

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS CRUISE

JULY 18-27, 2011

LEADERS:

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TOUR REPORT
THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS
July 18–27, 2011

By Michael O'Brien

The Galápagos Islands are truly a naturalist's playground. A ruggedly beautiful environment with abundant and approachable wildlife, interesting geologic history, and delightful weather would be more than enough for a fabulous experience. But these islands are also one of those rare places that can clarify one's perspective on the natural world. The unique and unusual animals here showcase how evolution works in an isolated environment. Our visit to these otherworldly islands was fascinating, enchanting, and also a lot of fun!

As soon as we arrived in Baltra we began seeing unique Galápagos wildlife. Small and Medium ground-finches at the airport were our first endemic species. Although the setting may not have seemed that exotic, it was a special feeling knowing we were seeing a species found nowhere else on earth. In our first few hours on the Galápagos we would see a number of other endemics such as Lava Gull, Galápagos Dove, and Galápagos sea lion. And we would also see firsthand, a trait that is common to virtually all Galápagos wildlife: having evolved with no major land predators, they have no fear of humans! On our first landing at North Seymour Island we had to just about step over Blue-footed Boobies that were nesting on the trail, and tiptoe around sea lions resting on the beach. And we would see similar behaviors by a wide variety of wildlife on every island we visited. The mockingbirds even seemed to follow us at times, probably looking for water.

Among the many highlights on this wonderful cruise were some of the bizarre creatures that the Galápagos are famous for: marine iguanas piled upon one another on rocky beaches, Galápagos Penguins and Flightless Cormorants perched side by side, brilliant Sally Lightfoot crabs covering every coastal rock, giant tortoises hissing at each other in a territorial dispute, and "Darwin's finches" of every shape and size, each occupying a slightly different niche. But equally impressive were the incredible concentrations of nesting seabirds. Blue-footed, Nazca, and Red-footed boobies were all in abundance and nesting literally at arm's-length. Great and Magnificent frigatebirds nested side by side in a number of places, and many were showing off their inflated red gular pouches. Stunning Red-billed Tropicbirds flew in noisy groups and "hid" on cliff-face nest crevices (their location frequently betrayed by projecting tail streamers). We saw a large portion of the world's population of Waved Albatrosses, many engaged in elaborate and endearing courtship displays. And possibly most spectacular of all were the thousands of Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels swarming over a lava field like hungry mosquitos. The tending Short-eared Owls had plenty of prey items to choose from.

Of course, the sea itself held many exciting surprises, and the abundance of life was just as impressive underwater as it was above. Everyone on the cruise was able to explore the underwater world, either by snorkeling or by taking a glass-bottom boat ride. Our impressive list of over 50 species of fish (thanks to Louise for compiling the fish list!) gives an indication of how rich the sea is here. Some snorkelers also had the privilege to receive underwater visits from Pacific green sea turtles, Galápagos sea lions, and Galápagos Penguins! And perhaps even more exciting than that was our encounter with blue whales—we had close views of 4–5 of these massive animals from our pangas!

Our ship for this amazing voyage, the *Isabela II*, was ideally suited to our needs. It was staffed with a hard-working and talented crew whose attention to detail was impressive, and whose goal to keep us

safe, comfortable, happy (and well-fed!) was met at every turn. And special thanks go to our Expedition Leader, Cathy Iturralde, and our naturalists, Andrés Vergara and Ximena Cordova. Their incredible knowledge and friendly nature were a highlight of every outing, and we all learned a great deal from them.



ITINERARY

July 18 – Arrivals; night in Quito at Hotel Quito.

July 19 – Flight from Quito to Baltra, Galápagos; board the *Isabela II* at 12:30 pm; landing at North Seymour Island.

July 20 – All day at Española (Hood) Island: morning at Gardner Bay (snorkeling, beach walk); afternoon hike at Punta Suarez.

July 21 – All day at Floreana Island: morning walk at Punta Cormorant; afternoon snorkeling and glass bottom boat at Champion Island; late afternoon visit to Post Office Bay.

July 22 – All day on Santa Cruz Island: morning bus trip to highlands at Los Gemelos sink holes, lava tunnel, and El Chato Tortoise Reserve; afternoon at the Darwin Station, then shopping at Puerto Ayora.

July 23 – Pre-breakfast seabirding from deck off Genovesa; all day at Genovesa (Tower) Island: morning walk then snorkeling and glass bottom boat rides at Darwin's Bay Beach; afternoon walk up "Prince Phillip Stairs", and through "Palo Santo Forest" to storm-petrel colony.

July 24 – Pre-breakfast seabirding from deck in Bolivar Channel; panga rides, walk (to Darwin's Lake), and snorkeling at Tagus Cove, Isabela Island; afternoon walk at Punta Espinosa, Fenandina Island, and panga rides with Blue Whales in Bolivar Channel!

July 25 – Morning walk, snorkeling, and glass bottom boat rides at Puerto Egas Beach, Santiago (James) Island; afternoon walk and panga rides at Bartolomé Island.

July 26 – 9:30 am disembarkation from the *Isabela II* in Baltra; 11:40 am flight to Guayaquil; farewell dinner and night in Guayaquil at Hilton Colon.

July 27 – Departures home.

E = Endemic species

NE = Near Endemic species

E = Endemic subspecies

N = nest or nesting activity observed

Y = dependent young observed

BIRDS

DUCKS, GEESE & SWANS: ANATIDAE

White-cheeked Pintail (*Anas bahamensis galapagensis*) E – Seen on Floreana at Punta Cormorant, and on Santa Cruz at Puerto Ayoro and in the highlands.

FLAMINGOS: PHOENICOPTERIDAE

Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) N – Three at Punta Cormorant. We saw them engaging in their odd upside down “seining” foraging style, heard their goose-like calls, and saw their nearby nest (a mound of mud).

PENGUINS: SPHENISCIDAE

Galápagos Penguin (*Spheniscus mendiculus*) E – We saw a few of this northernmost representative of the penguin clan at Punta Cormorant, Tagus Cove, Puerto Egas, and Bartolome. Some of the snorkelers were lucky enough to have close underwater encounters with these amazing creatures!

ALBATROSS: DIOMEDEIDAE

Waved Albatross (*Phoebastria irrorata*) NE, N, Y – We had wonderful views of these birds at Española, where nearly the entire world population nests. Some were sitting on eggs, a few had tiny chicks, and many were engaging in elaborate courtship displays complete with bowing, head swaying, bill snapping, and bill fencing. Just an amazing sight!



PETRELS & SHEARWATERS: PROCELLARIIDAE

Galápagos Petrel (*Pterodroma phaeopygia*) E – We encountered small numbers of these birds at sea

off Española, Bartolome, and in Bolivar Channel, but we were surprised to see over 100 on our early morning approach to Santiago.

Galápagos Shearwater (*Puffinus subalaris*) E – Seen daily, often in large numbers. This was the commonest seabird offshore, and was also frequently seen in numbers around steep sea cliffs where they nest in crevices. There were thousands around Española. Of the two plumage types, we saw far more light birds than dark. Dark birds were numerous only around Bolivar Channel where they represented about 25% of the shearwaters. The taxonomic significance of these types remains unknown.

STORM-PETRELS: HYDROBATIDAE

Elliot's (White-vented) Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites gracilis galapagoensis*) E – Seen daily, usually close to shore. They always seemed to be present wherever the ship was anchored, often “dancing” on the water (the behavior for which storm-petrels were named; they seem to momentarily walk on water, like Saint Peter). 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 species is highly pelagic, so is usually only found far offshore. We saw only two individuals on this cruise, one off Española and another off Genovesa.

Wedge-rumped (Galápagos) Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma tethys tethys*) E, N – This was the most numerous storm-petrel seen on the cruise, outnumbered by Elliot's only when we were close to shore. A clear highlight of the cruise was visiting a thriving colony of these birds at Genovesa. Countless thousands swarmed over a field of lava rock as they traveled to and from their nest burrows. Interestingly, this is the only species of storm-petrel known to be primarily diurnal around its nest site, a behavior that is likely due to the near lack of predators where they nest. At Genovesa, we witnessed Short-eared Owls hunting these birds, but the toll taken by the owls is certainly very small.

TROPICBIRDS: PHAETHONTIDAE

Red-billed Tropicbird (*Phaethon aethereus mesonauta*) E, N – These striking birds were noisy and conspicuous at several different islands, wherever rocky sea cliffs were present. The birds frequently flew in synchronized groups of 2-5, uttering their harsh tern-like calls.

FRIGATEBIRDS: FREGATIDAE

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata m. magnificens*) N – We saw these birds daily, but they were only numerous around the bigger islands. The largest colony was at North Seymour.

Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor ridgewayi*) E, N – More local and generally more pelagic than Magnificent. Abundant at Genovesa, and also in good numbers at North Seymour and Floreana.

BOOBIES & GANNETS: SULIDAE

Nazca Booby (*Sula granti*) N – We saw this species almost every day, but it was most numerous at Española and Genovesa.

Blue-footed Booby (*Sula nebouxii excisa*) N – More confined to the coast than other boobies. We saw this species every day, and had to step over their nests at North Seymour and Española.

Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula websteri*) E, N, Y – Although we only saw this species on one day, we saw thousands of them! On the bird-rich island of Genovesa, this species was outnumbered only by Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel. Every available shrub seemed to have a Red-footed Booby nest, providing our enthralled group with amazingly close views.



CORMORANTS: PHALACROCORACIDAE

Flightless Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax harrisi*) **E** – This unique and extremely rare species was present in small numbers at Tagus Cove and Punta Espinoza. Their rudimentary wings don't allow flight, but their huge feet make up for that shortcoming, making them powerful swimmers able to deftly capture squid and other prey items.

PELICANS: PELICANIDAE

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

HERONS & BITTERNs: ARDEIDAE

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias cognata*) **E** – Seen only a few times, at Floreana, Puerto Ayora, and Bartolome.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) – Numerous in the highlands of Santa Cruz; a few seen elsewhere.

Striated Heron (*Butorides striatus sundevalli*) **E** – A few seen every day. All of the individuals that we saw were of the very dark endemic subspecies, “Lava Heron”, formerly regarded as a separate species.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea pauper*) **E** – Seen on several days, including quite a few at Genovesa. The endemic Galápagos subspecies is considerably darker than mainland birds.

KITES, EAGLES & HAWKS: ACCIPITRIDAE

Galápagos Hawk (*Buteo galapagoensis*) **E** – A few seen on several occasions, including close views at Española and Punta Espinoza.

RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS: RALLIDAE

Galápagos Rail (*Laterallus spilonotus*) **E** – Two lucky observers (Bert & Woody) glimpsed this elusive species near the El Chato Tortoise Reserve on Santa Cruz.

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS: CHARADRIIDAE

Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) – There were two of these arctic-breeding migrants at Puerto Egas; both were one-year-old birds that no doubt wintered locally.

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) – Another migrant from the north. We saw them at several locations including Punta Cormorant, Punta Espinoza, and Puerto Egas. Like the Black-bellied Plovers, all of these appeared to be one-year-old birds that have probably spent the last eight or nine months at the Galápagos.

OYSTERCATCHERS: HAEMATOPODIDAE

American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus galapagensis*) E – A few of these beautiful resident shorebirds were present at most islands we visited.

AVOCETS & STILTS: RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) – Three at Punta Cormorant were probably local breeders.

SANDPIPERS & ALLIES: SCOLOPACIDAE

Wandering Tattler (*Heterosceles incanus*) – We saw a few of these Alaska-breeding shorebirds on several days, mostly on rocky coastlines or beaches. All those that we saw appeared to be nonbreeding subadults.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) – Another arctic migrant, seen at Punta Espinoza and Puerto Egas.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) – Arctic migrants, seen at North Seymour, Puerto Ayora, and Puerto Egas.

GULLS & TERNS: LARIDAE



Swallow-tailed Gull (*Creagrus furcatus*) NE, N, Y – This spectacular gull offered close views at a number of locations, but they were most numerous at Española and Genovesa. This interesting species is active around the nest site during the day, but does most of its foraging at night when they travel well offshore in search of squid. We saw this first hand at Española when we

watched flock after flock heading offshore at dusk. We also saw them foraging around the ship at night on a few occasions.

Lava Gull (*Larus fuliginosus*) E – We only saw a handful of individuals of this rare endemic species, at Baltra, Puerto Ayora, and Genovesa. Fortunately, several of them were very confiding and allowed close views. For those of us who live with Laughing Gulls, it is clear that the two species are closely related.

Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus galapagensis*) E, N – Although often in small numbers, we saw this species every day of the cruise. They were most numerous in Bolivar Channel, and were particularly evident at Champion Island where a feeding flock converged with a school of snorkelers! Like many subspecies endemic to the Galápagos, the local Brown Noddies are a little bit darker than those found elsewhere; most notably, they have less white on the cap.

PIGEONS & DOVES: COLUMBIDAE

Galápagos Dove (*Zenaida galapagoensis*) E – Although they don't get a lot of attention, this is truly one of the most beautiful doves in the New World. We saw them on just about every island we visited, and, like most Galápagos residents, they were incredibly tame.

CUCKOOS: CUCULIDAE

Dark-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus melacoryphus*) – A few of us got to see this species at the El Chato Tortoise Reserve on Santa Cruz.

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

OWLS: STRIGIDAE

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus galapagoensis*) E – Without a doubt, one of the highlights of the cruise was seeing several of these owls on Genovesa, perched quietly on a lava field while hundreds of Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels swarmed around them like mosquitos. Their strategy is to pounce on an unsuspecting storm-petrel as it leaves its nest hole. The endemic Galápagos subspecies is much darker and shorter winged than mainland birds.



TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE

Galápagos Flycatcher (*Myiarchus magirostris*) **E** – A few of these small flycatchers were seen at Floreana and Santa Cruz.

MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS: MIMIDAE

Galápagos Mockingbird (*Nesomimus parvulus*) **E** – This was the most numerous mockingbird that we saw on the cruise, being particularly abundant at Genovesa. They were usually tame and inquisitive, and kept us company on many of our walks. There are six recognized subspecies, of which we saw three: *N. p. parvulus* (Isabela, Santa Cruz, and Fernandina), *N. p. personatus* (Santiago), and *N. p. bauri* (Genovesa).

Floreana [Charles] Mockingbird (*Mimus trifasciatus*) **E** – The rarest of the Galápagos mockingbirds, we felt fortunate to see several from a panga ride around Champion Island.

Española [Hood] Mockingbird (*Nesomimus macdonaldi*) **E, Y** – This was our first mockingbird of the cruise, seen at Gardner Beach and Punta Suarez. They were particularly tame, walking right up to us on the beach.



NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE

Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga [petechia/erithachorides?] aureolla*) **E** – We saw this species every day, and seemingly in all habitats from mangroves and brushy areas, to more mature forest in the highlands, and even bare lava rock on the coast. It was interesting to watch several birds gather in a tidal pool to take a saltwater bath. The endemic Galápagos subspecies is a distinctive member of the “Mangrove Warbler” group, which are nonmigratory birds found primarily in mangroves and other coastal habitats.

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 a few in the highlands of Santa Cruz.

Gray Warbler-Finch (*Certhidea fusca*) **E, Y** – The counterpart of Green Warbler-Finch, found on the arid portions of most smaller islands. We saw them at Espanola (*C. f. cenerascens*) and Genovesa (*C. f. mentalis*).

Vegetarian Finch (*Camarhynchus crassirostris*) **E** – We had nice views of this species on Santa Cruz

at the Charles Darwin Research Station.

- Large Tree Finch** (*Camarhynchus psittacula*) **E** – An uncommon species found mainly in the humid zone, we saw one at the Los Gemelos sink holes on Santa Cruz.
- Woodpecker Finch** (*Camarhynchus pallidus*) **E** – Not a very cooperative bird for us, only two observers (Louise and Cathy) had a quick view of this species at the Los Gemelos sink holes on Santa Cruz.
- Small Tree-Finch** (*Camarhynchus parvulus*) **E** – We saw a number of these birds in the Santa Cruz highlands, and also a few at Tagus Cove.
- Small Ground-Finch** (*Geospiza fuliginosa*) **E** – This is the most numerous and widespread of Darwin's Finches. We saw them every day except one (they are absent from Genovesa), and were greeted by them when we arrived at the airport in Baltra. It's good to have a common finch to use as the reference standard for identifying all the other ones!
- Large Ground-Finch** (*Geospiza magnirostris*) **E** – We saw a few individuals of this massive-billed bird at the Charles Darwin Research Station, Puerto Egas, and Genovesa.
- Sharp-beaked Ground-Finch** (*Geospiza difficilis*) **E** – These were numerous at Genovesa, where they seem to replace Small Ground-Finch. Their subtly slimmer, sharper bills are evident in a close view, though some would be difficult to distinguish.
- 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** – Numerous at Baltra and Santa Cruz, and a few seen elsewhere. This species seems to be the most variable of Darwin's finches, both in bill size and shape, and (to a lesser degree) in overall body size.
- Large Cactus-Finch** (*Geospiza conirostris*) **E** – These were numerous both on Española and 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 more similar to Common Cactus-Finch, but the latter is absent on Genovesa.



MAMMALS

Galápagos Sea Lion (*Zalophus wollebacki*) **E** – We saw this common species every day, on every beach and landing. A big highlight for the snorkelers was to swim with these bold and playful animals.

Galápagos Fur Sea Lion (*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 a large group of these animals off Floreana, and a few others off Genovesa. Many small groups rode our bow briefly before continuing on their way.

Bryde's Whale (*Balaenoptera edeni*) – Pronounced “broo-dess”, and also known as Tropical Whale. There were a few of these in Bolivar Channel. They can be recognized by their small size, tall falcate dorsal fin, high arching (dolphin-like) surfacing pattern, and weak blow.

Blue Whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) – Without a doubt, one of the biggest highlights of the cruise was our encounter with Blue Whales in Bolivar Channel. We saw at least 4-5 individuals, and we saw them up close, from pangas! When the panga rides were done, we continued to watch them from deck as we enjoyed our evening cocktails. Unlike Bryde's Whales, these are huge animals, and have tall “firehose” blows, shallow rolling surfacing pattern, and tiny dorsal fins.



REPTILES

“Santa Cruz” Giant Tortoise (*Chelonoidis nigra porteri*) **E** – We enjoyed leisurely views of several of these prehistoric-looking animals at the El Chato Tortoise Reserve. We also had the bittersweet experience of seeing “Lonesome George”, the last surviving member of the Pinta Island Tortoise (*C. n. abingdoni*) at the Darwin Station.

Pacific Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas agassizii*) – We saw a few of this species almost every day, and some particularly close views were had by snorkelers.

“Western” Galapagos Racer (*Alsophis biserialis occidentalis*) – Seen on Isabella.

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

Hood Racer (*Philodryas hoodensis*) **E** – Seen on Española.

Floreana Lava Lizard (*Tropidurus grayi*) **E**

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

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

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

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

Marine Iguana (*Amblyrhynchus cristatus*) **E** – Seen daily, often in abundance. They looked a little bit different on each island; the reddish ones on Española were particularly beautiful.



FISH

King Angelfish (*Holocanthus passer*)

Barbfish (*Johnrandallia nigrirostris*)

Three-banded Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon humeralis*)

Razor (Yellow-tailed) Surgeonfish (*Prionurus laticlavus*)

Moorish Idol (*Zanclus cornutus*)

Pacific Sierra (*Scomberomorus sierra*)

Wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*)

Pelican Barracuda (*Sphyræna idiaestes*)

Dusky Chub (*Girella freminvillei*)

Black-striped Salema (*Xenocys jessiae*)

White Salema (*Xenichtys agassizi*)

Amarillo (Yellow) Snapper (*Lutjanus argentivnttris*)

Giant Damsel fish (*Microspathodon dorsalis*)

Bumphead Damsel fish (*Microspathodon bairdii*)

Galápagos Ringtail Damsel fish (*Stegastes beebei*)

Yellowtail Damsel fish (*Stegastes arcifrons*)

Panamic Sergeant Major (*Abudefduf troschelii*)

Scissortail Chromis (*Chromis atrilobata*)
Bacalao (*Mycteroperca olfax*)
Sailfin Grouper (*Mycteroperca olfax*)
Flag Cabrilla (*Epinephelus labriformis*)
Comotillo (*Paralabrax albomaculatus*)
Leather Bass (*Dermatolepis dermatolepis*)
Barred Serrano (*Serranus psittachinus*)
Pacific Creolefish (*Paranthias colonus*)
Blue-chinned Parrotfish (*Scarus ghobban*)
Bicolor Parrotfish (*Scarus rubroviolaceus*)
Azure Parrotfish (*Scarus compressus*)
Chamelion Wrasse (*Halichoeres dispilus*)
Spinster Wrasse (*Halichoeres dispilus*)
Cortez Rainbow Wrasse (*Thalassoma lucasanum*)
Harlequín Wrasse (*Bodianus eclancheri*)
Mexican Hogfish (*Bodianus diplotaenia*)
Blacktip Cardinalfish (*Apogon atradorsatus*)
Panamic Fanged Blenny (*Ophioblennius steindachneri*)
Galápagos Four-eyed Blenny (*Dialommus fuscus*)
Bravo Clinid (*Labrisomus dendriticus*)
Marbled Goby (*Eleotrica cablaeca*)
Pacific Leopard Flounder (*Bothus leopardinus*)
Giant Hawkfish (*Cirrhitiu rivulatus*)
Bullseye Puffer (*Sphoeroides annulatus*)
Guineafowl Puffer (*Arothron meleagris*)
Ballonfish (*Diodon holocanthus*)
Orangeside (Yellow-bellied) Triggerfish (*Sufflamen verres*)
Trumpetfish (*Aulostomus maculatus*)
Reef Coronetfish (*Fistularia commersonii*)
White-tipped Reef Shark (*Triaenodon obesus*)
Marbled Ray (*Sarten marmoleado*)
Diamond Stingray (*Dasyatis brevis*)
Longtail Stingray (*Dasyatis longus*)
Eagle Ray (*Aetobatus narinari*)
Manta Ray (*Manta birostris*)

OTHER MARINE CRITTERS

Galapagos Hermit Crab (*Calcinum explorator*)
Sally Lightfoot Crab (*Grapsus grapsus*) – Just beautiful little animals, covering every rock and tidal pool along the coast. The adults are brilliant red, the smaller ones blackish with white spots.
Slate Pencil Urchin (*Eucidaris thouarsii*)
Green Sea Urchin (*Lytechinus semituberculatus*)
Needle Sea Urchin (*Diadema mexicana*)
Purple Sea Urchino (*Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*)
Noduled Sea Cucumber (*Stichopus fuscus*)
Panamic Cushion Star (*Pentaceraster cumingi*)
Chocolate Chip Seastar (*Nidorellia armata*)
Blue Seastar (*Linckia laevigata*)

Red Sunstar (*Heliaster cuningii*)
Thatched Roof Barnacle (*Tetraclita milleporosa*)
Pacific Octopus (*Paraoctopus limaculatus*)

BUTTERFLIES

Cloudless Sulphur (*Phoebis sennae*)
Galápagos Blue (*Leptotes parrhasoides*)
Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)
Queen (*Danaus gilippus*)
Galápagos Longtail (*Urbanus [dorantes?] galapagensis*)

OTHER INSECTS

Common Green Darner (*Anax junius*) – One at the El Chato Tortoise Reserve.
Wandering Glider (*Pantala flavescens*) – Seen on Española and Santiago.
Spot-winged Glider (*Pantala hymenaea*) – Seen on Española.
Striped Saddlebags (*Tramea cophysa*) – The most numerous dragonfly, seen on most islands.
Large Painted Locust (*Schistocerca melanocera*)
Yellow Paper Wasp (*Polistes versicolor*) – Introduced
Galápagos Carpenter Bee (*Xylocopa darwinii*)
Galápagos Scorpion (*Centruroides exsul*)

