

# **WILDLIFE TRAVEL**

## **Galapagos 2014**



## Galapagos & Ecuador, 25<sup>th</sup> April to 9<sup>th</sup> May, Trip Report

### Leader

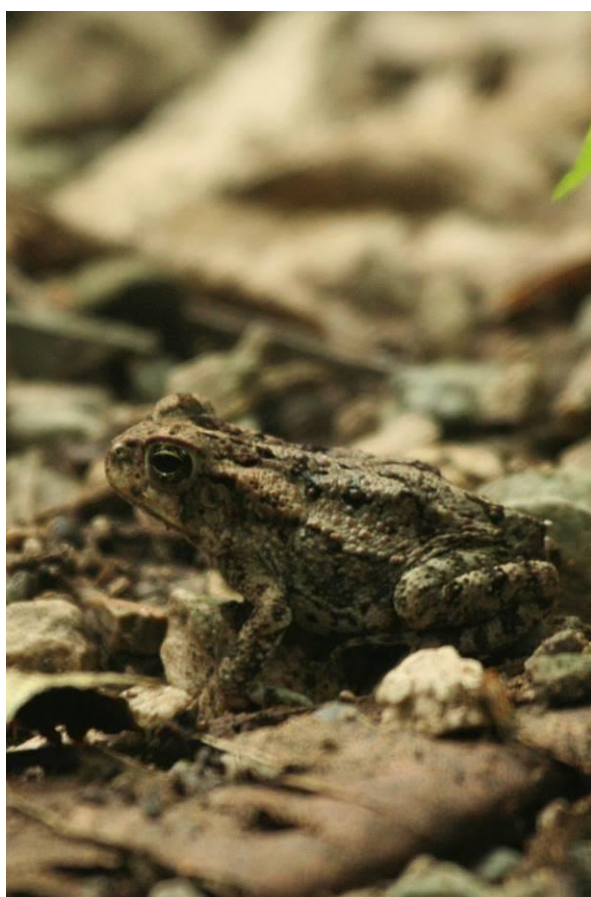
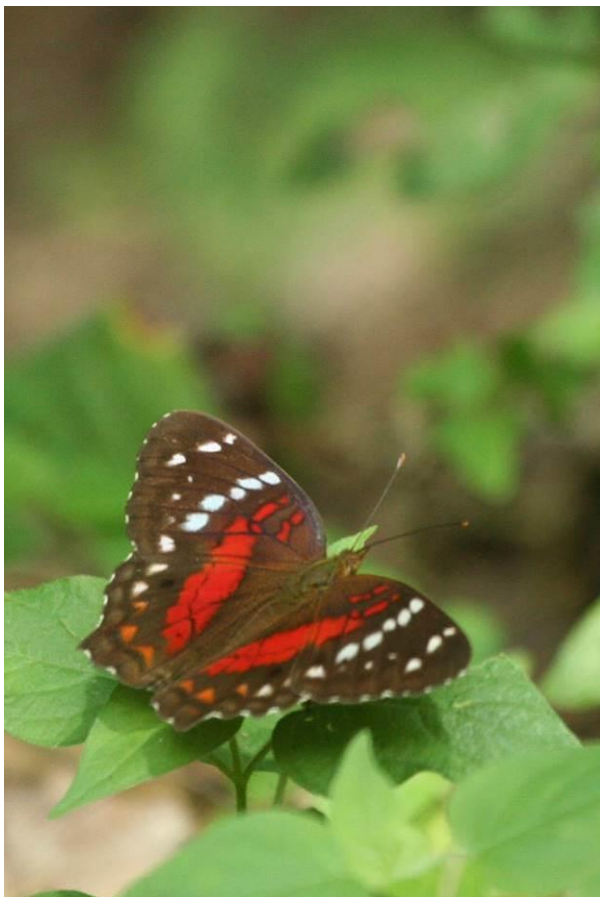
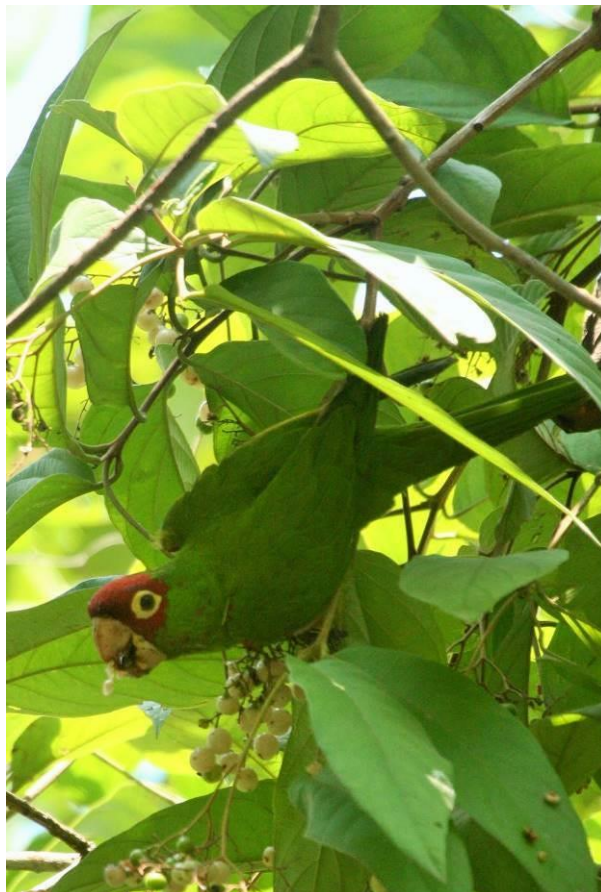
Philip Precey

Wildlife Travel

#	DATE	LOCATIONS & NOTES
1	25 <sup>th</sup> April	Travel. Arrive in Guayaquil
2	26 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Cerro Blanco</b> and Parque de Lago
3	27 <sup>th</sup> April	Guayaquil to <b>Baltra</b> . Bachas Beach.
4	28 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Genovesa</b> : Darwin Bay and Prince Philip's Steps
5	29 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Santiago</b> : Bartholome, Pinnacle Rock, Sullivan Bay
6	30 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Santa Cruz</b> : Caleta Tortuga Negra and Cerro Dragon
7	1 <sup>st</sup> May	<b>Santa Cruz</b> : CDRS, Puerto Ayora, Los Gemelos and El Chatto Tortoise Reserve
8	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	<b>Floreana</b> : Post Office Bay and Punta Cormoran
9	3 <sup>rd</sup> May	<b>Española</b> : Punta Suarez and Gardner Bay
10	4 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>San Cristobal</b> : Kicker Rock, Puerto Baquerizo Moreno,
11	5 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>San Cristobal</b> : highlands
12	6 <sup>th</sup> May	flight back to Guayaquil
13	7 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Manglares de Churute</b>
14	8 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Guayaquil</b> city tour: Sta Ana, Malecon and Iguana Park Flight back to Europe
15	9 <sup>th</sup> May	Amsterdam and return to UK

Philip's photos from this trip can be seen at [www.flickr.com/photos/wildlifetravel/sets/72157644625662862/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/wildlifetravel/sets/72157644625662862/)

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## DIARY

### 26<sup>th</sup> April: Cerro Blanco and Parque de Lago

We spent our first day in the company of Ana, who took us first into the dry forest at Cerro Blanco, where after finally being allowed in we explored the areas around the picnic site and along the entry track, and then to the water hyacinth-covered reservoir at Parque de Lago.

Pied-billed Grebe <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	One at Parque de Lago
Magnificent Frigatebird <i>Fregata magnificens</i>	Parque de Lago
Neotropic Cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	Parque de Lago
Western Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Parque de Lago
American Great Egret <i>Casmerodius egrettus</i>	Parque de Lago
Little Blue Heron <i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Parque de Lago, young birds white w/ dark wing feathers
Cocoi Heron <i>Ardea cocoi</i>	Parque de Lago, 1 adult
Turkey Vulture <i>Cathartes aura</i>	Common. Long tail
Hook-billed Kite <i>Chondrohierax uncinatus</i>	One adult briefly by the car park, Cerro Blanco
Ecuadorian Ground Dove <i>Columbina buckleyi</i>	Cerro Blanco & along the roadside. Tumbesian endemic
White-tipped Dove <i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	Cerro Blanco (heard only)
Feral Pigeon <i>Columba livia</i>	Guayaquil
Grey-cheeked Parakeet <i>Brotogeris pyrrhoptera</i>	Short-tailed, noisy, Cerro Blanco. Tumbesian endemic
Red-masked Parakeet <i>Aratinga erythrogenys</i>	2 feeding on <i>Cordia</i> , Cerro Blanco. Tumbesian endemic
Squirrel Cuckoo <i>Piaya cayana</i>	Cerro Blanco
Groove-billed Ani <i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>	Cerro Blanco & Parque de Lago
Lesser Nighthawk <i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>	One dead on the road at Parque de Lago
Black-throated Mango <i>Anthracothonax nigricollis</i>	One male at Parque de Lago
Black-cheeked Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes pucherani</i>	One male at Cerro Blanco
Ecuadorian Piculet <i>Picumnus sclateri</i>	The tiny woodpecker, Cerro Blanco. Tumbesian endemic
Streak-headed Woodcreeper <i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>	Cerro Blanco
Pacific Hornero <i>Furnarius cinnamomeus</i>	walking along the track, Parque de Lago
Streaked Xenops <i>Xenops rutilans</i>	Cerro Blanco
Slaty-capped Flycatcher <i>Leptopogon superciliaris</i>	The small yellow and grey flycatcher, Cerro Blanco
Sooty-crowned Flycatcher <i>Myiarchus phaeocephalus</i>	Cerro Blanco
Tropical Kingbird <i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	Common roadside bird
Streaked Flycatcher <i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>	Cerro Blanco, the big streaky flycatcher with rusty tail
Boat-billed Flycatcher <i>Megarhynchus pitangua</i>	Cerro Blanco, the big bright yellow-bellied flycatcher
Black-and-white Becard <i>Pachyrhamphus albogriseus</i>	1 pair at Cerro Blanco
One-coloured Becard <i>Pachyrhamphus homochrous</i>	One young male at Cerro Blanco, in the garden
Grey-breasted Martin <i>Progne chalybea</i>	Common around Guayaquil and elsewhere
Chestnut-collared Swallow <i>Petrochelidon rufocollaris</i>	Parque de Lago
Fasciated Wren <i>Campylorhynchus fasciatus</i>	A family group at their large twig nest
Ecuadorian Thrush <i>Turdus maculirostris</i>	Cerro Blanco. Tumbesian Endemic
Red-eyed Vireo <i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Cerro Blanco, very common in the feeding flocks
White-tailed Jay <i>Cyanocorax mystacalis</i>	3+ by the car park, Cerro Blanco. Tumbesian Endemic
Tropical Gnatcatcher <i>Poliophtila plumbea</i>	Cerro Blanco
Tropical Parula <i>Parula pitiayumi</i>	Common in the mixed flocks at Cerro Blanco
Grey-and-Gold Warbler <i>Basileuterus fraseri</i>	Cerro Blanco. Tumbesian endemic.
Blue-grey Tanager <i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	Cerro Blanco. A common roadside bird
Thick-billed Euphonia <i>Euphonia lanirostris</i>	Cerro Blanco
Saffron Finch <i>Sicalis flaveola</i>	Cerro Blanco. A common roadside bird
Southern Yellow Grosbeak <i>Phecticus chrysogaster</i>	Cerro Blanco
Variable Seedeater <i>Sporophila corvina</i>	Cerro Blanco
Yellow-rumped Cacique <i>Cacicus cela</i>	Cerro Blanco
Scrub Blackbird <i>Dives warszewiczi</i>	Parque de Lago. A common roadside bird
Guayaquil Squirrel <i>Sciurus stramineus</i>	A couple at Cerro Blanco, tufted ears and big bushy tail
Green Iguana <i>Iguana iguana</i>	A couple in the canopy at Cerro Blanco
Iridescent Whorltail-iguana <i>Stenocercus iridescent</i>	The small lizard at Cerro Blanco
Bocourt's Jungle-runner <i>Ameiva edracantha</i>	Large lizard at Cerro Blanco, young ones with blue tails
Cane Toad <i>Rhinella marina</i>	Two small juveniles near the carpark, Cerro Blanco



## Galapagos & Ecuador, 25<sup>th</sup> April to 9<sup>th</sup> May, Trip Report

### 27<sup>th</sup> April: Guayaquil to Baltra: Bachas Beach

After making our way through the many layers of form filling, passport stamping and baggage searching, made much simpler thanks to the help of Fernando, our morning flight took us out over the Pacific and to the Galapagos where we met up with Fausto and one of the sailors, Ello, from our boat, the Yate Eden. A short bus journey took us from the airport down into the small port, and our first panga ride, out to our boat in the bay.

A quick lunch, during which we met the other passengers on board and Ernesto (our guide for the week, with Fausto out of action due to a torn ligament) and we were soon donning *chalecos* and heading off for our first excursion, a 'wet landing' on the white sands of Bachas Beach. Here we had our first introduction to many of the cast of Galapagos characters who would become familiar to us over the next week: Brown Pelican and Blue-footed Booby, Mangrove Warbler and Galapagos Mockingbird.

At the small lagoon behind the beach, three wonderfully confiding Caribbean Flamingos were happily resting, pretty much ignoring us sitting a few metres away from them. Similarly, the pair of White-cheeked Pintails were all but oblivious to us, although the pair of Black-necked Stilts were a bit more jumpy. At the other end of the lagoon, we found an adult Lava Gull with two medium-sized chicks. This is the world's rarest gull, with less than 1000 individuals: by the end of our first day we'd seen almost 1% of the total world population.

Back on board, we were introduced to the crew, which seemed to be mostly made up of ex Presidents, toasted a successful adventure to come and enjoyed our first evening meal on the boat and headed to our bunks for the long overnight journey up to the north.

### 28<sup>th</sup> April: Genovesa

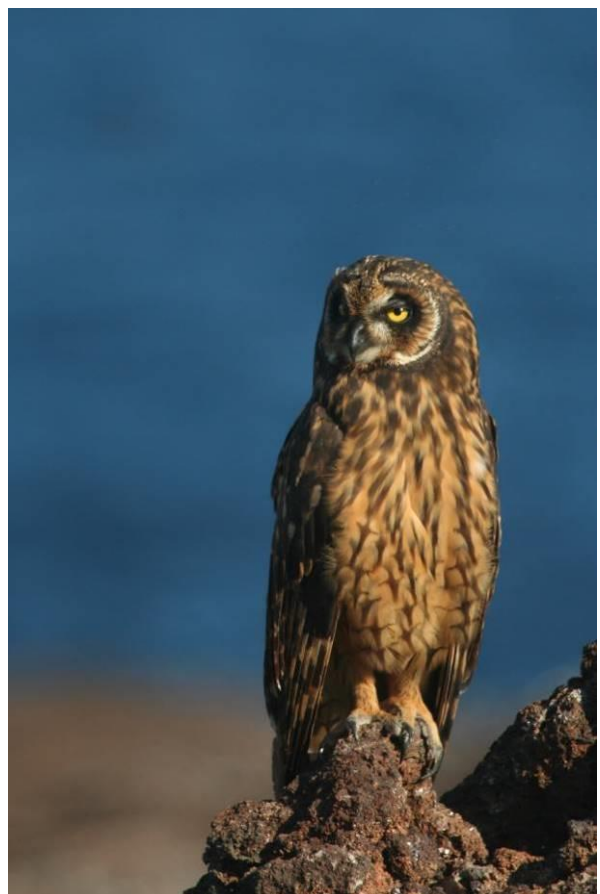
We woke at dawn to find ourselves moored in the flooded caldera of Genovesa, surrounded by lava cliffs alive with birds. Swallow-tailed Gulls, Nazca Boobies and Red-billed Tropicbirds could be seen nesting on the cliffs, with the trees at the top home to Great Frigatebirds and Red-footed Boobies: with hundreds of birds flying back and forth, there seemed to be birdlife everywhere.

Landing on the small beach, we found ourselves in the middle of a busy seabird colony. Great Frigatebirds displayed, the males with their inflated throat patches waving from side to side as they ululated. In the mangroves, Red-footed Bobbies sat on their nests, with birds flying back and forth with collected nesting material being harassed by the frigates; every now and again a particularly brave booby would turn the tables on the larger birds, chasing a frigate to steal the twigs they were carrying. Pairs of Nazca Boobies stood together on the path, honking and whistling at each other, while the Swallow-tailed Gulls grunted and clicked.

This morning gave us our first flurry of finches, with all four of the island's finch species showing themselves off. We started with the Sharp-beaked Ground Finch feeding along the top of the beach, followed by a couple of Large Ground Finches, their bills truly massive giving the birds a very front-heavy appearance. At the other end of the finch-spectrum were a couple of tiny Lowland Warbler Finches, showing why Darwin mis-identified them as wrens as they flicked low through the bushes, picking at insects. Finally, up near the beacons we found a couple of Genovesa Large Cactus Finches to complete today's set.

Our walk took us across broken lava, through the arid zone vegetation of Saltbush, Incense Tree, Lava Morning Glory and the low-growing, sprawling and noticeably spineless *Opuntia helleri*, up to the navigation beacons, where we took in the great view out over the caldera. A couple of Yellow-crowned Night Herons stalked in the shadows at the base of the cliff, and we could see the local race of Marine Iguana, the islands' smallest, hauling themselves clear of the waves.

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Our first taste of snorkelling was along the base of the cliff at the far side of the bay, where a couple of sea lions played in the surf and, despite the visibility not being great, we saw our first Razor Surgeonfish, Blue-chinned Parrotfish, King Angelfish and Mexican Hogfish, amongst others, fish we were to become very familiar with. Unfortunately, the presence of a few stinging jelly fish in the water caused us to get out a bit earlier than originally planned, and then back to the boat for a three course lunch and (for some) an afternoon nap.

After an incredibly full morning, it was soon time for our afternoon excursion, starting with a panga ride along the base of the cliffs. Noisy Red-billed Tropicbirds were flying overhead before crash landing into their nest sites, in shallow caves and crevices in the cliffs. Plenty of Swallow-tailed Gulls and Nazca Boobies joined them on the cliffs, with a Lava Heron feeding in the splash zone.

Hiding in the shady caves at the base of the cliffs were a handful of Galapagos Fur Seals, fast asleep and keeping out of the sun. These smaller, cuter cousins of the Galapagos Sea Lions are actually much more numerous, but far less obvious as they are mainly nocturnal, feeding at night out in the deeper water on pelagic fish.

Climbing up Prince Philip's Steps we found ourselves on the parched plateau of the island. Galapagos Doves shuffled about amongst the scrub made up of Yellow Cordia *Cordia lutea*, Salt Bush *Cryptocarpus pyramidalis*, Spiny Bush *Scutia spicata* and the beautiful scent of Incense Tree, all looking pretty dry after a 'rainy season' without any rain.

Emerging from the scrub, we arrived at the broken lava field which is home to a very large breeding colony of Wedge-rumped Storm Petrels. Unusually for Storm Petrels, these birds come in to their nest sites during the daytime, and hundreds could be seen passing back and forth low over the rocks. And we weren't the only ones watching the Storm Petrels... sitting quietly on the edge of the lava field was a Galapagos Short-eared Owl, a beautiful dark orangey-beige bird that makes its living picking off the Storm Petrels as they come into their burrows.

Nearby we found a recently killed Wedge-rumped Storm Petrel, enabling us to get a close-up look at the 'tube nose' so characteristic of the petrels and shearwaters.

After our first owl moved off into the colony to find his next meal, a second bird appeared even closer, back along the path, posing wonderfully for yet more photographs. Eventually we left the owls to it, and returned to the boat: with a long journey ahead of us, we set off south, spending the last couple of hours of daylight scanning the sea in the hope of finding a whale. Alas, no cetaceans appeared on this journey, although there were plenty of other things to see: at least two Waved Albatrosses were the highlights, along with good numbers of Pacific Band-rumped Storm Petrels amongst the much more common (and slightly smaller) Wedge-rumped and the small, fluttery Elliot's Storm Petrels. Red-footed Boobies continued to stream overhead, the last time we would see this species on our trip. And as dusk fell, a couple of Galapagos Petrels put in an appearance, swooping and towering over the waves. But alas, no dolphins... this time.

### 29<sup>th</sup> April: Bartholome and Santiago

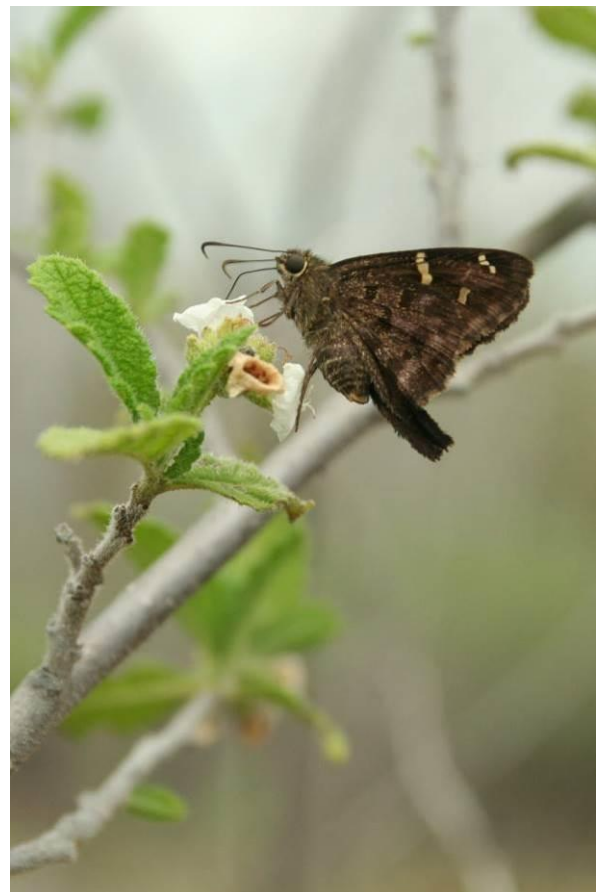
Another (very) early wake-up call saw us in the pangas as the sun rose behind Pinnacle Rock, and heading for the 370+ steps up to the summit of Bartholome.

The cinder slopes of the island were dotted with the silvery-grey mat plants *Tiquilia nesotica* and *Tiquilia galapagensis* and the lime green *Chamaesyce amplexicaulis*, along with some grasses and sedges and the endemic Lava Cactus. *Scalesia stewarti* and the island's Prickly Pear *Opuntia galapageia* var *galapageia* were both growing along the more sheltered ridges.

Near the summit, a trio of juvenile Galapagos Hawks put on quite a display as they soared and sparred overhead, a couple of them proving very confiding, perching on the handrails virtually alongside some of us.



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From the top, we enjoyed the spectacular views, taking in the islands of North Seymour, Baltra and Santa Cruz, China Hat, Marchena, Rabida and, of course, Santiago, with Isabela out there somewhere in the haze. From up here we could also make out the dark shape of a Galapagos Penguin zooming back and forth along the beach in the shallows, a taster of what was to come... From the pangas on the way back to the boat, we inspected the rocky corners of the bay and around the base of Pinnacle Rock, where at least three penguins posed for photos, very characterful little birds, the third smallest penguin in the world (after Little Blue and White-flipped, from Australia and New Zealand).

After a quick return to the boat, and changed into our snorkelling gear, we were soon on the beach ourselves. Walking across the narrow isthmus to the other side, we found a Steindachner's Snake resting at the side of the path, quite unconcerned about the tramp of 16 pairs of feet and the attention of our camera lenses. Even more unexpected was a Land Iguana standing on the path. Unexpected, since according to all the books, Land Iguanas don't live on Santiago! This individual was apparently one of two brought to the island by one of the Angermeyer brothers at some time in the 1950s, making this a venerable 55 years old at the very least!

Arriving at the beach we found several White-tipped Reef Sharks patrolling the shallows, and the shoreline littered with flotsam and jetsam, including a great deal of plastic rubbish, much of which we collected up and took back to the Eden to dispose of safely.

Good dead done for the day, and it was back to the beach for some snorkelling. Leopard Flounders flipped over the bottom in the shallows; Giant Damselfish were amongst the reef species around the rocks; a couple of Galapagos Blue Porcupine-fish were seen; and beyond Pinnacle Rock we found several White-tipped Reef Sharks lazing on the bottom. The highlight though came when we were all almost finished for the morning, when one of the local penguins decided to come and play.

Lunch time, nap time, and then it was back into the water for snorkelling session number two, this time along the amazing lava shore of Sullivan Bay, where a magnificent White-tipped Reef Shark cruised slowly past beneath us.

Our afternoon excursion was onto the massive lava field of Sullivan Bay. Thought to date back to the 1830s, the beautiful ropes and ripples of pahoehoe lava here look almost newly minted, with just the very first signs of life returning in the form of pioneer Mollugo plants and the occasional Large Painted Locust and Galapagos Dove.

### **30<sup>th</sup> April: Santa Cruz:** Caleta Tortuga Negra and Cerro Dragon

Another early alarm call, another early breakfast, and another early excursion. By now well used to both wet landings and dry landings, this was something different, a 'no landing' but instead a panga ride through the quiet mangrove-lined waters of Caleta Tortuga Negra, or Black Turtle Cove.

Once inside the cove, we cut the engines and Henry and Ernesto paddled the pangas quietly.

The occasional flurry of activity at the surface revealed small fish fleeing from a predator, and we all got good sightings of Black-tipped Sharks that were patrolling the lagoon. We soon encountered our first school of Golden Cow-nosed Rays, flapping placidly by at the surface, with another two or three schools of about 15 each, further in. The next school included a single Spotted Eagle Ray, and we saw another 2 or 3 of these around the mangrove roots. Our third ray for the morning was a Sting Ray that slipped quietly under the boat.

They took a bit of searching for, but eventually we found the Pacific Green Turtles (also known as Black Turtles) that give the cove its name, swimming calmly by under the boats, occasionally breaking the surface to breath.

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Small and Medium Ground Finches and Mangrove Warblers chirped and twittered in the mangroves (both Red and White Mangroves here), a couple of Lava Herons flew out from the mangroves and a single adult Striated Heron posed nicely for us.

Back on board, and we navigated down around the north western corner of Santa Cruz to our next stop at Cerro Dragon, along the way enjoying a couple of sightings of Manta Ray flipping out of the water in the distance, a female Magnificent Frigatebird picking a large Galapagos Sea Robin (a bottom-dwelling fish with two large wing-like pectoral fins) off the surface, and a swim-past by a young Scalloped Hammerhead Shark.

Snorkelling was off the beach at Cerro Dragon, where Galapagos Puffer Fish, a large Sting Ray in the sandy shallows and some dense shoals of Striped Salema and White Salema kept us entertained.

The extra-high tide made our 'dry landing' a bit damper than we expected, but we all finally made it to dry land safe and sound. The lagoon behind the beach was home to a single Flamingo, a few Black-necked Stilts and one very confiding Least Sandpiper, creeping around the rocks on the muddy margins. A pair of equally confiding Galapagos Flycatchers flitted amongst us, catching the mosquitos that were circling our heads...

The dry vegetation here is home to a good population of Land Iguanas, and we saw several on our walk up to the 'mighty peak' of Cerro Dragon. As well as iguana burrows and droppings, there was plenty of evidence of another large herbivore in the area, feral donkeys.

Despite much encouragement from George, we couldn't convince ourselves that cactuses really do have vestigial leaves...

Back on board, and we moved around the coast of Santa Cruz, passing a beautiful sunset over Pinzon, to come into port at Puerto Ayora in time for a good night's sleep in the sheltered harbour.

**1<sup>st</sup> May: Santa Cruz:** Charles Darwin Research Station, Los Gemelos and Manzanillo Ranch

Our morning excursion started with a rainy panga ride across Academy Bay, from where we walked through to the Charles Darwin Research Station via a lesson on mangrove identification. Here we learned about the tortoise breeding programme and paid a visit to Diego, the prolific Espanola male from San Diego Zoo, resting in the shade somewhere no doubt after another burst of gene-pool-enhancing activity.

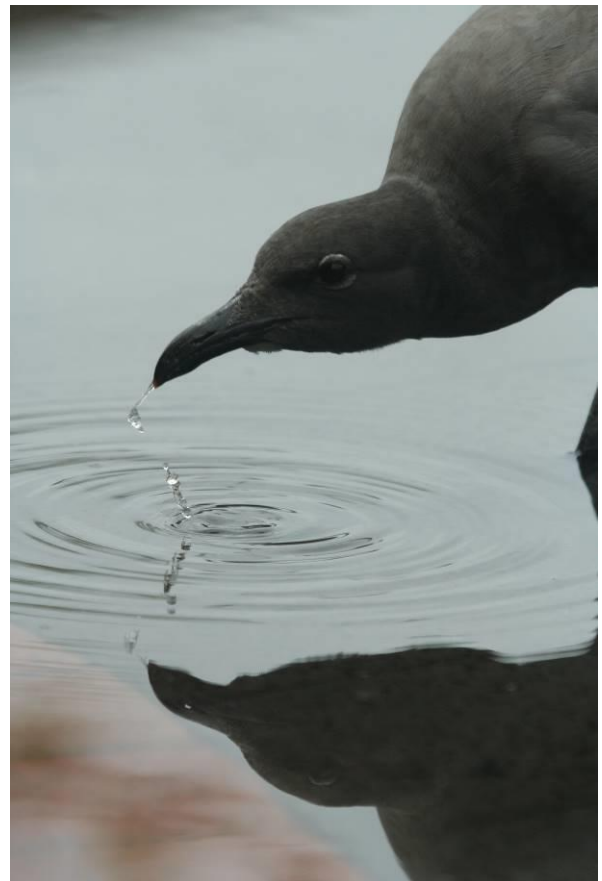
The station is also a good place to find Darwin's Finches, and we caught up with several species here: Large, Medium and Small Ground Finches posed virtually side by side along with a posing male Cactus Finch, a female Small Tree Finch and a very brief appearance by a pair of large Vegetarian Finches.

After a wander round the 'big city' of Puerto Ayora and lunch back on board the Eden, we headed up into the highlands on a wild tortoise chase.

At the twin sink holes of Los Gemelos, even more finches were found in the Scalesia forest. As well as the ubiquitous Small and Medium Ground Finches and a couple of Small Tree Finches, we also found a family of Highland Warbler Finches and a single male Woodpecker Finch: Woodpecker finch may not look like much, but it's use of tools to wheedle beetle larvae out of the bark makes it very nearly unique (the New Caledonian Crow is the only other bird known to use tools).

Amongst the plants of interest, we found some nice endemics: Galapagos Peperomia *Peperomia galapagensis* growing as an epiphyte on Galapagos Guava *Psidium galapageium* alongside Buttonhole Orchid *Epidendrum spicatum*, the Galapagos Bromeliad *Tillandsia insularis* and Collinvaux's Passion Flower *Passiflora collinvauxii* with its boomerang-like cat face leaves. The vegetation included a good variety of ferns, a group of plants almost as little-known as seaweeds on Galapagos... but amongst which were the Hand Fern *Doryopteris pedata* var. *palmata*, the Harts-tongue Fern *Polypodium phyllitidis* and the silvery *Polypodium aureum* var. *areolatum*.

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Moving on, we visited La Manzanillo ranch. We found our first wild Giant Tortoises along the entrance track, as well as seeing a couple of the tiny black Galapagos Rails and a larger, browner Paint-billed Crake scuttling across the track in front of the bus.

Wandering around the ranch we found tortoises of all sizes, from some almost dainty young females to a massive domed male, via an 80 year old pleasuring himself against a rock... as Ernesto promised us, today was all about tortoise life, death and passion...

On the *Azolla*-covered pool a group of White-cheeked Pintail dabbled, and a handful of Common Gallinule (the New World version of 'our' Moorhen) jerked around the edge.

We ended our day still in the highlands, with dinner of grilled chicken in a wonderful setting, with the added bonus of a family of Galapagos Barn Owls behind the bar. It doesn't get much better...

### **2nd May: Floreana:** Post Office Bay, Devil's Crown and Punta Cormoran

Another overnight navigation left us moored off Post Office Bay as the sun came up. We started the day with a panga ride along the coasts, admiring the sturdy local *Opuntias* *Opuntia megasperma* var *megasperma* on the islets offshore and climbing up to 'the Duchess's look out' for the impressive view down over the bay.

At Post Office Bay we did our duty by the 'post office' barrel (and our geo-cache-ers signed in under the painted rock), heard the long-short version of the convoluted tale of the island's early inhabitants, complete with murder, mystery, sex slaves and shared dentures, and then experienced absolute darkness in the cool of the lava tunnel.

The jury is still out on the mystery martin that flew over our heads as we landed: either a Grey-breasted Martin, the common swallow over in Guayaquil but a bird which has never before made it to Galapagos, or maybe a pale-bellied Purple Martin after all...

A double-bill of snorkelling was followed by a late afternoon wet landing on the beach. The hyper-saline lagoon was again home to Caribbean Flamingos, with 15 or so scattered out on the water, along with plenty of White-cheeked Pintails: a couple of Least Sandpipers picked around the edges.

After the lack of rain, the arid hillsides were very arid indeed, but we did find both Floreana Daisy *Leucocarpus pinnatifidus* and Long-haired Scaevola *Scaevola villosa*, two plants endemic to the island, growing amongst the Croton and Saltbush.

Over at the white sandy beach, a very large Black-tipped Shark was patrolling, perhaps with the same thing in mind as the frigatebirds and Great Blue Heron who were stalking baby turtles who had the misfortune to hatch during the daytime. A Lava Heron hunkered down on the shore, with a couple of Floreana Lava Lizards our only sightings of this endemic reptile for the day.

### **3rd May: Espanola:** Punta Suarez, Gardner Islet and Gardner Bay

After quite a bumpy journey overnight, we awoke to find ourselves anchored off the low island of Espanola: the furthest south east in the archipelago, and the oldest of the islands. Despite Punta Suarez being one of the most popular sites in the whole archipelago, we shared the site with just two boats this morning, including the ever-present Aida Maria, and thanks to a (very) early start all round, we managed to feel like we had the place entirely to ourselves for most of our visit.

We were greeted by a welcoming committee of sea lions, Hood Mockingbirds, Espanola Lava Lizards and the brightly coloured 'Christmas Tree' Marine Iguanas.

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Land birds seemed to be doing very well on this island: Galapagos Doves, Hood Mockingbirds and Darwin's Finches seemed to be everywhere. The latter include just three species here, making life much simpler than on other islands: Small Ground Finch, the big burly Espanola Large Cactus Finch (here with a much bigger beak than what is supposedly the same species up on Genovesa) and the very grey *cinerascens* subspecies of Lowland Warbler Finch, with males singing from perches all around us.

Overhead we had yet another vagrant swallow, this time a pair of Bank Swallows (more familiar to us as Sand Martins), at the same time as a big Galapagos Hawk swooped overhead.

A couple of Galapagos Hawks were sat sentinel around the island. But the real highlight of the island came as we made our way out of the scrub and into the open... the Waved Albatross colony was in full swing, with birds displaying, mating and sitting on eggs, as well as a constant to-ing and fro-ing overhead and out to sea, all oblivious to the 16 happy onlookers.

After communing with the albatrosses and the Pacific for a while, we made our way back to the boat, passing by nesting Marine Iguanas, Nazca Boobies and Swallow-tailed Gulls a-plenty, and a solitary Blue-footed Booby standing on the path, waiting for a mate to materialise...

After moving round the coast, we arrived at Gardner Islet where we enjoyed our last snorkelling session in the company of a group of VERY friendly sea lions. After lunch, we made another landing, at Gardner Bay, where we enjoyed a relaxing wander along the powder-soft sands of the Bay and a pair of Galapagos Hawks sat sentinel on the cliff top, before heading back to the boat.

Our final 'navigation' took us north to San Cristobal: perfectly on cue, a blow in front of the boat materialised into a fine Bryde's Whale which surfaced close in front of the boat, giving everyone the chance to see it before it slipped down into the deep again. Finally we arrived in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, where we enjoyed our farewell cocktail and one final dinner on board, magic-ed up by Walter from the tiny galley.

### **4<sup>th</sup> May: San Cristobal**

Just before dawn we pulled up the anchor and headed around the coast to the impressive tuff cone of Leon Dormido, or Kicker Rock. Circumnavigating in the pangas, we puzzled over why all the Sally Lightfoots here were black and marvelled at the soaring Great Frigatebirds overhead.

Back on board for breakfast, and all too soon it was time to bid farewell to the Eden and disembark at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. Eventually, after an interlude with some local scouts, we arrived at the hotel, on the edge of town, and settled into our rooms.

Our afternoon took us to the San Cristobal interpretation centre, a walk up through the arid zone vegetation to the top of Frigatebird Hill, looking down over the point where Charles Darwin first made landfall on the islands, and then back along into town.

### **5<sup>th</sup> May: highlands of San Cristobal**

Today we headed up into the highlands of San Cristobal in our little yellow bus.

At El Progreso we found some impressive beetles, enjoyed the view, learned something of the (as per usual, violent) human history of the island and started to get to know the plants of the highlands.

Further up, we visited the lagoon at El Junco, with impressive stands of Miconia on the slopes below, where some very confiding Woodpecker and Highland Warbler Finches put in an appearance. On the lagoon, several Common Gallinules were swimming about, while Magnificent Frigatebirds visited to drink and bathe. On the far side, we walked through a lovely ferny gully, home to tree ferns, filmy ferns and, it seemed, every fern in between.

Next stop, the tortoise breeding center at La Galapaguera. Tree Scalesias grew alongside Galapagos Croton and an abundance of Poison Apple providing food for the tortoises. The breeding animals here are in an



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extensive enclosure, much more 'wild' than at the CDRS on Sta Cruz. After admiring three large males eating their thrice-weekly dinner, and vying for supremacy with each other, our stomachs started to rumble and we decamped to a great local eatery, run by the eponymous La Manabita.

Yet more Woodpecker Finches hopped about in the garden, feeding on fallen fruit, and there were plenty of interesting plants to keep the more botanically minded happy.

### 6<sup>th</sup> May: Galapagos to Guayaquil

We started the day by visiting the beach and arid zone area at La Loberia. A couple of large Marine Iguanas greeted us on the path, our first Galapagos Blue butterflies flitted about, three Bank Swallows (our Sand Martins again) flew over the lagoon behind the beach, and there were plenty of interesting plants, including (for those who went furthest along the rocky shore) Gordillo's *Scalesia*, San Cristobal's endemic *Scalesia*.

Ernesto skilfully eased us through the check in process at the airport, with plenty of time to spare to head back into town for one last Galapagos lunch, before a sad farewell at the airport...

And back to Guayaquil, where Fernando again greeted us and we returned to the UniPark for a round of caipirinhas and another big dinner.

### 7<sup>th</sup> May: Manglares de Churute

Once again we joined Ana and Fernando, and headed off in the bus, south this time 'over the bridge' and into the flat lands, passing by a mixture of savannah and wetlands, before arriving at Manglares de Churute, where we had a hot and humid day: first on a canoe ride along the river through the mangroves, then walking a hillside trail on the hunt for monkeys, and finally a lunchtime visit to a cacao farm, where we enjoyed some wonderful home cooking and found out about the chocolate-growing business.

A spectacular thunder storm greeted us on our return to Guayaquil, flooding out half the city and closing the airport for a short time.

Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui*  
Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregatta magnificens*  
Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*  
Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*  
Roseate Spoonbill *Ajaja ajaja*  
White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*  
Striated Heron *Butorides striatus*  
Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*  
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*  
Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*  
Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*  
Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*  
American Great Egret *Casmerodius egretus*  
Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*  
Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*  
Horned Screamer *Anhima cornuta*  
Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*  
Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*  
Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*  
Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*  
Savannah Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis*  
Common Black-Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus*  
Northern Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway*  
Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*  
Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*  
Ecuadorian Ground-Dove *Columbina buckleyi*  
Pacific Parrotlet *Forpus coelestis*

One heard singing loudly along the forest trail  
One perched up next to the spoonbills!  
Along the river and flying over the roadside wetlands  
One flying high over the roadside wetlands  
A small colony seen from the boat trip along the river  
Several along the river  
Common on the roadside wetlands  
Two flew out from near the spoonbill colony  
One flew out from near the spoonbill colony  
Two along the river  
Very common on the roadside wetlands  
Very common on the roadside wetlands  
Very common on the roadside wetlands  
One along the river  
At least six in the trees near the spoonbill colony  
One seen in a small bush on the 'Canclon Lagoon', distantly  
Several groups flying over the roadside wetlands  
Very common along the roadsides  
Common  
Several seen on the roadside wetlands  
Common on posts on the roadside wetlands  
One sub-adult seen in the the mangroves along the river  
One soon on the roadside along the way back  
Common on the roadside wetlands  
Common on the roadside wetlands  
Frequent along the roadside  
The tiny parrot nesting in a bamboo pole at the farm

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Groove-billed Ani <i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>	Common along the roadside
Baron's Hermit <i>Phaethornis baroni</i>	One male lekking along the forest trail
Ecuadorian Trogon <i>Trogon mesurus</i>	A female along the forest trail
Ringed Kingfisher <i>Megaceryle torquata</i>	One along the river, and several seen along the roadside
Green Kingfisher <i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	The smaller kingfisher, seen along the river
Red-billed Scythebill <i>Campylorhamphus trochilrostris</i>	One flew past at La Flora
Streak-headed Woodcreeper <i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>	A pair at La Flora and one showing well along the forest trail
Pacific Hornero <i>Furnarius cinnamomeus</i>	A roadside bird, and at the cacao farm
Great Antshrike <i>Taraba major</i>	Heard singing loudly at La Flora
Western Slaty Antshrike <i>Thamnophilus atrinucha</i>	Heard singing loudly along the forest trail
Plain Antvireo <i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>	A male at the start of the forest trail
Jet Antbird <i>Cercomacra nigricans</i>	A male at the nest, with two eggs, along the forest trail
Southern Beardless Tyrannulet <i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>	The ultimate little brown job, singing loudly along the river
Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant <i>Lophotriccus pileatus</i>	One at La Flora
Yellow-bellied Elaenia <i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>	One along the forest trail
Pacific Royal Flycatcher <i>Onychorhynchus occidentalis</i>	One male by the bus, at the end of the forest trail
Tropical Kingbird <i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	Common roadside bird
Streaked Flycatcher <i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>	A pair at La Flora
Social Flycatcher <i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	Three at the petrol station on the way
Grey-breasted Martin <i>Progne chalybea</i>	Common along the roadside
Southern Rough-winged Swallow <i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>	The small brown swallow
Chestnut-collared Swallow <i>Petrochelidon rufocollaris</i>	Breeding under a couple of bridges along the way
Fasciated Wren <i>Campylorhynchus fasciatus</i>	A large nest and noisy birds, near the cacao farm
Superciliated Wren <i>Thryothorus superciliaris</i>	One at La Flora
Southern House Wren <i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	A couple at La Flora
Tropical Gnatcatcher <i>Poliophtila plumbea</i>	A couple at La Flora
Red-eyed Vireo <i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	At La Flora and along the forest trail
Tropical Parula <i>Parula pitaiayumi</i>	At La Flora and along the forest trail
Bananaquit <i>Coereba flaveola</i>	One at La Flora
Thick-billed Euphonia <i>Euphonia lanirostris</i>	A female at La Flora
Guira Tanager <i>Hemithraupis guira</i>	A female at La Flora (the bird we thought was a greenlet)
Blue-gray Tanager <i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	A common roadside bird, also at La Flora
White-shouldered Tanager <i>Tachyphonus luctuosus</i>	A male at the start of the forest trail
Blue-black Grosbeak <i>Cyanocompsa cyanoides</i>	A pair at a nest, near the bus at the end of the forest trail
Saffron Finch <i>Sicalis luteola</i>	A common roadside bird, also at La Flora
Variable Seedeater <i>Sporophila corvina</i>	At La Flora
Peruvian Meadowlark <i>Sturnella bellicosa</i>	Two or three in the fields: black with a bright red chest
Yellow-tailed Oriole <i>Icterus mesomelas</i>	One near the cacao farm
Scrub Blackbird <i>Dives warszewiczi</i>	Common roadside bird

### 8<sup>th</sup> May: Guayaquil

A morning spent exploring the city in the company of Mafe, Fernando's daughter, before our flights home. We climbed the Sta Ana hill, wandered along the Malecon and ended up in the park opposite the cathedral, with the incongruous sight of Green Iguanas acting as town pigeons.

Amongst the colourful plantings, the red-flowered shrub planted as a hedge all through the gardens was *Ixora coccinea*, a member of the Rubiaceae originally from southern India and Sri Lanka, commonly known as Flame of the Woods or Jungle Geranium.

Magnificent Frigatebird <i>Fregatta magnificens</i>	One circling over the Iguana Park
Striated Heron <i>Butorides striatus</i>	Two by the pond
Yellow-crowned Night Heron <i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	One adult and one juvenile along the Malecon
Black-crowned Night Heron <i>Nyctocorax nyctocorax</i>	One adult in trees by the pond
Ecuadorian Ground Dove <i>Columbina buckleyi</i>	Several pairs around
Pacific Parrotlet <i>Forpus coelestis</i>	The tiny parrot by the riverfront
Grey-cheeked Parakeet <i>Brotogeris pyrrhopterus</i>	Two small groups seen during the morning
Red-masked Parakeet <i>Aratinga erythrogenys</i>	Three flew over at the Malecon
Pacific Hornero <i>Furnarius cinnamomeus</i>	Several

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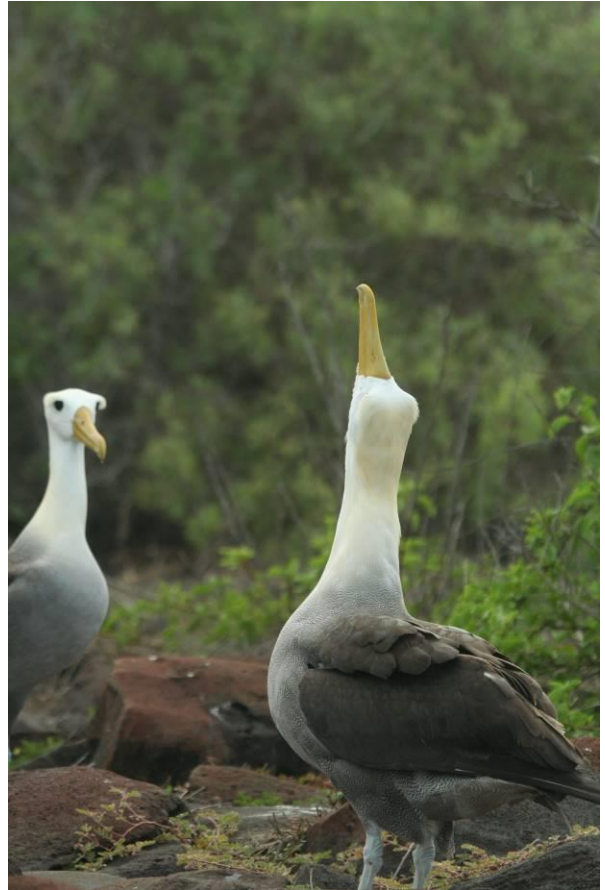
Tropical Kingbird <i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	Common
Snowy-throated Kingbird <i>Tyrannus niveigularis</i>	One from the top of the hill
Southern Beardless Tyrannulet <i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>	One at the top of the hill
Gray-breasted Martin <i>Progne chalybea</i>	The big common 'swallow'
Blue-grey Tanager <i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	Common
Orange-crowned Euphonia <i>Euphonia saturata</i>	A pair in a tree at the top of the hill
Shiny Cowbird <i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>	One or two around the top of the hill
Great-tailed Grackle <i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	Common

Green Iguana <i>Iguana iguana</i>	Common in the trees, and in Iguana Park...
Guayaquil Squirrel <i>Sciurus stramineus</i>	One in the gardens along the Malecon

A hassle-free flight and easy connection in Amsterdam, with the bags waiting for us once we'd made it through passport control, meant that all that was left was to negotiate the M25 or London Underground.



## Love lives of the Waved Albatross



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## Galapagos Species Lists

E = endemic species, e = endemic sub-species, **E** = endemic genus, N = native, I = introduced

	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>BIRDS</b> (conservation status taken from Bird Life International)																	
<b>Family Spheniscidae (Penguins)</b>																	
E	Galapagos Penguin	<i>Spheniscus mendiculus</i>					X			X							
		Currently categorised as <b>Endangered</b> , the total world population is fewer than 2000 bird. If the predicted El Niño event is forthcoming, next year is likely to be a very difficult one for this species.															
<b>Family Diomedidae (Albatrosses)</b>																	
E	Waved Albatross	<i>Phoebastria irrorata</i>				X					X						
		Currently categorised as <b>Critically Endangered</b> because it has an extremely small breeding range, essentially confined to just one island, and evidence suggests that it has experienced a substantial recent population decline. The most recent population estimate was of 34,694 adults in 2001.															
		Essentially endemic to the island of Espanola, a tiny colony of under 10 pairs occasionally breeds on Isla de la Plata, off the coast of Ecuador, and this year a single pair has been seen displaying on Isla Foca, off the coast of Peru.															
<b>Family Procellariidae (Shearwaters &amp; Petrels)</b>																	
E	Galapagos Petrel	<i>Pterodroma phaeopygia</i>				X		X			X	X					
		Currently categorised as <b>Critically Endangered</b> having suffered a rapid population decline to less than 5000 pairs. Threatened by loss of habitat (Miconia-zone vegetation) and predation by introduced rats and cats.															
E	Galapagos Shearwater	<i>Puffinus subalaris</i>				X	X	X		X	X	X		X			
<b>Family Hydrobatidae (Storm Petrels)</b>																	
e	Elliot's Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanites gracilis galapagoensis</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			
		Currently categorised as <b>Data Deficient</b> . Despite being the most frequently seen Storm-petrel during our trip, with a population estimated as 'several thousand pairs', no breeding sites have ever been found!															
	Pacific Band-rumped Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma cryptoleucura</i>				X											
e	Wedge-rumped Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma tethys tethys</i>				X	X	X		X	X	X					
<b>Family Phaethontidae (Tropicbirds)</b>																	
	Red-billed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>				X				X	X						
<b>Family Fregatidae (Frigatebirds)</b>																	
e	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens magnificens</i>			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
		A recent study has shown that the Magnificent Frigatebirds of Galapagos have been isolated from other frigatebirds for several hundred thousand years, with significant genetic and morphometric differences, suggesting that it should best be considered an endemic species, with a total population of around 1000 pairs, breeding on just four islands.															
	Great Frigatebird	<i>Fregata minor</i>				X						X					
<b>Family Sulidae (Boobies &amp; Gannets)</b>																	
e	Blue-footed Booby	<i>Sula nebouxii excisa</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			
	Nazca Booby	<i>Sula granti</i>				X		X		X	X	X		X			
	Red-footed Booby	<i>Sula sula</i>				X											
<b>Family Pelecanidae (Pelicans)</b>																	
e	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis urinator</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			
<b>Family Anatidae (Ducks, Geese &amp; Swans)</b>																	
e	White-cheeked Pintail	<i>Anas bahamensis galapaxgensis</i>			X			X	X	X							
<b>Family Ardeidae (Herons &amp; Egrets)</b>																	
e	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias cognate</i>			X		X	X	X	X		X					
	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>				X			X	X	X		X				
	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>						X				X					
E	Lava Heron	<i>Butorides sundevalli</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X			
e	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea pauper</i>				X			X	X							
<b>Family Phoenicopteridae (Flamingos)</b>																	
e	Caribbean Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopeterus ruber glyphorhynchus</i>			X			X		X							
<b>Family Accipitridae (Hawks &amp; Eagles)</b>																	
E	Galapagos Hawk	<i>Buteo galapagoensis</i>					X				X						
		Total population estimated at fewer than 500 individuals: categorised as <b>Vulnerable</b>															

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Family Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules & Coots)																		
E	Galapagos Crane	<i>Laterallus spilonotus</i>							X									
		Categorised as <b>Vulnerable</b> , and declining.																
	Paint-billed Crane	<i>Neocrex erythrops</i>							X									
	Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>							X			X						
Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers)																		
	Wandering Tattler	<i>Heteroscelus incanus</i>			X	X				X				X				
	Hudsonian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius hudsonicus</i>			X		X	X	X	X								
	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>						X		X								
Family Haematopodidae (Oystercatchers)																		
e	American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus galapagensis</i>					X	X		X	X							
Family Recurvirostridae (Avocets & Stilts)																		
	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>			X			X										
Family Charadriidae (Plovers & Lapwings)																		
	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>			X					X				X				
Family Laridae (Gulls & Terns)																		
E	Lava Gull	<i>Larus fuliginosus</i>			X	X			X			X	X	X				
		The rarest gull in the world, with a population of < 1000 adults. Categorised as <b>Vulnerable</b>																
E	Swallow-tailed Gull	<i>Creagrus furcatus</i>			X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X				
e	Common Noddy	<i>Anous stolidus galapagensis</i>			X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X				
Family Columbidae (Pigeons & Doves)																		
E	Galapagos Dove	<i>Zenaida galapagoensis</i>				X	X	X	X		X							
Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos)																		
	Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>			X				X	X		X		X				
Family Tytonidae (Barn Owls)																		
E	Galapagos Barn Owl	<i>Tyto (alba) punctatissima</i>							X									
Family Strigidae (Owls)																		
E	Galapagos Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio (flammeus) galapagoensis</i>				X			X									
Family Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)																		
E	Galapagos Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus magnirostris</i>						X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Family Mimidae (Mockingbirds)																		
E	Galapagos Mockingbird	<i>Mimus parvulus</i>			X	X	X	X	X									
		We saw three subspecies: <i>bauri</i> on Genovesa, <i>parvulus</i> on Santa Cruz and <i>personatus</i> (in the distance) on Santiago.																
E	Chatham Mockingbird	<i>Mimus melanotis</i>										X	X	X				
		Categorised as <b>Endangered</b> , with a total population of around 5000 individuals. Endemic to San Cristobal, where it is threatened by introduced predators.																
E	Hood Mockingbird	<i>Mimus macdonaldi</i>									X							
		Categorised as <b>Vulnerable</b> , with a total population of less than 3000 individuals. Endemic to Espanola and nearby Gardner-by-Espanola.																
Family Hirundinidae (Swallows & Martins)																		
	Bank Swallow (=Sand Martin)	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	2 birds hawking over the back of the beach at Punta Suarez, Espanola and 3 over the lagoon at La Loberia, San Cristobal on 6th: a scarce migrant to the islands, it breeds in North America and migrates to South America for the winter.															
	Gray-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>	The bird that came low overhead at Post Office Bay MAY have been a Grey-breasted Martin, the <b>first record</b> of this species for Galapagos. The photos are now with the experts...															
Family Parulidae (New World Warblers)																		
	Mangrove Warbler	<i>Dendroica erithachorides aureola</i>			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
		Formerly considered part of Yellow Warbler, the sedentary Central and Southern American populations have been separated as Mangrove Warbler, from the migratory North American subspecies of Yellow Warbler <i>Dendroica petechia</i> .																
Family Geospizidae (Darwin's Finches)																		
E	Large Ground Finch	<i>Geospiza magnirostris</i>				X			X									
E	Medium Ground Finch	<i>Geospiza fortis</i>			X			X	X	X		X	X	X				
E	Small Ground Finch	<i>Geospiza fuliginosa</i>					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				

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E	Sharp-beaked Ground Finch	<i>Geospiza difficilis</i>				X											
E	Cactus Finch	<i>Geospiza scandens</i>						X	X	X		X					
E	Espanola Large Cactus Finch	<i>Geospiza (conirostris) conirostris</i>									X						
E	Genovesa Large Cactus Finch	<i>Geospiza (conirostris) propinqua</i>				X											
E		The two Large Cactus Finches live on widely separated islands and have very different beaks, and should probably be considered different species															
E	Vegetarian Finch	<i>Camarhynchus crassirostris</i>							X								
E	Large Tree Finch	<i>Camarhynchus psittacula</i>															
E	Small Tree Finch	<i>Camarhynchus parvulus</i>							X								
E	Woodpecker Finch	<i>Camarhynchus pallidus</i>							X				X				
		We saw two subspecies of Woodpecker Finch: <i>pallidus</i> on Santa Cruz and <i>striatipectus</i> (with a streaky breast) on San Cristobal															
E	Highland Warbler Finch	<i>Certhidea olivacea</i>							X				X				
E	Lowland Warbler Finch	<i>Certhidea fusca</i>				X					X						
		We saw two subspecies of Lowland Warbler Finch: <i>mentalis</i> on Genovesa and <i>cinerascens</i> on Espanola															

### REPTILES

#### Family Testudinidae (Tortoises)

E	Sta Cruz Giant Tortoise	<i>Chelonoidis porteri</i>							X								
	We also saw the tortoises from Espanola ( <i>hoodensis</i> ), Santiago ( <i>darwinii</i> ) and Pinzon ( <i>ephippium</i> ) in the breeding centre at Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz and tortoises from San Cristobal ( <i>chathamensis</i> ) in the breeding centre at El Galapaguera, San Cristobal.																

#### Family Cheloniidae (Tortoises)

e	Black (Pacific Green) Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas agassizi</i>						X		X		X		X			
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#### Family Iguanidae (Iguanas)

E	Marine Iguana (Santa Cruz)	<i>Amblyrhynchus c. hassi</i>			X			X	X	X							
E	(Santiago & San Cristobal)	<i>Amblyrhynchus c. mertensi</i>					X					X		X			
E	(Genovesa)	<i>Amblyrhynchus c. nanus</i>				X											
E	(Espanola)	<i>Amblyrhynchus c. venustissimus</i>									X						
E	Land Iguana	<i>Conolophus subcristatus</i>					X	X									
	A real surprise was an adult Land Iguana on the iguana-free island of Bartholome. This individual is apparently one of two brought here in the 1950s, and now at least 55 years old!																

#### Family Tropiduridae (Tropidurid lizards)

E	Galapagos Lava Lizard	<i>Microlophus indefatigabilis</i>			X			X	X								
E	Santiago Lava Lizard	<i>Microlophus jacobii</i>					X										
	Recent studies have split Galapagos Lava Lizard into three species: <i>M. albemarlensis</i> from Isabela, <i>M. jacobii</i> from Santiago (the lizards we saw on Bartholome) and <i>M. indefatigabilis</i> from Santa Cruz, Baltra and Santa Fe.																
E	Espanola Lava Lizard	<i>Microlophus delanonis</i>									X						
E	San Cristobal Lava Lizard	<i>Microlophus bivittatus</i>										X	X	X			
E	Floreana Lava Lizard	<i>Microlophus grayi</i>								X							

#### Family Geckonidae (Geckos)

E	San Cristobal Leaf-toed Gecko	<i>Phyllodactylus leei</i>	The tiny little gecko in the hotel garden on 5 <sup>th</sup> , classified by IUCN as <b>Vulnerable</b>														
I	a gecko	<i>Phyllodactylus reissi</i>	The geckos on the roof in La Playa restaurant, 5 <sup>th</sup> and in the hotel, 6 <sup>th</sup>														

#### Family Colubridae (Colubrid snakes)

E	Espanola Snake	<i>Pseudalsophis hoodensis</i>									X						
E	San Cristobal Snake	<i>Pseudalsophis eibli</i>												X			
E	Steindachner's Snake	<i>Pseudalsophis steindachneri</i>					X										

### MAMMALS

#### Family Otariidae (Sealions)

E	Galapagos Sea Lion	<i>Zalophus wollebaeki</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			
E	Galapagos Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus galapagoensis</i>				X											

#### Family Baleopteridae (Rorqual Whales)

	Bryde's Whale	<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i>									X						
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#### Family Delphinidae (Dolphins)

	Bottle-nosed Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>					X					X					
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## **Darwin's Finches: it's all in the bill**

We did very well for Darwin's famous finches, with good sightings of 11 of the 15 species (missing Medium and Large Tree Finch, Vegetarian Finch and, of course, Mangrove Finch), ranging from the massive bills of Large Ground Finch and Espanola Large Cactus Finch to the delicate bills of the two Warbler Finches.



Sharp-beaked Ground Finch



Cactus Finch



Small Ground Finch



Espanola Large Cactus Finch



Medium Ground Finch



Genovesa Large Cactus Finch



Large Ground Finch

**the genus *Geospiza* (the black ones)**

... and the others



Highland Warbler Finch



Small Tree Finch



*mentalis* Lowland Warbler Finch



*pallidus* Woodpecker Finch



*cinerascens* Lowland Warbler Finch



*striatipectis* Woodpecker Finch

## Galapagos & Ecuador, 25<sup>th</sup> April to 9<sup>th</sup> May, Trip Report

MISCELLANEOUS: TERRESTRIAL. Various other creatures seen during the trip			
E	Galapagos Sulphur	<i>Phoebis sennae</i>	The big yellow butterfly
E	Galapagos Blue	<i>Leptodes parthasioides</i>	The small blue butterfly, seen at La Loberia, San Cristobal
E	Galapagos Long-tailed Skipper	<i>Urbanus galapagesis</i>	Dark brown butterfly, seen at Cerro Dragon
N	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Several seen during our time on the islands
E	Large Painted Locust	<i>Schistocerca melanocera</i>	The very big colourful grasshopper, eg Sullivan Bay
E	Small Painted Locust	<i>Schistocerca literosa</i>	The large patterned grasshopper, eg La Galapaguera
E	Galapagos Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa darwini</i>	The big shiny blue/black bee, with gingery males
I	Yellow Paper Wasp	<i>Polistes versicolor</i>	The common wasp, an introduced pest
N	a longhorn beetle	<i>Eburia lanigera</i>	The small longhorn beetle in the San Cristobal interpretation centre
N	Giant Longhorn Beetle	<i>Stenodontes molaris</i>	The largest beetle in Galapagos, with impressive but bite-less jaws, at the viewpoint on San Cristobal
E	Galapagos Horsefly	<i>Tabanus vittiger</i>	Biting us on the beach at Isla Lobos
N	Terrestrial Hermit Crab	<i>Coenobita compressus</i>	eg around Punta Cormoran
N	Giant Huntsman	<i>Heteropoda venatoria</i>	The large spider at La Galapaguera on San Cristobal
E	Galapagos Hawker	<i>Aeshna galapagensis</i>	Large blue dragonfly at El Junco lagoon
N	Striped Saddlebags	<i>Tramea calverti</i>	The smaller red dragonfly

FISH AND OTHER MARINE ANIMALS			
E	Sally Lightfoot Crab	<i>Grapsus grapsus</i>	Black when young, bright orange when mature
	Ghost Crab	<i>Ocypode gaudichaudii</i>	The ball-making crab living in holes on sandy beaches
	Red Spiny Lobster	<i>Panulirus penicillatus</i>	At least three big lobsters at Gardner Islet, Espanola
	Green Sea Urchin	<i>Lytechinus semituberculatus</i>	Common
	Hatpin Urchin	<i>Diadema mexicanum</i>	The sea urchin with long thin black spines
	Slate Pencil Urchin	<i>Eudicaris thouarsii</i>	The broken 'pencil' spines were very common on beaches
	Chocolate Chip Sea Star	<i>Nidorellia armata</i>	Large 'fat' star fish, yellowish brown with dark purple/brown 'chocolate chip' thorns
	Panamic Cushion Star	<i>Pentaceraster cumingi</i>	The fat purple and red star fish
	Blue Sea Star	<i>Phataria unifascialis</i>	The large, thinner-legged purple star fish
	Galapagos Twin-spot Octopus	<i>Octopus oculifer</i>	Two at Sullivan Bay
	Diamond Sting Ray	<i>Dasyatis brevis</i>	eg Punta Cormoran
	Spotted Eagle Ray	<i>Aetobatus narinari</i>	In the mangroves at Caleta Tortuga Negra
	Golden Cow-Ray	<i>Rhinoptera steindachneri</i>	A 'flock' of about 30 in the mangroves at Punta Moreno
	Smoothtail Mobula	<i>Mobula munkiana</i>	The smaller Manta
	Manta Ray	<i>Manta hamiltoni</i>	The big black and white ray jumping/flipping out at sea
E	Galapagos Shark	<i>Carcharhinus galapagensis</i>	1 past the boat at Sullivan's Bay
	Black-tipped Shark	<i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i>	Youngsters at Caleta Tortuga Negra, a big adult at Punta Cormoran
	White-tipped Reef Shark	<i>Triaenodon obesus</i>	5+ in the shallows at Bartholome (the 'other' beach); several off Pinnacle Rock; 1 past at Sullivan Bay
	Scalloped Hammerhead Shark	<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	One passed the boat on arriving at Cerro Dragon
	Flying Fish	Exocoetidae	Occasionally seen in calmer seas
	Reef Cornet-fish	<i>Fistularia commersonii</i>	Long, very thin fish, sinuous movements. eg Genovesa
	Longfin Halfbeak	<i>Hemiramphus saltator</i>	Swimming just below the surface, the long thin fish
E	Dusky Chub	<i>Girella freminvilli</i>	The round-faced, fat-lipped grey fish, eg Bartholome
E	Galapagos Mullet	<i>Mugil cephalus</i>	Plain-tailed mullet, eg Genovesa
	Peruvian Grunt	<i>Anisotremus scapularis</i>	Large grey pelagic fish with a white line down the side, at Gardner Islet
E	Black-striped Salema	<i>Xenocys jessiae</i>	The small black-striped silver fish at eg Sullivan Bay
E	White Salema	<i>Xenichthys agassizi</i>	The small silver fish in big schools, eg Sullivan Bay
	Razor Surgeonfish	<i>Prionurus latidavius</i>	The common grey fish, black mask, yellow tail
	Moorish Idol	<i>Zanclus cornutus</i>	Eg Genovesa
	Barberfish	<i>Heniochus nigricostis</i>	A pretty, dark-faced butterfly-fish at Bartholome
	King Angelfish	<i>Holocanthus passer</i>	Common: black/purple with white stripe and orange tail

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E	Galapagos Ringtail Damselfish	<i>Stegastes beebei</i>	The small dark fish with pale lipstick: tiny multicoloured juveniles
	Yellowtail Damselfish	<i>Stegastes arcifrons</i>	Dark fish with paler head, yellow tail and yellow lips
	Giant Damselfish	<i>Microspathodon dorsalis</i>	Big dark adults (eg Bartholome), juveniles with luminous blue spots (eg Genovesa)
	Bumphead Damselfish	<i>Microspathodon bairdii</i>	One big adult at Gardner Islet: like a Giant Damselfish, with a big lump on the forehead
	Panamic Sergeant Major	<i>Abudefduf troschelii</i>	Bluish fish with tiger stripe
	Scissortail (=White-spot) Chromis	<i>Chromis atrilobata</i>	Dark fish with small cream dot near tail, Sullivan Bay
	Bacalao / Golden Grouper	<i>Mycteroperca olfax</i>	Big, grey, spotty fish at Genovesa
	Flag Cabrilla	<i>Epinephelus labriformis</i>	A large, ugly, 'army camouflaged' fish in crevices, eg Puerto Egas
	Leather Bass	<i>Dermatolepis dermatolepis</i>	One or two with the big Razor Surgeonfish schools.
	Pacific Creolefish	<i>Paranthias colonus</i>	Pinky grey fish, orange tail and three silver dots along side
	Blue-chin Parrotfish	<i>Scarus ghobban</i>	The common, large blue & pink or orange & green fish.
	Bicolor Parrotfish	<i>Scarus rubroviolaceus</i>	One at Gardner Islet
	Spinster Wrasse	<i>Halichoeres nicholsi</i>	Several different coloured phases
	Cortez Rainbow Wrasse	<i>Thalassoma lucasanum</i>	Long and multicoloured
	Mexican Hogfish	<i>Bodianus diplotaenia</i>	The large lump-headed fish with 'streamers'
	Blacktip Cardinalfish	<i>Apogon atradorsatus</i>	The common, red fish hiding in large groups behind rocks
	Panamic Fanged Blenny	<i>Ophioblennius steindachneri</i>	Common: blotchy, holds territory on top of rocks
E	Galapagos Searobin	<i>Prionotus miles</i>	One being played with by a frigate, 30th
	Pacific Leopard Flounder	<i>Bothus leopardinus</i>	In the sandy shallows, Bartholome
	Coral Hawkfish	<i>Cirrhitichthys oxycephalus</i>	Small red spotty fish, on the rocks at Gardner Islet
	Concentric Puffer Fish	<i>Sphoeroides annulatus</i>	Around the boat.
E	Galapagos Puffer Fish	<i>Spoeroies angusticeps</i>	Small, long, mottled puffer fish, Puerto Egas
	Guineaowl Puffer Fish	<i>Arothron meleagris</i>	Large puffer fish, dark with white spots (Sullivan Bay) or bright yellow (Genovesa)
	Galapagos Blue Porcupine-fish	<i>Chilomycterus affinis galapagoensis</i>	Spiny 'porcupine' puffer fish, Bartholome
	Orangside Triggerfish	<i>Sufflamen verres</i>	The triggerfish with large pale yellowy side panels



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## Galapagos & Ecuador, 25<sup>th</sup> April to 9<sup>th</sup> May, Trip Report

	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	Notes
<b>FERNS: more than 140 species of fern are known from the islands...</b>			
E	Galapagos Tree Fern	<i>Cyathea weatherbyana</i>	El Junco
	Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	El Junco
	Coral Fern	<i>Dicranopteris flexuosa</i>	The many-branched fern, El Junco
		<i>Polypodium aureum var aureolatum</i>	The glaucous grey fern, Los Gemelos and El Junco
		<i>Polypodium tridens</i>	The '3 dimensional' fern, El Junco
	Hart's-tongue Fern	<i>Polypodium phyllitidis</i>	Los Gemelos
	Hairy Filmy Fern	<i>Hymenophyllum hirsutum</i>	The filmy fern in the 'fern tunnel', El Junco
		<i>Elaphoglossum sp.</i>	The small 'tongue' fern growing as an epiphyte around Los Gemelos
<b>VASCULAR PLANTS</b>			
<b>Family Acanthaceae</b>			
N	Blechum	<i>Blechum pyramidatum</i>	Highlands of San Cristobal and Santa Cruz
<b>Family Agavaceae</b>			
I	Cuban Hemp	<i>Furcraea hexapetala</i>	The tall agave-like plant in the agricultural area, San Cristobal
<b>Family Aizoaceae</b>			
E	Galapagos Carpetweed	<i>Sesuvium edmonstonei</i>	Succulent plant, coastal
N	Common Carpetweed	<i>Sesuvium portulacastrum</i>	Succulent plant, coastal, larger leaves: eg Punta Cormoran
<b>Family Amaranthaceae</b>			
N	Spiny-headed Chaff-flower	<i>Alternanthera echinocephala</i>	Common in arid zone
E	Thread-leaved Chaff-flower	<i>Alternanthera filifolia</i>	Common in arid zone
<b>Family Apocynaceae</b>			
I	Madagascar Periwinkle	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	A common roadside plant in Puerto Ayora: big pink flowers
I	Golden Trumpet	<i>Allamanda cathartica</i>	Big showy yellow flowers, urban areas
N	Pearly Berry	<i>Vallesia glabra</i>	Arid zone, Genovesa and La Loberia
<b>Family Asteraceae</b>			
E	Tree Scalesia	<i>Scalesia pedunculata</i>	Around Los Gemelos and a few in the highlands on San Cristobal
E	Heller's Scalesia	<i>Scalesia helleri var santacruzii</i>	Planted around Sta Cruz, and growing on the cliffs on Angermeyer Point: frilly leaves: endemic to Sta Cruz
E	Stewart's Scalesia	<i>Scalesia stewartii</i>	Bartholome and Sullivans Bay: endemic to Santiago
E	Long-haired Scalesia	<i>Scalesia villosa</i>	Punta Cormoran: endemic to Floreana
E	Gordilloi's Scalesia	<i>Scalesia gordilloi</i>	La Loberia: endemic to San Cristobal
E	Wing-fruited Lecocarpus (Floreana Daisy)	<i>Lecocarpus pinnatifidus</i>	Punta Cormoran, above the beach
E	Curve-spined Lecocarpus (San Cristobal Daisy)	<i>Lecocarpus darwinii</i>	Planted as an ornamental shrub around town, Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, including at the hotel
E	Macraea	<i>Macraea loricifolia</i>	Yellow-flowered, fine leaved shrub, La Galapaguera
N	Ageratum	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	Highlands: purple veined leaves
I	False Elephant's Foot	<i>Pseudelephantopus spiralis</i>	Highlands: vervain-like flower spikes
E	Pectis	<i>Pectis subsquarrosa</i>	Small yellow flowers, La Loberia
<b>Family Avicenniaceae</b>			
N	Black Mangrove	<i>Avicennia germinans</i>	eg Punta Cormoran: long leaves, pointed end, sturdy tree
<b>Family Bataceae</b>			
N	Saltwort	<i>Batis maritime</i>	The succulent saltwort, eg behind the beach at Cerro Dragon
<b>Family Bombacaceae</b>			
I	Balsa	<i>Ochroma pyramidale</i>	Agricultural zone of Sta Cruz
<b>Family Boraginaceae</b>			
E	Galapagos Cordia	<i>Cordia leucophylctis</i>	Cerro Dragon
N	Yellow Cordia	<i>Cordia lutea</i>	Yellow flowers, common in arid zone.
N	Heliotrope	<i>Heliotropium angiospermum</i>	Common arid zone plant
N	Seaside Heliotrope	<i>Heliotropium curassavicum</i>	Common coastal plant
E	Gray Matplant	<i>Tiquilia galapagoa</i>	Bartholome: lower growing, with larger flowering clusters
E	Gray Matplant	<i>Tiquilia nesiotica</i>	Bartholome: slightly more erect, with smaller clusters
N	Smooth-stemmed Tournefortia	<i>Tournefortia psilostachya</i>	Orange fruits, arid zone eg Puerto Ayora Sta Cruz
E	Rufous-haired Tournefortia	<i>Tournefortia rufo-sericea</i>	Eg Highlands, Sta Cruz
E	White-haired Tournefortia	<i>Tournefortia pubescens</i>	Eg Around Puerto Ayora, Sta Cruz

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	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	Notes
<b>Family Bromeliaceae</b>			
E	Galapagos Tillandsia	<i>Tillandsia insularis</i>	Epiphyte: Los Gemelos and El Junco
<b>Family Burseraceae</b>			
E	Galapagos Incense Tree	<i>Bursera malacophylla</i>	The dwarf Palo Santo on Baltra
N	Palo Santo (Incense Tree)	<i>Bursera graveolens</i>	A common tree of the arid zone
<b>Family Cactaceae</b>			
E	Lava Cactus	<i>Brachycereus nesioticus</i>	Genovesa, Bartholome, Sullivan Bay
E	Candelabra Cactus	<i>Jasminocereus thouarsii</i>	Arid zone: in flower and fruit on San Cristobal
E	Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia echios</i> var. <i>echios</i>	Baltra and the arid north of Santa Cruz
E	Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia echios</i> var. <i>gigantea</i>	Santa Cruz, eg around Puerto Ayora: tallest of the Opuntias
E	Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia galapageia</i> var. <i>galapageia</i>	Santiago
E	Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia helleri</i>	Genovesa: no spines
E	Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia megasperma</i> var. <i>orientalis</i>	San Cristobal
E	Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia megasperma</i> var. <i>megasperma</i>	Devil's Crown and Floreana
E	Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia galapageia</i> var. <i>profusa</i>	Rabida
<b>Family Caryophyllaceae</b>			
N	Drymaria	<i>Drymaria cordata</i>	Highlands of San Cristobal: rounded leaves
<b>Family Caesalpinaceae</b>			
I	Butterfly Flower	<i>Bauhinia monandra</i>	Urban areas: pink flowers, bilobed leaves
I	Flamboyant	<i>Delonix regia</i>	Urban areas:red flowers, mimosa-like leaves, large 'bean' pod
N	Palo Verde (=Jerusalem Thorn)	<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>	Long fine leaves, big thorns: arid zone
I	Candle Senna	<i>Senna alata</i>	Spikes of yellow flowers, Puerto Ayora
N	Flat-fruited Senna	<i>Senna pistaciifolia</i>	Roadsides & agricultural areas, Santa Cruz and San Cristobal
<b>Family Caricaceae</b>			
I	Papaya	<i>Carica papaya</i>	Common planted tree in towns and agricultural zones
<b>Family Celastraceae</b>			
N	Maytenus	<i>Maytenus octogona</i>	Coastal: eg Puerto Ayora, Genovesa
<b>Family Chenopodiaceae</b>			
N	Atriplex	<i>Atriplex peruviana</i>	Punta Suarez, where the albatrosses were nesting
<b>Family Combretaceae</b>			
N	Button Mangrove	<i>Conocarpus erectus</i>	'ordinary' leaves, rounded 'button' fruits
N	White Mangrove	<i>Laguncularia racemosa</i>	long leaves, rounded end
<b>Family Commelinaceae</b>			
N	Dayflower	<i>Commelina diffusa</i>	Highlands of Sta Cruz and San Cristobal. Pale blue flowers
<b>Family Convolvulaceae</b>			
N	Beach Morning Glory	<i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i>	Broad round leaves, purple flower, on the beach eg La Loberia
N	Pink Morning Glory	<i>Ipomoea triloba</i>	La Loberia
I	Blue Morning Glory	<i>Ipomoea nil</i>	La Loberia
E	Lava Morning Glory	<i>Ipomoea habeliana</i>	eg Genovesa, Espanola
N	Purple Evolvulus	<i>Evolvulus convolvuloides</i>	Small blue-flowered bind weed, La Loberia
<b>Family Cucurbitaceae</b>			
I	Hedgehog Gourd	<i>Cucumis dipsaceus</i>	San Cristobal urban areas: round leaves, spiny 'gourd'
I	Bitter Melon	<i>Mormordica charantia</i>	San Cristobal urban areas: palmate leaves, orange 'gourd' with red seeds
<b>Family Euphorbiaceae</b>			
E	Chamaesyce	<i>Chamaesyce amplexicaulis</i>	Common plant of the arid zone
I	Garden Croton	<i>Codiaeum variegatum</i>	Puerto Ayora & Bella Vista
E	Galapagos Croton	<i>Croton scouleri</i>	Very common plant of the arid zone
N	Poison Apple	<i>Hippomane mancinella</i>	Common in the arid zone: eg Cerro Dragon, La Galapaguera
I	Poinsettia	<i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i>	In the garden at La Manabita
I	Castor Bean	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	San Cristobal urban areas
<b>Family Fabaceae</b>			
N	Matazarno	<i>Piscidia carthagenensis</i>	Arid zone on San Cristobal
I	Flame Tree	<i>Erythrina velutina</i>	The living fenceposts, agricultural areas
N	Tick Trefoil	<i>Desmodium incanum</i>	The pink 'spiked' pea, with sticky seeds

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	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	Notes
<b>Family Goodeniaceae</b>			
N	Inkberry	<i>Scaevola plumieri</i>	Amongst the turtle nests, Punta Cormoran
<b>Family Hypoxidaceae</b>			
N	Yellow Star-grass	<i>Hypoxis decumbens</i>	Small yellow 'lily', El Junco
<b>Family Iridaceae</b>			
N	Annual Blue-eyed Grass	<i>Sisyrinchium micranthum</i>	The small lilac 'lily', El Junco
<b>Family Lamiaceae</b>			
I	Hyptis	<i>Hyptis rhomboidea</i>	Dense round flower heads, El Junco
<b>Family Lozaceae</b>			
N	Stickyleaf	<i>Mentzelia aspera</i>	The interpretation centre, Puerto Baquerizo Moreno
<b>Family Malvaceae</b>			
E	Darwin's Cotton	<i>Gossypium darwinii</i>	Common in the arid zone, eg Cerro Dragon
I	Chinese Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	Agricultural areas and Puerto Ayora, Sta Cruz
I	Chinese Lantern	<i>Hibiscus schizopetalus</i>	Puerto Ayora
I	Sida	<i>Sida ciliaris</i>	La Loberia, San Cristobal: pinky flowers
<b>Family Melastomataceae</b>			
E	Galapagos Miconia	<i>Miconia robinsoniana</i>	El Junco, San Cristobal
<b>Family Meliaceae</b>			
I	Spanish Cedar	<i>Cedrela odorata</i>	Agricultural zone: the 'Ailanthus'-like leaves
<b>Family Mimosaceae</b>			
N	Mesquite	<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>	Arid zone
E	Galapagos Acacia	<i>Acacia rorudiana</i>	Arid zone
I		<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>	The white-flowered acacia, San Cristobal
<b>Family Molluginaceae</b>			
E	Mollugo	<i>Mollugo flavescens</i>	The pioneer plant on the lava at Sullivan Bay.
<b>Family Musaceae</b>			
I	Banana	<i>Musa X paradisiaca</i>	Originated in South East Asia as a hybrid between M. acuminata and M. balbisiana.
<b>Family Myrtaceae</b>			
E	Galapagos Guava	<i>Psidium galapageium</i>	Los Gemelos: iron wood
I	Guava	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	Agricultural areas of Sta Cruz and San Cristobal. Very invasive
I	Rose Apple (=Norwegian Pear)	<i>Syzygium jambos</i>	Agricultural areas of San Cristobal
I	Malay Apple	<i>Syzygium malaccense</i>	The fruit Ernesto referred to as 'plum', San Cristobal
<b>Family Nolanaceae</b>			
E	Galapagos Clubleaf	<i>Nolana galapagensis</i>	Puerto Villamil: shrub w/ succulent leaves behind the beach
<b>Family Nyctaginaceae</b>			
N	Boerhaavia	<i>Boerhaavia caribaea</i>	Larger dark purple flowers: eg Puerto Ayora
N	Wartclub	<i>Commicarpus tuberosus</i>	Medium pinky flowers
N	Saltbush	<i>Cryptocarpus pyramidalis</i>	Very common in the arid zone: used for nest building by frigates and boobies on Genovesa
<b>Family Onagraceae</b>			
N	False Loosestrife	<i>Ludwigia leptocarpa</i>	Hillsides below El Junco: five petals
N		<i>Ludwigia erecta</i>	In the wetlands around El Junco: four petals
<b>Family Orchidaceae</b>			
E	Buttonhole Orchid	<i>Epidendrum spicatum</i>	Epiphyte, highlands of Sta Cruz eg Los Gemelos
<b>Family Passifloraceae</b>			
E	Colinvaux's Passion-flower	<i>Passiflora colinvauxii</i>	Highlands of Sta Cruz: cats ear leaf
I	Passion Fruit	<i>Passiflora edulis</i>	Highlands of Sta Cruz and San Cristobal
N	Running Pop	<i>Passiflora foetida</i>	Arid zone, Sta Cruz and San Cristobal
<b>Family Piperaceae</b>			
I	Pothomorphe	<i>Pothomorphe peltata</i>	The large round leaves, agricultural areas, Sta Cruz
E	Galapagos Peperomia	<i>Peperomia galapagensis</i>	Epiphyte, highlands of Sta Cruz
<b>Family Plantaginaceae</b>			
I	Common Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>	Highlands: Sta Cruz and San Cristobal
<b>Family Plumbaginaceae</b>			
N	White Leadwort	<i>Plumbago scandens</i>	Punta Cormoran: deep red stems and leaves



## Galapagos & Ecuador, 25<sup>th</sup> April to 9<sup>th</sup> May, Trip Report

	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	Notes
<b>Family Poaceae (amongst many others)</b>			
I	Bamboo	<i>Bambusa guadua</i>	Agricultural areas, Sta Cruz
I	Elephant Grass	<i>Pennisetum purpureum</i>	Agricultural areas, Sta Cruz
<b>Family Polygonaceae</b>			
N	Knotweed	<i>Polygonum opelousanum</i>	The Water Pepper at El Junco
<b>Family Portulacaceae</b>			
E	Galapagos Rock Purslane	<i>Calandrinia galapagosa</i>	The white flowered shrub at the interpretation centre, Puerto Baquerizo Moreno
N	Common Purslane	<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	Eg La Loberia
<b>Family Rhamnaceae</b>			
E	Spiny Bush	<i>Scutia spicata</i>	Common, spiny bush
<b>Family Rhizophoraceae</b>			
N	Red Mangrove	<i>Rhizophora mangle</i>	large rubbery leaves. Eg Caleta Tortuga Negra
<b>Family Rosaceae</b>			
I	Hill Raspberry	<i>Rubus niveus</i>	Invasive weed, highlands of Sta Cruz and San Cristobal
<b>Family Rubiaceae</b>			
N	Milkberry	<i>Chiococca alba</i>	Around Los Gemelos, Sta Cruz
I	Quinine Tree	<i>Cinchona succirubra</i>	Invasive weed, highlands of Sta Cruz
I	Coffee	<i>Coffea arabica</i>	Agricultural areas, Sta Cruz
I	Buttonweed	<i>Diodia radula</i>	Highlands, Sta Cruz and San Cristobal
<b>Family Rutaceae</b>			
N	Cat's Claw	<i>Zanthoxylum fagara</i>	In highlands of Sta Cruz & San Cristobal: covered in epiphytes
<b>Family Sapindaceae</b>			
N	Heartseed	<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i>	La Galapaguera, San Cristobal
<b>Family Solanaceae</b>			
I	Angel's Trumpet	<i>Brugmansia candida</i>	Agricultural areas, Sta Cruz & San Cristobal
E	Galapagos Shore Petunia	<i>Exedonius miersii</i>	eg behind the beach at Cerro Dragon
I	Garden Tomato	<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i>	Roadsides, San Cristobal
I	Naranjilla	<i>Solanum quitoense</i>	eg growing in La Manabita's garden
<b>Family Sterculiaceae</b>			
N	Waltheria	<i>Waltheria ovata</i>	Common in arid zone: glaucous leaves and yellow flowers.
<b>Family Verbenaceae</b>			
E	Galapagos Lantana	<i>Lantana peduncularis</i>	Small white lantana, arid zone
I	Multicoloured Lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i>	Eg highlands of San Cristobal
N	Glorybower	<i>Clerodendrum molle</i>	Highlands: Sta Cruz, San Cristobal
I	Philippine Clerodendrum	<i>Clerodendrum philippinum</i>	The showy plant in the garden at 'Calgary', San Cristobal
I	False Vervain	<i>Stachytarpheta cayennensis</i>	Highlands: Sta Cruz, San Cristobal
<b>Family Viscaceae</b>			
E	Galapagos Mistletoe	<i>Phoradendron henslowii</i>	on Galapagos Croton, La Galapaguera, San Cristobal
<b>Family Zygophyllaceae</b>			
N	Puncture Weed	<i>Tribulus cistoides</i>	Yellow flowers, spiny fruits, common in the arid zone. Like Silverweed