

Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands

8-27 August 2008



For our 2008 international birding trip we decided to take a long-awaited trip to the Galapagos Islands. But we were faced with a dilemma – do we only visit the Galapagos, or do we add a week to the trip to spend time in mainland Ecuador? With a little thought we chose the longer trip and spent a week in the highlands around Quito. The trip participants this year were me, Karen Kinkead (Ames, IA), Jay Gilliam (Norwalk, IA), Jim Dinsmore (The Villages, FL), Gordon Brown (Cary, NC), and George Brown (Big Stone Gap, VA). We researched many vessels and tour companies before booking our trip. Our priorities were to visit as many islands as possible in the standard 8-day trip (as opposed to a longer trip), but to do so in a reasonably comfortable boat. We finally settled on the company Ecoventura and a 20-passenger boat, M/Y (meaning Motor Yacht) Eric. This was a mid-priced trip visiting all of the major islands except Floreana and would theoretically allow us the opportunity to see all of the endemic birds except Charles Mockingbird and Medium Tree Finch. Gordon planned the Galapagos portion of the trip and research by him and Jay led to our itinerary on mainland Ecuador. Bird names follow those of Gill and Wright (Gill, F, and M Wright. 2008. *Birds of the world: recommended English names*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ.).

8 August

This was a long travel day for us. Jay, Karen, and I left Des Moines, IA at 7 a.m. and rendezvoused with the others in Miami at 1 p.m. Unfortunately, Jim's flight from Orlando had been canceled so he was on a later flight to Quito. Five of us arrived in Quito on time at 7 p.m.; Jim arrived a 9 p.m. After some taxi time we were all at Parque Italia (our hotel) by 10 p.m. and asleep shortly thereafter.

9 August



We had planned an extra day in Quito ahead of our Galapagos trip, just in case we were delayed getting to Ecuador. For this day we hired a local guide, Galo, and ventured northwest to Yanacocha (located on the northeastern slope of the Pinchincha Volcano) for some high altitude birding in the Andes. After a light breakfast (scrambled eggs, bread, and coffee) our guide and a driver picked us up at 7 a.m. We quickly drove northwest out of Quito and arrived at Yanacocha at 8 a.m. The park is fairly high elevation (~3,500m) and thankfully the trails were level. We took a little more than 5 hours to walk the trail to the main hummingbird feeding station and back. The trail first passed through

steep hillsides covered with grassland and a few shrubs, but gradually became more forested as we neared its end. Good birds included Great Sapphirewing, Sword-billed Hummingbird, and Barred Fruiteater.

After a box lunch (sandwiches, fruit, chocolate bars, and juice) at Yanacocha we opted to drive the old Nono Road to check a couple of forest patches for other high elevation birds. Unfortunately, our driver got lost (!) and we ended up on the wrong road. But we stopped at a couple of places where we encountered nice flocks of forest birds and added Red-billed Parrot, Azara's Spinetail, Red-crested Cotinga, Beautiful Jay, Black-crested Warbler, and Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager. By the time we found the right road it was 4 p.m. so we decided to head for Quito. We made a quick stop in a patch of dry grassland and heard Giant Hummingbird and saw 2 Green-tailed Trainbearers as daylight was fading. We arrived at the hotel at 6:30 p.m. We were tired and without transportation, so George and I walked to a nearby supermarket and bought stuff for sandwiches for dinner. We ate a



quick dinner, drank some beer, and were in bed by 8:30 p.m. [clear to partly cloudy, temperature 48-80°F, winds light and variable]



The Galapagos Islands



A photo of our group on Bartolome.

10 August



and Smooth-billed Ani. After a short layover to pick up new passengers we were off to the Galapagos by 11 a.m.

We arrived on San Cristobal on time and spent more than an hour retrieving our luggage and waiting for a bus to transport our group to the boat. Here we met our lead naturalist, Alexis, and a second naturalist Lolita (Lola). We finally made it onto the boat (the M/Y Eric) at 1:15 p.m. and soon were greeted by the captain and crew and fed a lunch of spaghetti with meat sauce, mixed veggies, salad, and cupcakes for dessert. The other 14 passengers were all couples, most from the United States. They were all great people to travel with and we enjoyed the opportunity to visit with them during the trip. We also received a detailed briefing on the boat and itinerary and checked our snorkeling gear for the trip. Our daily activities during the trip generally followed the same pattern – a wake-up call in the morning (usually 7 a.m.), breakfast a half hour



later, a morning activity, lunch at noon, an afternoon activity, a group meeting (usually 7 p.m.), and then dinner. Our typical morning departure time was 8 a.m., but we occasionally left earlier to avoid crowds (especially cruise ships) at some popular locales. The half-day activities were never more than 2 ½ hours in length and often involved a short (<1 km) hike and snorkeling. Most of the cruising between islands occurred at night, except where noted below.

After the briefing and lunch we cruised along the north coast of San Cristobal and stopped at Playa Ochoa. On the way we enjoyed our first looks at Galapagos Petrel, Galapagos Shearwater, Elliot's and Wedge-rumped storm petrels, and Lava Gull. We made our first landing via zodiac and enjoyed a short hike along the beach and some snorkeling. We couldn't enter the forest but still managed to see Galapagos Flycatcher, San Cristobal Mockingbird, Yellow Warbler, and Large Ground Finch. We returned to the boat by 4:30 p.m. for a short break before dinner. Dinner was preceded by a toast to the passengers, and then we sat down to eat – steak mixed in vegetables, grilled chicken, mixed vegetables, salad, and cake for dessert. [partly cloudy, temperature 72-86°F, wind S 10-20 mph]



11 August



Our boat motored all night and arrived at Genovesa at 6:45 a.m. The ride was fairly smooth with a gentle swell behind us. We ate breakfast at 7:30 a.m. (pancakes, eggs, cereal, fresh fruit, and juice) and then took a short ride in the zodiac to land on Darwin Bay beach at 8:30 a.m. This small beach may be the only white sand beach on this island and was crowded with people from 3 other boats by 9 a.m. From here we took a short loop trail into the trees and along the edge of a small lagoon to sample the breeding seabirds and landbirds. The number of breeding

seabirds here was staggering – the air was filled with Nazca and Red-footed boobies, Great Frigatebirds, and Swallow-tailed Gulls. The landbird community wasn't very diverse, but included great looks at everything – Galapagos Dove, Galapagos Mockingbird, Yellow Warbler, and Large Ground (subspecies *magnirostris*, with a very impressive beak!), Sharp-beaked Ground, Large Cactus, and Warbler finches. Along the lagoon we saw a Lava Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, Brown Pelicans, and nesting Swallow-tailed Gulls while on the nearby beach we saw 2 Wandering Tattlers, a Ruddy Turnstone, and a pair of Lava Gulls.





We ate lunch on the boat at 12:30 p.m. – fried fish, a chicken stir fry, fresh vegetables and fruit, and cake for dessert. Several of us returned to the upper deck to watch the passing seabirds and saw a couple of Green Sea Turtles alongside the boat. After a short siesta we took a short ride in the zodiac to land at Prince Philip's Steps on the southeast corner of the island. From here we climbed up the cliff face about 50m to arrive at the top of the island. The trail crossed the island to the east, passing through a scrub forest before opening up onto the east-facing cliff on the east edge of the island. In the forest we saw nesting Nazca and Red-footed boobies, Large Ground Finch, and Large Cactus Finch. The forest soon gave way to what can only be described as a moonscape, except for the birds! The

rocky ground was mostly bare with occasional patches of grass and a myriad of small holes and crevices. More than half a million Wedge-rumped Storm Petrels are thought to nest here and the air was filled with thousands of them. Other birds included courting Red-billed Tropicbirds, Great Frigatebirds, Swallow-tailed Gulls, and a lone Short-eared Owl.





After returning from the island, we immediately set sail at 4:30 p.m. Shortly thereafter we learned the bad news – our itinerary had been changed by the park! Instead of heading west to Isabela and Fernandina as planned, we were ordered to head south towards Santa Cruz. The other two boats in our fleet were allowed to visit the western islands, so it was just bad luck that our boat was chosen to go elsewhere.



This was especially disappointing news because we would now miss the Flightless Cormorant, an endemic bird we were hoping to see. As we left the protected waters inside Genovesa the seas progressively worsened and we were soon cruising directly into a 6-10 foot swell. More than half of the passengers got seasick and it was a rough night for sleeping! Dinner was at 7:30 p.m. and consisted of prawns in a sauce, roast turkey, salad, fresh fruit, and pineapple upside down cake for dessert. Too bad less than half the passengers were able to enjoy such a great meal! [mostly to partly cloudy, temperature 68-86°F, wind SSE 10-25 mph]

12 August



After a long, rough boat ride we finally arrived in the shelter of Baltra at 3 a.m. We enjoyed a few more hours of sleep on the calm water before waking at 6 a.m. We held a short meeting at 8 a.m. to discuss the day's itinerary and then enjoyed a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit, and a breakfast fruit cake. We then cruised west along the north edge of Santa Cruz and enjoyed many Elliot's Storm Petrels and Galapagos Shearwaters plus a few Blue-footed Boobies and an unidentified whale. A short ride in the zodiac took us to Bachas

Beach on the north shore of Santa Cruz for a morning hike. During the hike we saw Great Blue and Lava herons, 3 Greater Flamingos, 2 Semipalmated Plovers, a Whimbrel, a Wandering Tattler, a Ruddy Turnstone, 4 Sanderlings, Smooth-billed Ani, Medium and Small ground finches, and Common Cactus Finch. After the hike we returned to the beach for 45 minutes of snorkeling before returning to the Eric by 12:30 p.m. We then showered and ate lunch at 1 p.m. – fried fish, a steak stir fry, salad, fresh fruit, and muffins for dessert.

During and after lunch we slowly made our way west along the north shore of Santa Cruz, arriving at our next stop at Dragon Hill at 3 p.m. When we arrived in the bay we were flagged down by a boatload of government goat hunters who requested fresh water. We judged from the condition of their boat and cargo that this was not an easy way to earn a living! There we took a short hike along the beach, around a small brackish lagoon, and into the hills to a site that had been restored for Land Iguanas. Everything here was



extremely dry, and this was the hottest weather of the trip thus far. At the lagoon we saw 2 White-cheeked Pintails, 2 Black-necked Stilts, and a Whimbrel. We saw many Marine and Land iguanas along the hike, as well as several Galapagos Lava Lizards. The woods were full of finches – we identified Sharp-beaked Ground, Common Cactus, Large Tree, Small Tree, Medium Ground, and Small

Ground finches among the hordes. A Galapagos Flycatcher was a bonus bird. We returned to the boat at 5:15 p.m. took a short swim in open water, and relaxed before dinner. We had a group briefing at 7 p.m. followed by a dinner of chicken or pork chops, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, and flan for dessert. We were in bed by 9 p.m. The boat headed northwest towards James Bay on Santiago, arriving there at 4 a.m. after a very smooth ride. [mostly clear, temperature 74-92°F, wind S 5-15 mph]





13 August

There were four boats in James Bay tonight, so we decided to get an early start to beat the crowds. We had breakfast (cheese filled tortillas, eggs, toast, and fresh fruit) at 6:30 a.m. and left in the zodiacs at 7 a.m. We were greeted by a cooperative pair of Galapagos Hawks as we landed, and quickly found a pair of American Oystercatchers on the beach. We then spent the next 2 hours following the trail through the forest and then back along the beach to our landing spot. The forest was pretty quiet bird-wise



and we saw many Smooth-billed Anis and Galapagos Doves, lots of Small Ground Finches, and a couple of Medium Ground Finches. The walk back along the beach was more productive. We saw at least 8 Galapagos Fur Sea Lions amongst the Galapagos Sea Lions, including a nursing female. In one of the pools we had great looks at a large Green Sea Turtle. The rocks at low tide were crawling with Marine Iguanas, Sally Lightfoot Crabs, Ghost Crabs, and Lava Lizards. Birds here included Lava Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, American Oystercatcher, Wandering Tattler, and Whimbrel. Our walk ended at 9:15 a.m. and we spent the next 45 minutes on the beach while some people snorkeled. We were back on the boat by 10:15 a.m. and quickly set sail for Sombrero Chino (Chinese Hat).



We slowly sailed around the southern edge of Santiago towards Chinese Hat, arriving there at 2:30 p.m. En route we enjoyed a lunch of Ecuadorian cuisine – a pork sauté, a chicken cooked in sauce, rice, fried hominy, salad, and rice pudding for dessert. The birds were scarce with lots of Galapagos Shearwaters, a few Elliot's Storm Petrels, a Galapagos Petrel, and the more common seabirds. We also spotted 2 Green Sea Turtles, a large Hammerhead, and an unidentified large ray. At 3 p.m. we took a short ride in the zodiac around the bay between Chinese Hat and Santiago and saw 5 Galapagos Penguins, 2 American Oystercatchers, a Wandering Tattler, and nesting Brown Noddies. We

returned to the boat at 3:30 p.m., took a 15 minute break, and then returned to the bay via zodiacs for an open-water dive. We spent an hour snorkeling along the edge of the mainland and saw a myriad of tropical fish, a large Green Sea Turtle, 2 sharks, many starfish, and got to dive with Galapagos Penguins, Galapagos Sea Lions, and Marine Iguanas. It was also fun to approach birds along the shore from underwater – we got within a couple of feet of Brown Pelicans and a Lava Heron using this approach. We returned to the boat at 4:45 p.m., showered, and relaxed before dinner. During this time the boat slowly made its way to the north around the east end of the island to Bartolome, where we arrived at 6:30 p.m. We saw many Galapagos Shearwaters and Galapagos Petrels plus 2 distant sharks while we were cruising. Tonight we ate dinner with the captain and enjoyed spaghetti or grilled tuna in sauce, potatoes, mixed grilled vegetables, ice cream, and wine. After dinner most of us retired to bed by 9 p.m. [clear to mostly cloudy, temperature 70-88°F, wind SE 5-15 mph]



14 August



This was another early morning because we wanted to hike on Bartolome before it got hot. We were up at 6 a.m. and ate breakfast at 6:30 a.m. – pancakes, sausage, toast, fresh fruit, and cereal. At 7:15 p.m. we loaded into the zodiacs for the short ride to Bartolome. This is a very young island, mostly devoid of vegetation and resembling the surface of the moon. About the only plants growing here were lava grass and lava cactus. We began with a 1-hour hike to the

top of the island for a view of the surrounding landscape. The 364-step climb was great exercise and along the way we enjoyed excellent views of Lava Lizards. From the top we took photos of Pinnacle Rock, a famous landmark often found on postcards. After we climbed down and were about to load into the zodiac, I realized I had left my backpack at the top! I climbed back up and retrieved the pack, definitely a workout! We then cruised a short distance down the west side of the island to an orange sand beach and snorkeled for an hour. A small patch of forest behind the beach had a few Small Ground Finches and Yellow Warblers and we saw American Oystercatchers on the beach. While snorkeling we saw 2 Galapagos Penguins, a Green Sea Turtle, Galapagos Sea Lions, and many colorful fish to make for an enjoyable swim. Karen got a thrill out of a penguin that chased a fish between her legs and eventually caught it close by! We returned to the boat at 10 a.m. to clean up and rest before lunch.



Our afternoon stop was North Seymour Island, a small islet off the north coast of Baltra. We set sail immediately from Bartolome and birded most of the way to North Seymour, where we arrived at 1:45 p.m. The pelagic birding was good – a distant Waved Albatross, many Galapagos Shearwaters and Galapagos Petrels, all 3 storm petrels (Elliot's, Wedge-rumped, and a single Band-rumped), Nazca Booby, and 36 Red-necked Phalaropes in 7 small flocks. Lunch consisted of beef or chicken burritos, rice, a vegetable mix, salad, fresh fruit, and cake for dessert. After lunch we rested for a half hour before our afternoon trip. We loaded into the zodiacs at 2 p.m. for an afternoon hike on

North Seymour. The trail was extremely rocky and passed through a scrub forest and then back along the beach. The highlight of the walk was the herps – many Land and Marine Iguanas, lots of Lava Lizards, and 3 Galapagos Snakes. We also enjoyed many nesting seabirds including Great and Magnificent frigatebirds (many of the males were displaying), Blue-footed Boobies, and Swallow-tailed Gulls plus a Striated Heron, 2 Lava Gulls, and several Small Ground Finches. We returned to the boat at 4 p.m., just in time to spot a small Hammerhead. We remained anchored off North Seymour through dinner, then departed for an overnight ride to the south end of Santa Cruz Island. Dinner consisted of tuna or barbeque chicken, mixed vegetables, an odd bread, and spiced fruit (something like a mango) for dessert. After dinner we were in bed by 9 p.m. [partly cloudy, temperature 70-89°F, wind SSW 5-15 mph, very light showers from 3-4 p.m.]



15 August



We sailed most of the night and arrived at Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz at 4 a.m. We were able to sleep in this morning and ate a late breakfast at 7:30 a.m. (bacon, corn tortillas, fresh fruit, cereal, and toast). The harbor was full of the more common seabirds plus 2 Lava Herons, 2 Wandering Tattlers, a Whimbrel, and a Lava Gull. We took a short zodiac ride to town at 8:30 a.m., then got on a bus for a short ride to Rancho Primicias in the highlands where

we arrived at 9:15 a.m. Our first quick stop was a walk into a large lava tunnel, and a Barn Owl was roosting at the entrance! This ranch is an excellent place to view wild Galapagos (Giant) Tortoises, and we found at least 14 during our 1 ¾ hour visit. Several of them were absolutely huge! The forest was alive with finches, and we identified at least 6 species – Medium Ground, Small Ground, Vegetarian, Large Tree, Small Tree, and Woodpecker. We also saw White-cheeked Pintail, a Dark-billed Cuckoo (heard only), and a Galapagos Flycatcher. After our hike we were bused back to town, took a short zodiac ride back to the boat, and were ready for lunch at noon. Lunch consisted of fried chicken, grilled fish in a sauce, eggplant, a couple of types of salad, and peaches for dessert. We then took a short siesta after lunch.



For the afternoon, we again took the zodiacs to shore, but this time landed a bit farther north at the Charles Darwin Research Station. We landed at 2:15 p.m. amidst a rain shower and spent an hour and a half exploring the tortoise rearing pens and learning about the translocation and recovery efforts. This was an excellent opportunity to observe tortoises from several islands, including those with dome- and saddle-shaped carapaces (and Lonesome George, the last known individual of the Pinta Island Tortoise).

The station grounds were surprisingly birdy and we saw 2 Dark-billed Cuckoos, many Galapagos Flycatchers, and 5 species of finches including Common Cactus, Large Ground, and Vegetarian. After we finished our tour of the station we made our way back to town on our own, shopping along the way. I caught a brief glimpse of 4 Galapagos Martins during this walk. The harbor was full of birds – Blue-footed Boobies, Brown Pelicans, many frigatebirds, a Great Egret, a Striated Heron, several Whimbrel, 2 Lava Gulls,



and Brown Noddies. We loaded into the zodiacs at 6 p.m. for the short trip back to the Eric. We immediately set sail for Espanola, an all-night trip against the wind and current. We held a briefing at 7 p.m. before a dinner of steak with mushrooms, octopus in vegetables, garlic pasta, mixed vegetables, salad, and cake for dessert to celebrate the 34th anniversary of one of the couples. After dinner we quickly retired to bed by 8:30 p.m. [overcast with a light fog, temperature 70-85°F, winds S 5-10 mph, light intermittent rain]



16 August



We arrived at Punta Suarez on the west edge of Espanola and arose at 6 a.m. for an early start. We ate breakfast at 6:30 a.m. – pancakes, an odd sausage, toast, fresh fruit, and cereal. By 7 a.m. we were in the zodiacs and arrived onshore a few minutes later. This part of the island is home to nesting Waved Albatross, Nazca and Blue-footed Boobies, Red-billed Tropicbirds, and Swallow-tailed Gulls, all of which were nesting in large numbers. We also saw a pair of Galapagos Hawks, including one adult on a nest. Finches

were everywhere – mostly Warbler, Small Ground, Large Ground, and Large Cactus. We also saw 4 American Oystercatchers, 2 Wandering Tattlers, a Galapagos Flycatcher, and many Hood Mockingbirds. Unfortunately, several low cloud banks moved over the island while we were there, so it was alternately sunny and then overcast with light rain! We returned to the boat at 10:15 a.m. and set sail for Gardner Bay on the northeast side of the island, where we arrived at 11:45 a.m. Lunch was on the boat in the calm bay- meat lasagna, baked fish, rice, salad, and chocolate mousse for dessert.





After lunch we had a half hour to get ready for the afternoon excursion to Gardner Bay. We loaded into the zodiacs at 1:30 p.m. for the short ride to the beach. We had free run of the entire beach and enjoyed walking amongst the Galapagos Sea Lions with pups and saw Hood Mockingbirds and 3 finches (Large Cactus, Small Ground, and Warbler) along the dune line. Some of us went snorkeling and swam with sea lions and a Green Sea Turtle. At 3:30 p.m. we returned to the boat and immediately set sail for San Cristobal, where we arrived at 8 p.m. This was probably our longest daylight cruise and we took advantage of the

opportunity to look for pelagic birds. We saw 13 Waved Albatross, 57 Galapagos Petrels, 96 Galapagos Shearwaters, 18 Elliot's Storm Petrels, 40 Wedge-rumped Storm Petrels, 1 Band-rumped Storm Petrel, 1 Markham's Storm Petrel, and 2 Red-necked and 1 Red Phalarope. We held our last group meeting at 7 p.m. and were thanked by the crew, given personal certificates for crossing the equator, and had a group toast to the trip. We also learned that the trip had tallied 424 nautical miles of travel! Dinner was delicious, as usual – grilled prawns, roast turkey, potatoes, mixed vegetables, and apple strudel for dessert. After dinner there was a short “award” ceremony that highlighted some of the more humorous aspects of the trip. The group finally dispersed for bed at 9 p.m. [mostly cloudy, temperature 69-85°F, winds SE 5-10 mph, intermittent light rain all day]



17 August

This was our last morning on the boat. We awoke early to pack and then met for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. – scrambled eggs, fresh fruit, cereal, yogurt, toast, and juice that must have been made from an assortment of fruits and vegetables. At 8 a.m. we were shuttled ashore, loaded into a bus, and spent the next hour at an interpretive center that explained the history of the islands. We returned to the bus and the town center and were allowed until 11:30 a.m. to shop and wander the waterfront. At 11:30 a.m. we were bused to the airport and were in the air by 12:40 p.m. The trip to Quito was uneventful and we arrived there at 4:15 p.m. During a 1-hour layover in Guayaquil we saw Harris' Hawk, Great Black-Hawk, Killdeer, and Snowy-throated Kingbird. In Quito we got our rental car (a Hyundai Terracan, cost was \$1,120 for 10 days) and returned to Parque Italia for the night. Dinner was Pizza Hut pizza and beer and we went to bed early to catch up on sleep. [mostly clear, temperature 74-88°F, wind S 5-10 mph]



Galapagos Finches

Clockwise from upper left: Large Ground Finch, Medium Ground Finch, Small Tree Finch, Cactus Finch, Warbler Finch, and Small Ground Finch.





18 August

I got an early start today when I took Karen to the airport at 4 a.m. for her flight home. She was more than ready to quit looking at birds after a week with the rest of us! The rest of the group awoke at 5 a.m. and missed breakfast because of a



miscommunication with the motel owner. We then loaded the vehicle and were off on the second week of our trip. We quickly drove east from Quito towards Antisana Volcano, where we birded from 7:45 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. This was certainly a bizarre weather day. Less than 24 hours after leaving the tropical climate of the Galapagos we found ourselves in the middle of a snowstorm! We encountered steady light to moderate snow above 3,350m elevation until almost noon. The rest of the morning was filled with a cold

rain, although the birding was surprisingly good. Once we entered páramo habitat we started seeing new birds – Black-winged Ground Dove, Black-tailed Trainbearer, many Stout-billed and Bar-winged cinclodes, Páramo Ground Tyrant, Páramo Pipit, Cinereous Conebill, Plumbeous and Ash-breasted sierra finches, Plain-colored Seedeater, and Hooded Siskin. The weather conditions were not conducive for seeing condors, although we saw plenty of Carunculated Caracaras and a few Variable Hawks. Higher up we spotted a pair of spectacular Black-chested Buzzard-Eagles right by the road. A surprise to us was all the Baird's Sandpipers (total of 24 individuals) we encountered along the roadsides. At Laguna La Mica we found many of the expected waterbirds including Andean Teal, Yellow-billed Pintail, Andean Duck, Silvery Grebe, a male Cinereous Harrier, and Andean Coot plus a bonus – 4 Black-faced Ibis. We had a flat tire in the parking lot, which took a while to repair given the weather and difficulty locating the vehicle's jack! At about 12:30 p.m. the skies began clearing so we once again turned our attention to condor watching. For the best viewing we followed the road that ends on the south side of the volcano at an impressive elevation of 4,035m. We finally spotted a group of 7 distant Andean Condors, but the looks were quite poor. A half hour later we had 3 more condors that circled close overhead for several minutes, providing a more than satisfactory look at this spectacular bird.





At 2:30 p.m. we left Antisana and headed for Guango Lodge (see http://cabanasanisidro.com/pages/guango_lodge.htm). We made a failed attempt to find the radio tower road near Papallacta Pass and eventually arrived at the lodge at 5:25 p.m. While we were checking into our rooms we could not resist a closer look at the hummingbird feeders and quickly found 13 species including Chestnut-breasted Coronet, Collared Inca, Buff-winged Starfrontlet, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Great Sapphirewing, Tourmaline Sunangel, Tyrian Metaltail, and White-bellied and Gorgeted woodstars. We ate dinner at the lodge at 7 p.m. – broccoli soup, pork chops, potatoes, a hominy salad, and oatmeal cakes covered with raspberry sauce for dessert. We were exhausted and went to bed early. [overcast with fog, some clearing in afternoon, temperature 35-60°F, wind E 5-15 mph, light to moderate rain/snow all day; 226 km by car]

19 August

We got an early start and ate breakfast at 6 a.m. – scrambled eggs, toast, cereal, bananas, coffee, and juice. At 6:30 a.m. we took a long hike on the Guango Lodge property with the local guide Alex. The birding was excellent and we saw Torrent Duck, Andean Guan, 14 species of hummingbirds including Mountain Avocetbill, Masked Trogon, Chestnut-crowned Antpitta (a “pet” pair fed earthworms by Alex), Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant, Torrent Tyrannulet, White-sided Flowerpiercer, Black-eared and Black-capped hemispingus’, Blue-backed and Capped conebills, Lacrimose Mountain Tanager, Grass-green and Red-hooded tanagers, and Mountain Cacique. At 11 a.m. we ate lunch at the lodge – pork loin, green beans, rice, a potato onion soup, bread, and a rich cake topped with strawberries for dessert. We then packed up and departed at 12:30 p.m. for the long ride over the Andes to Tinalandia where we arrived at 4:30 p.m. after a short stop to repair a tire.



After we arrived at Tinalandia Lodge (see <http://www.tinalandia.com/>) we quickly checked into our rooms and then birded the road downhill to the main lodge for dinner at 6 p.m. This was a diverse, relatively low elevation (600m) forested region with lots of bird diversity. The road was quite birdy and we saw Bat Falcon, Bronze-winged Parrot, Common Potoo (great looks in broad daylight!), Pale-mandibled Aracari, Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Ecuadorian Thrush, Lemon-rumped and Swallow tanagers, Thick-billed Euphonia, Yellow-tufted Dacnis, and Orange-billed Sparrow. Dinner consisted of steak (a bit tough), potatoes, a delicious soup, rice, bread, and a fruit cup for dessert. After dinner we returned to the cabin, whistled up a Vermiculated Screech Owl, and then called it a day. [overcast, temperature 48-80°F, winds light and variable, intermittent fog and light rain all day; 223 km by car]



20 August



We woke up to calling Common Potoo and Rufous Motmot outside our cabin. Breakfast was at 7 a.m., so we birded around the cabin until 6:45 a.m. and then drove downhill to eat. The birding was productive and we saw a Pacific Pygmy-Owl being mobbed by many tanagers and other songbirds plus Ecuadorian Thrush, Thick-billed Euphonia, Bay-headed and Blue-necked tanagers, and Scrub Blackbird. Breakfast was fried eggs, toast, fresh sliced melon, and juice. While

we were eating the owners placed some fruit on trays for birds. We saw many hummingbirds that included Green-crowned Brilliant plus Golden-olive Woodpecker, Lemon-rumped, Palm, and Blue-gray tanagers, a Red-headed Barbet, and a Green Honeycreeper while we were eating. We then returned to the cabin and birded the golf course and surrounding forest until 12:30 p.m., then walked down the road for lunch at 1 p.m. This area was very birdy and we saw Plain-breasted Hawk, Striped Cuckoo, Pacific Parrotlet, White-whiskered Hermit, Crimson-rumped Toucanet, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, a cooperative pair of stunning Red-billed Scythebills, Red-faced Spinetail, Masked Water Tyrant, Masked Tityra, and Orange-bellied Euphonia. We birded the road downhill for lunch and saw Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant and Tropical Parula among the many flocks we encountered. Lunch was beef in barbeque sauce, rice, mashed potatoes, cooked cabbage, and ice cream with nut cake for dessert. After lunch we birded the road back up to the cabin and saw the same Common Potoo on its roadside perch, Pale-mandibled Aracari, Olivaceous Woodcreeper, Choco Warbler, and White-shouldered Tanager. From the cabin we decided to explore the moss forest, which is a really nice parcel of mature broadleaf humid forest. There was little bird activity in the afternoon heat although we managed to find 3 calling Little Tinamous, Rufous-fronted Wood Quail, Rufous Motmot, Chestnut-backed Antbird, and Ornate Flycatcher. We took the road along the edge of the golf course back to the cabin and saw a Little Tinamou, Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift, Lineated Woodpecker, Buff-rumped Warbler, and Purple Honeycreeper. We finished our afternoon walk at 5:30 p.m., just ahead of a band of moderate rain. Other interesting critters seen today included several morpho butterflies, a clearwing butterfly, and a very large owl butterfly. We relaxed at the cabin, showered, and then made our way downhill for dinner at 6:30 p.m. Dinner was outside under the veranda in the rain – fried fish with rice, fried plantain, green beans, bread, and a mango crepe for dessert. We also enjoyed close looks at some unidentified bats and a dobsonfly during our meal. [mostly cloudy, temperature 73-90°F, wind E 5-10 mph, intermittent rain, mostly in the afternoon; 6 km by car]



21 August



This was our last full day at Tinalandia and it had rained all night and was still raining at 6 a.m. when we awoke. We wandered down to breakfast at 7 a.m. and enjoyed eggs, toast, fresh papaya, and juice. Some of the birds seen while we were eating included Squirrel Cuckoo, Masked Tityra, Red-headed Barbet, Three-striped Warbler, and Silver-throated, Fawn-breasted, and Dusky-faced tanagers. At 8 a.m. we returned to our cabin and packed for a long

morning hike through the moss forest. We walked the main trail that circles the forest, and then returned to the cabin via the golf course where we came across a Parrot Snake in the grass. Some of the birds seen on this hike included Pacific Parrotlet, Wedge-billed and Spotted woodcreepers, Red-faced and Slaty spinetails, Scaly-throated and Buff-throated foliage-gleaners, Pacific Antwren, Banded Antshrike, Immaculate Antbird, Plain Xenops, Black-and-white Becard, and Orange-fronted Barbet. At 1 p.m. we returned to the main lodge for lunch – spaghetti with meat sauce, bread, a crepe stuffed with onions and carrots in a white sauce, and a fried plantain for dessert. We decided to spend the afternoon birding Chiriboga Road, but missed a turn and didn't arrive until 3 p.m. It was definitely worth the wait as we found several large mixed species flocks along the first 6 km of the road. Birds seen in 2 ½ hours of birding along this road included Plain-brown Woodpecker, Olivaceous Piculet, Strong-billed Woodcreeper, Slaty and Red-faced spinetails, Russet Antshrike, Brown-capped Vireo, Bay Wren, White-capped Dipper, Slate-throated Whitestart, Red-faced Barbet, Ashy-throated Bush Tanager, Golden, Guira, and White-winged tanagers, Black-winged Saltator, Black-striped Sparrow, Yellow-bellied Seedeater, and Scarlet-rumped Cacique. At the first bridge crossing we enjoyed close looks at an apparent family group of White-capped Dippers. At 6 p.m. we stopped to make calls home and then returned to the lodge for dinner at 6:30 p.m. Dinner tonight was grilled chicken, broccoli soup, potato chips, cooked carrot strips, and a fried pineapple for dessert. We also settled our bill and learned some bad news – they don't accept credit cards, and a 10% "tip" (which actually goes to the owners and not the staff!) was added to the bill. After settling up we returned to our cabins to pack and sleep. [mostly to partly cloudy, temperature 75-89°F, wind calm, intermittent rain in early morning and late afternoon; 73 km by car]

22 August



The birding at Tinalandia was good, but we decided to forgo another morning here and bird Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary (see <http://www.mindocloudforest.org/>; elevation ~300m) in the coastal plain. We left Tinalandia at 5:20 a.m., made a quick stop in Santo Domingo to get some cash from an ATM, and then continued north and east to the sanctuary where we arrived at 7:45 a.m. We birded the sanctuary until 11 a.m. and encountered several nice mixed species flocks. The more interesting birds were Rufous-fronted Wood Quail, Chestnut-mandibled Toucan, Purple-chested Hummingbird, Western White-tailed Trogon, Purple-throated Fruitcrow, White-necked Puffbird, White-bearded Manakin, and Blue-necked and Tawny-crested tanagers. But the real show was the antbirds – Great and Western Slaty antshrikes, Chestnut-backed Antbird, Buff-fronted Foliage-Gleaner, Slaty Spinetail, and Plain Xenops. From here we continued east and stopped for lunch at the famous Mirador Rio Blanco restaurant in Los Bancos. The feeders were alive with hummingbirds – Green Thorntail, Green-crowned Woodnymph,

White-whiskered Hermit, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Green-crowned Brilliant, and Long-billed Starthroat. There were other birds too – Red-faced Spinetail, Bananaquit, Orange-bellied and Thick-billed euphonias, and Silver-throated and Golden tanagers. Lunch was off the menu and the fish in herb sauce was excellent.

We finished lunch at 1:45 p.m. and continued on to Tandayapa Lodge (see <http://www.tandayapa.com/>) where we arrived at 3 p.m. After checking in we spent more than an hour (in the rain) enjoying the hummingbird spectacle. There were probably >100 birds visiting 7 feeders, and we identified 14 species with the help of the local host, Brian Steger. The hummingbird list included Brown and Green violet-ears, Western and Andean emeralds, Fawn-breasted, Empress, and Green-crowned brilliant's, Brown Inca, Purple-bibbed Whitetip, Booted Racket-tail, and Violet-tailed Sylph. We took a short hike up Potoo Trail in the rain, but didn't see a single bird and returned to the lodge. Then, at 6 p.m., Brian offered to take us down the road to look for Lyre-tailed Nightjar. We accepted his offer and heard one calling at about 6:20 p.m. After much waiting the bird finally sallied overhead twice and landed where we could see it with a flashlight. This was a spectacular bird to end the day! Other birds included Russet-crowned and Three-striped warblers and Tricolored and White-winged brush finches. We returned to the lodge for dinner at 7 p.m. – roast chicken, onion soup, rice, a tomato and cucumber mix, and a fruit cup for dessert. After dinner we spent time enjoying the incredible display of moths that are attracted to the lodge's walls at night. We then made plans for the next day and retired to bed. [overcast to partly cloudy,]temperature 67-90°F, winds W 5-10 mph, intermittent rain in early morning and late afternoon; 231 km by car]



23 August



We planned to spend the morning at Paz de las Aves, a private bird reserve that has an Andean Cock-of-the-Rock lek and many other interesting birds. Brian agreed to join us for the morning and we departed Tandayapa Lodge at 4:45 a.m. It took almost an hour to make the winding 30 km drive to the reserve. There, we met our guide Angel Paz and two other birders from Maine (Judy and Luke) and began the hike to the lek. The show was spectacular and we watched at least 5 male Andean Cocks-of-the-Rock display for more than a half hour. From there we walked a short distance to a fruit feeding station where we stayed for an hour to enjoy close looks at Sickie-winged Guan, Olivaceous Piha,

Toucan Barbet, Black-chinned Mountain Tanager, and other birds. Next was the antpitta show. We started with Maria, a female Giant Antpitta that walked right up to us for great looks. Then we climbed down to the river and enjoyed close looks at a more retiring Yellow-breasted Antpitta named Willy. Our last stop, after a futile search for wood quail, was for a quick look at a Moustached Antpitta named Susan. Other birds seen during the morning walk included Barred Forest Falcon, Tawny-bellied Hermit, Speckled Hummingbird, Velvet-purple Coronet, Golden-headed Quetzal, Scaled and Orange-breasted fruiteaters, Smoke-colored Pewee, Blue-capped, Flame-faced, Beryl-spangled, and Black-capped tanagers, and Black-winged Saltator. After the hike we were fed a mid-morning snack that consisted of fried chicken balls, empanadas, coffee or hot chocolate, and a fruit cup made from tree tomatoes. After we were done at 11:30 a.m. we returned to Tandayapa Lodge just before a rain shower and relaxed by the hummingbird feeders.



This was Jim's and my last day of birding and we were scheduled to depart on a 4 p.m. shuttle to Quito. The rest of the group plus Brian left at 2 p.m. while Jim and I birded around the lodge and saw Barred Hawk, 11 species of hummingbirds, Montane Woodcreeper, Streak-capped Treehunter, Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, and Blue-winged Mountain Tanager. George, Gordon, Jay, and Brian spent the afternoon birding the old Nono-Mindo Road. They slowly drove the road (31.2 km roundtrip) until they ran across a flock of birds. Birds seen along this road included Gray-breasted Wood Wren, Golden-crowned Flycatcher, Smoke-colored Pewee, Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, Plate-billed Mountain Toucan, and Crimson-mantled Woodpeckers. They returned to the lodge at 5:30 p.m. and birded there until dinner—cauliflower soup, beef, rice, beets, and chocolate ice cream. That evening they ventured down into the town of Tandayapa where they heard a Colombian Screech Owl and had some fun trying to talk to the town drunk. Our shuttle ride to Quito was uneventful and we arrived at Parque Italia at 6 p.m. and quickly retired for the night. [mostly clear to overcast, temperature 64-88°F, wind calm, light rain in the afternoon; 56 km by car]



24 August

This was a travel day for Jim and I to return to the U.S. and everything went smoothly. The rest of the group continued birding in Ecuador and the rest of the report was provided by Jay Gilliam.

**The narrative for the remainder of the trip was written by Jay Gilliam.

George, Gordon, and I started the morning early in the forest bird hide at Tandayapa Lodge. The only birds to show up for us were Immaculate Antbird and Chestnut-capped Brush Finch so we headed back to the lodge to watch the feeders before eating breakfast—French toast and pineapple juice. Brian joined us and we left to bird the Upper Tandayapa Valley and Research Station Road at 7:45 a.m. Good birds on this trek included Hook-billed Kites, Semicollared and White-throated hawks, White-tipped Swift, Gorgeted Sunangel, Tawny-bellied Hermit, Azara's Spinetail, Rusty-winged Barbtail, Streak-capped Treehunter, Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, Flavescent Flycatcher, Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant, Blue-and-Black, Blue-capped, Metallic-green, Grass-green, and Beryl-spangled tanagers, and Southern Yellow Grosbeak. We were back at the lodge by 1:30 p.m. where we found a Little Woodstar at the hummingbird feeders. Lunch was vegetable soup, trout with rice, veggies, and avocado, and banana bread.



We packed our bags and left the lodge at 3:00 p.m. then arrived at 3:45 p.m. at the Septimo Paraiso Cloud Forest Reserve in the Mindo Valley (see <http://www.septimoparaiso.com/>; elevation 850 to 1,500m). The Reserve encompasses 420 ha of pre-montane and montane cloud forest and boasts an impressive bird list of 328 species. We spent the remainder of the afternoon birding around the lodge and watching the hummingbird feeders. The feeders had 17 hummingbird species including two new ones for the trip, White-necked Jacobin and Purple-crowned Fairy. The lodge was very nice with spacious rooms (\$95/night). Dinner was fresh juice (raspberry), cauliflower soup, fried trout with potatoes and vegetables, then cake for dessert. [cloudy in the afternoon, temperature 65-85°F, rain at night; 52 km by car]

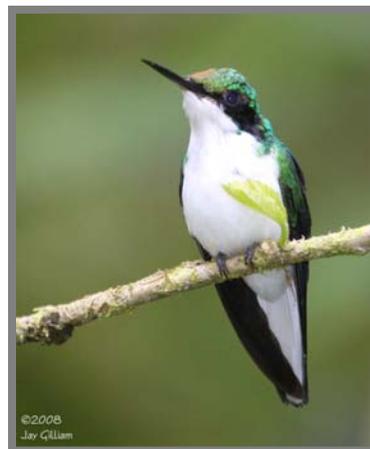
25 August

We got up and started birding around the lodge at 6:30 a.m. and heard Wattled Guans, Slaty Spinetail, and Rufous-breasted Antthrush. A Red-tailed Squirrel was a new mammal for the trip. There were plenty of tanagers around the lodge, along with Pale-mandibled Aracari and Golden-winged Manakins. Breakfast was light and consisted of fresh juice, cantaloupe, pineapple, fresh bread, and eggs.



After breakfast we decided to take a hike along the Tower Trail that wound through a lower forested area then climbed up the mountain and came back down to the lodge. It was a longer hike than we thought and took over four hours to complete it. Birds seen along the hike included Maroon-tailed Parakeet, Slaty Antwren, Tawny-breasted, Handsome, Gray-breasted, and Golden-crowned flycatchers, Ashy-headed Tyrannulet, Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush, and Yellow-throated Bush Tanager. Lunch was fresh bread, lentil soup, fresh juice (pineapple), beef with vegetables, rice, and broccoli, fried plantains, and cake with chocolate sauce for dessert.

We spent the afternoon (2:30-6:30 p.m.) birding the famous Milpe Road to look for lower foothill specialties. We slowly drove to the end of the road and back and logged 46 species of birds. Good birds included Collared Trogon, Choco and Chestnut-mandibled Toucans, Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner, Guayaquil Woodpecker, White-thighed Swallow, Guira Tanager, Black-striped Sparrow, and Black-and-White Seedeater. We got back to the lodge at 6:45 p.m. and had a dinner of fresh juice (coconut), fresh bread, spinach soup, and chicken smothered in mushrooms with French fries, with apple pie for dessert.



We rested a little after dinner then decided to do some owling. We went up the hill to the “Mindo sign”, the place to find Black-and-white Owls that feed on the bugs that the lights attract. As we were unsuccessfully searching for it a family came out of the house from across the street and started catching moths. We tried to talk to them but couldn’t understand why they were collecting them but they kept saying “bubo”. It didn’t click with us so we got in the car to leave but then an older lady came out of the house and stopped us and told us we need to come into their house. Inside the house we found a baby Black-and-white Owl sitting on their living room table! Apparently they had found it and thought they were rescuing it but they were doing a pretty good job feeding it moths. We got back out to the vehicle and were

lamenting the fact we couldn't count the owl when Gordon looked right above us and turned on his spotlight to find an adult Black-and-white Owl just staring at us! We could count that one. We drove back down to the lodge and walked around to see if we could call in a Mottled Owl with a tape. Within a few minutes we had two Mottled Owls flying back and forth right over us! A great way to end the evening. [partly cloudy a.m. switching to overcast cloudy skies in the afternoon, temperature 65-85°F, light rain in the evening; 57 km by car]

26 August

We awoke early with a calling Rufous Motmot right outside our rooms. At 6:15 a.m. we made a quick run up to the Mindo sign to see what birds were eating the bugs from the night before. We probably arrived a little late since there wasn't much there but a Masked Trogon and Uniform Antshrike were good birds to start the day with. We then birded around the lodge for a little while, ate a quick breakfast (similar to the day before), and left at 7:30 a.m. for the Milpe Bird Sanctuary to search for Choco endemics. This 62 ha sanctuary (altitude ranges from 1,020 to 1,150m) includes two small rivers that converge in a steep, forested valley. We birded the sanctuary in a light rain from 8:00-11:30 a.m. The trail wound through deep forest on the side of a steep hill and we saw several good birds, including Plumbeous Hawk, Red-faced Spinetail, Esmeralda's Antbird, Bran-colored Flycatcher, and Glistening-green, Gray-and-Gold, White-shouldered, and Rufous-throated tanagers. We then took a quick trip down Milpe Road but the light rain resulted in slow birding so we headed back to the lodge.



We ate a good lunch at the lodge—fresh juice (passion fruit – really good!), fresh bread, vegetable soup, tilapia fish, fried plantains, then ice cream covered with a blackberry glaze for dessert. We took our time packing our bags and loading up the vehicle then left for Quito at 2:00 p.m. Upon entering Quito we stopped at the equator monument so George and I could get photos of us standing on the equator. We dropped

George off at Parque Italia then Gordon and I returned the rental vehicle in downtown Quito and walked back to the hotel. Dinner was Pizza Hut pizza. [mostly cloudy a.m. switching to misty light rain for the rest of the day, temperature 65-80°F; 83 km by car]

27 August

We got up very early and got a ride to the airport from a guy that was also staying at the hotel. Getting through the airport procedures was pretty easy so we had to wait a while for our flight but we left Quito at 6:35 a.m. and arrived in Miami at around 11:30 a.m. We split up from that point and I returned to Des Moines via Chicago.



For more information about this trip report please contact Stephen J. Dinsmore (cootjr@iastate.edu)

Birds (423 species)

Little Tinamou
Andean Guan
Wattled Guan
Sickle-winged Guan
Rufous-fronted Wood
Quail
Rufous-breasted Wood
Quail
Torrent Duck
Andean Teal
White-cheeked Pintail
Yellow-billed Pintail
Andean Duck
Galapagos Penguin
Waved Albatross
Galapagos Petrel
Galapagos Shearwater
Elliot's Storm Petrel
Wedge-rumped Storm
Petrel
Band-rumped Storm Petrel
Markham's Storm Petrel
Silvery Grebe
Greater Flamingo
Black-faced Ibis
Yellow-crowned Night-
Heron
Lava Heron
Striated Heron
Cattle Egret
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Snowy Egret
Red-billed Tropicbird
Magnificent Frigatebird
Great Frigatebird
Brown Pelican
Blue-footed Booby
Nazca Booby
Red-footed Booby
Neotropic Cormorant
Turkey Vulture
Black Vulture
Andean Condor
Carunculated Caracara
Hook-billed Kite
Cinereous Harrier
Semicollared Hawk

Plain-breasted Hawk
Plumbeous Hawk
Barred Hawk
Great Black Hawk
Harris' Hawk
Black-chested Buzzard-
Eagle
Roadside Hawk
White-throated Hawk
Galapagos Hawk
Variable Hawk
Barred Forest Falcon
American Kestrel
Bat Falcon
Andean Coot
American Oystercatcher
Black-necked Stilt
Andean Lapwing
Semipalmated Plover
Killdeer
Whimbrel
Spotted Sandpiper
Wandering Tattler
Ruddy Turnstone
Sanderling
Least Sandpiper
Baird's Sandpiper
Red-necked Phalarope
Red Phalarope
Andean Gull
Lava Gull
Swallow-tailed Gull
Brown Noddy
Rock Pigeon
Band-tailed Pigeon
Plumbeous Pigeon
Ruddy Pigeon
Dusky Pigeon
Eared Dove
Galapagos Dove
Black-winged Ground
Dove
White-tipped Dove
Pallid Dove
Maroon-tailed Parakeet
Pacific Parrotlet
Red-billed Parrot
Bronze-winged Parrot
Smooth-billed Ani
Groove-billed Ani

Striped Cuckoo
Little Cuckoo
Squirrel Cuckoo
Dark-billed Cuckoo
Barn Owl
Colombian Screech Owl
Vermiculated Screech Owl
Mottled Owl
Black-and-white Owl
Pacific Pygmy Owl
Short-eared Owl
Common Potoo
Lyre-tailed Nightjar
Chestnut-collared Swift
White-collared Swift
Gray-rumped Swift
White-tipped Swift
Lesser Swallow-tailed
Swift
White-whiskered Hermit
Tawny-bellied Hermit
White-necked Jacobin
Brown Violet-ear
Green Violet-ear
Sparkling Violet-ear
Green Thorntail
Western Emerald
Green-crowned
Woodnymph
Rufous-tailed
Hummingbird
Andean Emerald
Purple-chested
Hummingbird
Speckled Hummingbird
Fawn-breasted Brilliant
Green-crowned Brilliant
Empress Brilliant
Buff-tailed Coronet
Chestnut-breasted Coronet
Velvet-purple Coronet
Shining Sunbeam
Andean Hillstar
Mountain Velvetbreast
Brown Inca
Collared Inca
Buff-winged Starfrontlet
Sword-billed
Hummingbird
Great Sapphirewing

Giant Hummingbird
Gorgeted Sunangel
Tourmaline Sunangel
Glowing Puffleg
Sapphire-vented Puffleg
Golden-breasted Puffleg
Purple-bibbed Whitetip
Booted Racket-tail
Black-tailed Trainbearer
Green-tailed Trainbearer
Purple-backed Thornbill
Tyrian Metaltail
Mountain Avocetbill
Long-tailed Sylph
Violet-tailed Sylph
Purple-crowned Fairy
Long-billed Starthroat
Purple-throated Woodstar
White-bellied Woodstar
Little Woodstar
Gorgeted Woodstar
Western White-tailed
Trogon
Collared Trogon
Masked Trogon
Golden-headed Quetzal
Ringed Kingfisher
Rufous Motmot
Crimson-rumped Toucanet
Pale-mandibled Aracari
Plate-billed Mountain
Toucan
Choco Toucan
Chestnut-mandibled
Toucan
Orange-fronted Barbet
Red-headed Barbet
Toucan Barbet
Olivaceous Piculet
Black-cheeked
Woodpecker
Smoky-brown
Woodpecker
Bar-bellied Woodpecker
Red-rumped Woodpecker
Golden-olive Woodpecker
Crimson-mantled
Woodpecker
Lineated Woodpecker
Powerful Woodpecker
Guayaquil Woodpecker

Rufous-tailed Jacamar
White-necked Puffbird
Golden-winged Manakin
Club-winged Manakin
White-bearded Manakin
Masked Tityra
Barred Becard
Slaty Becard
Cinnamon Becard
White-winged Becard
Black-and-white Becard
One-colored Becard
Red-crested Cotinga
Barred Fruiteater
Orange-breasted Fruiteater
Scaled Fruiteater
Andean Cock-of-the-rock
Olivaceous Piha
Purple-throated Fruitcrow
Sooty-headed Tyrannulet
Ashy-headed Tyrannulet
Greenish Elaenia
Sierran Elaenia
Southern Beardless
Tyrannulet
White-throated Tyrannulet
White-tailed Tyrannulet
White-banded Tyrannulet
Rufous-winged Tyrannulet
Torrent Tyrannulet
Golden-faced Tyrannulet
Marble-faced Bristle
Tyrant
Streak-necked Flycatcher
Slaty-capped Flycatcher
Flavescent Flycatcher
Handsome Flycatcher
Bran-colored Flycatcher
Ornate Flycatcher
Scale-crested Pygmy
Tyrant
Common Tody-Flycatcher
Black-headed Tody-
Flycatcher
Cinnamon Flycatcher
Gray-breasted Flycatcher
Tawny-breasted
Flycatcher
Black Phoebe
Smoke-colored Pewee
Páramo Ground Tyrant

Streak-throated Bush
Tyrant
Smoky Bush Tyrant
Masked Water Tyrant
Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant
Rufous-breasted Chat-
Tyrant
Rusty-margined
Flycatcher
Social Flycatcher
Golden-crowned
Flycatcher
Streaked Flycatcher
Boat-billed Flycatcher
Snowy-throated Kingbird
Tropical Kingbird
Dusky-capped Flycatcher
Galapagos Flycatcher
Great Antshrike
Uniform Antshrike
Western Slaty-Antshrike
Russet Antshrike
Pacific Antwren
Slaty Antwren
White-flanked Antwren
Chestnut-backed Antbird
Esmeralda's Antbird
Immaculate Antbird
Ocellated Tapaculo
Ash-colored Tapaculo
Narino Tapaculo
Spillmann's Tapaculo
Unicolored Tapaculo
Rufous-breasted Antthrush
Giant Antpitta
Moustached Antpitta
Chestnut-crowned Antpitta
Yellow-breasted Antpitta
Tawny Antpitta
Stout-billed Cinclodes
Bar-winged Cinclodes
Pacific Hornero
Rufous Spinetail
Azara's Spinetail
Slaty Spinetail
White-browed Spinetail
Red-faced Spinetail
Rusty-winged Barbtail
Pearled Treerunner
Streaked Tuftedcheek

Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner
Lineated Foliage-gleaner
Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner
Streak-capped Treehunter
Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner
Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser
Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser
Plain Xenops
Plain-brown Woodcreeper
Olivaceous Woodcreeper
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper
Strong-billed Woodcreeper
Spotted Woodcreeper
Streak-headed Woodcreeper
Montane Woodcreeper
Red-billed Scythebill
Brown-capped Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Lesser Greenlet
Turquoise Jay
Beautiful Jay
Gray-breasted Martin
Galapagos Martin
Blue-and-white Swallow
Brown-bellied Swallow
White-thighed Swallow
Southern Rough-winged Swallow
Band-backed Wren
Rufous Wren
Sepia-brown Wren
Sedge Wren
Plain-tailed Wren
Whiskered Wren
Bay Wren
House Wren
Mountain Wren
Gray-breasted Wood Wren
Galapagos Mockingbird
Hood Mockingbird
San Cristobal Mockingbird
Andean Solitaire
Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush
Great Thrush

Pale-vented Thrush
Ecuadorian Thrush
White-capped Dipper
Páramo Pipit
Thick-billed Euphonia
Orange-bellied Euphonia
Yellow-collared Chlorophonia
Hooded Siskin
Yellow Grosbeak
Tropical Parula
Yellow Warbler
Slate-throated Whitestart
Spectacled Whitestart
Choco Warbler
Black-crested Warbler
Russet-crowned Warbler
Three-striped Warbler
Buff-rumped Warbler
Scarlet-rumped Cacique
Mountain Cacique
Yellow-tailed Oriole
Scrub Blackbird
Bananaquit
Rufous-collared Sparrow
Black-striped Sparrow
Orange-billed Sparrow
Chestnut-capped Brush Finch
Stripe-headed Brush Finch
Pale-naped Brush Finch
Tricolored Brush Finch
Rufous-naped Brush Finch
Slaty Brush Finch
White-winged Brush Finch
Dusky-faced Tanager
Ochre-breasted Tanager
Black-capped Hemispingus
Superciliaried Hemispingus
Black-eared Hemispingus
Western Hemispingus
Gray-hooded Bush Tanager
White-shouldered Tanager
Tawny-crested Tanager
White-lined Tanager
Lemon-rumped Tanager
Blue-gray Tanager
Palm Tanager

Blue-capped Tanager
Lacrimose Mountain Tanager
Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager
Blue-winged Mountain Tanager
Black-chinned Mountain Tanager
Grass-green Tanager
Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager
Golden-crowned Tanager
Fawn-breasted Tanager
Glistening-green Tanager
Gray-and-gold Tanager
Golden Tanager
Silver-throated Tanager
Flame-faced Tanager
Rufous-throated Tanager
Bay-headed Tanager
Golden-naped Tanager
Metallic-green Tanager
Blue-necked Tanager
Beryl-spangled Tanager
Blue-and-black Tanager
Black-capped Tanager
Swallow Tanager
Yellow-tufted Dacnis
Blue Dacnis
Purple Honeycreeper
Green Honeycreeper
Guira Tanager
Cinereous Conebill
Blue-backed Conebill
Capped Conebill
Glossy Flowerpiercer
Black Flowerpiercer
White-sided Flowerpiercer
Bluish Flowerpiercer
Masked Flowerpiercer
Black-backed Bush Tanager
Plumbeous Sierra Finch
Ash-breasted Sierra Finch
Variable Seedeater
Black-and-white Seedeater
Yellow-bellied Seedeater
Plain-colored Seedeater
Large Ground Finch
Medium Ground Finch

Small Ground Finch
Sharp-beaked Ground
Finch
Common Cactus Finch
Large Cactus Finch
Vegetarian Finch
Large Tree Finch
Small Tree Finch
Woodpecker Finch
Warbler Finch
Dusky Bush Tanager
Yellow-throated Bush
Tanager
Ashy-throated Bush
Tanager

White-winged Tanager
Southern Yellow Grosbeak
Buff-throated Saltator
Black-winged Saltator

Mammals

Whale sp.
Common Dolphin
Galapagos Sea Lion
Galapagos Fur Sea Lion
Flying squirrel
Red-tailed Squirrel
Páramo Rabbit

Reptiles & Amphibians

Land Iguana
Marine Iguana
Galapagos (Giant)
Tortoise
Green Sea Turtle
Lava Lizard
Basilisk lizard
Ameiva sp.
Galapagos Snake
Parrot Snake
Tree frog sp.