

GALAPAGOS CRUISE

NOVEMBER 3 – 14, 2005

LEADERS:

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TOUR REPORT
GALAPAGOS CRUISE
aboard the *M/V PARRANDA*
November 3-14, 2005

By Paul Greenfield

Ecuador is truly *the* country of diversity and contrasts! Although this trip was billed as a Galapagos Cruise, our two-and-a-half-days of mainland birding not only gave us the opportunity to see some of this country's distinct ecosystems, it also set the stage and gave us a wonderful basis for comparison between one of the world's most renowned, intriguing, and stark natural laboratories of evolution, and one of the earth's richest mega-diversity hot spots.

Our adventure began on a broad plateau of páramo grassland in the Antisana Ecological Reserve at around 12,500 feet of altitude. With the thermal air currents rising as the morning began to heat up (a little), we watched soaring Variable Hawks, Carunculated Caracaras, and—lo and behold—a pair of Andean Condors floating gracefully along. This was just the beginning of an exciting day with Black-faced Ibis, Andean Gull, Andean Lapwing, Silvery Grebe, wonderful close-ups of Ecuadorian Hillstar, a spectacular pair of Aplomado Falcons, and a hunting Cinereous Harrier, along with a whole host of other high Andean specialties. The authentic traditional Ecuadorian luncheon of *Locro de Papas* and *Tamales* that we enjoyed at Hacienda Antisana completed this wonderful first day.

On day two, we headed westward into the cloud forests of the outer slopes of Volcán Pichincha—and boy was it cloudy; actually, the dense fog made part of the day's birding quite challenging! We still managed to find some of the very special Chocó-Andean endemics so prized in this area. White-tailed Hillstar, Toucan Barbet, Turquoise Jay, and Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager were among the highlights and, in a final attempt while time was running out, we came upon a superb pair of Plate-billed Mountain-Toucans perched right in front of us at about eye level. What a thrill! We ended the afternoon with a shower of no less than 18 species of hummingbirds in the Tandayapa Valley.

Leaving many memorable sights and sounds behind us, we headed out to the Galapagos Islands on day three, and this truly unique week-long circuit began with a bang right from the “get-go.” Upon clearing the island's Customs and Immigration, we headed straight to the highlands for a short but productive birding foray to find the San Cristóbal (Chatham) Mockingbird, and for our initial orientation into the world of Darwin's finches. By the time we finally boarded our yacht about an hour later, we had seen six of these very confusing and challenging little devils, including several Woodpecker Finches. Some of the “Enchanted Island's” magic became evident immediately, as our first mockingbirds came right towards us—instead of the typical goose-chase birders are often all too familiar with.

The days that followed brought so many different experiences—terrestrial, aerial, aquatic, and submarine—as we moved from site to site on island to island, and I am sure that each and every member of our party holds their very own special moments that they will cherish forever. This unique and intriguing archipelago which, more often than not, appears barren and inhospitable, while giving constant testimony to its violent volcanic origins and its mysterious and still unresolved biological past, offered us an endless supply of stimuli for our collective senses. There were so many close encounters with wildlife (“tamelife” might be a better term!) of all kinds, that we all began to become pretty blasé as we stepped over or around a pile of basking marine iguanas, sleeping sea lions, or a

feeding Galapagos tortoise. Sitting alongside a group of Waved Albatross, the Mangrove Warbler that came to lunch, and coming upon that “Charles” Mockingbird from our Zodiac, stand out in my mind. Sharing all of this, not only with each other, but with Charles Darwin himself and all of those who follow in his footsteps in the pursuit of trying to figure out just exactly how our natural world came to be, was truly fascinating. I hope that it has been rewarding for you all.

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Itinerary:

- Nov. 3: Group gathers at Hotel Quito, in Quito.
- Nov. 4: Day-trip to the Antisana Ecológica Reserve—Great lunch at Hacienda Antisana
- Nov. 5: Day-trip to the Mindo-Tandayapa portion of the “Paseo del Quinde” Ecoroute—afternoon spent at Tony Nunnery and Barbara Boltz (T&Bs) front porch to bask in hummingbirds!
- Nov. 6: Transfer to Quito’s airport for AM flight to San Cristóbal Island, Galapagos—a short ride into the highlands for our first shot at some Darwin’s finches and San Cristóbal [Chatham] Mockingbird—then, at 2:00 PM, aboard the M/V Parranda and an afternoon visit to Isla Lobos (some snorkeling)
- Nov. 7: Dawn arrival and morning spent at Puerto Egas on Santiago [James] Island; afternoon sail and visit to Isla Bartolomé; Pinnacle Rock climb and snorkeling
- Nov. 8: Early arrival to Genovesa [Tower] Island; morning walk at Darwin Bay Beach (some snorkeling); afternoon to Prince Phillips Steps area, early sail towards our next destination
- Nov. 9: Dawn arrival and pre-breakfast visit to Caleta Black, on Isabela Island, to search for Mangrove Finch; post-breakfast visit to Punta Suarez on Fernandina Island. Then, afternoon sail and zodiac visit to islets and mangrove at Elizabeth Bay, Isabela Island.
- Nov. 10: Morning arrival to Floreana Island; Morning truck transport to the “Asilo de la Paz” highlands where we walked and searched for the Medium Tree-Finch. Brief visit to Champion Islet (yacht and zodiac) to find the Floreana [Charles] Mockingbird. Snorkeling at Devil’s Crown and afternoon visit to Punta Cormorán (Flamingo Lagoon and Flour-sand Beach). Evening sail to Puerto Ayora.
- Nov. 11: Morning bus trip into the highlands of Santa Cruz Island to the “Twin Craters” and then to the El Chato Trail (to see wild Galapagos Tortuoises, among other things). Lunch aboard the Parranda and the afternoon at the Darwin Research Station and walking around (and shopping) at Puerto Ayora.
- Nov. 12: Early arrival to Española [Hood] Island; morning walk at Punta Suarez (a few of us got a little lost); afternoon snorkeling and hanging about Gardener Bay; late afternoon sail to San Cristóbal (Puerto Baquerizo Moreno)
- Nov. 13: Morning spin into the highlands at El Progreso to search for Vegetarian Finch, return to airport for flight to Guayaquil (left an hour late). Upon arrival in Guayaquil, transfer from airport to Cerro Blanco Reserve for afternoon birding (3:00 – 5:30 PM). transfer to Hotel Hilton Colón. Fairwell dinner.
- Nov. 14: Group departs

SPECIES LISTS (GALAPAGOS AND MAINLAND SPECIES ARE LISTED SEPARATELY)

Key:

- ANT= Antisana Ecológica Reserve
M / T = Mindo and Tandayapa area
T&Bs = Tony and Barbara's hummingbird garden
CB = Cerro Blanco
E = Endemic species
* = near-endemic species

THE GALAPAGOS ISLAND BIRD LIST:

Galapagos Penguin (*Spheniscus mendiculus*) **E**—A group of 8 at Bartholomé and then at least 20, including at least 2 babies and some juveniles at Elizabeth Bay, on Isabela; where at least one pair was nesting in mangroves

Waved Albatross (*Phoebastria irrorata*)*—Very common, with exceptionally close views at their nesting sight on Española [Hood], where a few young birds were still around and only one or two pair were engaging in courting displays. Many were seen at sea during our sail from Española to San Cristóbal.

Galapagos Petrel (*Pterodroma sandwichensis*)*—Quite a few at sea mainly near San Cristóbal and Genovesa [Tower] —most common on our last day's sail from Española to San Cristóbal.

Gould's Petrel (*Pterodroma leucoptera*)?—2 birds that best fit the description of this species (see below) were seen by some of us at sea between Española and San Cristóbal on 13 November. This would probably be a first record of this species for the Galapagos Islands.

Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*)—1 bird seen nicely by a few of us at sea, flying low over the water between Española and San Cristóbal.

Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*)—Very common throughout the archipelago; seen well on all but one day.

White-vented Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites gracilis*)—Common throughout the archipelago.

Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma tethys*)—large numbers (though numbers seemed relatively low this trip) seen at its nesting site on Genovesa. Also, 4-5 seen at sea basically off San Cristóbal.

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*)—this basically nocturnal-feeding species (thus often hard to see) was seen infrequently at sea off Genovesa, Isabela and San Cristóbal.

Red-billed Tropicbird (*Pharthon aethereus*)—This stunning and often noisy species was seen closely at various nesting sites (Genovesa, around Champion, and Española) and several at sea between Española and San Cristóbal.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)—A common species—even sitting on our yacht.

Blue-footed Booby (*Sula nebouxii*)—Very common and widespread (a favorite on the archipelago. Basically not breeding at this time, although we briefly watched one pair's courting episode on Española.

Nazca Booby (*Sula granti*)—Very common and widespread (we didn't step on any).

Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula*)—Common and nesting at Genovesa (both morphs); also

one brown morph bird at sea between Española and San Cristóbal

Flightless Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax harrisi*) **E**—At least 15, some nesting and several swimming and feeding at Fernandina and Isabela (very close encounters!).

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*)—The most common and widespread of the frigatebirds in this region; seen daily.

Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor*)—Common to very common around nesting sites on Isla Lobos, Genovesa, and a few around Española. Generally a pelagic species.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)—Two (one very close!) at Santiago [James], Elizabeth Bay, Isabela and Santa Cruz (Puerto Ayora).

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)—Basically seen only in the highlands of San Cristóbal (1), Floreana (at least 3), and Santa Cruz (common).

Lava Heron (*Butorides sundevalli*) **E**—One or two seen at San Cristóbal, Santiago, Fernandina, and Champion, off Floreana (some consider this as a race of Striated Heron (*Bubulcus striatus*)).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*)—3 seen at close quarters on Santiago.

Caribbean [Greater] Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*)—Beautiful group of about 32 at Punta Cormorán, Floreana—stunning! some in great color; two young birds

White-cheeked Pintail (*Anas bahamensis*)—A pair of fly-bys at Caleta Black, Isabela; at least 10 at Punta Cormorán, Floreana.

Galapagos Hawk (*Buteo galapagoensis*) **E**—Mostly distant soaring birds on Santiago and Española; most noteworthy were a very single bird perched on the obelisk and another close perched pair at Punta Suarez, Española as well as a pair chasing a Peregrine Falcon, forcing him to drop his prey (frigatebird-style) at Gardener Bay, Española.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)—An uncommon, but regular migrant to the islands. One bird seen at Gardener Bay, Española being chased by a pair of Galapagos Hawks forcing it to drop its prey—an Audubon's Shearwater.

Paint-billed Crane (*Neocrex erythrops*)—Two birds seen at El Chato area, Santa Cruz

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)—At least two seen walking away at dry El Chato lagoon, Santa Cruz.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*)—One bird walking away along with previous species at dry El Chato lagoon, Santa Cruz.

Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)—Regular migrant in small numbers; 2 seen on rocky coastline at Punta Egas, Santiago.

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*)—A common migrant to the islands, most common at Punta Egas, Santiago, with singles seen at Punta Espinoza, Fernandina and at Puerto Ayora dock area, Santa Cruz.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)—Pretty common, where present—Punta Egas, Santiago (5+) and the highlands of Floreana (6*, where very arboreal!) and Santa Cruz.

Wandering Tattler (*Heterosceles incanus*)—A rather common species of rocky shores on Santiago, Genovesa, Isabela and Fernandina, Floreana, and Santa Cruz.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)—A common species on all islands—seen on all but the last day.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)—About 5 seen at Punta Egas, Santiago

Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*)—Hundreds seen at sea mostly off Santiago, Isabela and San Cristóbal; some at fairly close range.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*)—At least 3 identified at sea off Isabela moving along with large flock of Red-necked Phalaropes.

Lava Gull (*Larus fuliginosus*) **E**—The rarest gull in the World, critically endangered. Small numbers always, at San Cristóbal (3+), Santiago (2), Genovesa (6+), Santa Cruz (2), and Española (2).

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*)—Only 1 bird flying over at Punta Cormorán, Floreana. A regular migrant to the archipelago.

Swallow-tailed Gull (*Creagrus furcatus*)*—Arguably the most beautiful gull in the World; common and spectacularly close and tame around nesting sites on Genovesa, Champion Islet (Floreana, where only a few pairs), and Española. Only a few young birds at this time.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)—2 birds flying and alighting along the shore at Punta Espinoza, Fernandina.

Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*)—Generally common along coast and at sea throughout the archipelago, small to large numbers seen almost daily.

Galapagos Dove (*Zenaida galapagoensis*) **E**—This attractive and rather tame species was seen in small to moderate numbers (2-6) at Santiago, Genovesa, Fernandina, and Española and perhaps a fly-by at Santa Cruz.

Dark-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus melacoryphus*)—First a quick fly-by in the highlands of San Cristóbal, then a close encounter with 1 bird that decoyed in at the restaurant at El Chato, Santa Cruz.

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)—This introduced menace is spreading and deserves an eradication plan—several (mostly small numbers) seen on San Cristóbal (7+), Santiago (1), Floreana (3-4) and Santa Cruz (4-5).

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)—Only 1 dead bird at Genovesa

Vermillion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)—1 nice male seen at the “Twin Craters” in the highlands of Santa Cruz.

Galapagos Flycatcher (*Myiarchus magnirostris*) **E**—A sweet and very tame little bird seen in small numbers at San Cristóbal, Santiago, Floreana and Santa Cruz.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)—At least one seen in the highlands of San Cristóbal and another 2 seen flying around Gardner Bay.

Galapagos Mockingbird (*Nesomimus parvulus*) **E**—The most widespread of the island's mockingbirds; possibly more than one species involved. Seen on Santiago, Genovesa, Isabela and Fernandina, and Santa Cruz.

Floreana [Charles] Mockingbird (*Nesomimus trifasciatus*) **E**—Critically endangered, relegated to two tiny islets off the coast of Floreana where apparently exterminated by rats and cats. 3 birds seen from our zodiac, 1 of which was watched at fairly close range as it fed on a cactus flower.

Española [Hood] Mockingbird (*Nesomimus macdonaldi*) **E**—Curious and tame; a common and entertaining endemic to Española.

San Cristobal [Chatham] Mockingbird (*Nesomimus melanotis*) **E**—At least 3 seen on our first morning on San Cristóbal, then 1 inside the airport terminal! on this same island where the species is endemic.

Mangrove [Yellow] Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*)—Omnipresent throughout the archipelago where found in a variety of habitats from the coast to the highlands. Quite common daily.

Large Ground-Finch (*Geospiza magnirostris*) **E**—Very few this trip! 3+ on Genovesa, possibly a couple at Darwin Station on Santa Cruz.

Medium Ground-Finch (*Geospiza fortis*) **E**—A real pain in the neck! fairly common though always less than the following species; seen on San Cristóbal, Isabela and Fernandina, Floreana, and Santa Cruz—most common on last morning visit to San Cristóbal highlands.

Small Ground-Finch (*Geospiza fuliginosa*) **E**—By far the most common of the Darwin's finches; seen on all islands except Genovesa where it is replaced by the following species.

Sharp-beaked Ground-Finch (*Geospiza difficilis*) **E**—5 seen on Genovesa where it replaces Small Ground-Finch.

Common Cactus-Finch (*Geospiza scandens*) **E**—Only a few seen! At least two in the highlands of Floreana was a surprise and another in the lowlands there; only 1 at Darwin Station on Santa Cruz, where watched at very close quarters.

Large Cactus-Finch (*Geospiza conirostris*) **E**—Two very different “races” (possibly two distinct species): 1) 1 lone bird seen on Genovesa, rummaging in a small “grove” of cactus in the back of Darwin Bay beach area and 2) at least 3 males, with one singing, at Española in an area with no cactus in sight.

Vegetarian Finch (*Camarhynchus crassirostris*) **E**—Finally! 1 bird seen somewhat quickly but at very close quarters on our last morning's improvised stint into the highlands of San Cristóbal, in search for just this species (which had eluded us everywhere); a couple more flew by

Mangrove Finch (*Camarhynchus heliobates*) **E**—Quick views of 3 different birds at Caleta Black, Isabela. A very rare and Critically Endangered species.

Large Tree-Finch (*Camarhynchus psittacula*) **E**—Several seen (and at close quarters) in the highlands of San Cristóbal and Santa Cruz.

Medium Tree-Finch (*Camarhynchus pauper*) **E**—Excellent views of at least 4 in the highlands of Floreana (“Asilo de la Paz”), the species' only haunt.

Small Tree-Finch (*Camarhynchus parvulus*) **E**—Seemingly the most common tree-finch; seen on San Cristóbal (2+), Floreana (1-2) and Santa Cruz (10+)

Woodpecker Finch (*Camarhynchus pallidus*) **E**—The finch, famous for its tool-using abilities was seen several times in the highlands of San Cristóbal on our first and last days and at the “Twin Craters” on Santa Cruz.

Warbler Finch (*Certhidea olivacea*) **E**—This species, comprised of several very distinct “races” (possibly more than one species is involved): 1) At least 7 of this small yellowish race on San Cristóbal; 2) 5 of this small and dark race on Genovesa; 3) At least 3 of this large and orange-washed throated race in the highlands of Santa Cruz; and 4) At least 2 of this very small (the smallest?) and darkish race on Española.

Possible Gould's Petrel sighting: 13 November, 2005. On our last afternoon of this week-long tour, while sailing from Española Island to San Cristóbal (at about 17:20 hours, 45 minutes into our journey), we came upon quite a bit of pelagic bird activity. Audubon's Shearwater, Waved Albatross, Galapagos Petrels, White-vented Storm-Petrels, and small numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes were present, with numbers of Galapagos Petrel increasing as we continued along (more than we had seen during the rest of our trip).

Winds were down and the sea was relatively calm.

First, a single distinctive looking petrel was seen towards the back of the starboard side of our vessel. We were able to watch it for approximately 10 minutes before it dropped back and out of sight. It appeared similar in shape and behavior to the several Galapagos Petrels that were flying about in the same area, though perhaps somewhat shorter winged, giving it a rather (very) slightly more chunky appearance. Upperparts were definitely two-toned, with a distinctive white “notch” on the trailing edge of the last primaries where they meet the secondaries (on both wings) and lighter (dark grayish) bands on the wings and this coloration somewhat on the mantle, forming a vague pattern (“V”-like) though the bird appeared quite dark overall. The underside (including sides of head, white underparts) was marked similarly to Galapagos Petrel—underwing was white with black edging and distinctly black stripe seeming even broader than in the Galapagos Petrels that were flying around. Flight was mostly a low series of glides with some flapping interspersed. Note: Galapagos Petrel was also flying rather low (though with perhaps somewhat more arching than this bird) too, I suppose due to low wind and calm seas.

A few minutes later, also on the starboard side of our vessel, a second bird came along and stayed more or less in sight for over 20 minutes. This second individual seemed much the same in overall, size, shape and behavior as the first—by this time, more Galapagos Petrels were flying and even swimming about—and it showed the same white flashes in the upper wing and underparts were the same, but this bird seemed even darker (it was getting towards dusk, but light was still adequate), not showing as much contrast on the mantle, though wings were much as the first bird.

Noteworthy non-avian species seen on the Galapagos Islands

This list does not include the many species of tropical fish and things that were recorded during the many snorkeling episodes enjoyed throughout the trip and the archipelago.

Diamond Sting Ray—3 seen along Flour-sand Beach at Floreana.

Manta Ray—At least 3 (one huge) at sea (also snorkeling) off Santiago, Genovesa, and Española.

Spotted Eagle Ray—At least 2 seen at close range at Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz.

White-tipped Reef-Shark—A few seen at Bartolomé Island; also, one seen while snorkeling at Devil’s Crown.

Green Sea-Turtle—Quite common and seen often at sea and close to shore and beaches throughout the archipelago; also many seen at close quarters while snorkeling.

Galapagos Lava-Lizard E—Common on the main central islands of the archipelago

San Cristóbal Lava-Lizard E—3 seen at Isla Lobos off San Cristóbal

Española Lava-Lizard E—At least 10 seen on Española

Marina Iguana E—Seen on all islands throughout the archipelago, surely more than one species is involved.

Galapagos Sea Lion E—Seen throughout the Archipelago, closely related to the California Sea Lion (I don’t think we stepped on any, but we were chased, we chased some and fun was had by all!

Galapagos Fur-Seal E—This small sea lion (not a true fur seal) was seen at Santiago (at least 8) and Genovesa (2).

Bottle-nosed Dolphin—A close group of 30+ off Santiago and another group of 10 off Isabela.

Minke Whale—At least 3 followed off Española.

Bryde's Whale—At least 1 followed closely off Isabela.

MAINLAND ECUADOR BIRDLIST (ANTISANA, MINDO-TANDAYAPA AREA, CERRO BLANCO)

Silvery Grebe (*Podiceps occipitalis*)—3 at least on Laguna Micacocha at ANT.

Black-faced [Andean] Ibis (*Theristicus branickii*)—1 seen at pretty close range at ANT.

Andean [Speckled] Teal (*Anas [flavirostris] andium*)—Common on laguna Micacocha at ANT.

Yellow-billed Pintail (*Anas georgica*)—8 seen on Laguna Micacocha at ANT.

Andean Ruddy-Duck (*Oxyura ferruginea*)—At least 6 on Laguna Micacocha at ANT.

Andean Condor (*Vultur gryphus*)—2 soaring birds just after arrival at ANT.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)—A few outside of Quito and around Guayaquil and CB.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)—1 in the M / T area and common around Guayaquil and CB.

Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*)—2 soaring birds at CB.

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*)—At least 1; along the Ecoroute M / T.

Gray Hawk (*Buteo nitidus*)—Great scope views of a juvenile calling bird and then an adult was seen at CB.

Variable [Puna] Hawk (*Buteo polyosoma*)—Quite common (at least 8 seen) soaring about at ANT.

Carunculated Caracara (*Phalcoboenus carunculatus*)—Literally hundreds, flying, soaring and walking about the paramo of ANT.

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)—1 seen just east of Quito and another two seen to the west en route to M / T.

Aplomado Falcon (*Falco femoralis*)—A wonderful and close pair seen well (close scope views and all) at ANT.

Slate-colored Coot (*Fulica ardesiaca*)—Common on Laguna Micacocha at ANT.

Andean Lapwing (*Vanellus resplendens*)—3-5 seen as we entered Hacienda Antisana.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*)—2 on the shores of laguna Micacocha at ANT

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*)—At least 1 scoped at great distance on Laguna Micacocha at ANT.

Andean Gull (*Larus serranus*)—At least 80 along (and on) the entrance road inside ANT.

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*)—A few seen outside of Quito.

Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*)—Common species in the Andes, especially around Quito.

Ecuadorian Ground-Dove (*Columbina buckleyi*)*—Common at CB

Black-winged Ground-Dove (*Metriopelia melanoptera*)—Common in the paramo of ANT.

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*)—At least 1 was seen at rice feeder at T&Bs.

White-throated Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon frenata*)—Heard along the Ecoroute, M / T.

Pacific Parrotlet (*Forpus coelestes*)*—Group of 8 flying distant

Gray-cheeked Parakeet (*Brotogeris pyrrhopterus*)*—Nice scope views of this threatened Tumbesian endemic; other small groups were seen flying over.

- Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*)—1 seen along the highway en route to the Ecoroute, M / T.
Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)—6 along the highway en route to the Ecoroute, M / T.;
also several outside Guayaquil.
- Pacific Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium peruanum*)*—Heard only once, at CB.
- White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)—Small number flew overhead in the M / T
area.
- Tawny-bellied Hermit (*Phaethornis syrmatorphus*)—1 bird seen several times at T&Bs.
- Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*)—5 or so at T&Bs.
- Sparkling Violet-ear (*Colibri coruscans*)—3 or so at T&Bs; also common around Quito.
- Western [Blue-tailed] Emerald (*Chlorostilbon [mellisugus] melanorhynchus*)*—At least 3
males and a female at T&Bs (Camille's favorite!)
- Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*)—1 seen a few times at T&Bs feeders.
- Amazilia Hummingbird (*Amazilia amazilia*)—2 seen by much of our group at CB.
- Andean Emerald (*Agyrtria [Amazilia] franciae*)—Common at T&Bs feeders.
- Speckled Hummingbird (*Adelomyia melanogenys*)—Common at T&Bs feeders and along
the Ecoroute, M / T.
- Fawn-breasted Brilliant (*Heliodoxa rubinoides*)—6 or so at T&Bs feeders.
- Empress Brilliant** (*Heliodox imperatrix*)*— 1 male seen at T&Bs feeders (rarely-seen
Chocó-Andean endemic).
- White-tailed Hillstar** (*Urochroa bougueri*)—1 feeding bird seen a times along the lower
section of the Ecoroute, M / T; a rarely seen species.
- Buff-tailed Coronet (*Boissonneaua flavescens*)—15 or so at T&Bs feeders.
- Velvet-purple Coronet (*Boissonneaua jardini*)*—1 seen quickly at same flowering shrub
White-tailed Hillstar was feeding on. A Chocó-Andean endemic.
- Brown Inca** (*Coeligena wilsoni*)*—At least 8 seen at T&Bs feeders. A Chocó-Andean
endemic.
- Collared Inca** (*Coeligena torquata*)—1 of this stunning and large hummingbird seen
repeatedly at T&Bs feeders.
- Gorgeted Sunangel (*Helianthus strophianus*)*—2 of this Chocó-Andean endemic were
seen along the upper Ecoroute, M / T.
- Booted Racket-tail** (*Ocreatus underwoodii*)—At least 2, an adult male and a young male
(perhap a third, too) at T&Bs feeders.
- Violet-tailed Sylph** (*Agelaiocercus coelestis*)*—some 14 spectacular males and a single
female at T&Bs feeders. A Chocó-Andean endemic.
- Wedge-billed hummingbird (*Augastes [Schistes] geoffroyi*)—1 bird came in to feed on
garden flowers at T&Bs.
- Long-billed Starthroat (*Heliomaster longirostris*)—1 seen briefly at CB.
- Purple-throated Woodstar** (*Calliphlox mitchellii*)*—At least 3 males and a female at T&Bs
feeders. A Chocó-Andean endemic.
- White-bellied Woodstar (*Chaetocercus mulsant*)—1 female came to feed at T&Bs feeders.
- Ecuadorian [Black-tailed] Trogon** (*Trogon [melanurus] mesurus*)*—1 of this Tumbesian
endemic was scoped at CB.
- Northern Violaceous Trogon** (*Trogon [violaceus] caligatus*)—1 (or 2?) beautiful male(s),

one was really curious!, at CB.

Masked Trogon (*Trogon personatus*)—1 male seen along the Ecoroute, M / T.

Toucan Barbet (*Semnornis ramphastinus*)*—At least a pair was seen along with a large mixed foraging flock along the Ecoroute, M / T. A Chocó-Andean endemic.

Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan (*Andigena laminirostris*)*—Great luck after all! With pretty thick fog and time running out, this wonderful pair just popped out right in front of us along the Ecoroute, M / T. A Chocó-Andean endemic.

Ecuadorian Piculet (*Picumnus sclateri*)*—1 busy bird working away on some tiny branches at CB. A Tumbesian endemic.

Bar-winged Cinclodes (*Cinclodes fuscus*)—At least 6 seen in the paramo of ANT. This species was distinctly less common than the next. Best seen along the shores of Laguna Micacocha where a displaying pair was watched.

Stout-billed Cinclodes (*Cinclodes excelsior*)—Common throughout the ANT area we visited including repeatedly close views.

Pacific [Pale-legged] Hornero (*Furnarius [leucopus] cinnamomeus*)—At least 1 of this rather common Tumbesian endemic strutting about at close range at CB.

Many-striped Canastero (*Asthenes flammulata*)—Nice views of this sculker as 2 separate singing birds were seen perched up in low shrubs at ANT.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*)—2 were seen along with mixed foraging flocks along the lower Ecoroute, M / T.

Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*)—5 seen at CB where quite tame, affording excellent views.

Montane Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes lachrymiger*)—1 seen along with a mixed foraging flock along the lower Ecoroute, M / T.

Collared Antshrike (*Sakesphorus bernardi*)*—3 seen at CB; animated as always with crest flared and tail quivering. A Tumbesian endemic.

Tawny Antpitta (*Grallaria quitensis*)—Heard only at ANT.

Nariño Tapaculo (*Scytalopus vicini*)*—Heard only along the Ecoroute at lower elevations, M / T. A Chocó-Andean endemic

Spillman's Tapaculo (*Scytalopus spillmanni*)—Heard only along the Ecoroute at higher elevations, M / T.

Pacific Elaenia (*Myiopagis subplacens*)*—1 seen through some pretty dense vegetation during our walk into CB. A Tumbesian endemic.

White-tailed Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus poecilircus*)—1 seen with mixed foraging flock along Ecoroute, M / T.

Yellow-olive Flatbill (*Tolmomyias sulphurens*)—1 seen along with Ecuadorian Piculet and others at CB.

Bran-colored Flycatcher (*Myiophobus fasciatus*)—1 seen along with Ecuadorian Piculet, etc. at CB.

Smoke-colored Pewee (*Contopus fumigatus*)—3 seen (always fairly in the open) in the M / T area.

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)—1 seen outside Quito en route to M / T.

Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant (*Ochthoeca fumicolor*)—1 flying in and out of shrubbery over a stream by the guard station at ANT.

Paramo [Plain-capped] Ground-Tyrant (*Muscisaxicola alpina*)—10 or so on the ground and

standing tall on rocks at ANT.

Golden-crowned Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*)—Good, close looks a pair at our rest stop en route to M / T.

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)—A common lower altitude species in the neotropics, a few seen M / T and in the Guayaquil area.

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*)—Common in the air in the Guayaquil area and CB.

Blue-and-white Swallow (*Pygochelidon* [*Notiochelidon*] *cyanoleuca*)—Common species of the highlands.

Brown-bellied Swallow (*Notiochelidon murina*)—Common species at ANT.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*)—At least 1 flying around us in the M / T area.

Fasciated Wren (*Campylorhynchus fasciatus*)*—At least 5-6 at CB, noisy and acrobatic. A Tumbesian endemic.

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)—1 seen and others heard in the M / T area.

Grass [Sedge] Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*)—1 seen briefly but pretty well at ANT.

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*)—1 seen briefly, mostly heard throughout M / T area.

Andean Solitaire (*Myadestes ralloides*)—Beautiful flute-like call heard along Ecoroute, M / T.

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*)—Nice views of this boreal migrant at T&Bs, M / T.

Great Thrush (*Turdus fusater*)—omnipresent resident of the Andes

Glossy-black Thrush (*Turdus serranus*)—1 male seen deep within vegetation while feeding at T&Bs, M / T.

Ecuadorian Thrush (*Turdus maculirostris*)*—Heard in M / T area; excellent looks (scoped too) at CB.

Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila plumbea*)—Common at CB. The first birds to come in to my incessant pygmy-owl calls.

Turquoise Jay (*Cyanolyca turcosa*)*—Nice views of 1 bird during our first roadside “pit” stop en route to M / T.

White-tailed Jay (*Cyanocorax mystacalis*)*—Heard only once at CB. A Tumbesian endemic.

Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*)—At least 1 working some dense branches at CB.

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)—2 seen by some of the group at CB, where resident.

Hooded Siskin (*Carduelis magellanica*)—2 east of Quito en route to ANT.

Tropical Parula (*Parula pitiayumi*)—At least 2 seen at CB.

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*)—Very common boreal winter resident; 25+ seen along Ecoroute and M / T area.

Slate-throated Redstart (*Myioborus miniatus*)—Common species of lower montane regions; 3 or so seen, always with mixed foraging flocks, in M / T area.

Spectacled Redstart (*Myioborus melanocephalus*)—Common species of upper montane regions; 2 seen during our first “pit” stop en route to M / T area.

Russet-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus coronatus*)—1 seen very well along the Ecoroute with mixed foraging flock, M / T. Others heard fairly often.

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*)—1 seen at CB; usually not common in this area.

Capped Conebill (*Conirostrum albifrons*)—At least 1 very active bird (tail constantly flicking downward) with mixed flock along the Ecoroute, M / T.

- Grass-green Tanager (*Chlorornis riefferii*)—3 of this splendid species were seen under foggy conditions, unfortunately; along the Ecoroute, M / T.
- Dusky Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus semifuscus*)—8 seen along the Ecoroute, mostly with mixed foraging flocks, M / T. A Chocó-Andean endemic.
- Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*)—3 seen in M / T area, 4 or so at CB.
- Blue-capped Tanager (*Thraupis cyanocephala*)—1 seen fairly well with a mixed foraging flock along the Ecoroute, M / T.
- Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager (*Anisognathus somptuosus*)—A common species of the Andean subtropics; at least 10 seen along the Ecoroute, M / T.
- Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager (*Anisognathus notabilis*)*—2 seen with mixed foraging flock along lower Ecoroute, M / T. A Chocó-Andean endemic.
- Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia lanirostris*)—Several pair (and family groups) at CB.
- Orange-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia xanthogaster*)—At least 2 males and a female along the lower Ecoroute, M / T.
- Orange-crowned Euphonia (*Euphonia saturata*)—A pair seen high in Ceiba tree at CB.
- Golden Tanager (*Tangara arthus*)—4 seen (beautiful!) along the Ecoroute, M / T.
- Beryl-spangled Tanager (*Tangara nigroviridis*)—3 seen along the Ecoroute, M / T.
- White-sided Flower-piercer (*Diglossa albilatera*)—Nice looks at both a male and female along the Ecoroute and at T&Bs, M / T.
- Plumbeous Sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus unicolor*)—Common species of the paramo zone, ANT.
- Rufous-naped Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes latinuchus*)—1 seen at our first “pit” stop en route to M / T.
- White-winged Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes leucopterus*)*—1 was seen by only a few of us at T&Bs, M / T. A Tumbes-Andean endemic.
- Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*)—Common Andean species.
- Streaked Saltator (*Saltator striatipectus*)—At least a half dozen of this, the un-streaked form (found in the Tumbes endemic region), seen at CB.
- Southern Yellow- [Golden-bellied] Grosbeak (*Pheucticus chrysogaster*)—3 seen at CB
- Scrub Blackbird (*Dives warszewiczi*)—Common at CB and the Guayaquil area.
- Yellow-tailed Oriole (*Icterus mesomelas*)—At least 4 noisy birds, perhaps more, at CB.

Mammals:

- Neotropical Cottontail—Abundant at ANT, especially in the afternoon.
- Guayaquil Squirrel*—At least 2 of this Tumbesian endemic were seen at CB.
- Neotropical Red-tailed Squirrel—1-2 along the Ecoroute, M / T.
- Wild Horse—Several, loose in the paramo, dating back to the Spanish conquest.