

# Journeys to the Galapagos | Species List

February 6 – 13, 2022 w/ Antisana Pre-Tour Feb. 5, 2022



Compiled by Dan Donaldson

**Guide Dan Donaldson, with local guides Carolina and Diego (in Galapagos), and 12 participants: Dawn and Jim, Kim and Will, John and Susan, Edie, Judith, Brenda, Nan, and Gerald and Marjorie.**

## Galapagos Islands

Our February 2022 journey along the northern Galapagos Islands route was an incredible experience with perfect weather the entire trip and incredible birding at every destination. Snorkeling was delightful with plenty of aquatic wildlife and include terrific looks at sea turtles, marine iguanas, flightless cormorants, 30 species of reef fish, and penguins. This trip even included an unscheduled stop at Bartolome!—a real bonus that is normally only enjoyed by those on the southern route.

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

(E) = Galapagos Endemic

(I) = Introduced

### **BIRDS (60 species recorded, of which 0 were heard only):**

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

**White-cheeked Pintail** *Anas bahamensis*— 8, Several seen on Santa Cruz island at Cerro Dragon and again at very close range at Rancho Primicias Tortoise Ranch.

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

**American Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber*— 7, small groups viewed on Santa Cruz Island at Las Bachas Beach with our best looks and photographs at Cerro Dragon. These groups were very relaxed and spent most of their time resting near the shoreline of the ponds.

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

**Galapagos Dove** *Zenaida galapagoensis* (E)— 19, These striking ground doves were observed nearly everyday on our trip. Many were seen in the scrub forest flats above Genovesa's breeding bird cliffs.

#### **CUCKOOS: Cuculidae (2)**

**Smooth-billed Ani** *Crotophaga ani* (I)— 25, an introduced species that continues to spread throughout the islands. Our group located a previously undocumented presence on Genovesa Island. Our guides took notes and photos, hoping that these birds can be removed from this island in the near future. More established populations were seen on Santa Cruz, Isabela, and Satiago Islands.

**Dark-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus melacortphus*— 1, We heard this bird call several times and successfully located it for some good looks.

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

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus*— 2, We saw only one bird on each of the two ponds we visited on Santa Cruz – Las Bachas Beach and Cerro Dragon.

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

**American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus*— 7, Seen on both Fernandia and Santiago Islands, colorful and boisterous oystercatchers are always a treat.

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

**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus*—12, These plovers were seen on many days, but most notably at Puerto Egas on Santiago, where 8 individuals worked the small tide pools in the volcanic rock formations that surround the beach.

### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (8)**

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*—33+, Whimbrels were seen working lava tide pools and mudflats nearly every day of the trip. But our best observation was a large flock of 20 that passed very near our boat near Roca Leon Dormido.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*—19, We saw turnstones on several days but most abundantly on the beaches right in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno Bay where we began our Galapagos experience.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*—1, Only one sanderling for our entire trip. Never in the Galapagos great numbers, the absence of sanderlings running in the surf was noticeable.

**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*—5, One small flock of Least Sandpipers were found on Sant Cruz – Cerro Dragon. A difficult ID at a distance, photographs showing their light yellow legs confirmed this siting.

**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus* – 650- Observed in open water while traversing the straight between Isabela and Fernandina islands.

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius*—1, One individual seen in the lava rock tide pools at Puerto Egas.

**Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa Solitaria* – 1, We found this Solitary Sandpiper the next day after the Spotted. Interesting to have these similar species seen practically together.

**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*— 8, Seen almost daily working tide pools along rocky shorelines around most islands.

### **GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (5)**

**Swallow-tailed Gull** *Creagrus furcatus*—200+, This is the worlds only nocturnal feeding gull and it has extra large eyes to help in this task. Seen daily and observed at very close range especially at Genovesa breeding cliffs. When standing, this species is noted for stopping every 30 seconds or so to look down at their bright coral colored feet. Many pictures of this beautiful gull taken by all.

**Franklin's Gull** *Leucophaeus pipixcan*— 1, Only one confirmed siting of these unusual visitors this time of year.

**Lava Gull** *Leucophaeus fuliginosus* (E)—39+, Said to be the rarest gull in the world. This is a beautiful dark gray gull related to the prolific Laughing Gull that also occurs in the Galapagos.

**Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla*—39+, a prolific species, this gull is common on the Atlantic and gulf coasts in North America, but it occurs in both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of South America.

**Brown Noddy** *Anous stolidus*—60+, Many seen over the course of the week in open water and nesting on vertical cliffs. Most were seen along the Tagus Cove breeding grounds on Isabela Island.

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

**Red-billed Tropicbird** *Phaethon aethereus*—20+, Seen on several occasions but most notably on and around Genovesa Island. The first siting of bright, beautiful and graceful tropic birds is always exciting and a crowd pleaser. We were lucky enough to find a couple nesting in lava tubes very near the paths of the island.

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

**Galapagos Penguin** *Spheniscus mendiculus* (E)— 20+, Why yes, we do have penguins! We were so excited to see our first Galapagos Penguins at Elizabeth Bay on Isabela. Our panga outing at nearby Tagus Cove that afternoon provided incredible close up encounters, including breeding and colony behaviors.

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

**Elliot's Storm-Petrel** *Oceanites gracilis*—10+ recorded but many more seen. Elliot's Storm Petrels dancing on the water behind our boat was a wonderful experience to watch. A lifer for many that thought they would have been larger.

**Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel** *Hydrobates tethys*—3200+, Wedge-rumped Storm Petrels had recently arrived at the breeding bird cliffs on Genovesa, much to the delight of the Short-eared Owls that depend on them as a prey species during their coninsiding breeding season

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

**Galapagos Shearwater** *Puffinus subalaris*—150+, Seen daily in small groups by the boat when in open water. Seen by the hundreds breeding along the cliffs of Genovesa.

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

**Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens*— 160+, 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*— 60+ Another large and beautiful bird, easily mistaken for Magnificent. Observed every day 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*— 400+ This striking black and white Booby was observed in flight daily and on the nest in largest numbers at Genovesa where we observed chicks in ages ranging from a couple days old to nearly adult sized.

**Blue-footed Booby** *Sula nebouxii*— 93+, Always a group favorite, B-f Booby was seen every day in flight, nesting, and resting along shorelines. We often observed them diving for fish along our pangas or in the surf at our beach landings. We were lucky enough to catch several pairs displaying on nesting sites close enough to be observed. Probably our most photographed bird of the trip.

**Red-footed Booby** *Sula sula*— 300, Not nearly as common over all in the Galapagos, but Red-footeds were seen in great numbers on their breeding grounds in Genovesa.

### **CORMORANTS: Suliformes (1)**

**Flightless Cormorant** *Nannoperum harrisi* — 16 recorded but many more observed, including underwater while snorkeling. Punta Espinoza on Fernandia Island was our first encounter. Their coloration matching perfectly with the black lava flows of the shoreline where they breed and rest. While clumsy and fumbling on land, underwater they were the quickest and most agile creature on the reef.

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

**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis*—50+ Ever present and observed every day in good numbers flying and resting along nearly every shoreline.

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

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*— 2, Only 2 observations of our old friend GBH was observed 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*— 8+, fewer seen on this trip, but still observed well on Santa Cruz on drive to and at Rancho Primicias tortoise ranch.

**Striated (Lava) Heron** *Butorides virescens sundevalli* (E) — 6, Recently lumped back into Striated Heron (hopefully temporary), Lava Herons were seen at several locations working rocky shorelines and tide pools. They are especially accustomed to Porto Moreno and can be seen all along the shoreline and harbor.

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea*— 6, Yellow-crowneds were a special treat on this trop. We witnessed a beautiful sunning behavior, presumably for parasite maintenance, that nobody in the group had seen before. A crab-eating specialist, individuals of this crab-eating specialist were observed feeding on the plentiful sally lightfoot crabs.

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

**Galapagos Hawk** *Buteo galapagoensis* (E)— 4, We had wonderful looks at the only hawk in the Galapagos in the morning mist at Punta Espinoza on Fernandia Island. They were observed resting on a small shrub growing in the lava flow near the shoreline. They were also seen soaring on Isabela Island where they had a brief encounter with a Peregrine Falcon.

#### **OWLS: Strigiformes (2)**

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba* —2, - Two individuals observed and photographed roosting in a concrete goat shed near Rancho Primicias. The bus driver we hired for the day, knew of their occasional presence there and recommended that we check it out.

**Galapagos Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus galapagoensis* —4, With no competition from Galapagos Hawks on Genovesa Island, these owls boldly hunt by day. Individual were located resting in lava tunnels and actively hunting along cliff nesting colonies. One individual passed within 2 feet of members of our group, then quickly dove into a nearby lava tunnel. It is at this location that we observed and photographed a Genovesa Ground Finch gleaning flesh from a petrel wing, presumably discarded by an owl.

#### **FALCONS: Falconidae (1)**

**Peregrine Falcon** *falco peregrines* -1, one individual was briefly seen kiting along Isla Rabida. It remained in the area for a minute or two, then quickly glided south along the shoreline out of site.

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

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

**Brujo Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus Nanus* (E) — 1, This species has been broken out from the Vermillion Flycatcher due to its isolation in the Galapagos. We were very lucky to view and photograph a female while we were dodging tortoises along our walking trail at Urbina Bay-Isabela Island.

#### **MARTINS AND SWALLOWS: Hirundinidae (1)**

**Galapagos Martin** *Progne modesta* —3, three individuals we observed flying overhead while we visited the Flightless Cormorants at Punta Espinoza on Fernandia.

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

**Galapagos Mockingbird** *Mimus parvulus* (E)--- 58, Prolific and bold, this Mockingbird is the most widespread of the Mockers in the Galapagos. They were for the most part seen daily, except on San Cristobal which hosts its own Mocking bird. The Galapagos mockingbird was recently split into 4 species with the regular Galapagos Mockingbird having the widest range covering all but 3 islands in the Galapagos.

**San Cristobal Mockingbird** *Mimus melanotis* (E)—5, Recently split from the Galapagos Mockingbird, we made it a point to observe this species immediately upon arriving at San Cristobal. A nesting 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, although we do get the occasional individual that shows a bit of rust on the head.

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

**Green Warbler-Finch** *Certhidea olivacea* (E) — 3, Observed only on Fernania and Santa Cruz islands, especially 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 on Genovesa slinking in the low coastal shrub forest.

**Woodpecker Finch** *Camaeohynxhua pallidus* (E) — 1, Only one individual observed at Cerro Dragon on Santa Cruz.

**Large Tree Finch** *Camarhynchus psittacula* —2, Striking plumage as Galapagos Finches go, we observed 2 individuals, with best looks on San Cristobal. Their parrot like beaks making for a relatively easy identification.

**Small Tree Finch** *Camarhynchus parvulus* — 2, we located 2 individuals by following their calls at the Los Gemelos sink hole forest.

**Small Ground-Finch** *Geospiza fuliginosa* (E)--100+, Wide spread in the Galapagos, this species was 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)--6+, Less observations of this species than expected on this trip, but we did get terrific views of this species associating with Small Ground Finches on Genovesa, Santa Cruz, and Isabela Islands.

**Genovesa Ground Finch** *Geospiza acutirostris*(E)-3, Three individuals found along the trails at Genovesa. Of special note is what might be the first recorded observation of this species eating the flesh off a discarded petrel wing.

**Common Cactus-Finch** *Geospiza scandens* (E) —3, Best observed on Isla Rabida where we watched them burry their faces into cactus flowers, emerging covered in pollen.

**Medium Ground-Finch** *Geospiza fortis* (E) —17, Viewed on Santa Cruz and in Urbina Bay on Isabela island. Their large grosebeak-like bills helping with identification. Males are completely jet black while females are the expected mottled brown, but with bright orange beaks.

**Genovesa Cactus Finch** - *Geospiza propinqua* (E) —1, We had a quick look at one individual on Genovesa Island of course.

### **Mammals (4 species)**

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

**Galapagos Fur Seal** *Arctocephalus galapagoensis*— Most notably we had one snoring quite loudly as we kayaked by on one of our outings.

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

**Bottle-nosed Dolphin**-*Tursiopus truncates* — A large pod approached our boat as we passed through the straight between Isabela and Fernandia islands.

### **Reptiles (9 species)**

**Santa Cruz Giant Tortoise** *Chelonoidis porteri*— 60+, observed on the drive to and at Rancho Primicias 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*— 500+ 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. We captured terrific video of these creatures feeding underwater while we were snorkeling.

**Galapagos Land Iguana** *Conolophus subcristatus*— Seen on 3 islands on this trip, we found many individual feeding on Opuntia or patiently waiting for an Opuntia Cactus paddle to fall.

**Galapagos Lava Lizard** *Microlophus albemarlensis*—24, This species was observed on most islands.

**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.

**Fish species and allies observed while snorkeling and panga rides (37 species)**

Common Names Only and in no particular order:

Spotted Eagle Ray	Golden Cow-nosed Ray
White-tipped Reef Shark	Panamic Cushion
Oceanic Black-tipped Shark	Diamond Sting Ray
Mola mola	Mexican Hog Fish
Ocean White Fish	Leather Bass
Rainbow Wrasse	Convenient Sargent Fish
Panama Sargent Major	Bullseye Puffer
Galapagos Ring-tailed Damsel	Spot-fin Burr Fish
Striped Mullet	Flagebrea Bass ?
Moorish Idol	Striped Salemas
Razor Surgeon Fish	Tiger Snake-eel
Mobular Ray	Chocolate Chip Sea Star
Galapagos Bull-head Shark	

**Mainland Ecuador Antisana Pre-Extension**

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

**BIRDS (39 species recorded, of which 0 were heard only):**

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

Yellow-billed Pintail *Anas georgica*—28  
 Andean Teal *Anas andium*—3  
 Andean Ruddy Duck *Oxyura ferruginea*—6

**GREBES: Podicipedidae (1)**

Silvery Grebe *Podiceps occipitalis*—4

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

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* (I)—25  
 Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*—4  
 Black-winged Ground Dove *Metriopelia melanoptera* – 2,

**HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (7)**

Sparkling Violetear *Colibri coruscans*—6  
 Ecuadorian Hillstar *Oreotrochilus chimborazo*—6  
 Black-tailed Trainbearer *Lesbia victoriae*—5



**Tyrian Metaltail** *Metallura tyrianthina*—1  
**Shining Sunbeam** *Aglaeactis cupripennis*—6  
**Giant Hummingbird** *Patagona gigas*—2

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

**Slate-colored Coot** *Fulica ardesiaca*—4

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

**Andean Lapwing** *Vanellus resplendens*—2

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

**Andean Gull** *Chroicocephalus serranus*—3

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

**Andean Ibis** *Theristicus melanopis*—8, formerly known as Black-faced

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

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus*—6

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* - 3

**Andean Condor** *Vulture gryphus*— 3

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

**Cinereous Harrier** *Circus cinereus* - 1

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** *Accipter striatus* - 1

**Variable Hawk** *Geranoaetus polyosoma*— 2

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

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

**Carunculated Caracara** *Phalcoboenus carunculatus*—10

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

**Chestnut Winged Cinlodes** *Cinclodes albidiventris* - 6

**Stout-billed Cinclodes** *Cinclodes excelsior*—4

**TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (2)**

**Plain-capped Ground Tyrant** *Muscisaxicola alpinus* – 3

**Black-billed Shrike Tyrant** *Agriornis montanus* - 2

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

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

**Blue-and-white Swallow** *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*—31

**Brown-bellied Swallow** *Orochelidon murina*—5

**WRENS: Troglodytidae (1)**

**Sedge/Grass Wren** *Cistothorus platensis*—1

**MOCKINGBIRDS: Mimidae**

**Tropical Mockingbird** *Mimus gilvus* - 3

**THRUSHES: Turdidae (1)**

**Great Thrush** *Turdus fuscaster*—6

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

Hooded Siskin *Spinus magellanicus*—8

Rufous-naped Brush Finch *Atlapetes latinuchus*-2

**SPARROWS: Passerellidae (1)**

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*—4

**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*—6

Plumbeous Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus plebejus*—9

Plain-colored Seedeater *Catamenia inornata*—2