



## Journey to the Galapagos Species List – November 10 -17, 2019

*With mainland Ecuador Puenbo/Antisana National Park pre-extension November 9, 2019*

Guide Dan Donaldson, with local guides Antonio and Gustavo (in Galapagos), and 19 participants: Becky, Tom and Nancy, Julianne, Cynthia, John and Kathy L, Kathy P, Ed and Sil, Jenise, Ram and Sudha, Jim and Brenda, Kitty, Jean, Carol, and Deb.

### GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

(HO)= Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only

(E)= Galapagos Endemic

(I)=introduced

### **BIRDS (45 species recorded, of which 0 were heard only):**

#### **DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae (1)**

**White-cheeked Pintail** *Anas bahamensis*— Several seen on Punta Cormorant Pond on Floreana with American Flamingos and again on Santa Cruz at El Chato Ranch (Giant Tortoise Ranch)

#### **FLAMINGOS: Phoenicopteridae (1)**

**American Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber*— 37, Small groups, viewed from across the pond, making up 37 or more individuals seen at Punta Cormorant. Early breeding displays by several individuals consisting of coordinated marching and wing extensions were observed.

#### **PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (1)**

**Galapagos Dove** *Zenaida galapagoensis* (E)— 8, Observed on several days including on the beach at Punta Pitt and again on the hike at Punta Suarez.

#### **CUCKOOS: Cuculidae (1)**

**Smooth-billed Ani** *Crotophaga ani* (I)— 13, First seen on the drive into El Chato Ranch to view the giant tortoises, this species was introduced to the Galapagos to preen ticks from cattle. Their effectiveness at this task is questionable.

#### **STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (1)**

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus*— 1, This individual was spotted feeding in a small mangrove cove on Punta Cormorant Pond.

#### **OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae (1)**

**American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus*— 2, Just two individuals seen. One at Punta Suarez along the nearly vertical lava shoreline cliffs with Sally Lightfoot crabs, and seen again at near the beach at Bartolome.

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### **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (1)**

**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus*—6, These plovers were seen on many days, but most notably Cerro Brujo where 4 individuals were spotted in small tide pools in the volcanic rock formations that surround the beach.

### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (7)**

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*—16+, small flocks of 3-4 birds seen throughout the week flying by our boat, most likely flying from island to island. None seen on land.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*—10, We saw turnstones at on 3 different days but most abundantly in a small back-beach pool feeding alongside least sandpipers.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*—2, Only two seen on the trip. We were lucky enough to have a pair stop by the beach at Post Office Bay near the Post Office (mailbox barrel) trailhead.

**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*—5, 2 seen working the rocky surf along the Cathedral Cliffs at Cerra Brujo, and 3 more individual seen at Cormorant Pond, while observing American Flamingos.

**Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus*—1, One individual seen by one half of the group on the beach at Cerra Brujo

**Phalarope spp.** *Phalaropus spp.*— 100s, Many hundreds of Phalarope spp. observed in open water from deck of ship. Never in range of binoculars to identify down to species.

**Wandering Tattler** *Tringa incana*— 7, Seen almost daily working tide pools along rocky shorelines.

### **GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (4)**

**Swallow-tailed Gull** *Creagrus furcatus*—200+, Seen daily and observed at very close range. Noted for stopping every 30 seconds or so to look down at their bright coral colored feet. Many pictures of this bird taken by all.

**Franklin's Gull** *Leucophaeus pipixcan*— 20+, Unusual visitors, several flocks were observed around busy ports and marinas.

**Lava Gull** *Leucophaeus fuliginosus* (E)—40+, Said to be the rarest gull in the world. This is a beautiful dark gray gull related to the prolific Laughing Gull.

**Brown Noddy** *Anous stolidus*—150+, Many seen over the course of the week in open water and nesting on vertical cliffs. Most were seen along the North Seymour breeding grounds.

### **TROPICBIRDS: Phaethontidae (1)**

**Red-billed Tropicbird** *Phaethon aethereus*—100+, Seen daily, but oh that first sighting was fantastic! Bright, beautiful and graceful, sightings of these birds always pleased the group.

### **PENGUINS: Spheniscidae (1)**

**Galapagos Penguin** *Spheniscus mendiculus* (E)— 8, Why yes, we do have penguins! We were excited to see our first pair swimming in the surf at Punta Cormorant, we later had them feeding very close to us while snorkeling at Bartolome Island's Pinnacle Rock. Many pictures and video were taken underwater and by those on the panga tours.

### **ALBATROSSES: Diomedidae (1)**

**Waved Albatross** *Phoebastria irrorata*—40+, Observed nesting, courting and in the air on Espanola. We were lucky enough to have a close pair courting in front our group, bill-clicking, strutting, and wing tilting.

### **SOUTHERN STORM-PETRELS: Oceanitidae (1)**

**Elliot's Storm-Petrel** *Oceanites gracilis*—100+, Elliot's Storm Petrels dancing on the water were a constant presence around our boat during daylight hours. A lifer for many that thought they would have been larger.

### **PETRELS AND SHEARWATERS: Procellariidae (1)**

**Galapagos Shearwater** *Puffinus subalaris*—500+, Seen daily in small groups by the boat when in open water. Seen by the hundreds breeding along the cliffs of South Plaza.

### **FRIGATEBIRDS: Fregatidae (2)**

**Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens*— 150+, Seen daily, including being photographed at very close range kiting off our ship. Observed in large numbers on their nesting grounds with chicks, and few males still displaying their inflated red throat pouches.

**Great Frigatebird** *Fregata minor*— 250+ Another large and beautiful bird, easily mistaken for Magnificent. Observed everyday on the wing and terrific up-close views of both adults and juveniles on the North Seymour breeding grounds.

### **GANNETS AND BOOBIES: Sulidae (3)**

**Nazca Booby** *Sula granti*— 200+ This striking black and white bird was observed in flight daily and on the nest in largest numbers at Punta Suarez .

**Blue-footed Booby** *Sula nebouxii*— 150+, Always a group favorite, B-f Booby was seen every day in flight and up close on most islands. We were lucky enough to catch several pairs displaying on nesting sites close enough to be observed.

**Red-footed Booby** *Sula sula*— 122, Not nearly as common in the Galapagos, but Red-footeds were seen a couple days, and in large numbers nesting at Punta Suarez.

### **PELICANS: Pelecanidae (1)**

**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis*—100+ Ever present and observed every day in good numbers. Large numbers were observed near Bartolome and Baltra Islands.

### **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (4)**

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*— 6, Our old friend GBH was observed in several locations on the islands. Single birds working tide pools along rocky shores. The Galapagos variety is an endemic subspecies, *A. h. cognata*.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*— 40+, Large numbers seen on Santa Cruz on drive to and at El Chato Tortoise Ranch.

**Striated (Lava) Heron** *Butorides virescens sundevalli* (E) — 6, Seen daily working tide pools, often at our landing sites for shore excursions.

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea*— 2 individuals of this crab-eating specialist observed; one on the beach at Punta Suarez and one on Floreana.

### **HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (1)**

**Galapagos Hawk** *Buteo galapagoensis* (E)— 4, We had wonderful looks at the only hawk in the Galapagos at Gardner Bay. Seen earlier soaring overhead when landing in our pangas. Observed again later in the day, we had stunning looks (and photographs) as we watched one eating a lava lizard while perched on a nearby shrub.

### **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (1)**

**Galapagos Flycatcher** *Myiarchus magnirostris* (E)—10, This small tyrant flycatcher was seen daily hawking for insects from low branches on nearly every island that had vegetation.

### **MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (3)**

**Galapagos Mockingbird** *Mimus parvulus* (E)--- 8, This Mockingbird is perhaps the most widespread of the remaining Mockers in the Galapagos. We encountered it in Post Office Bay and Beach, Santa Cruz, and during our panga ride in Caleta Tortuga Negra. Recent DNA work may see this species split into 3 distinct species in the near future.

**Espanola Mockingbird** *Mimus macdonaldi* (E)—23, Many birds of this species were seen on Espanola at Punta Suarez and on the beach as we waited for our pangas to return.

**San Cristobal Mockingbird** *Mimus melanotis* (E)—5, Seen only briefly, and at a distance, on our first day at San

Cristobal, a pair were observed and photographed at close range on our return visit to the Island.

### **NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (1)**

**Yellow (Galapagos) Warbler** *Setophaga petechia aureola* (E) –53, This familiar warbler was seen at nearly every excursion on land. The colorful warbler with its rusty forehead is a resident here and is distinct from the species that migrate to North America and don't have the rusty foreheads.

### **TANAGERS AND ALLIES: Thraupidae (6)**

**Green Warbler-Finch** *Certhidea olivacea* (E) — 4, Observed only on Santa Cruz, in the more forested areas near the Los Gemelos sinkholes. This, the smallest of the Darwin Finches, was originally thought to be a true warbler due to its small size, thin bill, and light-colored plumage.

**Gray Warbler-Finch** *Certhidea fusca* (E) — 1, Observed only once with Galapagos Flycatcher on Espanola—Punta Suarez in brushy habitat near trail.

**Small Ground-Finch** *Geospiza fuliginosa* (E)--60+, Seen on nearly every land excursion. Small dark and nearly tailless in flight, this little finch seems to fill the house sparrow niche in developed areas.

**Large Ground-Finch** *Geospiza magnirostris* (E)--50+, Observed on several islands, often in flocks with smaller ground finches, most were seen during our panga ride in Caleta Tortuga Negra on Santa Cruz, moving in large flocks along the mangroves.

**Common Cactus-Finch** *Geospiza scandens* (E) –10, Best observed on San Cristobal Punta Pitt area.

**Medium Ground-Finch** *Geospiza fortis* (E) – Viewed on Floreana, Punta Comorant along hillside trail.

## **Mammals (3 species)**

**Galapagos Sea Lion** *Zalophus wollebaeki*—Seen and heard every day, including while snorkeling. This is considered an endemic Galapagos subspecies of the California Sea Lion.

**Galapagos Fur Seal** *Arctocephalus galapagoensis*— Only one observed by half the group from a panga.

**Eastern Red Bat** *Lasiurus borealis*- *Best Guess* - One observed flying at the marina on San Cristobal as we boarded our pangas.

## **Reptiles (8 species)**

**Santa Cruz Giant Tortoise** *Chelonoidis porteri*— 60+, observed on the drive to and at El Chato Tortoise Reserve. Likely the most endangered species we observed on this trip.

**Green Sea Turtle** *Chelonia mydas*—80+, Observed daily from ship, pangas, shore, and at close quarters while snorkeling.

**Marine Iguana** *Amblyrhynchus cristatus*— 100+ Hundreds of these large prehistoric looking iguanas were seen nearly every day and most every island area that had rocky basaltic shorelines. We often encountered them sunning themselves in the walking paths and had to be very careful not to step on the smaller more camouflaged individuals.

**Galapagos Land Iguana** *Conolophus subcristatus*— Seen first in captivity at the Darwin Center, many were seen in great numbers on North Seymore Island. Many were seen feeding on Opuntia (Prickly Pear Cactus) at very close range. Additional individuals found in amongst the Frigatebird breeding colonies.

**Espanola Lava Lizard** *Microlophus delanonis*— 20+, Many great looks and photographs of cryptic males and red-faced females on the island of Espanola. This species is found on other Galapagos Islands, but is the only lava lizard found on Espanola.

**Galapagos Lava Lizard** *Microlophus albemarlensis*—24, This species was observed on several islands, including on Punta Suarez where we observed one being eaten by a Galapagos Hawk.

**San Cristobal Lava Lizard** *Microlophus bivittatus*—11, The only lizard occurring on San Cristobal Island with slight variations in size and scale patterns from the other Lava Lizards.

**Floreana Lava Lizard** *Microlophus grayii*— 4, The only lizard occurring on Floreana and its nearby islets. This species has a bit of a crest and distinctive black throat.

### **Fish species and allies observed while snorkeling and from Panga rides (37 species)**

#### **Common Names Only and in no particular order:**

Spinster Wrasse	Chocolate Chip Sea Star
Mexican Hogfish	Octopus Sp.
Giant Damsel	Chub
Long-banded Blenny	Steamer Hogfish
Razor Surgeonfish	White-tipped Reef Shark
Barber Fish	Black-tipped Reef Shark
Three-banded Butterfly	Hammerhead Shark
King Angel	Sardines
Bluefin Parrot	Cardinal Fish
Rainbow Wrasse	Moreish Idol
Flag Cabrilla	Giant Damsel
Concentric Puffer	Spotted Eagle Ray
Coronet Fish	Manta Ray
Large-scaled Puffer	Tiger Snake Eel
Flounder Species	Spotted Porcupine Fish
Golden Trigger	Marbled Ray
Guineafowl Puffer	
Blue-striped Snapper	
Sargent Major	
Wahoo	
Bonito Tuna	

### **MAINLAND ECUADOR ANTISANA PRE-EXTENSION**

(HO)= Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only

(I)=introduced

### **BIRDS (41 species seen and recorded on day trip to Antisana):**

#### **DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae (3)**

**Yellow-billed Pintail** *Anas georgica*—4

**Andean Teal** *Anas andium*—6

**Andean Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura ferruginea*—6

#### **GREBES: Podicipedidae (1)**

**Silvery Grebe** *Podiceps occipitalis*—1

#### **PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (2)**

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* (I)—

**Eared Dove** *Zenaida auriculata*—4

#### **HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (7)**

**Sparkling Violetear** *Colibri coruscans*—1

Ecuadorian Hillstar *Oreotrochilus chimborazo*—4  
Black-tailed Trainbearer *Lesbia victoriae*—3  
Tyrian Metaltail *Metallura tyrianthina*—6  
Shining Sunbeam *Aglaeactis cupripennis*—8  
Great Sapphirewing *Pterphanes cyanopterus*—2  
Giant Hummingbird *Patagona gigas*—2

**RAILS, COOTS, AND ALLIES: Rallidae (1)**

Slate-colored Coot *Fulica ardesiaca*—6

**PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (1)**

Andean Lapwing *Vanellus resplendens*—3

**GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (1)**

Andean Gull *Chroicocephalus serranus*—100

**IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (1)**

Black-faced Ibis *Theristicus melanopis*—2

**NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (2)**

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*—6

Andean Condor *Vulture gryphus*— 12

**HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (2)**

Variable Hawk *Geranoaetus polyosoma*— 9

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle *Geranoaetus melanoleucus*—3

**Owls: Bubo**

Great Horned-1

**FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (1)**

Carunculated Caracara *Phalcoboenus carunculatus*—12

**OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS: Furnariidae (4)**

Stout-billed Cinclodes *Cinclodes excelsior*—5

Bar-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes fuscus*-4

Many-striped Canastero *Asthenes flammulata*—4

Streak-backed Canastero *Asthenes wyatti*—1

**TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (2)**

Paramo Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola alpina*- 1

Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca fumicolor*—1

**SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (2)**

Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*—23

Brown-bellied Swallow *Orochelidon murina*—60

**WRENS: Troglodytidae (1)**

Sedge/Grass Wren *Cistothorus platensis*—2

**THRUSHES: Turdidae (1)**

Great Thrush *Turdus fuscaster*—8

**FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (2)**

Hooded Siskin *Spinus magellanicus*—6

Rufous-naped Brush Finch *Atlapetes latinuchus*-2

**NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Emberizidae (1)**

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*—8

**CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (1)**

Southern Yellow Grosbeak *Pheucticus chrysogaster*—2

**TANAGERS AND ALLIES: Thraupidae (4)**

Cinereous Conebill *Conirostrum cinereum*—2

Black Flowerpiercer *Diglossa humeralis*—17

Plumbeous Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus plebejus*—8

Plain-colored Seedeater *Catamenia inornata*—2