

TANDAYAPA PRE-TRIP TO GALAPAGOS

JULY 16-18, 2011

LEADERS:

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TOUR REPORT
TANDAYAPA PRE-TRIP TO GALAPAGOS ISLANDS CRUISE
July 16-18, 2011

By Michael O'Brien

With over 1,600 bird species in Ecuador, it seems like a shame to travel all the way to the Galápagos Islands without, at least, a quick sampling of this country's rich mainland. Our pre-trip excursion to the northwestern Andes was designed as exactly that, and we were all dazzled by abundant birdlife and brilliant color. Our efforts were focused around Mindo and the Tandayapa Valley, areas renowned for a high diversity of birdlife, particularly hummingbirds. To make this short trip extra special, we were guided by Paul Greenfield who spent 20 years illustrating and co-authoring *The Birds of Ecuador*, and Tony Nunnery whose home in the Tandayapa Valley is one of the best spots in the world for viewing hummingbirds. We could not have been in better hands!

On our first morning we headed to the Pacha Quindi Nature Refuge, which also happens to be Tony Nunnery's residence. This pristine reserve in the Andean cloud forest has an extensive trail system and is home to over 300 species of birds. But the biggest attraction here is the hummingbird garden ("pacha quindi" means "hummingbird place") where over 40 species of hummingbirds have been recorded! On our visit, we managed to see a respectable 18 species, including Brown and Collared incas, Purple-bibbed Whitetip, and the beautiful Booted Racket-tail. It was simply mesmerizing to watch dozens and dozens of hummingbirds fighting over feeder space, all from the comfort of Tony's back porch. The area was active with other birds as well, including Masked Trogon, White-tailed Tyrannulet, Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager, Flame-faced Tanager, and Golden-rumped Euphonia.

After lunch at Tony's, we made several stops along the famous "Ecoroute" (a.k.a., Nono-Mindo Road). This road traverses some magnificent cloud forest where, among many highlights, we found Gorgeted Sunangel, Powerful Woodpecker, Turquoise Jay, and Spectacled Redstart. But the real prize was seeing a pair of Plate-billed Mountain-Toucans visiting their nest! We ended the day at our beautiful lodge, Septimo Paraíso. Upon hearing the amazing calls of Wattled Guan on a nearby hillside, we had to track it down. After much effort, we were finally successful, and in the process also saw a roosting Common Potoo and two Rufous-bellied Nighthawks!

We spent much of the following early morning birding right around the lodge, and on nearby roads. This turned out to be highly productive, with sightings of Violet-tailed Sylph, Golden-headed Quetzal, Strong-billed Woodcreeper, Ornate Flycatcher, Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant, and Swallow Tanager. A real highlight of the morning was a large mixed-species flock with over 100 birds, including 3 species of foliage-gleaners, 3 species of woodcreepers, 5+ species of tanagers, and many more! Later in the morning we headed to nearby Milpe Bird Sanctuary, part of the Mindo Cloudforest Foundation. The trails and garden here were highly productive, and surprisingly different from Septimo Paraíso, just a short distance away. Highlights included White-whiskered Hermit, Green Thorntail (a new hummer for our trip list, and they were common here!), Green-crowned Woodnymph, Collared (Pale-mandibled) Aracari, Choco Toucan, Golden-winged and Club-winged manakins, and Fawn-breasted Tanager. We returned to Quito in the afternoon with plenty of time to rest up for the Galapagos cruise beginning the next day.

In less than 48 hours, we amassed an impressive list of birds, plenty to inspire us to return for a longer visit sometime soon!



Green Violet-ear at Pacha Quindi Nature Refuge

ITINERARY

July 16 – Arrivals; night in Quito.

July 17 – Brief birding in garden of Hotel Quito; rest stop at Calcali; Tandayapa Valley “Paseo del Quinde Ecoroute”; Pacha Quindi Nature Refuge (Tony Nunnery’s residence); night at Septimo Paraíso.

July 18 – Morning birding around Septimo Paraíso (including lodge area, “Y” of Mindo, and entrance road to Mindo); Milpe Bird Sanctuary; afternoon return to Quito.

BIRDS

Guans, Chachalacas & Allies: Cracidae

Crested Guan (*Penelope purpurascens*) – 1 near Septimo Paraíso

Wattled Guan (*Aburria aburri*) – several at Septimo Paraíso

Hérons: Ardeidae

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) – along the roadside near Mipe Bird Sanctuary

New World Vultures: Cathartidae

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) – numerous

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) – numerous

Hawks, Eagles & Kites: Accipitridae

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) – circling with vultures over Septimo Paraíso

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) – seen at a few locations

Variable Hawk (*Buteo polyosoma*) – 1 at Calcali

Barred Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur ruficollis*) – 1 at Septimo Paraíso

Falcons & Caracaras: Falconidae

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) – near Quito

Doves & Pigeons: Columbidae

- Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) – around Quito
- Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*) – seen at several locations
- Plumbeous Pigeon (*Patagioenas plumbea*) – seen at several locations
- Ruddy Pigeon (*Patagioenas subvinacea*) – heard at Milpe Bird Sanctuary
- Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*) – mostly around Quito
- White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) – heard at Septimo Paraíso
- White-throated Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon frenata*) – heard at Septimo Paraíso

Parrots & Allies: Psittacidae

- Barred Parakeet (*Bolborhynchus lineola*) – seen at Septimo Paraíso
- Bronze-winged Parrot (*Pionus chalcopterus*) – 1 near Septimo Paraíso
- Red-billed Parrot (*Pionus sordidus*) – seen at Pacha Quindi and Septimo Paraíso

Cuckoos: Cuculidae

- Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) – heard along Ecoroute
- Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) – seen near Milpe Bird Sanctuary

Nightjars: Caprimulgidae

- Rufous-bellied Nighthawk (*Lurocalis rufiventris*) – seen at Septimo Paraíso

Potoos: Nyctibiidae

- Common Potoo (*Nyctibius griseus*) – juvenile perched at Septimo Paraíso

Swifts: Apodidae

- Chestnut-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne rutila*) – numerous at Pacha Quindi
- White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) – numerous at Pacha Quindi and Septimo Paraíso

Hummingbirds: Trochilidae

- White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*) – small numbers at several locations
- White-whiskered Hermit (*Phaethornis yaruqui*) – 1 at Milpe Bird Sanctuary
- Green-fronted Lancebill (*Doryfera ludovicae*) – 1 at Pacha Quindi
- Wedge-billed Hummingbird (*Schistes [Augastes] geoffroyi*) – 1 seen briefly at Pacha Quindi
- Brown Violetear (*Colibri delphinae*) – several at Pacha Quindi
- Green Violetear (*Colibri thalassinus*) – numerous at Pacha Quindi
- Sparkling Violetear (*Colibri coruscans*) – seen at numerous locations, including Hotel Quito
- Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliothryx barroti*) – 1 along the Ecoroute
- Gorgeted Sunangel (*Heliangelus strophianus*) – a few along the Ecoroute
- Green Thorntail (*Discosura conversii*) – numerous at Milpe Bird Sanctuary
- Speckled Hummingbird (*Adelomyia melanogenys*) – 2 at Pacha Quindi
- Violet-tailed Sylph (*Agelaiocercus coelestis*) – a few near Septimo Paraíso
- Black-tailed Trainbearer (*Lesbia victoriae*) – one or two at Hotel Quito
- Brown Inca (*Coeligena wilsoni*) – 1 at Pacha Quindi
- Collared Inca (*Coeligena torquata*) – 2 at Pacha Quinde, 1 along Ecoroute
- Buff-tailed Coronet (*Boissonneaua flavescens*) – numerous at Pacha Quindi
- Booted Racket-tail (*Ocreatus underwoodii*) – several at Pacha Quindi and Septimo Paraíso
- Purple-bibbed Whitetip (*Urosticte benjamini*) – a few each at Pacha Quindi, Septimo Paraíso, and Milpe Bird Sanctuary
- Fawn-breasted Brilliant (*Heliodoxa rubinoides*) – seen at Pacha Quindi and Septimo Paraíso
- Green-crowned Brilliant (*Heliodoxa jacula*) – singles at Septimo Paraíso and Milpe Bird Sanctuary

White-bellied Woodstar (*Chaetocercus mulsant*) – 1 at Pacha Quindi
Purple-throated Woodstar (*Calliphlox mitchellii*) – numerous at Pacha Quindi; a few at Septimo Paraíso; the wing hum of this species sounds remarkably like a bee!
Western Emerald (*Chlorostilbon melanorhynchus*) – 1 at Pacha Quindi
Green-crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania fannyi*) – several at Milpe Bird Sanctuary
Andean Emerald (*Amazilia franciae*) – numerous at several locations
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*) – small numbers at several locations

Trogon: Trogonidae

Golden-headed Quetzal (*Pharomachrus auriceps*) – seen near Septimo Paraíso; a few others heard
Masked Trogon (*Trogon personatus*) – seen at Pacha Quindi and Septimo Paraíso

Motmots: Momotidae

Rufous Motmot (*Baryphthengus martii*) – heard at Septimo Paraíso
Broad-billed Motmot (*Electron platyrhynchum*) – heard at Septimo Paraíso

New World Barbets: Capitonidae

Red-headed Barbet (*Eubucco bourcierii*) – seen at Pacha Quindi and heard at Septimo Paraíso and Milpe Bird Sanctuary
Toucan Barbet (*Semnornis ramphastinus*) – seen at Septimo Paraíso; heard at Milpe Bird Sanctuary

Toucans: Ramphastidae

Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan (*Andigena laminirostris*) – seen at nest along Ecoroute
Crimson-rumped Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus haematopygus*) – seen at Pacha Quindi
Collared [Pale-mandibled] Aracari (*Pteroglossus [torquatus] erythropygius*) – seen at Milpe Bird Sanctuary
Choco Toucan (*Ramphastos brevis*) – seen at Milpe Bird Sanctuary

Woodpeckers & Allies: Picidae

Smoky-brown Woodpecker (*Picoides fumigatus*) – seen at Milpe Bird Sanctuary and Septimo Paraíso
Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Colaptes rubiginosus*) – seen at Septimo Paraíso
Powerful Woodpecker (*Campephilus pollens*) – seen briefly along Ecoroute

Ovenbirds & Woodcreepers: Furnariidae

Azara's Spinetail (*Synallaxis azarae*) – heard at Pacha Quindi
Slaty Spinetail (*Synallaxis brachyura*) – heard at Pacha Quindi and Septimo Paraíso
Red-faced Spinetail (*Cranioleuca erythrops*) – seen near Septimo Paraíso
Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner (*Anabacerthia variegaticeps*) – seen near Septimo Paraíso
Lineated Foliage-gleaner (*Syndactyla subalaris*) – seen near Septimo Paraíso and at Milpe Bird Sanctuary
Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner (*Philydor rufum*) – seen near Septimo Paraíso
Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*) – seen at Milpe Bird Sanctuary
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) – seen at Septimo Paraíso
Strong-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*) – seen near Septimo Paraíso
Spotted Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*) – seen at Septimo Paraíso and Milpe Bird Sanctuary
Montane Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*) – seen at several locations
Brown-billed Scythebill (*Campylorhamphus pusillus*) – 1 seen near Septimo Paraíso

Typical Antbirds: Thamnophilidae

Slaty Antwren (*Myrmotherula schisticolor*) – seen at Septimo Paraíso

Rufous-breasted Antthrush (*Formicarius rufipectus*) – heard at Septimo Paraíso

Tapaculos: Rhinocryptidae

Spillmann's Tapaculo (*Scytalopus spillmanni*) – heard along the Ecoroute

Tyrant Flycatchers: Tyrannidae

White-tailed Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus poecilocercus*) – seen at Pacha Quindi (bathing in wet leaf!)

Yellow Tyrannulet (*Capsiempis flaveola*) – seen at Septimo Paraíso

Streak-necked Flycatcher (*Mionectes striaticollis*) – seen at Pacha Quindi

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (*Mionectes oleagineus*) – heard at Milpe Bird Sanctuary

Golden-faced Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius chrysops*) – seen at Septimo Paraíso

Ornate Flycatcher (*Myiotriccus ornatus*) – seen at Septimo Paraíso

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus pileatus*) – seen at Septimo Paraíso and Milpe Bird sanctuary

Flavescent Flycatcher (*Myiophobus flavicans*) – seen along the Ecoroute

Smoke-colored Pewee (*Contopus fumigatus*) – heard on the Ecoroute, and bird on nest seen at Septimo Paraíso

Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) – heard at septimo Paraíso

Golden-crowned Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*) – seen at Septimo Paraíso and the Ecoroute

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) – seen at a few locations

Tityras & Allies: Tityridae

Golden-winged Manakin (*Masius chrysopterus*) – seen at Milpe Bird Sanctuary

Club-winged Manakin (*Machaeropterus deliciosus*) – seen displaying at Milpe Bird Sanscuty

Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*) – several around Septimo Paraíso

Vireos & Allies: Vireonidae

Brown-capped Vireo (*Vireo leucophrys*) – seen near Septimo Paraíso

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) – seen near Septimo Paraíso

Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) – heard at Milpe Bird Sanctuary

Crows, Jays & Magpies: Corvidae

Turquoise Jay (*Cyanolyca turcosa*) – seen on the Ecoroute

Swallows: Hirundinidae

Blue-and-white Swallow (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*) – seen at several locations

Wrens: Troglodytidae

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) – seen near Septimo Paraíso

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*) – heard at several locations

Thrushes & Allies: Turdidae

Andean Solitaire (*Myadestes ralloides*) – seen at Septimo Paraíso

Great Thrush (*Turdus fuscater*) – numerous around Quito

New World Warblers: Parulidae

Tropical Parula (*Parula pitiayumi*) – seen at several locations

Three-striped Warbler (*Basileuterus tristriatus*) – seen at Milpe Bird Sanctuary

Golden-bellied [Choco] Warbler (*Myiothlypis [chlorophrys] chrysogaster*) – seen at Milpe Bird Sanctuary

Slate-throated Redstart (*Myioborus miniatus*) – seen at several locations

Spectacled Redstart (*Myioborus melanocephalus*) – seen along the Ecoroute

Tanagers & Allies: Thraupidae

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) – seen at Milpe Bird Sanctuary

Cinereous Conebill (*Conirostrum cinereum*) – seen at Hotel Quito

White-lined Tanager (*Tachyphonus rufus*) – seen at Septimo Paraíso and Milpe Bird Sanctuary

Flame-rumped [Lemon-rumped] Tanager (*Ramphocelus [icteronotus] flammigerus*) – seen at Septimo Paraíso

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) – seen at Pacha Quindi and Milpe Bird Sanctuary

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) – seen at Milpe Bird Sanctuary

Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager (*Anisognathus somptuosus*) – seen at several locations

Grass-green Tanager (*Chlorornis riefferii*) – seen along Ecoroute

Fawn-breasted Tanager (*Pipraeidea melanonota*) – seen at Milpe Bird Sanctuary and Septimo Paraíso

Golden Tanager (*Tangara arthus*) – seen at Pacha Quindi and Septimo Paraíso

Silver-throated Tanager (*Tangara icterocephala*) – seen at Milpe Bird Sanctuary

Flame-faced Tanager (*Tangara parzudakii*) – seen at Pacha Quindi and Milpe Bird Sanctuary

Rufous-throated Tanager (*Tangara rufigula*) – seen at Milpe Bird Sanctuary

Golden-naped Tanager (*Tangara ruficervix*) – seen at several locations

Blue-necked Tanager (*Tangara cyanicollis*) – seen at Septimo Paraíso

Beryl-spangled Tanager (*Tangara nigroviridis*) – seen along Ecoroute and at Septimo Paraíso

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) – 1 at Milpe Bird Sanctuary

Swallow Tanager (*Tersina viridis*) – seen near Septimo Paraíso

Saltators: *Incertae Sedis*

Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*) – seen at Septimo Paraíso

Black-winged Saltator (*Saltator atripennis*) – seen at Septimo Paraíso

Buntings, Sparrows & Allies: Emberizidae

Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila corvina*) – seen near Septimo Paraíso

Black Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa humeralis*) – seen at Hotel Quito

White-sided Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa albilatera*) – seen at Pacha Quindi and Septimo Paraíso

Tricolored Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes tricolor*) – seen at Septimo Paraíso

Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*) – seen at several locations, including in Quito

Dusky Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus semifuscus*) – seen at several locations

Cardinals & Allies: Cardinalidae

Golden-bellied Grosbeak (*Pheucticus chrysogaster*) – 1 at Hotel Quito

Siskins, Crossbills & Allies: Fringillidae

Orange-crowned Euphonia (*Euphonia saturata*) – seen at Septimo Paraíso

Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia lanirostris*) – seen at Septimo Paraíso and Milpe Bird Sanctuary

Golden-rumped Euphonia (*Euphonia cyanocephala*) – seen at Pacha Quindi

Orange-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia xanthogaster*) – seen at several locations

Yellow-bellied Siskin (*Spinus xanthogastrus*) – 1 at Pacha Quindi