

# THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

JULY 3 – JULY 13, 2003

**LEADERS:** Our superb Galapagos guides Bitinia, Bolivar, Giovanni and Dora, with assistance from Victor Emanuel and Greg Lasley.

## ITINERARY:

**July 3: Arrival in Quito**

**July 4: Many of us made a foray to the Mindo and Tandayapa Valley area to look for birds.**

**July 5: Flew to Baltra in the Galapagos, boarded the “Eclipse” and made a landing on Bachas Beach, Santa Cruz Island.**

**July 6: Visited James and Bartolome Islands**

**July 7: Visited Darwin bay and Prince Phillips’s Steps on Tower Island**

**July 8: Visited Fernandina and Isabela Islands including a special trip to “Black Turtle Beach” to look for the very rare Mangrove Finch**

**July 9: Visited Floreana Island**

**July 10: Visited Darwin Station and highland areas of Santa Cruz**

**July 11: Visited San Cristobal and Hood Islands**

**July 12: Visited a lagoon area on Santa Cruz Island, then disembarked “Eclipse” for our bus ride to the airport. Flew to Guayaquil where some took a brief birding trip to Cerro Blanco.**

**July 13: Departure for home.**

**BIRD LIST:** List order and nomenclature follows "Birds of the World: A Checklist (Fifth Edition)" by James F. Clements (published 2000). Compiled by Greg Lasley.

Galapagos Penguin - Splendid looks, the most northerly occurring penguin in the world.

Waved Albatross – These magnificent birds were seen in good numbers on and near Hood. We got to watch several pairs courting.

Dark-rumped Petrel – many excellent studies of this species from the ship

Audubon's Shearwater – Always in evidence, we had many excellent studies of this common species.

White-vented (Elliot's) Storm-Petrel – commonly seen almost daily

Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel – seen regularly at sea as well as a large breeding colony on Tower

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel – a small handful seen by the avid birders on deck

Red-billed Tropicbird – A spectacular show on Tower with dozens in flight.

Brown Pelican

Blue-footed Booby – Watching the “dancing” of these boobies was fantastic.

Nazca Booby – One of the whitest seabirds, seen at several locations

Red-footed Booby– Including both Brown and White morphs in good numbers on Tower

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours Birdlist

2525 Wallingwood Drive, Suite 1003, Austin, TX 78746 / Tel. 1-800-328-VENT (8368) or 1-512-328-5221

Flightless Cormorant – One of the most bizarre Galapagos endemics.

Magnificent Frigatebird – Seen throughout the islands.

Great Frigatebird – Seen mainly on Tower where several males were in full courtship display.

Great Blue Heron – seen at several locations

Cattle Egret

Snowy Egret

Striated Heron

Galapagos (Lava) Heron – this small dark heron was seen at numerous locations

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Greater Flamingo – At our first stop we found a lagoon with about 6 of these magnificent birds feeding. Later we saw more than 30 feeding at a different location. It was just a joy to watch these beautiful birds.

White-cheeked Pintail – seen at several locations

Galapagos Hawk

Common Moorhen

American Oystercatcher

Black-necked Stilt

Semipalmated Plover

Whimbrel – this arctic tundra breeder was seen on several islands

Wandering Tattler

Ruddy Turnstone

Lava Gull

Swallow-tailed Gull – One of the most strikingly beautiful gulls in the world, the world's only nocturnal-feeding gull. Seen on several islands nesting. Followed the ship most nights.

Brown Noddy – commonly seen at many locations

Galapagos Dove – One of the most colorful Galapagos endemics.

Dark-billed Cuckoo – seen at two locations!

Smooth-billed Ani - common

Short-eared Owl – Several seen at the big Wedge-rumped Storm Petrel colony on Tower. Another was seen flying overhead at another location

Vermilion Flycatcher – Especially brilliant individuals.

Galapagos (Large-billed) Flycatcher - seen commonly  
Galapagos Martin – one was seen on our last day!

Galapagos Mockingbird

Charles Mockingbird – Now confined to Champion and one other small island. Great looks from or zodiacs.

Hood Mockingbird – The most confiding bird on the islands, perched on some participants.

San Cristobal Mockingbird – A bonus thanks to having San Cristobal included in our itinerary.

Yellow Warbler – Extremely common.

Large Ground-Finch – Seen exceptionally well on Santa Cruz at the Darwin Station.

Medium Ground-Finch – seen on many occasions

Small Ground-Finch – common at many locations

Sharp-beaked Ground-Finch

Common Cactus-Finch

Large Cactus-Finch – Seen especially well on Tower and Santa Cruz

Vegetarian Finch – great studies

Mangrove Finch – an exceptional bonus; this is one of the world's rarest birds with only about 100 thought to exist. We had special permission to visit an area they are known to occur. We had excellent studies of two Mangrove Finches on Isabela Island and were able to photograph them.

Large Tree-Finch

Small Tree-Finch

Medium Tree-Finch – Another bonus seen because we made a special trip to the Highlands of Floreana.

Woodpecker Finch – Superb looks in the highlands of Santa Cruz.

Warbler Finch – common in several locations

**MAMMAL LIST:**

California sea lion  
Galapagos fur seal

**REPTILES:**

Galapagos Giant Tortoise (Santa Cruz)  
Pacific green sea turtle  
Marine iguana  
Galapagos land iguana  
Lava lizard (various species on different islands)  
Galapagos snake

**OTHER CRITTERS:**

Orca – a nice pod was seen chasing sea lions!  
Minke Whale  
Galapagos Shark  
Hammerhead Shark  
White-tipped Shark  
Sally Lightfoot Crab  
Manta Ray  
Spotted Eagle Ray  
Golden Ray  
And many species of fish, star fish, etc.

**MINDO AND TANDAYAPA AREAS:**

Black Vulture	House Wren
Turkey Vulture	Mountain Wren
Swallow-tailed Kite	Turquoise Jay (heard)
Barred Hawk	Great Thrush
Roadside Hawk	Ecuadorian Thrush
Variable Hawk	White-capped Dipper
American Kestrel	Blue-and-white Swallow
Sickle-winged Guan	Southern Rough-winged Swallow
Rock Dove	Brown-capped Vireo
Band-tailed Pigeon	Red-eyed Vireo
Plumbeous Pigeon (heard only)	Tropical Parula
Eared Dove	Slate-throated Redstart (Whitestart)
White-tipped Dove	Spectacled Redstart (Whitestart)
White-collared Swift	Russet-crowned Warbler
Tawny-bellied Hermit	Capped Conebill
Green Violet-ear	White-sided Flowerpiercer
Sparkling Violet-ear	Black Flowerpiercer
Brown Violet-ear	Masked Flowerpiercer
Western Emerald	Orange-bellied Euphonia
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	Golden Tanager
Andean Emerald	Flame-faced Tanager
Speckled Hummingbird	Golden-naped Tanager
Purple-bibbed Whitetip	Metallic-green Tanager
Empress Brilliant	Beryl-spangled Tanager
Fawn-breasted Brilliant	Blue-and-black Tanager
Brown Inca	Black-capped Tanager
Collared Inca	Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager
Buff-tailed Coronet	Grass-green Tanager
Velvet-purple Coronet	Blue-gray Tanager
Gorgeted Sunangel	Lemon-rumped Tanager
Booted Racket-tail	Dusky Bush-Tanager
Green-tailed Trainbearer	Plushcap
Violet-tailed Sylph	Tricolored Brush-Finch
Purple-throated Woodstar	Rufous-collared Sparrow
White-bellied Woodstar	Giant Cowbird
Masked Trogon	
Golden-headed Quetzal	
Toucan Barbet	
Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan	
Golden-olive Woodpecker	
Crimson-mantled Woodpecker	
Azara's Spinetail (heard)	
Slaty Spinetail (heard)	
Red-faced Spinetail	
Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner	
Montane Woodcreeper	
Spillman's Tapaculo (heard)	
Scaled Fruiteater	
Tawny-rumped Tyrannulet	
Smoke-colored Pewee	
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	
Golden-crowned Flycatcher	
Tropical Kingbird	
Black-and-white Becard	
Masked Tityra	

**CERRO BLANCO**

Great Egret  
Turkey Vulture  
White-tipped Dove  
Amazilia Hummingbird  
White-tailed Jay  
Pacific Hornero  
Streak-headed Woodcreeper  
Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet  
Boat-billed Flycatcher  
Fasciated Wren  
Yellow-tailed Oriole  
Scrub Blackbird