

July – December 2013



Bird-watching

2013-07-10 Paraty, Brazil
23° 13,57'S 44° 41,80'W

In Brazil you find nearly a fifth of the world's bird populations and you hear the chirping and flitting in every bush. The birds often look like the ones in the northern hemisphere - but not exactly! We found a nice bird book in English when we were in Rio, so now we know the birds names - if we recognize them (we have 4,000 to choose from in the book). The bird above is a Brazilian Tanager, a male. The female is less colorful. Many of Brazil's birds are found in the Amazon region, but also along the coasts you find many different species.

We have also seen other animals typical for the region. We have encountered different kinds of monkeys, and dolphins and turtles are regular visitors. We have also seen whales and albatross when we sailed along the coast. The other day we saw a penguin! It is the small Magellan penguins that come this far north in winter. We caught sight of the penguin when it swam close to the boat and it seemed a bit curious when it looked at us. Unfortunately, this is not the right place for the penguins, they have trouble finding their natural food source so far north, and many do not return to their natural areas.



Going south

2013-07-29 Angra dos Reis, Brasilien
23° 01,30'S 44° 19,86'W

After a cold front with a lot of rain we have the nice weather back. The temperature will rise to 25 during the day but go down to 12 during the night. The water is about 20 degrees. The cold front brought very cold weather in some parts of Brazil, in the far south it was snow! But even here people put on lots of clothes, we have seen clothes we have not seen for a long time: leather boots, long trousers, warm jackets, hats and gloves.

Last week on Ilha Grande (the big island) they had a "fiesta" that got a lot of visitors for this time of the year. Music, entertainment and food stalls were a magnet for lots of Brazilians. We listened to music, tried the sausage and chicken and looked at folk dances and mingled. It was really nice!

Now we have been to the authorities in Angra dos Reis, bought food, diesel and petrol. We are planning to continue south with the northerly wind coming after the cold front. We will continue in some days, first to Ubatuba and Ilhabela. Then to Paranagua and Uruguay.



The Indians trading post

2013-08-04 Sao Sebastiao, Ilhabela, Brasilien
23° 46,32'S 45° 21,50'W

We are now at the island of Sao Sebastiao, the island that long ago was called Maembipe by Tupi Indians. The island was a trading post for goods and the exchange of prisoners between the Tupiquinos and the Tamoios - another Indian tribe. Today, the island, and especially the town of Ilhabela, is a sailing hub with a bit of elegant intentions. We are located at buoy at one of sailing clubs and swim in their pool and eat in the restaurant. Now it's low season, so this is not as much activity, but at the weekend the members come here from Sao Paulo by helicopter or car. It is a long queue to the ferry on Sunday afternoons when everyone is going home again. Then it is only local people and us left, we have not seen any other visiting yachts.



Train ride at a leisurely pace

2013-08-15 Paranaguá, Brasilien
25° 31,31'S 48° 28,68'W

We are anchored off the city of Paranaguá in southern Brazil, the part of the country that are outside the tropical area. And it shows, right now it's cold, down to 10 degrees at night and no more than 17 on a day when low pressure after low pressure comes whizzing from the South. We have seen migratory birds in formation, and hope that spring is on the way!

One day we took the bus up to Curitiba and the train back to Paranaguá. The train was built in the 1880s and the 10-mile-long stretch is built over, under and through a mountain range. Engineering was considered the best in the world when the railroad was built, never before had they used such construction methods. The route goes through 13 tunnels and over 30 bridges. We had clear weather during the tour (which took about 5 hours) and had an incomparable views of the forested expanses down towards the coast.



Haze, fog, rain and wind

2013-08-28 Portobelo, Brasilien
27° 08,73 S 048° 32,24 W

Portobelo is a nice tourist town with a "pirate ship", restaurants and cafés - in the summer. Now almost everything is closed and cold winds pull in across town. We've had some nice days here with sun shine, but now the fog, haze rain and wind is back. A new cold front draws past and we huddle together us in the boat. In a few days, the northerly wind will come back and we hope to continue sailing. The northerly wind will stay for 3-5 days before the next cold front will come and we hope to get down to the southernmost port in Brazil, or perhaps all the way down to Uruguay.



Rescues injured animals

2013-09-08 Rio Grande do Sur, Brasilien
32° 01,56 S 052° 06,37 W

We didn't make it to Uruguay before the wind turned. When we got a weather forecast with strong winds from the southwest, we decided to enter Rio Grande. Here we are located in a lake, at the sailing club. They have a large area with a park where it's really lively among the bushes, birds nest! It is spring in the air!

Next door to the sailing club is a nautical museum which also takes care of injured animals from the oceans and seas. When we were there, there were only a few penguins and a large fur seal in the pools. We hope that there are not more injured animals to take care of. This facility is sponsored by Petrobras, the State-owned Brazilian oil company.

Now we have no more than two days sailing to Uruguay, and we hope this will be able to do before the southerly wind will return!



Rose came to visit

2013-09-17 Piriapolis, Uruguay
34° 52,5 S 055° 16,3 W

We arrived in Piriapolis in Uruguay on Wednesday 11 September after two nice sailing days. The weather was warm and sunny, around 25 degrees and it felt like spring in the air. But the day after Santa Rosa came, a

Randivåg 2013

storm that has been going on since then. When we think that it's over and the wind will drop, it starts again. We have a nice place in the port, but it's hard to leave the boat because we are not close to the pier. After Santa Rosa they say the weather will stabilize. We look forward to this!



Many cows everywhere

2013-10-04 Piriapolis, Uruguay

34° 52,5 S 055° 16,3 W

The weather stabilizes after a few days, but unfortunately it is cold, around 15-17 degrees during the day and 5-10 at night. Sometimes sun shine, sometimes cloudy and rain and almost always a cold wind. Typical spring weather?!? We have rented a car and traveled around in Uruguay for a week. We saw many cows, horses and sheep grazing on endless meadows. The landscape is fairly flat, only a few hills here and there. The country's fourth highest mountain is located near the marina, 350 meters high! We have visited the capital Montevideo, have been at a wine tasting and tried the "parilla", grill restaurant. Now we are waiting for better weather to continue in the Rio de la Plata Bay.



Smugglers nests

2013-10-16 Colonia del Sacramento, Uruguay

34° 28,5 S 057° 51 W

Now we have sailed 135 sea miles further into Rio de la Plata and are now moored in Colonia del Sacramento. This is an old city that was founded in 1680 by the Portuguese Manoel Lobo. Here they earned their living by smuggling until the end of the 18th century when the Spaniards invaded the town and all trade was moved to Buenos Aires across the bay.

The old town has been preserved and today you find thousands and thousands of tourists around the streets with a camera in front of one eye. Many come from Buenos Aires over the day, so in the evening, the city is calmer.

It is empty in the marina; we are the only visiting yacht. The other boats here are locals and it feels a bit deserted.



White = Green

2013-10-24 Buenos Aires, Argentina

34° 35,7 S 058° 21.7 W

Now we are in Buenos Aires in Argentina. We moored in a marina in the centre of town (Club Argentino) and have sore feet as we have walked the city for several days. Buenos Aires is a nice city, a lot of people and traffic in a charming chaos. There are many different neighborhoods with different character, many restaurants and cafés, lots of shops and a number of parks. We try to see as much as we can of the town when we are located in the city center, shortly we will move to a marina in the north part of the town. From there, we can take a train into the city center.

One thing that is a bit odd is that the lights for pedestrians have different colours compared to what we are used to see. They don't show a green man when to cross the street, but a white man. The "Stay-man" is red, as usual, it is only the "Walk-man" that is different.

Randivåg 2013



The tango capital

2013-11-02 Buenos Aires, Argentina

34° 35,7 S 058° 21.7 W

Buenos Aires is said to be the birthplace of tango, here the people from Europe started the dance that eventually became the tango. At the beginning of the 20th century the dance was more "unpolished". It developed to a more sophisticated dance after being taken to Europe and the United States and then returned to Argentina as tango. Today you dance the tango everywhere in Buenos Aires, in clubs, streets, squares and theatres. You find tickets for tango shows, tango lesson and tango dances everywhere.

We have seen all places that are said to be "must see" in Buenos Aires and have begun to explore places and spots that is further down the tourist to-do list. We thrive in this friendly country which in many ways is reminiscent of southern Europe.



The plane to Sweden

2013-11-13 San Fernando, Buenos Aires, Argentina

34° 26,6 S 058° 31,7 W

Now is Randivåg safely in the marina Barlovento in San Fernando on the outskirts of Buenos Aires. We fly home to Sweden for a month and come back to Argentina in mid-December.



Lucia in the Swedish Church

2013-12-18 San Fernando, Buenos Aires, Argentina

34° 26,6 S 058° 31,7 W

We are back in Buenos Aires where it is hot! This is the summer heat; it is apr 40 degrees during the day and 30 at night in the marina. Right now we getting used to the heat, nothing more!

Last Sunday we went to the Swedish Church's Lucia celebration here in Buenos Aires. The Church was filled, and the priest Lovisa Möller held a short sermon, and then came the Lucia procession. They had a very nice performance and later we were served coffee with Swedish buns and cakes. Good! There were many visitors, around 100, most of them spoke Spanish but there were also some Swedes who were here on the job for a few years.



GOD MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR

2013-12-23 San Fernando, Buenos Aires, Argentina

34° 26,6 S 058° 31,7 W

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy new year! We celebrate Christmas in really hot weather and here "Santa" will definitely not walk in the snow.

We have Swedish Christmas food with us, from Göteborg, and together with more goodies from Argentina, it will be a nice Christmas dinner - but not before the sun is down and it gets a bit cooler!