

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS CRUISE

JULY 9-18, 2010

**LEADER:
MICHAEL O'BRIEN**

COMPILED BY: MICHAEL O'BRIEN

**VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS, INC.
2525 WALLINGWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 1003
AUSTIN, TX 78746
WWW.VENTBIRD.COM**

TOUR REPORT
THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS
July 9–18, 2010

By Michael O'Brien

There are very few destinations where one can have as rich and complete a natural history experience as the Galápagos Islands. The rugged beauty of these volcanic islands is breathtaking, and the sheer abundance of wildlife is simply staggering, and ripe with photographic opportunity. But there is so much more to the Galápagos. Just the thought of walking in the footsteps of Darwin, on the very islands that shaped his theory of natural selection and had such a profound influence in the way scientists and naturalists view the world today, is a humbling experience. Our July 2010 cruise was equally a thought-provoking look at the natural world and a delightful vacation. At every opportunity, we pondered the various forces that shaped the islands themselves and the wildlife that lives there. Along the way, we had lots of laughs, fine food, and ample siesta time on a very comfortable ship, the *MV Evolution*. No, we did not leave the Galápagos disappointed!

Upon landing at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, we were quickly greeted by our first of “Darwin’s finches,” the Small Ground-Finch. Even though they behaved a bit like House Sparrows, it was a special feeling knowing we were seeing a species that is found nowhere else on earth. And this was only the first of many such endemic species. We also quickly saw firsthand one of the most unique aspects of the Galápagos wildlife—having evolved with no major land predators, they are all utterly unafraid of humans. At the dock where we waited for our panga ride to the *Evolution*, we were surrounded by Galápagos sea lions, not just in the water but also all over the dock. We had to step over them to get to the panga! And at every outing, similarly tame doves, hawks, boobies, and mockingbirds were literally at arm’s-length.

Bizarre and otherworldly scenes were commonplace on this amazing cruise: Flightless Cormorants perched on rocky promontories, ancient giant tortoises loafing in forest openings, dozens of marine iguanas perched stoically on lava rocks as waves crashed around them, brilliant red Sally Lightfoot crabs covering every tidal rock or pool, and thousands of Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels swarming over a field of lava rock. Also commonplace were interesting and elaborate courtship behaviors, like high-stepping Blue-footed Boobies, allopreening Waved Albatrosses, noisy tandem flights by Red-billed Tropicbirds, and frigatebirds with their flaming-red gular pouches inflated in full display. And it was simply amazing to see a pod of killer whales after they dispatched their prey (a sea lion, perhaps). The attending feeding frenzy of frigatebirds and shearwaters made this a real “Wild Kingdom” moment.

The diversity of life at the Galápagos was at least as rich underwater as it was above, and snorkelers had a field day on this trip. At every opportunity, some of us donned our masks and flippers and took to the water. Along with scores of dazzling reef fish, the snorkelers regularly had such interesting swimming companions as rays, sea turtles, Galápagos Penguins, playful sea lions, and even plunge-diving boobies. A post-swim dip in the Jacuzzi on deck was always accompanied by stories of close encounters with amazing marine life. (A big thanks to Paul Pisano for his assistance with the list of fish and other marine life encountered on this trip!)

For the more serious bird students, there were ample opportunities to delve into interesting identification challenges and even pioneering taxonomic questions. The finches as a whole were always interesting to study, both from an evolutionary standpoint and from an identification

standpoint. With the recent split of the warbler-finches, it was fun to try and figure out which species we were looking at. They seemed to sort well by habitat and even island size, but the one at Darwin Station on Santa Cruz is still a mystery. The highly variable Medium Ground-Finch presented the biggest identification problems, and some intermediate birds may well have been hybrids. Just as interesting as finches were some of the seabirds. A close look at the abundant Galápagos Shearwater revealed two “types” that sort out by plumage pattern, molt timing, and distribution. Could these be undescribed subspecies, or even cryptic species, reproductively isolated by nest timing?

Every island we visited was unique in its own way, many with their own endemic species. And every single outing was filled with amazing sights and sounds, and new discoveries to be made. It was a pleasure to share these discoveries with such a fun and inquisitive group. A special thanks goes to our expedition leader, Boli Sanchez, and to all the staff of the *Evolution* for taking care of us and making sure our every need was met. Also to our extraordinary naturalists, Alex Cox and Kitty Coley, who eagerly shared their broad knowledge with us. Their professionalism and good nature ensured that we got the most out of our trip to this incredible place.



ITINERARY

July 9 – Arrivals; night in Guayaquil.

July 10 – Flight from Guayaquil to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, San Cristóbal Island (Galapagos); board The *MV Evolution* at 1 pm; sail past Kicker Rock; landing at San Brujo (San Cristóbal Island).

July 11 – All day at Española (Hood) Island: morning hike at Punta Suarez; afternoon spent around Gardner Bay (snorkeling, beach-walking).

July 12 – All day on Santa Cruz Island: morning at the Darwin Station; afternoon bus trip to the highlands at Los Gemelos sink holes and El Chato Tortoise Reserve (lunch), then to Puerto Ayora (shopping).

July 13 – Morning at Santiago (James) Island at Puerto Egas: hike and snorkeling; then afternoon sail to Bartolomé Island for snorkeling, panga rides, and a hike.

July 14 – All day at Genovesa (Tower) Island: morning walk through “Palo Santo Forest” to storm-petrel colony; late morning snorkeling; afternoon at Darwin’s Bay Beach.
July 15 – Morning on Fernandina Island at Punta Espinosa; late morning navigation of Bolívar Channel; afternoon snorkeling and panga rides around Tagus Cove, Isabela Island.
July 16 – Morning walk on North Seymour Island; late morning snorkeling; afternoon panga ride at Black Turtle Cove, Santa Cruz Island.
July 17 – 9 am disembarkation from the *Evolution*; morning visit to Interpretation Center at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno on San Cristóbal Island; afternoon departure for Guayaquil.
July 18 – Departures home.

E = Endemic species

NE = Near Endemic species

E = Endemic subspecies

N = nest or nesting activity observed

Y = dependant young observed

BIRDS

DUCKS, GEESE & SWANS: ANATIDAE

White-cheeked Pintail (*Anas bahamensis galapagensis*) E – One flew by the boat before breakfast while we were anchored in Academy Bay; the Galápagos subspecies is smaller and duller than mainland populations.

PENGUINS: SPHENISCIDAE

Galápagos Penguin (*Spheniscus mendiculus*) E – We saw these cute little birds at Bartolomé, Punta Espinosa, and Tagus Cove. Snorkelers at Tagus Cove had the privilege of swimming with these birds, and see first-hand that they are true masters of their aquatic environment! It’s interesting that, despite the close geographic proximity of this species to the Humbolt Penguin, recent studies have shown that they were actually descended from the Magellanic Penguin.



ALBATROSS: DIOMEDEIDAE

Waved Albatross (*Phoebastria irrorata*) NE, N, Y – We had incredible encounters with these birds at Española, where virtually the entire World population nests. We enjoyed watching pairs display to one another, and it was particularly exciting to watch them take off at the “Airport”. We saw a few others at sea.



PETRELS & SHEARWATERS: PROCELLARIIDAE

Galápagos Petrel (*Pterodroma phaeopygia*) E – We encountered small numbers of these birds at sea on most days. They were especially numerous at Bolivar Channel.

Galápagos Shearwater (*Puffinus subalaris*) E – This was always the dominant seabird whenever we were in open water, often present by the hundreds or even thousands. Close scrutiny of these birds revealed that there are two distinct “types”: those with mostly dark underwings and those with extensively white underwings. Light birds were dominant, and dark birds were numerous only around Bolivar Channel. More than 50% of the dark birds were in heavy wing molt during our cruise, while probably less than 1% of light birds were molting. This may point to a difference in breeding time between the two forms. Galápagos Shearwater was recently split from Audubon’s Shearwater, but perhaps there is more taxonomic work to be done.

STORM-PETRELS: HYDROBATIDAE

Elliot’s (White-vented) Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites gracilis galapagoensis*) E – Seen on every day of the cruise, this was the most numerous storm-petrel close to shore. They often danced on the water right next to our ship wherever we anchored. The subspecies *O. g. galapagoensis* is considered endemic to the Galápagos but, astonishingly, the nesting grounds are still unknown!

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*) – This highly pelagic species is mostly nocturnal around its nesting colony, so it takes work to see this bird. The intrepid seawatchers among us encountered them on several early mornings while we were still traveling to our destination. They were especially numerous off Genovesa. We also picked out a handful of Band-rumps among the swarms of Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels on Genovesa.

Wedge-rumped (Galápagos) Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma tethys tethys*) E, N – Like Elliot’s Storm-Petrel, we saw this species every day, though it was generally scarcer close to shore and more numerous offshore than Elliot’s. It was simply mesmerizing to visit the massive colony of these birds at Genovesa – swarms of birds constantly in the air, some coming and others going. Every now and then you would catch a view of one awkwardly slipping into a little crack in the rocks to get to its nest. It’s interesting that this is the only storm-petrel in the world that is diurnal around its nesting islands. Its only predator seems to be Short-eared Owl.

TROPICBIRDS: PHAETHONTIDAE

Red-billed Tropicbird (*Phaethon aethereus mesonauta*) E, N – We had excellent views of these beautiful birds around their nests at Española and Genovesa. It was a special treat to hear them

calling over our ship at Darwin's Bay. They give a chattering *k-k-k-keer*, not unlike a Common Tern but lower and harsher.

BOOBIES & GANNETS: SULIDAE

Nazca Booby (*Sula granti*) N – We saw a few of these on most days but had close encounters with hundreds at Española and Genovesa.

Blue-footed Booby (*Sula nebouxii excisa*) N – This was the most numerous booby close to shore and we saw them every day. At Española and North Seymour we almost stepped on them – they seemed to prefer nesting right in the path!

Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula websteri*) E, N, Y – We only saw this species on one day, but boy did we see them! There were thousands at Genovesa, offering point-blank views of both adults and nestlings. And the whole time we were docked at Darwin's Bay there were dozens of juveniles perched on our ship, one of which kindly decorated Michael and Kitty with a splash of white!

PELICANS: PELICANIDAE

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis urinator*) E, N, Y – Small numbers seen daily.

CORMORANTS: PHALACROCORACIDAE

Flightless Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax harrisi*) E – We saw several of these odd and very local birds at Punta Espinosa and Tagus Cove. What they have lost in their wings they made up for in their feet – they have huge feet!



FRIGATEBIRDS: FREGATIDAE

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata m. magnificens*) N – Seen daily in good numbers. There were frequently at least one or two hanging over (or perching on) our ship while at sea. We had especially nice views of these birds on the nest at North Seymour. We also watched an incredible feeding frenzy of frigatebirds offshore north of Santiago where Killer Whales had recently dispatched something.

Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor ridgewayi*) E, N – Less numerous and more localized than Magnificent, we saw them on four days. Nice comparisons of both species nesting side-by-side

at North Seymour. At Genovesa this was the most numerous frigatebird with “kettles” of many dozens of birds magically appearing out of the fog overhead.

HERONS & BITTERNs: ARDEIDAE

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias cognata*) E – 1 or 2 seen most days.

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) – Seen only before breakfast at Academy Bay before our day on Santa Cruz.

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) – 1 at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) – Numerous at Santa Cruz and also at Black Turtle Cove where we saw a spectacular flight of over 1000 birds gathering to roost for the evening.

Striated Heron (*Butorides striatus*) [E, in part] – We saw a few of these birds nearly every day. Most were of the endemic subspecies, *B. s. sundevalli*, (“Lava Heron”), formerly regarded as a separate species. Their slaty gray coloration blended well with dark volcanic rocks. 1 juvenile of the nominate subspecies (*B. s. striatus*) was seen at Black Turtle Cove. The latter is a migrant from the mainland.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea pauper*) E – Surprisingly numerous at Genovesa; a few others seen also. Like Lava Heron, the endemic Galápagos subspecies is considerably darker than mainland birds.

KITES, EAGLES & HAWKS: ACCIPITRIDAE

Galápagos Hawk (*Buteo galapagoensis*) E – Seen well on Española, Santiago, and Fernandina. The slim, pointed wings of this endemic hawk suggest that it was derived from Swainson’s Hawk, a long-distance migrant that is known to cross open water at times.

RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS: RALLIDAE

Galápagos Rail (*Laterallus spilonotus*) E – We were lucky to glimpse a couple of these elusive birds during our afternoon in the highlands of Santa Cruz.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) – 1 immature on Santa Cruz at the El Chato Tortoise Reserve.

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS: CHARADRIIDAE

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) – A migrant from breeding areas in the North American arctic. We saw several among tidal pools at San Cristobal, Santiago, and Fernandina. Birds at the Galápagos in early July may be either early migrants recently arrived from the arctic, or nonbreeders that spent the summer there.

OYSTERCATCHERS: HAEMATOPODIDAE

American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus galapagensis*) E – We saw a few of these beautiful and noisy birds on Española, Santiago, and Fernandina.

SANDPIPERS & ALLIES: SCOLOPACIDAE

Wandering Tattler (*Heterosceles incanus*) – One or two seen on most days along rocky coastlines. These birds breed primarily in Alaska. All those that we saw were nonbreeding subadults that probably spent the summer in the Galápagos.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) – Another migrant from arctic breeding grounds, seen on several days. We got pretty close to one at Genovesa, and it was interesting how it seemed to be the only bird on the island that walked away as we approached!

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) – Seen on Española and Fernandina. This is another arctic-breeding migrant.

GULLS & TERNS: LARIDAE

Swallow-tailed Gull (*Creagrus furcatus*) NE, N, Y – Arguably the most beautiful gull in the world, this lovely species is also one of the most interesting. It is largely nocturnal (as one could guess looking at its over-sized eyes) and on several occasions we saw them foraging around the ship at night. We had close views of nesting birds on Española, Genovesa, and North Seymour.



Lava Gull (*Larus fuliginosus*) E – We saw small numbers of this species on several days, both on remote islands and in populated harbors. Even though this is the rarest gull in the world, it didn't feel that way when they begged for fish scraps on the docks at Puerto Aroyo, or when several birds joined us on deck at Genovesa, apparently attracted by the hot tub! Their shape, voice, coloration, and behavior make it clear that they were derived from Laughing Gull.

Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus galapagensis*) E, N – An interesting “opposite” to most terns: mostly dark with a white cap and wedge-shaped tail. In the Galápagos, they nest mostly on steep, shady sea cliffs. We saw them on most days but had the best views at Tagus Cove.

PIGEONS & DOVES: COLUMBIDAE

Galápagos Dove (*Zenaida galapagoensis*) E – This beautiful little dove was present and obligingly tame on most islands.

CUCKOOS: CUCULIDAE

Dark-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus melacoryphus*) – Several birds seen well on Santa Cruz and another on Santiago.

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) – An introduced species that seems to be increasing. We saw them on several islands.

BARN OWLS: TYTONIDAE

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba punctatissima*) E – 1 was seen roosting near the lava tube in the Santa Cruz highlands.

OWLS: STRIGIDAE

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus galapagoensis*) E – It was a real tour highlight to watch these birds (I think the high count was 9!) preying on Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels at the Genovesa colony. The endemic Galápagos subspecies is much darker and shorter winged than mainland birds.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus [rubinus?] nanus*) E – 1 male was seen at the Los Gemelos sink holes on Santa Cruz. This endemic subspecies (regarded by some as a full species) has been severely declining in recent years.

Galápagos Flycatcher (*Myiarchus magnirostris*) E – Small numbers seen regularly throughout the cruise, including one that appeared on the *Evolution* one morning off Santiago.

SWALLOWS: HIRUNDINIDAE

Galápagos Martin (*Progne modesta*) E – 2 were seen foraging along a ridge above Tagus Cove.

MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS: MIMIDAE

Galápagos Mockingbird (*Nesomimus parvulus*) E – These tame birds kept us company at many locations throughout the cruise. With little to mock on the Galápagos Islands, their songs were less impressive than those of other mockingbirds, but they made up for that with their inquisitive, “friendly” nature. There are six recognized subspecies, of which we saw three: *N. p. parvulus* (Isabela and Santa Cruz), *N. p. personatus* (Santiago), and *N. p. bauri* (Genovesa).

Española [Hood] Mockingbird (*Nesomimus macdonaldi*) E, Y – Seen at Punta Suarez and Gardner Beach. Just as tame and inquisitive as Galápagos Mockingbird.

San Cristóbal [Chatham] Mockingbird (*Nesomimus melanotis*) E – A few were seen on our two visits to San Cristobal at Cerro Brujo and at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. Neither as numerous nor as tame as the other mockingbirds, we were pleased to get good views of these.



NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica [petechia/erithachorides?] aureolla*) E – We found this species just about everywhere we went on the Galápagos. They were not only widespread, but also numerous and, like most birds on the Galápagos, rediculously tame. The Galápagos subspecies is a distinctive member of the “Mangrove Warbler” group, which are nonmigratory birds found primarily in mangrove swamps. The Galápagos birds, however, occupy a much wider array of haitats.

BUNTINGS, SPARROWS & ALLIES: EMBERIZIDAE

Green Warbler-Finch (*Certhidea olivacea*) **E** – A recent split from Warbler Finch, this species is found in the humid zone of all larger islands. We saw them well in the highlands of Santa Cruz, particularly at the Los Gemelos sink holes.

Gray Warbler-Finch (*Certhidea fusca*) **E, Y** – The counterpart of Green Warbler-Finch, found in the arid portions of most smaller islands. We saw them well on Espanola (*C. f. cenerascens*) and Genovesa (*C. f. mentalis*). An unidentified warbler-finch at the Darwin Station on Santa Cruz was in good habitat for Gray though they are not supposed to occur on that island.

Vegetarian Finch (*Camarhynchus crassirostris*) **E** – Several seen well on Santa Cruz, both at the Darwin Station and in the highlands.

Woodpecker Finch (*Camarhynchus pallidus*) **E** – We had excellent views of several at the Los Gemelos sink holes on Santa Cruz. Some of us even got to watch one bird exhibit the characteristic behavior of using a small twig as a foraging tool.

Small Tree-Finch (*Camarhynchus parvulus*) **E** – Numerous on Santa Cruz, especially in the highlands; also a few at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno.



Small Ground-Finch (*Geospiza fuliginosa*) **E** – The most numerous and widespread of Darwin's Finches. We were greeted by them when we arrived in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, and they were also among the last birds we saw upon leaving. This species has clearly adapted well to human environments and they reminded us of House Sparrows as little flocks foraged in vacant lots or around the docks. But they were numerous in wild places too. One of the more impressive scenes of the entire week was the very large evening flight of small finches (most seemed to be this species) at Black Turtle Cove; a steady stream of hundreds of birds was heading west over the mangroves just before dusk, apparently heading to roost.

Large Ground-Finch (*Geospiza magnirostris*) **E** – We saw small numbers of these at Santa Cruz, Santiago, Genovesa, North Seymour, and San Cristobal. Their large size and massive beaks made them easy to identify.

Sharp-beaked Ground-Finch (*Geospiza difficilis*) **E** – Numerous on Genovesa where they seemed to replace Small Ground-Finch. Though most showed slightly longer, narrower bills, than Small

Ground-Finch, others looked more ambiguous. I have to admit that if a stray Small Ground-Finch were to show up on Genovesa, I'm not sure I would have picked it out!

Common Cactus-Finch (*Geospiza scandens*) **E** – Several on Santa Cruz around the Charles Darwin Station. One seemed to be keeping company with Lonesome George.

Medium Ground-Finch (*Geospiza fortis*) **E** – This was the second most numerous and widespread finch after Small Ground-Finch. It also presented the greatest identification challenges because it's so variable. But, with a little practice, most individuals appeared clearly larger and heavier-billed than Small Ground-Finch, but smaller and smaller-billed than Large Ground-Finch. The trickiest individuals may well have been hybrids.

Large Cactus-Finch (*Geospiza conirostris*) **E** – We saw several of these on Española and one on Genovesa. The Española birds (*G. c. conirostris*) have massive bills and are easy to identify because there are no Large Ground-Finches on that island. Those on Genovesa (*G. c. propinqua*) have smaller bills similar to Common Cactus-Finch but the latter is absent on Genovesa.

MAMMALS

Norway Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) – An introduced species; 1 was seen on Santa Cruz.

Galápagos Sea Lion (*Zalophus wollebacki*) **E** – Just everywhere! We saw them on every beach and landing, and often had to step around them on our walks. Some of us got to swim with these wonderfully playful animals at Gardner Bay, Bartolome, and Tagus Cove.



Galápagos Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus galapagoensis*) **E** – Much more localized than Galápagos Sea Lion, and prefers rocky coastlines rather than beaches. We saw them only at Santiago and Genovesa.

Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) – We encountered small pods of these animals off Santiago and off North Seymour.

Killer Whale (*Orcinus orca*) – At least 5 of these magnificent animals interrupted our lunch but gave us a wonderful show as we were cruising north of Santiago. The attending swarm of frigatebirds, shearwaters, and storm-petrels was just as spectacular.

Blue Whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) – 3 seen blowing in the distance in Bolivar Channel

REPTILES

“Santa Cruz” Giant Tortoise (*Geochelone elephantopus porteri*) **E** – It was a privilege to be in the presence of these magnificent animals at the El Chato Tortoise Reserve, and also to see Lonesome George at the Darwin Station.

Pacific Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas agassizii*) – We saw this species almost every day, often in numbers, and the snorkelers had a great time swimming with them at Tagus Cove.

Striped Galápagos Snake (*Antillophis steindachneri*) **E** – Seen on North Seymour.

San Cristóbal Lava Lizard (*Tropidurus bivittatus*) **E**

Española Lava Lizard (*Tropidurus delanonus*) **E**

Galápagos Lava Lizard (*Tropidurus albermarlensis*) **E**

Galápagos Land Iguana (*Conolophus subcristatus*) **E** – 2 were seen well on North Seymour

Marine Iguana (*Amblyrhynchus cristatus*) **E** – Seen in abundance almost everywhere we went, though we didn’t see them at Genovesa or San Cristobal. These animals looked slightly different on each island; probably the most beautiful were the reddish ones on Española.



FISH

King Angelfish (*Holacanthus passer*)

Barbfish (*Johnrandallia nigrirostris*)

Three-banded Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon humeralis*)

Moorish Idol (*Zanclus cornutus*)

Black-tailed Mullet (*Mugil galapagensis*)

Pacific Sardine (*Sardinops sagax*)

Dusky Chub (*Girella freminvillei*)

Yellow-tailed Surgeonfish (*Prionurus laticlavus*)

Black-striped Salema (*Xenocys jessiae*)

Red Snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*)
Yellow-tailed Snapper (*Ocyurus chrysurus*)
Blue-striped Snapper (*Lutjanus kasmira*)
Giant Damselfish (*Microspathodon dorsalis*)
Galápagos Ringtail Damselfish (*Stegastes beebei*)
Yellow-tailed Damselfish (*Stegastes arcifrons*)
Bumphead Damselfish (*Microspathodon bairdii*)
Panamic Sergeant Major (*Abudefduf troschelii*)
Sailfin Grouper (*Mycteroperca olfax*)
Flag Cabrilla (*Epinephelus labriformis*)
Leather Bass (*Dermatolepis dermatolepis*)
Pacific Creolefish (*Paranthias colonus*)
Bumphead Parrotfish (*Bolbometopon muricatum*)
Blue-chinned Parrotfish (*Scarus ghobban*)
Bicolored Parrotfish (*Scarus rubroviolaceus*)
Azul Parrotfish (*Scarus compressus*)
Chamelion Wrasse (*Halichoeres dispilus*)
Rainbow Wrasse (*Thalassoma lucasanum*)
Harlequín Wrasse (*Bodianus eclancheri*)
Creole Wrasse (*Clepticus parrae*)
Black-tipped Cardinalfish (*Apogon atradorsatus*)
Galápagos Four-eyed Blenny (*Dialommus fuscus*)
Galápagos Barnacle Blenny (*Acanthemblemaria castroi*)
Large-banded Blenny (*Ophioblennius steindachneri*)
Bravo Clinid (*Labrisomus dendriticus*)
Galápagos Blue-banded Goby (*Lythrypnus gilberti*)
Trumpetfish (*Aulostomus maculatus*)
Stone Scorpionfish (*Scorpaena plumieri mystes*)
Giant Hawkfish (*Cirrhitiu rivulatus*)
Pacific Beakfish (*Oplegnathus insignis*)
Bullseye Puffer (*Sphoeroides annulatus*)
Ballonfish (*Diodon holocanthus*)
Pacific Burrfish (*Chilomycterus affinis*)
Yellow-bellied Triggerfish (*Sufflamen verres*)
Reef Coronetfish (*Fistularia commersonii*)
Whitetip Reef Shark (*Triaenodon obesus*)
Galápagos Shark (*Carcharhinus galapagensis*)
Galápagos Bullhead Shark (*Heterodontus quoyi*)
Scalloped Hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*)
Spotted Eagle Ray (*Aetobatus narinari*)
Golden Cowray (*Rhinoptera steindachneri*)
Manta Ray (*Manta birostris*)
mobula ray sp. (*Mobula* sp.)

OTHER MARINE CRITTERS

Galapagos Hermit Crab (*Calcinum explorator*)
Sally Lightfoot Crab (*Grapsus grapsus*)



Hairy Noduled Crab (*Mithrax nodosus*)
Slate Pencil Urchine (*Eucidaris thouarsii*)
Green Sea Urchine (*Lytechinus semituberculatus*)
White Sea Urchine (*Tripnustes depressus*)
Needle Sea Urchine (*Diadema mexicana*)
Galápagos Sand Dollar (*Encope galapagensis*)
sea cucumber sp. (*Stichopus sp.*)
Panamic Cushion Star (*Pentaceraster cumingi*)
Chocolate Chip Seastar (*Nidorellia armata*)
Blue Seastar (*Linckia laevigata*)
Keeled Seastar (*Asteropsis carinifera*)
Red Sunstar (*Heliaster cumingii*)
Horse Conch (*Pleuroploca gigantea*)
Thatched Roof Barnacle (*Tetraclita milleporosa*)
Galápagos Reef Octopus (*Octopus oculifer*)

BUTTERFLIES

Cloudless Sulphur (*Phoebis sennae*) – The big yellow ones, seen on several islands.
Galápagos Blue (*Leptoes parrhasoides*)
Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)
Queen (*Danaus gilippus*)
Galápagos Longtail (*Urbanus [dorantes?] galapagensis*) – The small brown butterfly that flew quickly and never landed! Considered by some to be a subspecies of Dorantes Longtail.

OTHER INSECTS

Wandering Glider (*Pantala flavescens*)
Striped Saddlebags (*Tramea cophysa*) – The most numerous dragonfly, seen on most islands. This species is mislabeled as Spot-winged Glider in some of the books.



Large Painted Locust (*Schistocerca melanocera*)
Small Painted Locust (*Schistocerca literosa*)
Yellow Paper Wasp (*Polistes versicolor*) – Introduced
Galápagos Carpenter Bee (*Xylocopa darwinii*)
Galápagos Scorpion (*Centruroides exsul*)