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Summing up the migrant birds that we have noted: 5 Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) were recorded near our camp throughout our stay; on 14 November a cuckoo flew over our camp (*Coccyzus melacoryphus* most likely); two White-cheeked Pintails (*Anas bahamensis*) crossed the northern bay on 15 November and on 17 November numerous Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) were seen flying along the edge of the cliffs. The only migrant marine species we saw was a Cape Pigeon (*Daption capense*) on 18 November, an antarctic breeder that migrates north.

20 November

At 7am we hear the Darwin Station's M/Y Beagle IV cruising into the bay below. It takes us three hours to carry all our equipment down the steep cliff and over the slippery ledges to where the dinghy waits and another hour before all the precious gear and our invaluable film footage of the "Vampire-Finches" is put safely on board.

We have documented on film the most unusual blood-drinking and egg-robbing habits of the Sharp-beaked Ground Finches, on Wolf Island. We have had a lot of rain and poor light, with only a few sunny days, but we have certainly experienced our best time in the Galapagos so far.

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Now (March 1983), several months later, it has become clear that the most unusual rains we endured on Wolf were the precursors of an "El Niño" year. Every 7 to 10 years, warm currents of the eastern Pacific, which normally stay north of the Galapagos, press southwards and prevent the cold Humbolt current from flowing north to the islands, thus changing the normal climatic pattern of the archipelago. The reasons for these changes are only poorly understood, though their drastic consequences are well known. Air and water temperatures are raised considerably and frequent rainfalls quickly change the barren and arid islands into lush green paradises. This is true not only of the Galapagos but also of the Peruvian coast. Peru suffers the widely known dramatic declines of fisheries and sudden reductions in Guano-bird populations.