way to lower elevations at this time of the year.) There were also large numbers of Darwin’s Finches in the coastal scrub, attracted to drink the early morning dew. The most numerous species were Small and Medium Ground Finches, but we were fortunate to find a Large Tree Finch amongst them – one of only two individuals of this often elusive species that we were to see on the tour. A few Dark-billed Cuckoos clambered about in the taller trees, but were rarely seen in the open for more than a few seconds, and ten Galápagos Mockingbirds were observed (these birds being of the nominate subspecies parvulus). During our walk through the coastal scrub we also encountered a couple of Land Iguanas – a new species for those in the group whose arrival in Galápagos had unfortunately been delayed.
Once back on board *Tip Top IV*, there was an opportunity for the snorkelers to take to the water before the boat departed and started to navigate towards our next port of call, mock. We spent the afternoon on a panga ride through the mangroves, where the highlights were another three Galápagos Martins (again seen briefly as they passed overhead), Galápagos Penguins – both swimming on the surface and at their breeding sites where a close approach was possible, two Striated Herons, and a creek with many Spotted Eagle Rays swimming close to the surface. We also had excellent views through the crystal clear water of Green Turtles swimming just under the pangas. On the rocks in the bay, Flightless Cormorants were very obliging and a Great Blue Heron also allowed us to get close enough for some wonderful photos in excellent light. Having returned to the boat, we set sail straight away and as the sun set about 20 Galápagos Petrels were seen heading inland, presumably on their way to the relatively recently discovered breeding colony on Isabela.
After a long sea journey overnight around the south-western coast of Isabela, we were moored in the bay of the town of Puerto Villamil on the south-eastern side of the island when we awoke the following morning. After breakfast we took a short panga ride across the harbour, stopping briefly on the way to look at some moulting Galápagos Penguins, before landing on a rocky volcanic islet where we were able to look down on a shoal of White-tipped Reef Sharks cruising slowly along a narrow channel. Our next stop was the town quay, where more Galápagos Penguins were swimming close inshore and Lava Gulls drifted overhead. We boarded a ‘truck-bus’ and headed off inland, across a lava plain bedecked with endemic Candelabra Cacti, where a few Common Cactus Finches were seen. We were soon ascending the Sierra Negra Volcano, first travelling through the agricultural zone and then through the Scalesia zone, where we saw our first ‘Galápagos’ Vermilion Flycatcher, a dazzling male (Isabela now appears to be the only accessible and reliable island in Galápagos to see the endemic form of this flycatcher – subspecies *nanus*, which may in fact warrant specific status – as for unknown reasons it has recently disappeared from its former stronghold on Floreana and has become very rare on Santa Cruz).

By the time we arrived at the parking area just below the summit of the volcano it had started to drizzle and we donned our rain capes before heading off up the trail to the rim of the caldera. Along the way, we passed another stunning and photogenic male ‘Galápagos’ Vermilion Flycatcher. Thankfully, the thick mist that had enveloped us on the way up lifted briefly soon after we arrived – just long enough to enable us to see across to the far rim of the crater and to marvel at the lava formations on the floor of the crater far below. Small Tree Finches and our first Green (or Olive) Warbler-Finches showed well in the dense vegetation, and a couple of female ‘Galápagos’ Vermilion Flycatchers were also very obliging. Two of the tour participants were fortunate to see a Galápagos Crake (or Rail) emerge on the trail, and subsequently most of the group were able to obtain a glimpse of this skulking endemic. On our return to the parking area, a couple more Galápagos Crakes were heard calling from an area of tall grass close to the toilet block and after some patient stalking, one of these birds eventually showed in the open, albeit briefly.

After lunch back on the boat, we returned to the town of Puerto Villamil and spent the first part of the afternoon overlooking a flooded pit where we found a group of ten American Flamingos, six Black-necked Stilts, eight Common Gallinules, and ten White-cheeked Pintails. The total population of flamingos in Galápagos is estimated to be only a few hundred individuals and these birds are sometimes treated as a separate subspecies, *glyphorhynchus*. We then moved on to visit a centre that breeds the five subspecies of Galápagos Giant Tortoise that are endemic to Isabela, a very obliging Common Cactus Finch causing some distraction. From here we walked back into the town, firstly through woodland and then along a boardwalk through the mangroves. During this walk we saw five more White-cheeked Pintails, three Great Blue Herons, a Semipalmated Plover, an overflying Great Egret and two Hudsonian Whimbrels, and heard a Greater Yellowlegs calling (the latter being a scarce migrant to the archipelago). As on most of the islands, Mangrove Warblers were very numerous, particularly in the coastal scrub, invariably responding strongly to ‘pishing’. A couple of Galápagos Mockingbirds were also seen. We then spent a short while walking along the beach before being picked up by the ‘truck-bus’ and returning to the quay, where we boarded the pangas and crossed the harbour to the *Tip Top IV*, seeing six Lava Gulls and another Hudsonian Whimbrel on the way.
An overnight sail found us moored at dawn off the island of Floreana and the first landing of the day was at Punta Cormorant on the north coast. On the lagoon behind the beach we found four American Flamingos, some extremely tame Great Blue and Striated Herons, and a few White-cheeked Pintails. We then walked through the scrub and over a narrow isthmus before descending to an idyllic sandy beach, obtaining very close views of Common Cactus, Small and Medium Ground Finches, Galápagos (Large-billed) Flycatcher and Floreana Lava Lizards (endemic to this one island) as we did so. By wading in the shallow surf along the beach we were able to see Diamond Sting Rays and a Galápagos Shark. As soon as we returned to Tip Top IV, we set sail for the nearby islet of Champion and, on arrival, boarded the pangas and set off to explore the sheltered side of the island. In a secluded bay we were able to watch Spotted Eagle Rays through the crystal-clear water. But the main purpose of our visit to Champion was to look for the Critically Endangered Floreana (Charles) Mockingbird, which is now confined to this islet and the nearby islet of Gardner (on neither of which is landing permitted). We soon found our target and eventually managed to get excellent views of seven birds, including two recently fledged juveniles, moving through the Opuntia cacti growing along the cliff edge. After returning to the boat, the snorkelers headed off to the nearby rocky cliffs and were treated to excellent views of many fishes, including White-tipped Reef Sharks, and had memorable encounters with playful Galápagos Sea Lions brushing past.
A short sail brought us next to Post Office Bay, where we landed briefly to inspect the postcards in the barrel, taking some to deliver for others, and depositing a few of our own. We then returned to the boat for lunch, during which we navigated to Puerto Velasco Ibarra on the west coast of Floreana. Soon after arriving we were back on land and after studying a large flock of mixed Small and Medium Ground Finches feeding in a small field near the quay, boarded an open-sided ‘truck-bus’ and drove a few kilometres up into the highlands, flushing a Hudsonian Whimbrel from the road as we did so. Soon after arriving, we quickly found four Medium Tree Finches, a species that is confined to this one island and is now categorized as Critically Endangered, together with a few Small Tree Finches. We were also fortunate to see four Paint-billed Crakes, including a couple of juveniles – a species that only colonized Galápagos fairly recently (first recorded in 1953) but now appears to be doing well (Galápagos is now probably the most reliable place to see this species). We also had time to visit the pirates’ caves that had been used as temporary dwellings by some of the early settlers on Floreana, and to learn something of the intriguing history of this island. After descending to the agricultural zone we walked slowly down the road towards the coast for a short way, seeing three Galápagos Flycatchers, a Common Cactus Finch, ten Smooth-billed Anis and many Mangrove Warblers. The ‘truck-bus’ then transported us to the Wittmer Museum for a short visit before we walked back to the quay and returned to Tip Top IV, enjoying a particularly spectacular sunset as we did so. Soon after dark we departed for Santa Cruz...
We awoke the next morning to find ourselves moored in the harbour at the main port in the archipelago, Puerto Ayora. After an early breakfast we went ashore, boarded a coach that was waiting for us near the quay, and were soon heading up into the humid highlands of Santa Cruz. Our first stop was at a private Galápagos Giant Tortoise reserve, Rancho Manzanillo, where we were able to walk through an area of near-pristine native forest and some secondary vegetation. The first birds we saw were three Vegetarian Finches feeding quietly in a small tree – a much-sought-after species and one of the most distinctive of the finches due to its rather fat body and upright stance, small, round head and bullfinch-like bill. Soon after, we found our final finch of the tour – a Woodpecker Finch – which put on an amazing show low down and at very close range. We were very fortunate to be able to watch this bird at length demonstrating the remarkable specialized feeding technique for which the species is so famous – breaking off small twigs and using them as a tool to prise grubs from the nooks and crannies in the bark and from under the thick layer of mosses growing on the branches.

We saw many other finches as we walked along the trails, including four more Woodpecker Finches, seven Small Tree Finches, four Green (or Olive) Warbler-Finches, a Common Cactus Finch, a Large Ground Finch and dozens of Small and Medium Ground Finches. In addition, two adult Paint-billed Crakes were seen, one of which had three tiny black chicks, a Galápagos Crake (or Rail) was heard calling, and two Dark-billed Cuckoos, three Galápagos Flycatchers and three Galápagos Mockingbirds (here of the nominate subspecies *parvulus*) were seen, as well as many Smooth-billed Anis and Western Cattle Egrets flying over. On a small lake close to the farmstead, we found 11 White-cheeked Pintails, seven Common Gallinules, a Black-necked Stilt and, best of all, an adult Green Heron (possibly only the second record of this species from Galápagos). Of course, the Galápagos Tortoises we encountered should not go without mention, and about ten of these impressive reptiles were seen during our walk. It was hard to drag ourselves away from the farmstead but soon after departing we stopped and walked a short distance to some lava tunnels. After some careful searching we soon found two roosting ‘Galápagos’ Barn Owls in adjacent caves (the rather distinct form that is endemic to Galápagos, subspecies *punctatissima*, is sometimes split from the Western Barn Owl). All agreed that it had been an excellent morning’s birding!
We then drove further on up into the highlands and stopped at two impressive pit-craters, Los Gemelos (The Twins), where we walked through the misty, lichen-festooned Scalesia forest. Despite the mist, a few birds were seen, notably a Dark-billed Cuckoo, three Small Tree Finches, two Green (or Olive) Warbler Finches and two Galápagos Flycatchers. By early afternoon the drizzle was getting increasingly heavy and we returned to the coach and drove a short way downhill to a lovely restaurant where we had an excellent lunch. Mid-afternoon we visited the home of the mother of the award-winning wildlife photographer and writer Tui De Roy, where Tui herself was staying. We were made very welcome and Tui generously showed us the best places around their garden to see the various species of Darwin’s Finch. During our relatively short stay, we saw eight species: two Vegetarian Finches, a male Large Tree Finch, two Small Tree Finches, a Woodpecker Finch, a Green (or Olive) Warbler Finch, a Common Cactus Finch and dozens of Small and Medium Ground Finches. A couple of Galápagos Mockingbirds were also seen before we said our farewells and headed back to Puerto Ayora.

We ended the day with a short pilgrimage to the Charles Darwin Research Station to look at the Galápagos Giant Tortoise enclosures and learn something about the many conservation initiatives undertaken by the station in conjunction with the Galápagos National Park Service. There were plenty of birds to be seen in the extensive grounds of the Research Station, including at least ten Galápagos Mockingbirds, three Galápagos Flycatchers, five Common Cactus Finches, a Small Tree Finch, innumerable Small and Medium Ground Finches and literally hundreds of Mangrove Warblers. The walk back to the main quay took us along the seafront with its many shops and restaurants, and past the fish quay. Lava Herons were seen crouched on the shoreline, Blue-footed Boobies were diving for fish just offshore, Lava Gulls and Brown Pelicans were feeding on the freshly landed fish oblivious of the many people around them, and Magnificent Frigatebirds soared overhead. The garua (sea mist) rolled in as we headed back to the boat for the evening, but it was still possible to see a few Elliot’s Storm Petrels as we travelled in the pangas across the harbour. Late in the evening Tip Top IV set sail for Española...
By sunrise the next morning we were at anchor off the island of Española (Hood), the oldest and southernmost island in the archipelago and also one of the most isolated. This island is particularly famous as it supports over 99% of the world’s Waved Albatross population. We made our first landing at Punta Suarez, at the west end of the island and within moments of stepping ashore were surrounded by inquisitive Hood Mockingbirds. It did not take us many more minutes to find a few Large Cactus Finches (here of the large-billed nominate subspecies conirostris – noticeably different from the birds we had seen on Genovesa) in the low scrub behind the beach, and good numbers of Grey (or Dusky) Warbler-Finches (here of the island endemic subspecies cinerascens). There were also dozens of Galápagos Doves in evidence, including many juveniles.

Large Cactus Finch of the endemic subspecies conirostris and Hood Mockingbird were common on Española (Andy Swash).

An adult Galápagos Dove. Good numbers were seen on many islands indicating a good breeding season (Andy Swash).
A short walk along a trail leading to the edge of the main Waved Albatross colony took us past birds sitting on their nests, often within touching distance, and on occasion we had to stand aside for birds as they walked along the trail to reach their nests! We had a wonderful time watching these huge birds sitting on eggs at their nest scrapes and cruising majestically overhead. A couple of pairs were seen undertaking their elaborate courtship displays and at least two birds were seen waddling to the ‘take-off’ zone and running to the edge of the cliff with wings held out before dropping down and taking to the air. The photographic opportunities from the cliff-top were outstanding and between us many thousands of images must have been taken of the albatrosses, Swallow-tailed Gulls, Blue-footed and Nazca Boobies, Red-billed Tropicbirds and Magnificent Frigatebirds gliding by. On our way back to the boat we walked along a path that ran through another part of the albatross colony and were fortunate to find a Galápagos Hawk sitting on a nearby rock surveying the scene. We then walked along the cliffs and back to the shore, passing breeding and displaying Nazca and Blue-footed Boobies, ‘messes’ of Marine Iguanas (including some brightly coloured red individuals, the subspecies here, venustissimus, being an island endemic and the large and striking endemic Española Lava Lizard as we did so. It was with great reluctance that we finally left this wonderful area and returned to Tip Top IV.
The flight views of Swallow-tailed Gulls from the cliff top were superb (the bird on the right is a juvenile)...

... and Red-billed Tropicbirds flying past were always wonderful to watch (Andy Swash).
Both Blue-footed and Nazca Boobies were breeding on Española; the Blue-foots incubating (Sue Casson) and many of the Nazcas having well-grown young, some of which had fledged (such as the bird above right) (Andy Swash).

The resident adult Galápagos Hawks made the occasional pass along the cliffs, giving spectacular views! (Andy Swash).
The Española Lava Lizard is the largest of the lava lizards; for some reason this male was eating a dried flower! (Andy Swash).

The subspecies of Marine Iguana that occurs on Española, venustissimus, is the most colourful of all (Andy Swash).
Once we were back on board, the boat navigated east along the north coast of Española and moored close to the islet of Gardner in Gardner Bay, with many Elliot’s and Wedge-rumped Storm Petrels having been watched feeding in the wake as we travelled. After lunch there was an opportunity for those who wished to take the sea kayaks along the shore of the islet and then for a spot of snorkeling – close encounters with Galápagos Sharks and vast shoals of fishes in the deep, clear water being particularly memorable moments. Later in the afternoon, we crossed the bay in the pangas and made one more landing – on the beach in Gardner Bay, where we were able to roam freely amongst Galápagos Sea Lions, about 200 of which were hauled out, watch and admire the antics of the Hood Mockingbirds, photograph a remarkably tame American Oystercatcher which was feeding along the water’s edge, or to just sit and contemplate this remarkable place. Unfortunately, a garua rain shower curtailed our beachcombing and hastened our return to Tip Top IV, where we had another excellent dinner and then set sail for San Cristóbal.

The endemic subspecies of American Oystercatcher on Galápagos, galapagensis, numbers just 300 individuals (Andy Swash).

The endemic Galápagos Sea Lion occurs in large numbers but is listed as Endangered (Andy Swash).
Just a few of the many fishes and marine creatures photographed when snorkelling during the tour.
At dawn the next morning we were moored off the cliffs of Punta Pitt, the most northerly point of San Cristóbal (Chatham). The fairly steep climb up from the beach into the interior was rewarded by impressive views across the bay and finally by a heavily moult ing San Cristóbal (Chatham) Mockingbird that flew in to inspect us. We had done it – all the ‘available’ Galápagos endemic birds had been seen! During our walk we encountered a total of seven more Chatham Mockingbirds, some of which were unusually confiding. (This species has seen a serious decline in the population over the past few years due to a combination of factors including introduced species (diseases, parasites and predators), habitat degradation and human disturbance and is now categorized as Endangered.) We also saw a few pairs of nesting Red-footed Boobies, which after a long absence have returned to breed here following an intensive predator control programme in recent years. On our way back to the beach we came across a number of San Cristóbal Lava Lizards, another island endemic. Having boarded the pangas, we headed out across the bay to visit Pitt Rock, a small islet just offshore. This was an amazing experience as we were soon surrounded by clouds of Wedge-rumped Storm Petrels (literally thousands) and Galápagos Shearwaters (hundreds), not to mention dozens of Swallow-tailed Gulls and Brown (or Common) Noddies as well as smaller numbers of Great Frigatebirds.

The final endemic! The Endangered San Cristóbal (or Catham) Mockingbird, was seen very well at Punta Pitt (Andy Swash).

Wedge-rumped Storm Petrels breed in their thousands on Pitt Rock (Andy Swash).
Once back on the boat we set sail immediately for Kicker Rock, an eroded tuff cone off the west coast of San Cristóbal. During the journey, we had good sightings of a few Band-rumped (Madeiran) Storm Petrels, as well as many Elliot's and Wedge-rumped Storm Petrels, a single, rather distant, Galápagos Petrel and the amazing sight of a Manta Ray breaching repeatedly. After lunch, and as we were approaching Kicker Rock, a Laughing Gull was seen approaching over the wake, and conveniently flew at eye level alongside the boat before veering off. At long last, we had our first sightings of cetaceans, with several Bryde’s Whales blowing and surfacing in the distance. *Tip Top IV* then circumnavigated the rock, after which the snorkelers were able to swim in the deep-water canyon between the two pinnacles, with Galápagos Sharks and myriad multi-coloured anemones covering the rock-faces being the highlights.
The rest of the afternoon was spent on a panga ride along the cliffs of Cerro Brujo, where we had close views of Brown Noddies, Brown Pelicans and American Oystercatchers, and then walking along an idyllic sandy beach with its lava outcrops and rock pools. In the scrub at the back of the beach we found two more Chatham Mockingbirds, and on the lagoons behind the sand dunes were ten Black-necked Stilts. The Ghost Crabs on the beach proved to be a particular challenge to photograph (patience eventually paying off!) but Semipalmated Plovers and an interesting heron showing intermediate characters of Lava and Striated Herons were much more obliging. A Wandering Tattler was also seen briefly before we headed back to the boat.

This bird shows looks like a Striated Heron but lacks the yellow lores characteristic of that species, instead having the grey lores typical of Lava Heron. It therefore appears to be a hybrid (Andy Swash).

Red Ghost Crabs were seen on a few sandy beaches (Andy Swash).
Back on board we were treated to a farewell drink by the Captain and passed on our grateful thanks to the crew and our excellent guide Martin, all of whom had all worked tirelessly to ensure the tour had been so successful and enjoyable. Then followed an excellent roast turkey supper – the last of many superb dinners on board.

Our final overnight sail returned us to where we had begun our exploration of the archipelago ten days previously, moored off the island of North Seymour. A pre-breakfast panga ride along the cliffs provided very good opportunities to photograph Galápagos Fur Seals, Swallow-tailed Gulls and Brown Pelicans on the rocks, while many Brown (or Common) Noddies fed from the water’s surface within touching distance. In the bushes along the cliffs and circling overhead were many frigatebirds – both Great and Magnificent – including some males with their red gular pouches inflated. It was a memorable end to a fantastic wildlife and photographic experience. During our final breakfast on board the Tip Top IV, we navigated to Baltra Harbour, where we disembarked and were transferred to the airport in good time to catch our flight back to Quito.

During our final panga ride along the coast of North Seymour we saw a few Galápagos Fur Seals hauled out on the rocks and passed this Brown Pelican – which, as someone jokingly remarked, appeared to be waving goodbye! (Andy Swash).
Once we had retrieved our luggage at Quito Airport and had made our way outside, we were met by our guide for the final day of the main tour, David Pinto. Having loaded and boarded the bus, we set off into the high Andes, heading for the slopes of the Antisana Volcano. We soon left the traffic far behind and the clear blue skies meant we had fantastic views of Cotopaxi Volcano in the distance and of the Andean ridges and valleys. Just before it got dark we stopped at a viewpoint, where we had very good views of two Andean Condors, an adult and an immature bird, circling overhead before coming in to roost on the cliffs. As we walked back across the road to board the bus a Band-winged Nightjar flew past. Although it was dark by the time we arrived at our hacienda, a Black-billed Shrike-tyrant could still be seen feeding on the insects around the lights in the carpark. After a good meal, we all headed off for an early night – having become used to the background hum of being on a boat for eleven days, it now seemed strange to fall asleep in absolute silence.

The next morning, an early stroll around the lodge provided an opportunity to get to know a few of the high altitude specialities of this part of the Andes, such as Black-winged Ground Dove, Black Flowerpiercer and Hooded Siskin, as well as our first hummingbirds – Sparkling Violetear and the aptly named Giant Hummingbird. After breakfast we walked slowly down the main track from the lodge, finding six more species of hummingbird: good numbers of Ecuadorian Hillstars, another high-altitude speciality feeding in the striking orange-flowered Chuquiragua shrubs; both Black-tailed and Green-tailed Trainbearers in all their finery; a few Shining Sunbeams; a Tyrian Metaltail and a Sapphire-vented Puffleg. During this walk we also saw a few White-crested Elaenias, four Rufous-naped Brush Finches, two Three-striped Warblers, a few Many-striped Canasteros, two Brown-backed Chat-tyrants, a White-throated Tyrannulet, and many Brown-bellied and Blue-and-white Swallows, Great Thrushes and the ubiquitous Rufous-collared Sparrow.

The rest of the morning was spent travelling up into the high, flat open páramo of the Antisana Ecological Reserve. Here we were fortunate to find many of the key birds that inhabit this exposed and rather bleak area, including exceptionally close encounters with many Carunculated Caracaras, Andean Lapwings, Chestnut-winged Cinclodes (now split from Bar-winged), Stout-billed Cinclodes, Plumbeous Sierra Finches, a few Páramo Ground Tyrants and Plain-colored Seedeaters and, best of all, ten Andean Ibises (now split from Black-faced Ibis). A short walk to Lake Mica was rewarded with good views of Variable Hawks circling overhead and telescope views of Silvery Grebes, Andean and Yellow-billed Teals, Andean Ducks and Andean Coots before the rain set in and we retreated to the bus. On the way back across the páramo we saw a couple of American Kestrels and then dropped down to the viewpoint from which we had seen Andean Condors the previous evening. Our luck was in and we were soon watching three of these magnificent birds circling overhead while eating our picnic lunch. A few Black Vultures were also seen here and as we were about to depart a ‘smallish’ was bird seen in the distance mobbing the condors – this turned out to be a Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, completely dwarfed by the condors!

Mid-afternoon we headed back into Quito and checked in to our comfortable hotel for the final night of the main tour. Here we said farewell to the three members of the group who were heading home the following day, the rest of the participants eagerly anticipating the delights the lay ahead during the extension to Yanacocha and the Mindo area on the west slope of the Andes…
Stunning sunsets were a memorable feature of our wonderful cruise around the Galápagos Islands (Andy Swash).
SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Species that were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).
Species that were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).
Species that were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered ‘special’ birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from BirdLife International’s website: http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home

CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient.

BIRDS recorded in Galápagos

White-cheeked Pintail  *Anas bahamensis*  Observed on four occasions, with over 35 seen in total.

Galápagos Penguin ◊  *Spheniscus mendiculus* (EN)  22 seen, adults and juveniles, on Isabela and Fernandina.

Waved Albatross ◊  *Diomedea irrorata* (CR)  Over 500 seen on Española – one of the highlights of the tour.

Galápagos Petrel ◊  *Pterodroma phaeopygia* (CR)  About 500 at dusk near Santiago and occasional sightings at sea.

Galápagos Shearwater ◊  *Puffinus subalaris*  Very Common in inshore waters but generally rather scarce out to sea.

Elliot’s Storm Petrel ◊  (White-vented S P)  *Oceanites gracilis* (DD)  Very common, especially in inshore waters.

Wedge-rumped Storm Petrel ◊  (Galápagos S P)  *Oceanodroma tethys*  Very common; 1,000s seen at two colonies.

Band-rumped Storm Petrel ◊  (Madeiran S P)  *Oceanodroma castro*  Occasional at sea but never very close inshore.

American Flamingo (Caribbean F)  *Phoenicopterus ruber*  11 near Puerto Villamil on Isabela and 4 on Floreana.

Red-billed Tropicbird  *Phaethon aethereus*  Many sightings, notably on Genovesa where there is a large colony.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron  *Nyctanassa violacea*  20 on Genovesa (all ages) and 3 on Santiago.

A Swallow-tailed Gull regurgitating a cephalopod to feed its young. Surely one of the most beautiful gulls in the world, this species is unique amongst the gulls in being a nocturnal feeder (Andy Swash).
Green Heron  *Butorides virescens*  An adult in the highlands of Santa Cruz may be only the 2nd Galápagos record.
Lava Heron  ◊  (Galápagos H)  *Butorides sundevalli*  Widely scattered in small numbers, particularly on rocky shores.
Striated Heron  *Borodies striatus*  6 apparently ‘pure’ birds were seen, and a Lava Heron hybrid on San Cristóbal.
Western Cattle Egret  *Bubulcus ibis*  First seen at Baltra Airport, thereafter flocks being observed on many days.
Great Blue Heron  *Ardea herodias*  Ones and twos throughout the islands, with a maximum of 6 on Fernandina.
Great Egret  *Ardea alba*  One in flight near Puerto Villamil on Isabela was the only sighting.
Brown Pelican  *Pelecanus occidentalis*  Quite common and widespread.

**Magnificent Frigatebird**  *Fregata magnificens*  Common and widespread, sometimes even seen in the highlands.

**Great Frigatebird**  *Fregata minor*  Large nesting colonies seen on North Seymour and Genovesa.

**Blue-footed Booby**  ◊  *Sula nebouxii*  Much the commonest booby in inshore waters, with thousands seen.

**Nazca Booby**  ◊  *Sula granti*  Common; particularly large numbers at breeding colonies on Genovesa and Española.

**Red-footed Booby**  ◊  *Sula sula*  100s on Genovesa, including white and dark phase birds, and a few on San Cristóbal.

**Flightless Cormorant**  ◊  (Galápagos C)  *Phalacrocorax harrisi*  (VU)  40+ seen, including displaying & nesting birds.

**Galápagos Hawk**  ◊  *Buteo galapagoensis*  (VU)  Seen on 4 dates and often very tame; maximum of 10 on Santiago.

**Galápagos Crane**  ◊  (G Rail)  *Laterallus spilonotus*  (VU)  2 at Sierra Negra on Isabela and one heard on Santa Cruz.

**Paint-billed Crane**  ◊  *Neocrex erythrops*  4 in the highlands of Floreana, and 5, including 3 tiny chicks, on Santa Cruz.

**Common Gallinule**  *Gallinula galeata*  8 near Puerto Villamil on Isabela and 7 in the highlands of Santa Cruz.

**American Oystercatcher**  *Haematopus palliatus*  Seen in small numbers, scattered throughout the islands.

**Black-necked Stilt**  *Himantopus mexicanus*  Seen in small numbers, mainly on coastal lagoons and wetlands.

**Semipalmated Plover**  *Charadrius semipalmatus*  2 on Santiago, one on Isabella and 2 on San Cristóbal.

**‘Hudsonian’ Whimbrel**  *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*  15 recorded, mostly along shorelines. See note.

**Greater Yellowlegs**  *Tringa melanoleuca*  (H)  A scarce visitor; one was heard calling near Puerto Villamil on Isabela.

**Wandering Tattler**  *Heteroscelus incana*  3 seen: 2 on Santiago and 1 on San Cristóbal.

**Ruddy Turnstone**  *Arenaria interpres*  28 were recorded over seven dates.

**Brown Noddy (Common N)**  *Anous stolidus*  Common in inshore waters, but rarely seen far from land.

**Swallow-tailed Gull**  ◊  *Creagrus furcatus*  Good numbers seen throughout the islands, including 200+ on Genovesa.

**Lava Gull**  ◊  *Leucophaeus fuliginosus*  (VU)  Seen throughout the islands and recorded on eight dates; 38 birds seen.

**Laughing Gull**  *Leucophaeus atricilla*  One seen briefly from the boat off San Cristóbal.

**Galápagos Dove** ◊  *Zenaida galapagoensis*  Common, particularly on the smaller islands, including many juveniles.

**Dark-billed Cuckoo**  *Coccycomys melanocoryphus*  7 on Isabela and 3 on Santa Cruz, and a couple of others heard.

**Smooth-billed Ani**  *Crotophaga ani*  (introduced)  Common on Santa Cruz, with smaller numbers on other islands.

**‘Galápagos’ Barn Owl** ◊  *Tyto alba punctatissima*  2 roosting adults in lava tunnels on Santa Cruz. See note.

**‘Galápagos’ Short-eared Owl** ◊  *Asio flammeus galapagoensis*  6 on Genovesa. See note.

**‘Galápagos’ Vermilion Flycatcher** ◊  *Pyrocephalus rubinus nanus*  3 males and 3 females on Isabela. See note.

**Galápagos Flycatcher** ◊  (Large-billed F)  *Myiarchus magnirostris*  Small numbers seen on many occasions.

**Galápagos Mockingbird** ◊  *Mimus parvulus*  The most widespread of the mockingbirds, seen in good numbers.

**Floreana Mockingbird** ◊  (Charles M)  *Mimus trifasciatus*  (CR)  Very good views of seven birds on Champion.

**Hood Mockingbird** ◊  (Española M)  *Mimus macdonaldi*  (VU)  Exceptionally close views of 50+ on Española.

**San Cristóbal Mockingbird** ◊  (Chatham M)  *Mimus melanotis*  (EN)  Unusually close views of 10 on San Cristóbal.

**Galápagos Martin** ◊  *Progne modesta*  (EN)  A total of 8 at two sites along the west coast of Isabela on one day.

**Mangrove Warbler**  *Setophaga petechia*  The most common and widespread landbird in Galápagos.

**Large Ground Finch** ◊  *Geospiza magnirostris*  Seen well on Genovesa and on Santiago and odd ones elsewhere.

**Medium Ground Finch** ◊  *Geospiza fortis*  Common and widespread on most of the ‘central’ islands.

**Small Ground Finch** ◊  *Geospiza fuliginosa*  Much the commonest and most widespread of the Darwin’s Finches.

**Sharp-beaked Ground Finch** ◊  *Geospiza difficilis*  Excellent views of 30+ on Genovesa (where Small G F is absent).

**Common Cactus Finch** ◊  *Geospiza scandens*  Recorded on 4 dates, with about 20 seen.

**Large Cactus Finch** ◊  *Geospiza conirostris*  7 of ssp. *propinqua* on Genovesa, and 9 of nominate ssp. on Española.

**Vegetarian Finch** ◊  *Camarhynchus crassirostris*  An elusive species: 5 seen, all in the highlands of Santa Cruz.

**Large Tree Finch** ◊  *Camarhynchus psittacula*  Typically elusive: 2 seen, one on Isabela and a male on Santa Cruz.

**Medium Tree Finch** ◊  *Camarhynchus pauper*  (CR)  4 in the highlands of Floreana, including an obliging male.

**Small Tree Finch** ◊  *Camarhynchus parvulus*  The commonest *Camarhynchus* sp.: about 30 seen, from many islands.

**Woodpecker Finch** ◊  *Camarhynchus pallidus*  6 in the highlands of Santa Cruz, one using a twig as a tool.

**Green Warbler-Finch** ◊  (Olive W-F)  *Certhidea olivacea*  10 in the highlands of Isabela, and 7 on Santa Cruz.

**Grey Warbler-Finch** ◊  (Dusky W-F)  *Certhidea fusca*  8 on Genovesa and 30 on Española. See note.
MAMMALS recorded in Galápagos

House Rat (Black Rat) *Rattus rattus*  Dead individuals on Santiago and on Isabela, and a live one on Floreana.

Western House Mouse *Mus domesticus*  One on Santiago 3 on Floreana and six on Santa Cruz.

Galápagos Fur Seal ◊ *Arctocephalus galapagoensis* (EN)  10 on Genovesa, 3 on Isabela and 20 on N Seymour.

Galápagos Sea Lion ◊ *Zalophus wollebaeki* (EN)  Common and conspicuous, often in large concentrations.

Bryde’s Whale (Tropical W) *Balaenoptera edeni (= brydei)* (DD)  Up to seven off the west coast of San Cristóbal.

Common Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* (NL):  About 20, probably this sp., from Santa Cruz and Santiago.

REPTILES recorded in Galápagos

Galápagos Giant Tortoise ◊ *Geochelone elephantopus*  4 ssp. *vandenburghi* on Isabela, 10 ssp. *porteri* Santa Cruz.

Green Turtle ◊  (Pacific G T/Black T) *Chelonia mydas* (EN)  Many sightings, including fantastic views underwater.

Galápagos Lava Lizard ◊ *Tropidurus albemarlensis*  Locally common; the most widespread of the lava lizards.

Floreana Lava Lizard ◊ *Tropidurus grayi*  About 20 were seen on Floreana.

Española Lava Lizard ◊ *Tropidurus delanonis*  The largest of the lava lizards; very common on Española.

San Cristóbal Lava Lizard ◊ *Tropidurus bivattatus*  At least 10 were seen on San Cristóbal.

Land Iguana ◊ *Conolophus subcristatus*  7 on North Seymour and 2 large individuals on Isabela.

Marine Iguana ◊ *Amblyrhynchus cristatus*  Ubiquitous along rocky coastlines. We saw 6 of the seven subspecies.

Fernandina Snake ◊ *Alophis dorsalis occidentalis*  One was seen near Punta Espinoza on Fernandina.

FISHES recorded in Galápagos

Azure Parrotfish *Scarus compressus*

Balloony *Diodon holocanthus*

Barberfish *Johnrandallia nigrirostris*

Bicolor Parrotfish *Scarus rubroviolaceus*

Black-striped Salema * Xenocys jessiae*

Blue and Gold Snapper *Lutjanus viridis*

Blue Pufferfish *Arothron caeruleopunctatus*

Bravo Clinid *Labrisomus dendriticus*

Bullseye (Concentric) Puffer *Sphoeroides annulatus*

Bumphead Damselfish *Microspathodon bairdii*

Calico Lizardfish *Synodus lacertinus*

Camotillo *Paralabrax albomaculatus*

Diamond (Whiptail) Stingray *Dasyatis brevis*

Eagle Ray (or Spotted Eagle Ray) *Aetobatus narinari*

Flag Cabrilla *Epinephelus labriformis*

Galápagos Porphy *Calamus taurinus*

Galápagos Puffer *Sphoeroides sp.*

Galápagos Shark *Carcharhynchus galapagoensis*

Giant (or Hieroglyphic) Hawkfish *Cirrhitis rivulatus*

Guineaafowl Puffer *Arothron meleagris*

Hammerhead Shark *Sphyra sp.*

Harlequin Wrasse *Bodianus echancheri*

Jack Mackeral *Trachurus symmetricus*

Juvenile Damselfish *Pomacentridae*

King Angelfish *Holacanthus passer*

Leather Bass *Dermatocephis dermatolepis*

Manta Ray *Manta hamiltonii*

Marbled Ray *Torpedo marmorata*

Mexican (or Streamer) Hogfish *Bodianus diploaena*

Mexican Hawkfish *Cirrhitus sp.*
NOTABLE IVERTEBRATES recorded in Galápagos

Crustaceans
Sally Lightfoot Crab ◊ Grapsus grapsus Ubiquitous on the coasts.
Red Ghost Crab Ocyopode gaudichaudii One of the more brightly coloured ghost crabs, seen on several beaches.
Semi-terrestrial Hermit Crab Coenobita compressus The common semi-terrestrial hermit crab.
Hermit Crab Calcinus explorator The small hermit crab commonly encountered in tidal pools.
Fiddler Crab Uca helleri A few were seen on Isabela.
’Genovesa’ Fiddler Crab Uca sp. A few at Darwin Bay on Genovesa; a species apparently endemic to this beach.

Lepidoptera
Galápagos Sulphur Butterfly Phoebis sennae marcellina A few on Isabela, Floreana, Santa Cruz and Baltra.
Monarch Butterfly Danaus plexippus A few on Santiago, Isabela, the highlands of Floreana and on Santa Cruz.
Queen Butterfly Danaus gilippus Many were seen on Santiago and a few were recorded on Baltra.
Painted Lady Vanessa cardui One was seen nectaring during the evening on Floreana.

Odonata
Spot-winged Glider Pantala hymenaea Good numbers on North Seymour, Fernandina, Isabela and San Cristóbal.

Other notable insects
Large Painted Locust ◊ Schistocerca melanocera A very fancy locust, observed on many of the islands.
Small Painted Locust ◊ Schistocerca literosa A few were recorded on San Cristóbal.
Yellow Paper Wasp Polistes versicolor Seen on a few occasions.

BIRDS recorded at Antisana, mainland Ecuador
Andean Teal Anas andium 2 near Antisana Ecological Reserve and 10 on Lake Mica in Antisana Ecological Reserve.
Yellow-billed Pintail Anas georgica 3 on Lake Mica in Antisana Ecological Reserve.
Andean Duck Oxyura ferruginea 10 on Lake Mica in Antisana Ecological Reserve.
Silvery Grebe Podiceps occipitalis 6 on Lake Mica in Antisana Ecological Reserve.
Andean Ibis Theristicus branickii 10 on the páramo at Antisana Ecological Reserve. See note
Black Vulture Coragyps atratus 6 on the journey to Antisana and four en route to Quito.
Andean Condor Vultur gryphus (NT) 2 adults and a juvenile from a viewpoint near Antisana Ecological Reserve.
Variable Hawk Buteo polyosoma 4 in the Antisana Ecological Reserve.
Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle Geranoaetus melanoleucus 2 from the road to the Antisana Ecological Reserve.
Carunculated Caracara Phalcoboenus australis About 50 on the páramo in Antisana Ecological Reserve.
American Kestrel Falco sparverius 1 on the journey to Antisana and 2 in the Antisana Ecological Reserve.
Andean Coot Fulica ardeciaca About 20 on Lake Mica in Antisana Ecological Reserve.
Andean Lapwing Vanellus resplendens About 30 on the páramo in Antisana Ecological Reserve.
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon) Columba livia Recorded in and around Quito.
Eared Dove Zenaida auriculata Good numbers were seen in and around Quito.
Black-winged Ground Dove Metriopelia melanoptera A total of 15 seen in and around Antisana Ecological Reserve.
Band-winged Nightjar Caprimulgus longirostris 2 at dusk near the Antisana Ecological Reserve.
Sparkling Violetear Colibri coruscans 2 at feeders at our hacienda near the Antisana Ecological Reserve.
Shining Sunbeam Aglaeactis cupripennis 5 in and around the Antisana Ecological Reserve.
Ecuadorian Hillstar Oreotrochilus chimborazo About 10 near our hacienda near the Antisana Ecological Reserve.
Giant Hummingbird Patagona gigas 2 in the grounds of our hacienda near the Antisana Ecological Reserve.
Black-tailed Trainbearer Lesbia victoriae 4 near our hacienda near the Antisana Ecological Reserve.
Green-tailed Trainbearer Lesbia nuna 1 near our hacienda near the Antisana Ecological Reserve.
Tyrian Metaltail Metallura tyrannina 1 near our hacienda near the Antisana Ecological Reserve.
Chestnut-winged Cinclodes Cinclodes albiventeris 6 on the páramo in the Antisana Ecological Reserve. See note.
Stout-billed Cinclodes Cinclodes excelsior 10 on the páramo in the Antisana Ecological Reserve.
Many-striped Canastero Asthenes flammulata 12 heard or seen in and around the Antisana Ecological Reserve.
Tawny Antpitta Grallaria quitensis (NL) 1 seen briefly near the visitor centre in the Antisana Ecological Reserve.
White-crested Elaenia *Elaenia albiceps* 4 near our hacienda near the Antisana Ecological Reserve.

White-throated Tyrannulet *Meocerculus leucophrys* 1 near our hacienda near the Antisana Ecological Reserve.

Páramo Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola alpinus* 6 on the páramo in the Antisana Ecological Reserve.

Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant *Agriornis montanus* 2 at our hacienda near the Antisana Ecological Reserve.

Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoea fumicolor* 2 near our hacienda near the Antisana Ecological Reserve.

Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca* 2 on the journey to Antisana and six en route to Quito.

Brown-bellied Swallow *Notiochelidon murina* About 30 in and around the Antisana Ecological Reserve.

Great Thrush *Turdus fuscater* About 20 were seen between Quito and the Antisana Ecological Reserve.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (NL) 1 in Quito.

Hooded Siskin *Carduelis magellanica* About 10 near our hacienda near the Antisana Ecological Reserve.

Three-striped Warbler *Basileuterus tristriatus* 2 near our hacienda near the Antisana Ecological Reserve.

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis* 20 between the Antisana Ecological Reserve and Quito.

Rufous-naped Brush Finch (Northern R-n B F) *Atlapetes latinuchus* 4 near the Antisana Ecological Reserve.

Black Flowerpiercer *Diglossa humeralis* 4 near our hacienda near the Antisana Ecological Reserve.

Masked Flowerpiercer *Diglossopis cyanea* 1 near our hacienda near the Antisana Ecological Reserve.

Plumbeous Sierra Finch *Phrygilus unicolor* About 50 on the páramo in the Antisana Ecological Reserve.

Plain-colored Seedeeater *Catamenia inornata* 6 in the Antisana Ecological Reserve.

**MAMMALS recorded at Antisana, mainland Ecuador**

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus* A stag was seen briefly in the Antisana Ecological Reserve.

**NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST**


Andean Ibis *Theristicus branickii*

Andean Ibis has been split from Black-faced Ibis *T. melanopis*.

‘Hudsonian’ Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*

The dark-rumped forms of Whimbrel that occur in the Americas are often treated as a separate species, Hudsonian Whimbrel *N. hudsonicus*.

‘Galápagos’ Barn Owl *Tyto alba punctatissima*

This distinctive form, which is endemic to Galápagos, may well warrant specific status.

‘Galápagos’ Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus galapagoensis*

Given the current predilection for splitting species, it seems rather strange that the very distinctive birds in the Galápagos Islands, currently assigned to the endemic subspecies *galapagoensis*, are not treated as a separate species.

‘Galápagos’ Vermilion Flycatcher ♀ *Pyrocephalus rubinus nanus*

This fairly distinctive form, which is endemic to Galápagos, may well warrant specific status.

Grey Warbler-Finch (Dusky W-F) *Certithidea fuscus*

The ‘Warbler Finch’ *C. olivacea* has relatively recently been split into two species: Green (or Olive) Warbler-Finch *C. olivacea* and Grey (or Dusky) Warbler-Finch *C. fuscus*.

Chestnut-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes albidiventris*

Chestnut-winged Cinclodes is split from Buff-winged Cinclodes *C. fuscus*. 
For those members of the group who had opted to go on the Andes extension, this part of the tour began with a journey from Quito to the lower slopes of nearby Pichincha Volcano. We were met at our hotel by Juan Carlos Calvachi, our Ecuadorian guide for the remainder of the trip, who welcomed us all on board a large, roomy coach which, driven by our driver Edgar, made easy work of the steep road up to the Jocotoco Foundation Yanacocha Reserve. The morning was spent walking along the winding but flat trail running along the mountainside, giving us an opportunity to experience birding in lush, montane temperate forest. Many of the special birds of the forest at this relatively high altitude (3,400m) were seen along the way, the highlights including Purple-backed Thornbill, Bar-bellied Woodpecker, White-browed Spinetail, Crowned Chat-tyrant, Smoky Bush-tyrant, Spectacled Whitestart, Blue-backed Conebill, Glossy Flowerpiercer, Hooded, Black-chested and Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanagers and the wonderfully named Superciliaried Hemispingus.
At the end of the trail we were treated to amazingly close views of two Rufous Antpittas that had been encouraged into view by the park ranger providing worms. The hummingbird feeders here also provided an amazing spectacle, and the next hour or so seemed to pass very quickly, with everyone engrossed in watching or photographing up to seven hummingbird species feeding at very close range or sitting on low branches nearby. The species seen were the bizarre Sword-billed Hummingbird (the only bird that has a bill longer than its body), Great Sapphirewing (the second largest hummingbird after Giant Hummingbird), Sapphire-vented and Golden-breasted Pufflegs, Buff-winged Starfrontlet, Tyrian Metaltail and Shining Sunbeam. A few Masked Flowerpiercers also put in an appearance. As we walked slowly back to the parking area we were fortunate to see an immature male Rainbow-beared Thornbill feeding next to the trail.

After our picnic lunch we were invited to go with the park ranger to look for Tawny Antpitta – and we were not disappointed as two birds were ‘whistled-in’ from the dense undergrowth and hopped about in the open for about ten minutes, giving amazing views.
Rufous (above) and Tawny Antpittas (below) gave fantastic views at Yanacocha (Andy Swash).
The rest of the afternoon was spent driving slowly down from Yanacocha into the Tandyapa Valley and along the old Nono to Mindo road, stopping whenever we heard a mixed flock in the moss-festooned forest alongside the road. The highlights included great views of Turquoise Jay, Montane Woodcreeper, White-tailed Tyrannulet, Brown-capped Vireo and Blue-winged Mountain Tanager. We gradually dropped about 1,000 metres down the western slope of the Andes, mostly travelling through pristine cloudforest, where a White-capped Dipper on a fast-flowing stream was an added bonus.

When we reached our lodge near the town of Mindo, our home for the next four nights, we were treated to our second wonderful hummingbird spectacle of the day. It took a while to become familiar with the 12 species dashing around the feeders – all of which were different from those we had seen earlier in the day: White-whiskered Hermit, White-necked Jacobin, Brown Violetear, Green-crowned Woodnymph, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Andean Emerald, Purple-bibbed Whitetip, a female Empress Brilliant, Green-crowned Brilliant, Brown Inca, Booted Racket-tail and Purple-throated Woodstar. As we did the checklist that evening, we realised that we had recorded 22 species of hummingbird during the day!

After an early start the following morning, we travelled by coach some distance down the western slope of the Andes. We arrived in the foothill forest of the Silanche Reserve (at about 350 metres altitude) soon after dawn and, after a picnic breakfast, spent until mid-morning at the top of a sturdy tower looking out across the forest canopy. There was a tremendous amount of bird activity, with many of the species seen flying over or passing through the treetops being lower altitude specialities, some of which were Chocó endemics. (The Chocó is a geographical zone shared between north-west Ecuador and south-west Colombia that supports the largest number of restricted-range birds of any Endemic Bird Area on the Americas, including over 50 endemic species). The birds seen included two Black Hawk Eagles, flocks of Bronze-winged Parrots, Lineated and Cinnamon Woodpeckers, Grey-rumped and Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts, a Purple-crowned Fairy, Blue-chested and Purple-chested Hummingbirds, Red-headed and Orange-fronted Barbets, Dusky Pigeon, Black-striped Woodcreeper, Slate-throated Gnatcatcher, Chocó Tyrannulet, Grey Elaenia, Masked Tityra, White-bearded Manakin, Lesser Greenlet, Green and Purple Honeycreepers, Blue and Yellow-tufted Dacnis (the latter is now split from Black-faced Dacnis), Rufous-winged, White-shouldered, Tawny-crested, Bay-headed, Blue-grey, Palm and Lemon-rumped Tanagers, and Buff-throated Saltator.

Three of the many species seen from the canopy tower at Silanche Reserve: Black-striped Woodcreeper (left) (Sue Casson), Chocó Tyrannulet (above right) (Andy Swash) and Tawny-crested Tanager (below right) (Andy Swash).
As the heat increased and the bird activity slowed, we descended to the forest floor and walked slowly along a shady trail. Here we saw a White-whiskered Hermit, a female White-tailed Trogon, White-flaked and Dot-winged Antwrens, Western Woodhaunter, Plain-brown Woodcreeper and Purple-throated Fruitcrow. A particularly dense column of Leaf-cutter Ants streaming back and forth along the trail and up the trunk of a large tree and into the canopy was also an impressive sight. Before heading back to our lodge for lunch, we walked slowly down the road down from the reserve, obtaining excellent views of a Rufous-tailed Jacamar as it sat next to its nest hole, as well as scope views of Scarlet-thighed Dacnis and Green-and-gold and Scarlet-browed Tanagers feeding in the canopy. The morning was rounded off by the first sighting of a Nine-banded Armadillo rooting around alongside the track to the lodge.

A post-lunch break provided an opportunity to watch the birds around the feeders in the lodge grounds, with Orange-bellied Euphonia, Silver-throated, Golden and Golden-naped Tangers being attracted to the fruit provided and giving excellent views. After a short walk along the entrance road to the lodge, during which we saw a Nariño Tapaculo and, fleetingly, a Wattled Guan and Metallic-green and Flame-faced Tanagers, we spent the remainder of the afternoon by the River Nambillo near to the town of Mindo. Although the cloudforest was living up to its name, many new species for the tour were seen, including Pale-mandibled Aracari, Rufous Motmot, Fawn-breasted Tanager, Black Phoebe, Masked Water Tyrant and Scrub Blackbird. As we headed back to the lodge at dusk, an excellent day was rounded off with a male Lyre-tailed Nightjar seen in flight against the sky, followed soon after by another male perched on an open snag right by the road, giving fantastic views for all to enjoy – this was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the extension for many participants.
At first light the following morning we started birding in wonderful cloudforest situated on a ridge at 1,600 metres to the north-west of Mindo and spent the morning walking slowly down the Mashpi Road. Almost the first bird we saw after finishing our packed breakfast was a beautiful male Scaled Fruit-eater perched quietly low down very close to the road. There was very little traffic to contend with as we gradually worked our way down to lower altitudes on this remote mountain road (eventually descending to about 950 metres), and we saw many new species for the tour. These included some of the Chocó specialties, including the rather elusive Black Solitaire, Indigo Flowerpiercer, Orange-breasted Fruit-eater, Black-chinned Mountain Tanager, Moss-backed and Glistening-green Tanagers and Chocó Warbler. After lunch the heat increased and as the bird activity slowed we made our way back to the lodge, making a couple of roadside stops en route. After another excellent evening meal at the lodge, some of the group went ‘owling’ in the grounds and had excellent views of two Mottled Owls. Colombian Screech Owl was also heard but could not be enticed into view.
Mottled Owls were heard most nights from our lodge and on one evening we had fantastic views of two birds (Andy Swash).
The next morning proved to be another of the many highlights of our time in the Mindo area. At dawn we met Angel Paz at his farm, Refugio Paz, in the mountains not far from Mindo and after a short walk were standing in an area of forest surrounded by the incredible noise made by many lekking Andean Cock-of-the-rocks. For about half an hour we were treated to an amazing display before the birds gradually dispersed into the forest to feed. We then drove to a nearby farmstead and walked down a forested trail, passing a roosting Common Potoo on the way, before stopping at a shelter by a feeder loaded with bananas. The spectacle was truly amazing as we were immediately surrounded by birds: Sickle-winged Guans, Crimson-rumped Toucanets, Toucan Barbets, Black-chinned and Blue-winged Mountain Tangiers. Unexpectedly, a Plate-billed Mountain Toucan also put in an appearance and we were also fortunate to see a Dark-backed Wood Quail with a chick.

As we walked slowly back up the trail we were treated to good views of both Ochre-breasted and Moustached Antpittas as they responded to Angel’s imitated calls and were attracted to the worms he provided. Back up the hill a little further we paused by some hummingbird feeders where we had excellent views of Velvet-purple Coronets and a Fawn-breasted Brilliant. Our visit finished with an excellent traditional breakfast.
On our way back to the lodge for lunch we diverted on the lower section of the old Nono-Mindo road where we encountered several mixed-species feeding flocks high in the canopy and an amazingly obliging small, bright-green lizard that became the subject of many photographs! After some time enjoying the many birds in the lodge grounds, the rain set in and we travelled a short way down the main highway to reach the foothills, stopping at Mirador Rio Blanco where a stunning American Swallow-tailed Kite glided past. The hummingbird feeders here attracted many Green Thorntails, and at the fruit-feeders we saw Ecuadorian Thrush, Golden and Blue-grey Tanagers and both Thick-billed and Orange-breasted Euphonias.

The following day we returned to the section of the lower Nono-Mindo road that we had visited the previous day, driving a little further up before starting the morning’s birding. As we walked slowly up the road we were fortunate to see three Beautiful Jays, a rare and elusive and aptly named species, and to obtain good views of the rare Tanager Finch skulking in the undergrowth of a wet gully. We eventually ended up at the Bellavista Lodge at 2,400 metres, having seen many more new birds along the way in the good morning light. These included Gorgeted Sunangel, Capped Conebill, Yellow-bellied Chat-tyrant and Barred Becard, as well as more Plate-billed Mountain Toucans. By the time we reached Bellavista Lodge the mist had rolled in but the hummingbird feeders in the grounds provided easy viewing as we relaxed with welcome hot drinks. Buff-tailed Coronet, Green Violetear, Collared Inca and Speckled Hummingbird were added to our hummingbird list, taking the total number of the species for the tour (including Antisana) to 39!

On our way back to the lodge for lunch, a brief stop near the main road provided good views of two Pacific Horneros as they perched in a nearby tree. After another good lunch and a little more time for birding and photography in the lodge grounds, where three Pale-mandibled Aracaris were visiting the feeders, we loaded the coach for the final time and headed back to Quito. A brief stop at Calacali, the highest point on the pass before descending into the Central Valley, provided the last few new birds of the tour – Band-tailed Seedeater, Ash-breasted Sierra Finch and Southern Yellow Grosbeak. The final evening of the tour was spent at a quiet hosteria in the suburbs of Quito, where we said our farewells before everyone left on early flights the next morning.
SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE MAINLAND ECUADOR EXTENSION

Species that were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).
Species that were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).
Species that were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered ‘special’ birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from BirdLife International’s website: http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home

VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened.

BIRDS

Tawny-breasted Tinamou *Nothocercus julius* (H)  1 heard in the distance at Yanacocha.
Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui* (H)  2 heard from the canopy tower at the Silanche Reserve.
Wattled Guan ◊ *Aburria aburri* (NT)  1 near Mindo and 1 at Septimo Paraiso.
Sickle-winged Guan *Chamaepetes goudoti*  1 from the old Nono-Mindo Road and 8 at Refugio Paz.
Dark-backed Wood Quail ◊ *Odontophorus melanotus* (VU)  Amazing views of an adult and chick at Refugio Paz.
Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*  40 flying near Mindo and 3 from the Mashpi Road. See note.
Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*  1 flying over the River Nambillo near Mindo.
Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*  Small numbers seen most days. See note.
Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*  Small numbers seen most days.
Hook-billed Kite *Chondrohierax uncinatus*  2 seen and heard calling on the Mashpi Road.
Swallow-tailed Kite (American S-t K) *Elanoides forficatus*  1 was seen flying past the Mirador Rio Blanco.
Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus*  2 from the canopy tower at the Silanche Reserve.

This superb Plate-billed Mountain-toucan was an unexpected visitor to the feeders at Refugio Paz (Andy Swash).
Barred Hawk (Black-chested H) *Leucopternis princeps* 1 seen and heard calling from the Mashpi Road.

Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris* A total of 7 recorded, including 5 from the Mashpi Road.

Variable Hawk (Gurney’s H) *Buteo polyosoma* 1 at Yanacocha. See note.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* 1 on the outskirts of Quito.

Andean Lapwing *Vanellus resplendens* 3 were seen as we descended from Yanacocha.

Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia* A few in towns and villages.

Dusky Pigeon ◊ *Patagioenas goodsoni* 3 from the canopy tower at the Silanche Reserve.

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata* About 20 in Quito.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* 1 on the Mashpi Road and 6 on the old Nono-Mindo Road near Bellavista.

Pallid Dove ◊ *Leptotila pallida* (H) 1 heard at the Silanche Reserve.

White-throated Quail-Dove ◊ *Geotrygon frenata* 1 seen and 1 heard at Refugio Paz.

Maroon-tailed Parakeet ◊ *Pyrrhura melanura* 6 at the Silanche Reserve. See note.

Red-billed Parrot *Pionus sordidus* 10 near Mindo, 9 at Refugio Paz and 2 near Bellavista.

Bronze-winged Parrot *Pionus chalcopeterus* About 30 at the Silanche Reserve and a few flying over elsewhere.

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* 3 at the Silanche Reserve and 1 from the Mashpi Road.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* 1 at Septimo Paraiso.

Colombian Screech Owl ◊ *Otus colombianus* (NT) (H) Heard at Septimo Paraiso but unresponsive. See note.

Mottled Owl *Strix virgata* Fantastic views of 2 birds at Septimo Paraiso, where also heard most nights.

Common Potoo (Grey P) *Nyctibiush griseus* A roosting bird was seen at Refugio Paz. See note.

Rufous-bellied Nighthawk ◊ *Lurpicalins rufiventris* (NL) 2 seen just after dawn at Septimo Paraiso. See note.

Lyre-tailed Nightjar *Uropsalis lyra* 2 males, including 1 at point-blank range, near Mindo.

Chestnut-collared Swift *Cypseloides rutilus* 5 seen from the Mashpi Road and 1 heard at Bellavista.

White-collared Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris* About 10 from the Silanche Tower at the Silanche Reserve.

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift *Panyptila cayennensis* About 10 from the canopy tower at the Silanche Reserve.

White-whiskered Hermit ◊ *Phaethornis yaruqui* 2 at Septimo Paraiso and singles at the Silanche and Mashpi.

Tawny-bellied Hermit ◊ *Phaethornis syratophorus* 2 from the old Non-Mindo Road and 1 at Bellavista.

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora* Up to ten at Septimo Paraiso and 1 at Mirador Rio Blanco.

Brown Violetear *Colibri delphinae* Up to six at Septimo Paraiso.

Green Violetear *Colibri thalassinus* 1 at Bellavista. See note.

Sparkling Violetear *Colibri coruscans* Singles at Yanacocha and Bellavista and 2 on the outskirts of Quito.

Green Thorntail *Popelairia conversii* A male beside the Mashpi Road and about 20 at Mirador Rio Blanco.

Green-crowned Woodnymph ◊ *Thalurania fanny* Up to 4 at Septimo Paraiso. See note.

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl* Up to 10 at Septimo Paraiso and 2 at the Silanche Reserve.

Andean Emerald ◊ *Amazilia franciae* Up to 4 at Septimo Paraiso and 2 at Mirador Rio Blanco.

Blue-chested Hummingbird *Amazilia amabilis* 2 from the canopy tower at the Silanche Reserve.

Purple-chested Hummingbird ◊ *Amazilia rosenbergi* 1 at the Silanche Reserve.

Speckled Hummingbird *Adelomyia melanogenys* 1 at Bellavista.

Fawn-breasted Brilliant ◊ *Heliodoxa rubinoides* Singles at Refugio Paz and Bellavista.

Green-crowned Brilliant ◊ *Heliodoxa jacula* Up to 3 at Septimo Paraiso and 3 at Mirador Rio Blanco.

Empress Brilliant ◊ *Heliodoxa imperatrix* A female at Septimo Paraiso most days and 1 at Refugio Paz.

Buff-tailed Coronet ◊ *Boissonaria flavescens* 1 on the old Non-Mindo Road and about 20 at Bellavista.

Velvet-purple Coronet ◊ *Boissonaria jardinii* 1 from the Mashpi Road and two at Refugio Paz.

Shining Sunbeam *Aglaeactis cupripennis* 1 at Yanacocha.

Brown Inca ◊ *Coeligena wilsoni* 2 at Septimo Paraiso on 1 day and 1 from the Mashpi Road.

Collared Inca *Coeligena torquata* 1 at Bellavista.

Buff-winged Starfrontlet *Coeligena lutetiae* About 20 at Yanacocha.

Sword-billed Hummingbird *Ensifera ensifera* A male at Yanacocha.

Great Sapphirewing *Pterophanes cyanopterus* 3 at Yanacocha.

Giant Hummingbird *Patagona gigas* 1 at Mirador Rio Blanco

Gorseted Sunangel ◊ *Heliangelus strophianus* 2 at Bellavista.

Sapphire-vented Puffleg *Ericomnium luciani* About 15 at Yanacocha.

Golden-breasted Puffleg ◊ *Ericomnium mosquera* 2 at Yanacocha.

Purple-bibbed Whitetip ◊ *Urosticte benjamini* Up to 3 at Septimo Paraiso. See note.

Booted Racket-tail *Oreatus underwoodii* Up to 6 at Septimo Paraiso and 3 at Bellavista (all ‘white-booted’).

Purple-backed Thornbill *Ramphomicron microrhynchum* 2 at Yanacocha.
Purple-throated Woodstar ◊ *Calliphlox mitchellii*  
Up to 4 at Septimo Paraiso.

Golden-headed Quetzal  
*Pharomachrus auriceps*  
1 from the Mashpi Road.

Masked Trogon  
*Trogon personatus*  
1 from the Mashpi Road.

Crimson-rumped Toucanet  
*Ramphastos brevis*  
1 heard from the old Nono-Mindo Road and 1 seen near Bellavista.

Golden-olive Woodpecker  
*Colaptes rubiginosus*  
1 heard from the old Nono-Mindo Road and 1 seen near Bellavista.

Cinnamon Woodpecker  
*Celeus loricatus*  
1 heard from the old Nono-Mindo Road and 1 seen near Bellavista.

Lineated Woodpecker  
*Dryocopus lineatus*  
1 heard from the old Nono-Mindo Road and 1 seen near Bellavista.

Pacific Horned  
*Furnarius cinnamomeus*  
1 heard from the old Nono-Mindo Road and 1 seen near Bellavista.

Rufous Spinetail  
*Anabacerthia variegaticeps*  
1 heard from the old Nono-Mindo Road and 1 seen near Bellavista.

Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner  
*Philydor rufus*  
1 in the grounds at Septimo Paraiso.

Pacific Harrier  
*Ptilonotus ruficeps*  
1 heard from the old Nono-Mindo Road and 1 seen near Bellavista.

Rufous-naped Wren  
*Thamnophilus atricapillus*  
1 heard from the old Nono-Mindo Road and 1 seen near Bellavista.

Black-crowned Antthrush  
*Formicarius nigricapillus*  
1 heard from the old Nono-Mindo Road and 1 seen near Bellavista.

White-throated Wren  
*Thryothorus lanuginosus*  
1 heard from the old Nono-Mindo Road and 1 seen near Bellavista.
Rufous Antpitta *Grallaria rufula* Wonderful views of two birds coming to worms at Yanacocha.

Tawny Antpitta ♦ *Grallaria quitensis* Excellent views of two birds coming to worms at Yanacocha.

Ochre-breasted Antpitta *Galarria flavirostris* (NT) 1 was seen coming to worms at Refugio Paz.

Ocellated Tapaculo *Acropternis ornatus* 1 seen briefly on the old Nono-Mindo Road, 2 others heard elsewhere.

Nariño Tapaculo ♦ *Scytalopus vicinior* 1 seen at Septimo Paraiso, 2 others heard elsewhere. See note.

Spillmann’s Tapaculo ♦ *Scytalopus spillmanni* 1 old Nono-Mindo Road and 2 heard near Bellavista. See note.

Blackish Tapaculo ♦ *Scytalopus latrans* (H) 2 were heard at Yanacocha. See note.

Sooty-headed Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias griseiceps* (H) 2 were heard at the Silanche Reserve.

Grey Eleaenia *Myiopagis caniceps* 2 from the canopy tower at the Silanche Reserve.

Brown-capped Tyrannulet *Ornithion brunneicapillus* 1 from the canopy tower at the Silanche Reserve.

White-throated Tyrannulet *Meococcus leucophrys* 4 at Yanacocha.

White-tailed Tyrannulet *Meococcus poecilocercus* Singles along the old Nono-Mindo Road on two occasions.

Torrent Tyrannulet *Serpophaga cinerea* 4 on the River Nambillo near Mindo

Bronze-olive Pygmy Tyrant ♦ *Pseudotriccus pelzelni* 2 from the Mashpi Road.

Rufous-headed Pygmy Tyrant *Pseudotriccus ruficeps* (H) Heard on two occasions near Bellavista.

Chocó Tyrannulet ♦ *Zimmerius albigitrius* 1 from the canopy tower at the Silanche Reserve. See note.

Slaty-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon supercilialis* 1 at Septimo Paraiso.

Flavescent Flycatcher ♦ *Myiophobus flavicans* 1 from the lower part of the Nono-Mindo Road.

Ornate Flycatcher *Myiobius ornatus* 1 at Septimo Paraiso and about 20 along the Mashpi Road.

Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant *Lophotriccus pileatus* 2 at the Silanche Reserve and 1 heard on the Mashpi Road.

Black-headed Tody-flycatcher *Todirostrum nigricapillus* 1 along the Mashpi Road.

Cinnamon Flycatcher *Pyrrhomyias cinnamomea* 2 near Bellavista.

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* 2 on the River Nambillo near Mindo. See note.

Smoke-colored Pewee *Contopus fumigatus* 2 from the Mashpi Road and 1 near Bellavista. See note.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* 2 in the grounds of our guest house in Quito.

Smoky Bush Tyrant *Myiotheres fumigatus* 2 at Yanacocha

Masked Water Tyrant *Fluvicola nengeta* 2 close to the River Nambillo near Mindo and 1 in the Bellavista area.

Crowned Chat-Tyrant ♦ *Ochthoeca frontalis* 2 at Yanacocha.

Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant ♦ *Ochthoeca diadema* 2 near Bellavista.

Rusty-margined Flycatcher *Myiozetetes cayanensis* 2 from the Mashpi Road.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis* About ten at the Silanche Reserve and en route back to Mindo.

Golden-crowned Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis* 1 on the old Nono-Mindo Road, 2 on the Mashpi Road.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangus* 1 from the Mashpi Road.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyranus melancholicus* Common, particularly in open areas at lower elevations.

Green-and-black Fruitpeater *Pipreola riefferii* 1 seen briefly at Bellavista.

Orange-breasted Fruitpeater ♦ *Pipreola jucunda* A male was seen along the Mashpi Road.

Scaled Fruitpeater *Amphioleides tschudi* A male was seen at very close range along the Mashpi Road.

Andean Cock-of-the-rock *Rupicola peruviana* About 20 males at a lek near Refugio Paz and 1 at Septimo Paraiso.

Purple-throated Fruiteater *Querula purpurata* 2 at the Silanche Reserve. See note.

White-throated Fruiteater ♦ *Myiozetetes flavicans* A male from the canopy tower at the Silanche Reserve. See note.

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata* A female from the canopy tower at the Silanche Reserve.

Barred Becard *Pachyramphus versicolor* A male near Bellavista.

Cinnamon Becard *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus* 1 heard at Septimo Paraiso and 1 seen from the Mashpi Road.

Black-white Becard *Pachyramphus albogriseus* (H) 1 was heard at Septimo Paraiso.

Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo *Vireo leucophrys* 3 seen well and watched singing along the Mashpi Road.

Brown-capped Vireo *Vireo leucophrys* 1 old Nono-Mindo Road twice and 1 heard on the Mashpi Road. See note.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* 2 near Bellavista.

Lesser Greenlet *Hylophilus decurtatus* 3 from the canopy tower at the Silanche Reserve and 1 on the Mashpi Road.

Toucanette *Cyanolyca turcosa* 4 from the old Nono-Mindo Road and 3 near Bellavista.

Beautiful Jay ♦ *Cyanolyca pulchra* (NT) 3 along the old Nono-Mindo Road.

Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca* Common, with up to about 10 seen on most days.

Brown-bellied Swallow *Notiochelidon murina* About 20 at Yanacocha and 6 from the old Nono-Mindo Road.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* 6 at the Silanche Reserve and 50+ on the Mashpi Road.

Rufous Wren *Cinnycerthia unirufa* (H) 2 were heard at Yanacocha.

Sepia-brown Wren (Sharpe’s W) *Cinnycerthia olivascens* 4 on the Mashpi Road and two at Bellavista. See note.

Bay Wren *Thryothorus nigricapillus* 1 heard at the Silanche Reserve and two seen from the Mashpi Road.
Flame-faced Tanager *Tangara parzudakii* 1 at Septimo Paraiso, 2 Mashpi Road and 1 old Nono-Mindo Road.

Black Solitaire ♦ *Entomodestes coracinus* 2 seen well along the Mashpi Road.

Great Thrush *Turdus fuscater* Common, particularly at higher altitudes, with a maximum of 10 at Yanacocha.

Glossy-black Thrush *Turdus serranus* 2 along the lower part of the old Nono-Mindo Road and 2 at Bellavista.

Ecuadorian Thrush ♦ *Turdus maculirostris* 1 at Septimo Paraiso and 2 at Mirador Rio Blanco. See note.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* 1 in a village as we returned from the Mashpi Road.

Hooded Siskin *Carduelis magellanica* 1 at Calacali.

Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia laniirostris* 2 on the feeders at Mirador Rio Blanco.

Golden-rumped Euphonia *Euphonia cyanocephala* (H) 1 heard at Calacali. See note.

Orange-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia xanthogaster* 4 at Septimo Paraiso, 6 Mashpi Road and 2 at Mirador Rio Blanco.

Olive-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis semilavata* A male was seen well from the Mashpi Road.

Tropical Parula *Parula pityiayumi* 3 from the Mashpi Road.

Black-crested Warbler *Myiathlypis nigrocrisatus* 2 at Bellavista.

Buff-rumped Warbler *Myiathlypis fulvicauda* 1 from the Mashpi Road. See note.

Chocó Warbler ♦ *Myiathlypis chlorophrys* 3 from the Mashpi Road. See note.

Russet-crowned Warbler *Myiathlypis coronatus* 4 seen and heard singing along the old Nono-Mindo Road.

Three-striped Warbler *Basileuterus tristriatus* 2 at Septimo Paraiso and 6 from the Mashpi Road.

Slate-throated Whitestart (S-t Redstart) *Myioborus miniatus* 5 Mashpi Road, 1 Mirador Rio Blanco, 2 Bellavista.

Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus* 2 at Bellavista.

Yellow-throated Bush Tanager *Chlorospingus flavigularis* Six from the Mashpi Road.

Superciliaried Hemispingus *Hemispingus superciliiaris* 1 at Yanacocha.

Western Hemispingus ♦ *Hemispingus ochraceus* 1 at Bellavista. See note.

White-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus luctuosus* 2 from the canopy tower at the Silanche Reserve.

Tawny-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus delatirii* 2 from the canopy tower at the Silanche Reserve.

Lemon-rumped Tanager (Yellow-r T) *Rhamphocelus icteronotus* Common; daily maximum of 20. See note.

Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus* 4 Mashpi, 6 old Nono-Mindo Road, 5 Bellavista.

Yellow-billed Euphonia *Euphonia laniirostris* 1 heard at Calacali. See note.

Euphonia cyanocephala A male was seen well from the Mashpi Road.

Dusky Bush Tanager ♦ (D-bellied B T) *Chlorospingus semiusculus* 4 Mashpi, 6 old Nono-Mindo Road, 5 Bellavista.

Chocó Brush Finch (Dusky B F) ♦ *Arremon aurantirostris* 1 from the Mashpi Road.

Rufous-naped Brush Finch (Northern R-n B F) *Atlapetes superciliaris* 4 at Yanacocha and 2 at Bellavista. See note.

Dusky Bush Tanager (Northern R-n B F) *Atlapetes latiniuchus* 4 at Yanacocha and 2 at Bellavista.

Slate-throated Gnatcatcher *Polioptila schistaceigula* 1 heard at Calacali. See note.

Brown-throated Sylph *Calliphobes ornithorhynchus* 1 from the canoe tower at the Silanche Reserve.

Western Parula *Parula pitiayumi* 3 from the Mashpi Road.

Tawny-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus delatirii* 2 from the canopy tower at the Silanche Reserve.

Tawny-crested Tanager ♦ *Tachyphonus luctuosus* 1 at Bellavista.

Golden-throated Wren *Troglodytes aedon* 1 at Septimo Paraiso and 1 heard at Refugio Paz. See note.

Grey-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucocephyrus* 1 or 2 recorded daily; seen at Septimo Paraiso and Bellavista.

Southern Nightingale-Wren (Scaly-breasted W) *Microcerculus marginatus* (H) 1 heard at Silanche. See note.

Grey and-bellied Tanager *Microcerculus spectabilis* 4 at Bellavista and 3 from the Mashpi Road.

Arremon aurantirostris 1 from the Mashpi Road.

Black-chinned Mountain Tanager ♦ *Buthraupis eximia* 2 at Yanacocha.

Black-chested Mountain Tanager *Buthraupis montana* 2 at Yanacocha.

Hooded Mountain Tanager *Buthraupis montana* 2 at Yanacocha.

Black-chested Mountain Tanager *Buthraupis eximia* (LO) 1 at Yanacocha.

Yellow-shouldered Tanager ♦ *Tachyphonus luctuosus* 2 from the canopy tower at the Silanche Reserve.

Black-chinned Mountain Tanager ♦ *Anisognathus somptuosus* 20 recorded from 4 localities; max 10 at Refugio Paz.

Black-chinned Mountain Tanager ♦ *Anisognathus notabilis* 4 from the Mashpi Road and 6 at Refugio Paz.

Black-chinned Mountain Tanager ♦ *Anisognathus somptuosus* 20 recorded from 4 localities; max 10 at Refugio Paz.

Black-chinned Mountain Tanager ♦ *Anisognathus notabilis* 4 from the Mashpi Road and 6 at Refugio Paz.

Grass-green Tanager ♦ *Chlorornis riifferii* (H) 1 was heard near Bellavista.

Fawn-breasted Tanager *Pipraeidea melanotus* 1 near the River Nambillo near Mindo and 1 from the Mashpi Road.

Glistening-green Tanager ♦ *Chlorochrysa phoenicotis* 2 along the Mashpi Road.

Grey-and-gold Tanager *Tangara palmeri* 2 at the Silanche Reserve.

Emerald Tanager *Tangara palmeri* 2 at the Silanche Reserve.

Golden Tanager *Tangara serripennis* 1 at Bellavista.

Silver-throated Tanager *Tangara icterocephala* Up to two at Septimo Paraiso and 1 at Mirador Rio Blanco.

Flame-faced Tanager *Tangara parzudakii* 1 at Septimo Paraiso, 2 Mashpi Road and 1 old Nono-Mindo Road.
Rufous-throated Tanager ◊ *Tangara rufigula*  4 were seen from the Mashpi Road.
Bay-headed Tanager  *Tangara gyrola*  3 from the canopy tower at the Silanche Reserve and 2 from the Mashpi Road.
Rufous-winged Tanager  *Tangara lavinia*  2 from the canopy tower at the Silanche Reserve.
Golden-naped Tanager  *Tangara ruficervix*  2 at Septimo Paraiso.
Metallic-green Tanager  *Tangara labradorides*  1 at Septimo Paraiso and 1 along the old Nono-Mindo Road.
Blue-necked Tanager  *Tangara cyanicollis*  2 from the Mashpi Road and 1 at Septimo Paraiso.
Beryl-spangled Tanager  *Tangara nigroviridis*  2 along the old Nono-Mindo Road and 2 at Bellavista.
Blue-and-black Tanager  *Tangara vassorii*  4 at Bellavista.
Swallow Tanager  *Tersina viridis*  A pair from the Mashpi Road.
Yellow-tufted Dacnis ◊  *Dacnis egregia*  6 from the canopy tower at the Silanche Reserve. See note.
Scarlet-thighed Dacnis  *Dacnis venusta*  3 near the Silanche Reserve.
Blue Dacnis  *Dacnis cayana*  2 from the canopy tower at the Silanche Reserve.
Purple Honeycreeper  *Cyanerpes caeruleus*  2 from the canopy tower at the Silanche Reserve.
Green Honeycreeper  *Chlorophaes spiza*  4 from the canopy tower at the Silanche Reserve.
Scarlet-browed Tanager  *Heterospingus xanthopygius*  3 near the Silanche Reserve.
Blue-backed Conebill  *Conirostrum sitticolor*  1 along the old Nono-Mindo Road.
Capped Conebill  *Conirostrum albinonis*  1 near Bellavista.
Glossy Flowerpiercer  *Diglossa lafresnayii*  About 20 at Yanacocha.
White-sided Flowerpiecer  *Diglossa albilatera*  1 on the lower part of the old Nono-Mindo Road and 1 at Bellavista.
Indigo Flowerpiecer ◊  *Diglossa indigotica*  2 along the Mashpi Road.
Masked Flowerpiercer  *Diglossops cyanea*  10 at Yanacocha and 1 at Bellavista.
Tanager Finch ◊  *Oreothraupis aremonops* (VU)  1 seen well on the old Nono-Mindo Road near Bellavista.
Ash-breasted Sierra Finch  *Phrygilus plebejus*  1 at Calacali.
Blue-black Grassquit  *Volatinia jacarina*  2 during the journey back from the Mashpi Road.
Variable Seedeeater  *Sporophila corvina*  4 Silanche Reserve, 2 Septimo Paraiso and 10 Mashpi Road. See note.
Yellow-bellied Seedeeater  *Sporophila nigricollis*  6 en route from the Silanche Reserve and 10 on the Mashpi Road.
Band-tailed Seedeeater  *Catamenia analis*  A male at Calacali.
Ochre-breasted Tanager ◊  *Chlorothraupis stolzmanni*  2 were seen from the Mashpi Road.
Southern Yellow Grosbeak (Golden-bellied G)  *Pheucticus chrysogaster*  2 at Calacali. See note.
Buff-throated Saltator  *Saltator maximus*  4 Silanche, 1 Mashpi, 4 Septimo Paraiso and 2 Mirador Rio Blanco.
Black-winged Saltator ◊  *Saltator atripennis*  3 in the grounds at Septimo Paraiso and 1 from the Mashpi Road.

**MAMMALS**

Nine-banded Armadillo  *Dasypus novemcinctus*  1 at Septimo Paraiso on 3 days
Kinkajou  *Potos flavus*  1 at Septimo Paraiso
Red-tailed Squirrel (Tropical Red S)  *Sciurus granatensis*  1 at Septimo Paraiso, 2 at Mirador Rio Blanco

**NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST**


Western Cattle Egret  *Bubulcus ibis*
Ridgely & Greenfield and other authors use the name Cattle Egret for this species, but it has been renamed following the splitting off of the eastern (Asian) form *coromandus* under the name Eastern Cattle Egret.

Turkey Vulture  *Cathartes aura*
More than one species may be involved.

Variable Hawk  *Buteo polyosoma*
The form concerned is often split off as a separate species: Puna Hawk *B. poecilocephalus*. The residual *B. polyosoma* is then renamed Red-backed Hawk.
Maroon-tailed Parakeet *Pyrrhura melanura*

The subspecies *pacific*, inhabiting the western lowlands and foothills, may represent a distinct species, Chocó Parakeet.

**Colombian Screech Owl** *Otus colombianus*

Ridgely & Greenfield lump this form in Rufescent Screech Owl *O. ingens*.

**Common (or Grey) Potoo** *Nyctibiis griseus*

The Northern Potoo *N. jamaicensis* of northern Central America and the Caribbean has been split off as a separate species. Confusingly, *N. jamaicensis* is sometimes still called Common Potoo.

**Rufous-bellied Nighthawk** *Lurocalis rufiventris*

This form was formerly lumped in Short-tailed (or Semi-collared) Nighthawk *L. semitorquatus*.

**Green Violetear** *Colibri thalassinus*

The form concerned has occasionally been split off as a separate species: Mountain Violetear *C. cyanotus*.

**Green-crowned Woodnymph** *Thalurania fannyi*

This form was formerly lumped in Violet-crowned Woodnymph *T. colombica*, with the name Crowned Woodnymph being used for the enlarged species.

**Purple-bibbed Whitetip** *Urosticte benjami* and **Rufous-vented Whitetip** *Urosticte rufcrissa*

Some authors lump Rufous-vented Whitetip in Purple-bibbed Whitetip, using the name Whitetip for the enlarged species.

**Rufous Motmot** *Baryphthengus martii*

This form was formerly lumped in Rufous-capped Motmot *B. ruficapillus*, with the name Rufous Motmot being used for the enlarged species.

**Pale-mandibled Aracari** *Pteroglossus erythropygius*

This form is sometimes lumped in Collared Aracari *P. torquatus*.

**Pacific Hornero** *Furnarius cinnamomeus*

This form was formerly lumped in Pale-legged Hornero *F. leucopus*.

**Azara’s Spinetail** *Synallaxis azarai*

The form concerned is sometimes split off as a separate species: Elegant Spinetail *S. elegantior*.

**Scaly-throated (or Scaly-breasted or Spectacled) Foliage-gleaner** *Anabacerthia variegaticeps*

The form concerned, temporalis, has sometimes been regarded as a subspecies of Montane Foliage-gleaner *A. striaticollis*. Alternatively, it may represent a distinct species: Spot-breasted Foliage-gleaner.

**Western Woodhaunter** *Hyloctistes virgatus*

This form was formerly lumped in Eastern Woodhaunter *H. subulatus*, with the name Striped Woodhaunter (or Striped Foliage-gleaner) being used for the enlarged species.

**Montane Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*

This form was formerly lumped in Spot-crowned Woodcreeper *L. affinis*.

**Nariño Tapaculo** *Scytalopus vicinior*

This form was formerly lumped in Pale-throated (or Tacarcuna) Tapaculo *S. panamensis*.

**Spillmann’s Tapaculo** *Scytalopus spillmanni*

This form was formerly lumped in Brown-rumped Tapaculo *S. latebricola*.

**Blackish Tapaculo** *Scytalopus latrans*

Ridgely & Greenfield lump this form in Unicoloured Tapaculo *S. unicolor*.

**Chocó Tyrannulet** *Zimmerius albigularis*

This form was formerly lumped in Golden-faced Tyrannulet *Z. chrysops*, which in turn was lumped in Peruvian Tyrannulet *Z. viridiflavus*, with the name Golden-faced Tyrannulet being used for the enlarged species.

**Black Phoebe** *Sayornis nigricans*

The form concerned is sometimes split off as a separate species: White-winged Phoebe *S. latirostris*.

**Smoke-coloured Pewee** *Contopus fumigatus*

The name Greater Pewee is sometimes used for this species, but it is now known as Smoke-coloured Pewee to differentiate it from Greater Pewee *C. pertinax* and Dark Pewee *C. lugubris* which have been split off as separate species.
White-bearded Manakin  Manacus manacus
Some authors lump White-collared *M. candei*, Orange-collared *M. aurantiacus* and Golden-collared Manakins *M. vitellinus* in this species, using the name Bearded Manakin for the enlarged species.

Brown-capped Vireo  Vireo leucophrys
This species was formerly lumped in Warbling Vireo *V. gilvus*.

Red-eyed Vireo  Vireo olivaceus
Subspecies breeding in South America have sometimes been split off as a separate species under the name Chivi Vireo *V. chivi*.

Sepia-brown (or Sharpe’s) Wren  Cinnycerthia olivascens
This species was formerly (with Fulvous Wren *C. fulva*) lumped in Peruvian Wren *C. peruanum*, with the name Sepia-brown Wren being used for the enlarged species.

House Wren  Troglodytes aedon
The southern forms are treated by some authors as a separate species Southern House Wren *T. musculus*.

Southern Nightingale-Wren  Microcerculus marginatus
Northern Nightingale-Wren (sometimes just called Nightingale Wren) *M. philomela* (which does not occur in Ecuador) was formerly lumped in this form, with the name Nightingale Wren being used for the enlarged species. The taxonomy of *Microcerculus* wrens is probably even more complex and *M. marginatus* itself may consist of two or more biological species.

Ecuadorean Thrush  Turdus maculirostris
This species was formerly lumped in Bare-eyed (or Yellow-eyed) Thrush *T. nudigenis*.

Golden-rumped Euphonia  Euphonia cyanosephala
This form (together with Blue-hooded or Elegant Euphonia *E. elegantissima*) is sometimes lumped in Antillean Euphonia *E. musica*, with the name Blue-hooded Euphonia being used for the enlarged species.

Buff-rumped Warbler  Myiothlypis fulvicauda
This form is sometimes lumped in Streamside (or River) Warbler *G. rivularis*.

Chocó Warbler  Myiothlypis chlorophrys
This form was formerly lumped in Golden-bellied Warbler *B. chrysogaster*.

Scarlet-rumped Cacique  Cacicus microrhynchus
This form is sometimes lumped in Subtropical Cacique *C. uropygialis*, with the name Scarlet-rumped Cacique being used for the enlarged species.

Chocó Brush Finch (Dusky B F)  Atlapetes crassus
Ridgely & Greenfield lump this form (found on the west slope of the Andes in Columbia and Ecuador) in Tricolored Brush Finch *A. tricolor* (found on the east slope of the Andes in Peru).

Rufous-naped Brush Finch (Northern R-n B F)  Atlapetes latinuchus
This form (along with several others) was formerly lumped in Bolivian Rufous-naped Brush Finch (or Bolivian B-F) *A. rufinucha*, with the name Rufous-naped Brush Finch being used for the enlarged species.

Western Hemispingus  Hemispingus ochraceus
This form is often lumped in Black-eared Hemispingus *H. melanotis*.

Lemon-rumped (or Yellow-rumped) Tanager  Ramphocelus icteronotus
This form is sometimes lumped in Flame-rumped Tanager *R. flammigerus*.

Yellow-tufted Dacnis  Dacnis egregia
This form has been split from Black-faced Dacnis *D.lineata*.

Variable Seedeater  Sporophila corvina
This form is often lumped in Wing-barred Seedeater *S. americana*, with the name Variable Seedeater being used for the enlarged species. *S. corvina* was formerly known by the invalid name *S. aurita*.

Southern Yellow Grosbeak (Golden-bellied G)  Pheucticus chrysogaster
This form is often lumped in Mexican Yellow Grosbeak *P. chrysopeplus*, with the name Yellow Grosbeak being used for the enlarged species.