



WILDLIFE CHECKLIST

Reptiles

The twenty-two species of Galapagos reptiles belong to five families, tortoises, marine turtles, lizards/iguanas, geckos and snakes. Twenty of these species are endemic to the archipelago and many are endemic to individual islands. The Islands are well-known for their giant tortoises ever since their discovery and play an important role in the development of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. The name "Galapagos" originates from the spanish word "galapago" that means saddle.

Classifications

* = Endemic

R = Resident

M = Migrant

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| * Santa Fe land Iguana | <i>Conolophus pallidus</i> | Iguana Terrestre de Santa Fe |
| * Giant Tortoise (11 subspecies) | <i>Geochelone elephantopus</i> | Tortuga Gigante |
| M Pacific Green Sea Turtle | <i>Chelonia mydas</i> | Tortuga Marina |
| * Marine Iguana * (7 subspecies) | <i>Amblyrhynchus cristatus</i> | Iguana Marina |
| * Galapagos land Iguana | <i>Conolophus subcristatus</i> | Iguana Terrestre |
| * Lava lizard (7 species) | <i>Tropidurus spp</i> | Lagartija de Lava |
| * Gecko (6 species) | <i>Phyllodactylus galapagoensis</i> | Gecko |
| * Galapagos snake (3 species) | <i>Colubridae alsophis</i> | Culebras de Galapagos |

Sea Birds

The Galapagos archipelago is surrounded by thousands of miles of open ocean which provide seabirds with a prominent place in the fauna of the Islands . There are 19 resident species (5 are endemic), most of which are seen by visitors. There may be as many as 750,000 seabirds in Galapagos, including 30% of the world's blue-footed boobies, the world's largest red-footed booby colony and perhaps the largest concentration of masked boobies in the world (Harris, 1984).

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| * Galapagos penguin | <i>Spheniscus mendiculus</i> | Pinguino |
| * Waved Albatross | <i>Diomedea irrorata</i> | Albatros |
| R Blue-footed Booby | <i>Sula nebouxii</i> | Piquero patas azules |
| R Blue-footed Booby | <i>Sula nebouxii</i> | Piquero patas azules |
| R Masked (white) Booby | <i>Sula dactylatra</i> | Piquero enmascarado |
| * Flightless Cormorant | <i>Nannopetrum harrisi</i> | Cormoran or pato cuervo |
| R Great Frigatebird | <i>Fregata minor</i> | Gran Fragata |
| R Magnificent Frigatebird | <i>Fregata magnificens</i> | Fragata magnificent |
| * Swallow-tailed gull | <i>Creagrus furcatus</i> | Gaviota de cola bifurcada |
| * Lava Gull | <i>Larus fuliginosus</i> | Gaviota de lava |
| R Brown Pelican | <i>Pelicanus occidentalis</i> | Pelicano cafe |
| R Red-billed Tropicbird | <i>Phaeton aethercus</i> | Piloto or Rabijunco |
| R Audubon's Shearwater | <i>Puffinus lherminieri</i> | Pufino Audubon |
| R White-vented Storm Petrel (Elliot's) | <i>Oceanites gracilis</i> | Golondrina de mar |
| R Band-rumped Storm Petrel (Castro's) | <i>Oceanodroma castro</i> | Golondrina de las tormentas |
| R Wedge-rumped Storm Petrel (Galapagos) | <i>Oceanodroma tethys</i> | |
| R Dark-rumped Petrel (Hawaiian) | <i>Pterodroma phaeopygia</i> | Pata pegada |
| R Brown Noddy | <i>Anous stolidus</i> | Gaviotin de cabeza cafe |

Shore & Lagoon Birds

The coastline of Galapagos, comprising of beaches, rocky shores, mangrove lagoons and tidal salines, provide habitats for the resident shorebirds specie listed here. Migrant species, those that breed in North America during the summer months are not listed here.

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| R Great Blue Heron | <i>Ardea herodias</i> | Garza Morena |
| * Lava Heron | <i>Butoroides sundevalli</i> | Garza de Lava |
| R Yellow-crowned Night Heron | <i>Nyctanassa violacea</i> | Garza Nocturna |
| Striated Heron | <i>Nyctanassa violacea</i> | Garza Estriada |
| American Osytercatcher | <i>Haematopus palliatus</i> | Ostrero, Cangrejero |
| R Greater Flamingo | <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i> | Flamenco |
| R Common (Great) Egret | <i>Casmerodius alba</i> | Garza Blanca |
| R Cattle Egret | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> | Garza Bueyera |
| R White-cheeked Pintail duck | <i>Anas bahamensis</i> | Patillo |
| R Common Stilt | <i>Himatopus himantopus</i> | Tero Real |
| M Whimbrel | <i>Numenius phaecopus</i> | Zarapito Trinator |
| M Wandering Tattler | <i>Heteroscelus incanus</i> | Correlimos Vagabundo |
| M Semi-palmated Plover | <i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i> | Chorlitejo Semipalmado |
| M Sanderling | <i>Calidris alba</i> | Correlimos Arenero |
| M Ruddy Turnstone | <i>Arenaria interpres</i> | Vuelvepiedras Rojizo |
| M Ruddy Turnstone | <i>Arenaria interpres</i> | Vuelvepiedras Rojizo |
| M Northern Phalarope | <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i> | Falaropo Picofino |
| R Common Gallinule | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> | Gallinula |
| R Purple Gallinule | <i>Porphyryla martinica</i> | Gallito Azul |

Land Birds

Few species of land birds inhabit the Galapagos and 22 of the 29 resident species are endemic to the Islands. Their presence in Galapagos is difficult to explain. They may have arrived by strong winds, although luck must have played a big part. For the most part, land birds are not exciting by appearance, they are rather dull colored. However, their "tameness" is unsurpassed which make them a pleasure to watch.

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| * Galapagos Hawk* | <i>Buteo galapagoensis</i> | Gavilan de Galapagos |
| * Galapagos Rail | <i>Laterallus spilonotus</i> | Pachay |
| R Paint-billed Rail | <i>Neocrex erythrops</i> | Gallereta |
| R Barn Owl | <i>Tyto alba</i> | Lechuza de campanarios |
| R Short- eared owl | <i>Asio flammeus</i> | Lechuza de campo |
| R Paint-billed Crake | <i>Neocrex erythrops</i> | Gallareta |
| R Common Gallinule | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> | Gallinula |
| * Galapagos Dove | <i>Zenaida galapagoensis</i> | Paloma de Galapagos |
| * Galapagos Mockingbird | <i>Nesomimus parvulus</i> | Cucuve de Galapagos |
| * Charles Mockingbird | <i>Nesomimus trifasciatur</i> | Cucuve de Floreana |
| * Hood Mockingbird | <i>Nesomimus macdonaldi</i> | Cucuve de Espanola |
| * Chatham Mockingbird | <i>Nesomimus melanotis</i> | Cucuve de San Cristobal |
| * Galapagos Martin | <i>Progne modesia</i> | Golondrina de Galapagos |
| R Vermillion Flycatcher | <i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i> | Pajaro Brujo |
| * Large-billed Flycatcher | <i>Myiarchus magnirostris</i> | Papa Moscas |
| R Yellow Warbler | <i>Dendroica petechia</i> | Canario Maria |
| R Dark-billed Cuckoo | <i>Coccyzus melacoryphus</i> | Cuclillo, Aguatero |
| R Smooth-billed Ani | <i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i> | Garrapatero Piquiestriado |
| * Darwin 's Finches (13 species) | | |
| Small Ground Finch * | <i>Geospiza fuliginosa</i> | Pinzon Terrestre Chico |
| Medium Ground Finch * | <i>Geospiza fortis</i> | Pinzon Terrestre Mediano |
| Large Ground Finch * | <i>Geospiza magnirostris</i> | Pinzon Terrestre Grande |
| Sharp-billed Ground Finch * | <i>Geospiza difficilis</i> | Pinzon Terrestre Pico agudo |
| Cactus Ground Finch * | <i>Geospiza scandens</i> | Pinzon Cactero Chico |
| Large Cactus Finch * | <i>Geospiza conitostris</i> | Pinzon Cactero Grande |
| Small Tree Finch * | <i>Camarynychus parvulus</i> | Pinzon Aboreo Chico |
| Medium Tree Finch * | <i>Camarynychus pauper</i> | Pinzon Aboreo Mediano |

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| Large Tree Finch * | <i>Camarynchus psittacula</i> | Pinzon Aboreo Grande |
| Mangrove Finch * | <i>Cactospiza heliobates</i> | Pinzon Manglero |
| Vegetarian Finch * | <i>Platypiza cassirostris</i> | Pinzon Vegetariano |
| Warbler Finch * | <i>Certhidea olivacea</i> | Pinzon Canario |
| Woodpecker Finch * | <i>Certhidea olivacea</i> | Pinzon Artesano |

Mammals

Oceanic Islands are typically lacking in mammals and the Galapagos are no exception. Only six species of mammals are native to the Islands. The absence of large predators probably accounts for the fearlessness of the other native species towards humans. Most mammals arrived on either on rafts of vegetation or by swimming.

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| Galapagos sea lion | <i>Zalophus californianus</i> | Lobo marino |
| * Galapagos Fur seal | <i>Arctocephalus galapagonesis</i> | Lobo de dos Pelos |
| * Galapagos Bat | <i>Lasiurus brachyotis</i> | Murcielago |
| * Santa Fe Rice rat | <i>Oryzomys bauri</i> | rata endemica de Santa Fe |
| * Fernandina Rice rat | <i>Oryzomys nesoryzomis</i> | rata endemica de Fernandina |

PLANT LIFE

The Islands lie in the Pacific Dry Belt, so most of the archipelago's land area is covered by semi-desert or desert vegetation. Only the higher parts of the larger Islands receive enough rain to be considered tropical and lush. There are roughly 600 native taxa (species, subspecies and varieties) of vascular plants (42% are endemic) and some 190 species introduced by humans. It is easier to identify most plant species and also makes it easier to understand evolutionary relationships because the flora is so species poor. Here we list the more common and better known plant species, grouped together according to ecological zones.

The Littoral Zone

This narrow zone is found near the coast or around saltwater lagoons. Mangroves are dominant, with four species present: Red (*Rhizophora mangle*), Black (*Avicennia germinans*), White (*Laguncularia racemosa*) and Button (*Conocardopus erecta*) each recognized by the shape of their leaves. Saltbush or "monte salado" (*Cryopocarpus pyriformis*) is very common in this area. Two types of Sesuvium are found with pink flowers (*Sesuvium portulacastrum*) or white flowers (*Sesuvium edmostonei*). Beach morning glory (*Ipomoea*), is a creeping vine found near the beach.

The Arid Zone

The largest of the seven vegetation zones and dominant vegetation is represented by three cacti: Prickley Pear cactus (*Opuntia*)*, Candelabra cactus (*Jasminocereus*) and Lava Cactus (*Brachycereus*). Mulluyo (*Cordia Lutea*) is a tree with yellow flowers found on Santa Cruz. Leather Leaf (*Maytenus octogona*) positions their leaves toward the sun. Palo Verde (*Parkinsonia aculeata*) have deep roots. Manzanillo (*Hippomane mancinella*) is also known as poison apple. Tiquilia, an endemic scrub, is found on Bartolome. Cutleaf Daisy or "Leocarpus" is endemic and only found on Floreana. Lantana is an endemic shrub found on Tower Island.

The Transition Zone

The transition zone is intermediate between the arid and humid zones. The prominent plant of this zone is Pega-Pega (*Pisonia floribunda*)* an endemic tree. Also characteristic of this zone is the palo santo (*bursera graveolens*) which is Spanish for "holy stick." Guayabillo (*Psidium galapageium*)* is found spread out throughout the zone.

The Scalesia Zone

Scalesia is a very humid zone made up of mainly bracken ferns, grasses and mosses. The predominant species is Scalesia pedunculata also called

"lechoso" which is a sunflower tree that grows over 20 feet tall and produces a small white flower.

The Zanthosylum Zone

This "brown" zone marks the end of the Scalesia zone and is represented by mosses, liverworts and bracken ferns

The Miconia Zone

This zone is represented by miconias, leafy bushes or shrubs a few feet tall. *Miconia robinsoniana* is also called "cacaotillo" and its flowers are pink or violet.

The Pampa Zone

This windy and moist area is represented by ferns, grasses and sedges. No trees are represented other than the tree fern (*Cyathea weatherbyana*).