

Ecuador & The Galapagos Islands

Naturetrek Tour Report

10 - 28 December 2007



Land Iguana, Isabela



Giant Tortoise, Santa Cruz



Swallow-tailed Gull



Nazca Booby

Report compiled by Lelis Navarrete
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Bird Photographer



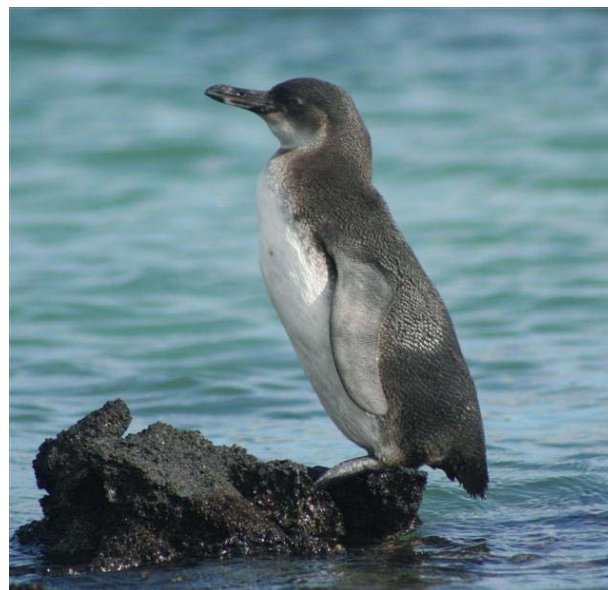
Magnificent Frigatebird



Red-footed Boobys



Blue-footed Boobys



Young Galapagos Penguin

Tour Leader:	Lelis Navarrete
Participants:	Caroline Cummins Morag Templeton Susan Ward David Maddocks Elizabeth Maddocks Angela Edgeworth Jim Cassels Angela Cassels Claire Harkess John Wills Barry Hopcraft Brian Coleman

Day 1

Monday 10th December

A non eventful arrival into Quito airport and immediate transfer to the Mercure Hotel.

Day 2

Tuesday 11th December

Leisurely start in the morning for relaxed city tour in Quito downtown with the highlights of the “La Compañía” church, main square and “El Panecillo”, the weather was particularly propitious for the visit (sunny and clear), in the afternoon we returned to the area close to the hotel and had a late lunch, the afternoon was free to relax and rest from the long flight of the previous day and to get ready for the Galapagos trip.

Day 3

Wednesday 12th December

Early morning flight from Quito to Baltra, we had a couple of hours delay in Quito airport due low visibility and we finally took off at 9:30 AM which did not affected our first day in the islands, other than shortening our first afternoon in Bachas to 2 ½ hours only. Upon on arrival to Baltra were we were greeted by our Naturalist guide and then a very short bus transfer to the small port near the Baltra airport base to get onboard the Cachalote Yacht and immediate sailing to Bachas on the north-west side of Santa Cruz Island for our first excursion and nature walk on the islands. In the night we sailed to San Cristobal

Day 4

Thursday 13th December

This morning we visited the Cerro Brujo beach where we walked at leisure studying the vegetation and wildlife and we had our first snorkelling experience. In the afternoon after sailing around San Cristobal we anchored in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno and took a bus into the highlands of Cristobal to visit the “Galapagera” then return to the town for one hour free time in town. During the night we sailed to Española.

Day 5**Friday 14th December**

The morning activity had us setting ashore in the beautiful beach of Bahia Gardener where we also had the opportunity to do some snorkelling, then we sailed to Punta Suarez where we spent the best ours in the afternoon visiting the Waved Albatross colony. In the night we sailed to Floreana Island.

Day 6**Saturday 15th December**

Our first activity had us taking a dinghy ride around Champion Islet, then after breakfast we visited the two beaches in Punta Cormorante (where there are no Cormorants) - later on we snorkelled in the Devil's Crown, then we paid a short visit to Post Office bay before heading to Puerto Velasco Ibarra, and after lunch taking a bus to visit the Ascilo de la Paz on the Floreana highlands. In the night we sailed to Puerto Villamil in Isabela Island.

Day 7**Sunday 16th December**

After breakfast we went on shore to ride a Van to the Isabela Highlands where we stopped to look for the slash vegetation of the transitional zone before heading to the base of the Volcan Sierra Negra where we started a very dusty horseback ride to the rim of the Volcano, once in the summit, part of the group had a long walk to Volcan chico and others stayed nearby enjoying the scenery. In the late afternoon we started our sail to the west side of Isabela.

Day 8**Monday 17th December**

A morning visit to the lava fields of Punta Moreno in the west side of Isabela where we also had a chance to deep in the cold water to snorkel for a while, after lunch we sailed to Bahia Elizabeth where we had a peaceful dinghy ride among the mangrove stands. In the night we sailed to Urbina Bay still in the west side Isabela.

Day 9**Tuesday 18th December**

A morning walk along the trails of Urbina which is a pace hard to describe since we were walking on an uplifted ocean bottom covered with Galapagos vegetation, a good snorkelling right from the beach at Urbina and after lunch we sailed to Tagus Cove where we spent the afternoon exploring the trails leading to an astonishing views of the western part of Isabela Island. In the Night we sailed to Punta Tortuga Negra (west side of Isabela)

Day 10**Wednesday 19th December**

This time we got on shore before breakfast to walk the beach along the Mangrove forest on search for one of the most rare birds of the Island (the Mangrove Finch), after breakfast we sailed to Fernandina Island and we visited Punta Espinosa, in the afternoon we sailed towards Volcan Ecuador and Punta Vicente Roca and continued navigating until before midnight we reached Puerto Egas in Santiago Island.

Day 11**Thursday 20th December**

In the morning we went inland to visit the trails along the dry zone returning along the trail overseeing the ocean when getting back to Puerto Egas we had a nice snorkel for almost an hour, then returned on board to sail to Rabida Island where we had a walk in the afternoon before having one more snorkel before, ending the day we stopped near by the Sombrero Chino and anchored in Bartolome Island for dinner before starting our navigation to Genovesa Island.

Day 12**Friday 21st December**

The morning had us visiting the Darwin's Beach of Genovesa and snorkelling near the Barranco in deeper waters before lunch, in the afternoon we visited the Prince Phillip's Steps trail in its whole extension. During the night we sailed to Bartolomé.

Day 13**Saturday 22nd December**

A morning walk on the arguably youngest lava field on any of the visitor sites at the Galapagos islands a very tranquil snorkelling from the beach, after lunch we sailed to Sombrero Chino for a short walk and around 2 PM started our navigation to Puerto Ayora in Santa Cruz Island arriving at 7 PM for dinner time and rest for the evening.

Day 14**Sunday 23rd December**

A very early start for most of the group and at 5:30 AM we were leaving to Media Luna to have a very successful attempt to look for the Galapagos Rail and then return to the boat to have breakfast at 8.30 AM, then we left at 9:30 to visit the Highlands of Santa Cruz once again at the Los Gemelos site and the Rancho Primicias, we had a late lunch at the restaurant Altair and around 3:30 PM we were back in town to have a free time in town for the rest of the afternoon. By night we stayed anchored in Puerto Ayora bay.

Day 15**Monday 24th December**

In the morning we visited the Charles Darwin Station and the captive breeding program for Giant Tortoises and Land Iguanas - then came back on board for lunch, before starting sailing to Santa Fe where we arrive around 3:00 PM giving us enough time to have a swift snorkel before we set on land for our late afternoon walk. In the Night we sailed to Plazas.

Day 16**Tuesday 25th December**

In the morning we visited Plazas, it was a very beautiful sunny day, then we sailed to North Seymour where we anchored for lunch, at around 2:30PM we went for snorkelling and came back after one hour. Later on at 4:00 PM we disembarked on Seymour north for our last afternoon activity, then as soon as we get back on board we started to sail towards turtle cove the last place we visited on our last day before catching our plain back to mainland.

Day 17

Wednesday 26th December

An early morning start to have a short dinghy ride in Tortuga Bay before breakfast, then we sailed towards Baltra to disembark and catch our (on time) flight non stop to Quito, we arrive at 3:00 PM then we had a free afternoon to rest and explore the hotel surroundings in the night we went for a charming dinner at La Ronda Restaurant.

Day 18

Thursday 27th December

Brian, John, Claire and I went to Antisana for a very productive morning and early afternoon where the highlights of the day were a distant Andean Condor and a group of nine Black-faced Ibis, we returned slightly before 4:00 PM and worked on our checklist to wait for the rest of the group that went to visit the Otavalo Market.

Day 19

Friday 28th December

This was our last breakfast together, later on the group parted because half of the members continued the journey towards the Amazonian lowlands and others rested to get their afternoon flight to return home.

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Species Lists

Bold print indicates an endemic species of the Galapagos Islands. (birds and animals)

Birds

	Common name	Scientific name	December													
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1	Galapagos Penguin	<i>Spheniscus mendiculus</i>				3		30	10	10			1			
2	Waved Albatross	<i>Phoebastria exulans</i>			20			1								
3	Galapagos Petrel	<i>Pterodroma phaeopygia</i>					10	10		50	1	3	2		3	
4	Galapagos's Shearwater	<i>Puffinus iherminieri</i>	50	200	100	40	200	100	50	200	100	50	30	3	20	500
5	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>								10						
6	Elliot's Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanites gracilis</i>	20	6	4	2	10	10	10	5	30		2	2	10	20
7	Wedge-rumped Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma tethys</i>								30	10	300				2
8	Red-billed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>		8	6	4				1		20				6
9	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	80	60	40	20	30	50	30	30	50	20	2	10	40	200
10	Great Frigatebird	<i>Fregata minor</i>		X								500				20
11	Blue-footed Booby	<i>Sula nebouxii</i>	50	100	200	10	40	300	200	90	30		6	1	X	50
12	Nazca Booby	<i>Sula granti</i>	4	10	50	2	6	20	10	10	10	500	6	6	X	10
13	Red-footed Booby	<i>Sula sula</i>										1000				
14	Flightless Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum harrisi</i>						20	20	10						
15	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	20	30	20	2	6	50	30	6	100	20	2	50	20	20
16	White-cheeked Pintail	<i>Anas bahamensis</i>	6			8		1						5		
17	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	4			14		6			20					
18	Snowy Egret	<i>Leucophoyx thula</i>											1			
19	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	1			1		1					1		3	
20	Cattle Egret	<i>Bulbulcus ibis</i>				30	10							30	10	2
21	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striatus striatus</i>						3								
22	Lava Heron	<i>Butorides sundevalli</i>			1	2			1	1	1		1	2	2	1
23	Yellow-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>									2	3				
24	Galapagos Hawk	<i>Buteo galapagoensis</i>			2				2	2	1		1		2	
25	Galapagos Rail	<i>Laterallus galapagoensis</i>												3		

	Common name	Scientific name	December													
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	Paint-billed Crane	<i>Neocrex erythrops</i>												1		
27	Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>						6								
28	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	4	2		2	10	1			3	1		3	3	
29	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>			1											
30	Wandering Tattler	<i>Heteroscelus incanum</i>	6	2	3	2		3	4	2	5	6	3	2	2	
31	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	2	3	2	3					8	2				2
32	Surfbird	<i>Aphriza virgata</i>									4					
33	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	1											1		5
34	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	2			1										
35	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	1	X		3										
36	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	1													
37	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>		200			30	50	20	1000			500		3000	
38	Red (Grey) Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>		2						1					3	
39	American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	2	2	3						4					
40	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	2			2		3								
41	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	1	2							6				1	
42	Lava Gull	<i>Larus fuliginosus</i>	1	2			1		1			1	1		3	3
43	Laughing Gull	<i>Larus atricilla</i>													1	
44	Franklin's Gull	<i>Larus pipixcan</i>		6		2		2		2	2					
45	Swallow-tailed Gull	<i>Larus furcatus</i>		2	80	8		10		6	40	100				30
46	Common Noddy	<i>Anous stolidus</i>	50	20		6	2	30	10	100	100		50	20	30	50
47	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>						1								
48	Galapagos Dove	<i>Zenaida galapagoensis</i>			6				1		3	10		10	1	2
49	Dark-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus melacoryphus</i>							1	1				1		
50	Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	3	X		2	2	h						10	2	
51	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus galapagoensis</i>										1				
52	Vermillion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>					3		1		1					
53	Galapagos Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus magnirostris</i>		2		2	1		2		2			6	6	
54	Galapagos Mockingbird	<i>Nesomimus parvulus</i>	6				3	20	30	12	20	20	10	10	20	10
55	Charles Mockingbird	<i>Nesomimus trifasciatus</i>				16										
56	Hood Mockingbird	<i>Nesomimus macdonaldi</i>			40											
57	Chatham Mockingbird	<i>Nesomimus melanotis</i>		10												

	Common name	Scientific name	December													
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
58	Galapagos Martin	<i>Progne modesta</i>					12									
59	Large Ground Finch	<i>Geospiza magnirostris</i>									1	10			4	
60	Medium Ground Finch	<i>Geospiza fortis</i>		4		8	20		30	10				10	20	
61	Small Ground Finch	<i>Geospiza fuliginosa</i>	10	30	50	40	100	20	80	20	20		4	50	40	6
62	Sharp-beaked Ground-finch	<i>Geospiza difficilis</i>										6				
63	Common Cactus-finch	<i>Geospiza scandens</i>									2				2	1
64	Large Cactus-finch	<i>Geospiza conirostris</i>			1											
65	Vegetarian Finch	<i>Platyspiza crassirostris</i>					3							2		
66	Large Tree-finch	<i>Camarhynchus psittacula</i>												2		
67	Medium Tree-finch	<i>Camarhynchus pauper</i>				6										
68	Small Tree-finch	<i>Camarhynchus parvulus</i>				2	2		1					10	1	
69	Woodpecker Finch	<i>Cactospiza pallida</i>		1			2							2		
70	Mangrove Finch	<i>Cactospiza heliobates</i>								2						
71	Warbler Finch	<i>Certhidia olivacea</i>			3		10					1		10		
72	Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	6	10	6	12	20	20	20	20	1	2	1	20	10	6

Reptiles

1	Giant tortoise:	<i>Geochelone elephantopus</i>														
2	Santa Cruz sub-sp	<i>G. e. porteri</i>											30			
3	San Cristobal "	<i>G. e. chatamensis</i>		20												
4	Alcedo "	<i>G. e. vandenburghi</i>							1							
5	Hood/Espanola "	<i>G. e. hoosensis</i>													X	
6	Green Sea Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas agassissi</i>	1	3	2	10		30	20	10	6		2			
7	Lava lizard (S. Cristobal)	<i>Microlophus bivittatus</i>		1												
8	Lava lizard (Espanola)	<i>Microlophus delanonis</i>			30											
9	Lava lizard (W & central)	<i>Microlophus albemarlensis</i>						2	4	10	5		6	2	X	
10	Galapagos Land Iguana	<i>Conolophus subcristatus</i>							3							X
11	Santa Fe Land Iguana	<i>Conolophus pallidus</i>													X	
12	Marine iguana:	<i>Amblyrhynchus cristatus</i>														
13	Santa Cruz "	<i>A. c. hassi</i>	20										3		X	X
14	Isabela "	<i>A. c. albemarlensis</i>					10	100	40	200						

	Common name	Scientific name	December													
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
15	Santiago/S Cristobal	<i>A. c. mertensis</i>										20		X		
16	Espanola "	<i>A. c. venustissimus</i>			100	10										
17	Genovesa "	<i>A. c. nanus</i>											10			

Mammals

1	Galapagos Sea Lion	<i>Zalophus wollebacki</i>	20	30	300	50	10	50	40	20	40	30	20	10	60	200
2	Galapagos Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus galapagoensis</i>									20	10				
3	Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>									200					
4	Bryde's Whale	<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i>		1						3						

Fish

1	King Angelfish	<i>Holocanchus passer</i>			X	X			X		X	X	X		X	X
2	Barberfish	<i>Heniochus nigrirostris</i>				X										
3	Three-banded Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon humeralis</i>													X	
4	Yellow-tailed Surgeonfish	<i>Prionurus laticlavus</i>			X	X			X		X	X	X		X	X
5	Goldrim Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus nigricans</i>														X
6	Yellowfin Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus xanthopterus</i>								X						
7	Moorish Idol	<i>Zanclus cornutus</i>				X						X			X	
8	Skipjack Tuna	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>				X						X				
9	Wahoo	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>										X				
10	Pelican Barracuda	<i>Sphyræna idiaestes</i>			X											
11	Dusky Chub	<i>Girella freminvillei</i>						X								
12	Striped Mullet	<i>Mugil cephalus</i>									X					
13	Galapagos (Yellow-tailed) Mullet	<i>Mugil galapagensis</i>						X					X			X
14	Orange-eyed Mullet	<i>Xenomugil thoburni</i>						X	X							
15	Peruvian Grunt	<i>Anisotremus scapularis</i>						X		X						
16	Black-striped Salema	<i>Xenocys jessiae</i>			X			X			X	X	X		X	X
17	Blue-striped (Blue-and-Gold) Snapper	<i>Lutjanus viridis</i>				X										

	Common name	Scientific name	December														
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
18	Pacific Dog Snapper	<i>Lutjanus novemfasciatus</i>									X						
19	Pacific Spotfin Mojarra	<i>Eucinostomus dowii</i>		X													
20	Giant Damsel	<i>Microspathodon dorsalis</i>								X		X			X		
21	Bumphead Damsel	<i>Microspathodon bairdii</i>								X		X	X		X		
22	White-tailed Damsel	<i>Stegastes leucurus beebei</i>		X	X	X			X	X		X	X	X		X	X
23	Yellow-tailed Damsel	<i>Stegastes arcifrons</i>		X	X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
24	Panamic Sergeant Major	<i>Abudefduf troschelii</i>		X	X	X			X	X		X		X	X	X	
25	Dusky Sergeant Major	<i>Nexilarius concolor</i>								X							
26	Bacalao (trout grouper)	<i>Mycteroperca olfax</i>							X	X		X	X	X			
27	Panamic Graysby	<i>Epinephelus panamensis</i>										X	X				
28	Flag Cabrilla	<i>Epinephelus labriformis</i>			X	X				X		X					X
29	Leather Bass	<i>Dermatolepis dermatolepis</i>							X			X					
30	Barred Serrano	<i>Serranus fasciatus</i>		X													
31	Creole fish	<i>Paranthias colonus</i>			X	X			X			X		X		X	X
32	Bumphead Parrotfish	<i>Scarus perrico</i>				X											
33	Bluechin Parrotfish	<i>Scarus ghobban</i>								X		X	X	X		X	X
34	Bicolor Parrotfish	<i>Scarus rubroviolaceus</i>				X						X				X	
35	Cortez Rainbow Wrasse	<i>Thalassoma lucasanum</i>		X	X	X			X			X	X	X		X	X
36	Chameleon Wrasse	<i>Halichoeres dispilus</i>			X	X			X			X		X			
37	Sunset Wrasse	<i>Thalassoma grammaticum</i>										X					
38	Dragon Wrasse	<i>Novacollichthys taeniourus</i>							X			X		X			
39	Spinster Wrasse	<i>Halichoeres nicholsi</i>		X	X	X				X		X		X			X
40	Streamer (Mexican) Hogfish	<i>Bodianus diplotaenia</i>			X	X			X	X		X	X	X		X	X
41	Blacktip Cardinalfish	<i>Apogon atradorsatus</i>			X	X						X		X		X	X
42	Large Banded Blenny	<i>Ophioblennius steindachneri</i>			X	X						X	X	X			X
43	Sabertooth Blenny	<i>Plagiotremus azaleus</i>			X							X		X		X	
44	Four-eyed blenny	<i>Dialommus fuscus</i>		X	X	X				X							
45	Bravo Clinid (Checkspot Labrisomid)	<i>Labrisomus dendriticus</i>								X		X	X	X			X
46	Leopard Flounder	<i>Bothus leopardinus</i>											X				
47	Hieroglyphic Hawkfish	<i>Cirrhitus rivulatus</i>								X		X				X	X
48	White-spot Chromis	<i>Chromis atrilobata</i>			X	X							X	X			
49	Stripebelly Puffer	<i>Arothron hispidus</i>										X					

	Common name	Scientific name	December														
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
50	Bullseye (Concentric) Puffer	<i>Sphoeroides annulatus</i>			X	X				X				X	X	X	X
51	Guineafowl Puffer	<i>Arothron meleagris</i>								X			X				X
52	Balloonfish	<i>Diodon holocanthus</i>			X				X								
53	Pacific Burrfish	<i>Chilomycterus affinis</i>				X											
54	Yellowspotted Burrfish	<i>Cyclichthys spilostylus</i>									X						
55	Stone scorpionfish	<i>Scorpaena plumieri</i>										X				X	
56	Yellow-bellied Triggerfish	<i>Sufflamen verres</i>										X	X	X		X	
57	Finscale triggerfish	<i>Balistes polyepsis</i>				X											
58	Jewel Moray	<i>Muraena lentiginosa</i>															X
59	Fine-spotted Moray	<i>Gymnothorax dovii</i>											X				
60	Oceanic sunfish	<i>Mola mola</i>									X						
61	Tiger Snake Eel	<i>Myrichthys tigrinus</i>										X					
62	Shortsnout Conger	<i>Chilconger dentatus</i>											X				
63	Whale Shark	<i>Rhincodon typus</i>										X					
64	White-tipped Reef Shark	<i>Triaenodon obesus</i>							X					X		X	
65	Black-tipped Reef Shark	<i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i>															X
66	Marbled (Black-blotched) Ray	<i>Taeniura meyeri</i>			X				X								
67	Diamond (Whiptail) Stingray	<i>Dasyatis brevis</i>			X	X						X					
68	Long-tailed Stingray	<i>Dasyatis longus</i>		X													
69	Eagle Ray	<i>Aetobatus narinari</i>														X	
70	Manta Ray	<i>Taenioconger klausewitzi</i>		X				X			X			X			X

Land Invertebrates

1	Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa darwini</i>		X		X		X	X								
2	Dragonflies	(Several genera, 8 species)				X			X	X							
3	Spot-winged Glider	<i>Pantala hymenaea</i>						X	X								
4	Galapagos Sulphur Butterfly	<i>Phoebis sennae</i>				X					X				X		
5	Queen Butterfly	<i>Danaus gilippus</i>				X									X		
6	Galapagos Blue Butterfly	<i>Leptodes parrhasiodes</i>														X	
7	Large-tailed Skipper	<i>Urbanus galapagensis</i>													X		
8	Painted Locust	<i>Schistocerca melanocera</i>				X		X	X	X				X			

	Common name	Scientific name	December													
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9	Star Spider	<i>Gasteracantha servillei</i>									X					
10	Galapagos Green-eyed Horsefly	<i>Tabanus vittiger</i>		X												
11	Noctuid moth sp 1			X												
12	Noctuid moth sp 2				X											
13	Noctuid moth sp 3															X
14	Galapagos Mantis ?	<i>Mantis sp.?</i>								X						
15	Land Snail (several species)					X										

Marine Invertebrates

1	Galapagos twin-spot octopus											X	X	X			X
2	Pencil-spined Urchin	<i>Eucidaris thouarsii</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
3	Crowned Sea Urchin	<i>Centrostephanus coronatus</i>				X		X			X						X
4	Green Sea Urchin	<i>Lytechinus semituberculatus</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X		X						
5	Panamic Cushion Star	<i>Pentaceraster cumingi</i>									X						
6	Bradley's Sea Star	<i>Mithrodia bradleyi</i>									X		X				
7	Alexander's Brittle Sea Star	<i>Ophicoma alexandri</i>									X						
8	Pyramid Sea Star	<i>Pharia pyramidata</i>				X					X						
9	Blue Sea Star	<i>Phataria unifascialis</i>				X					X						
10	Chocolate-chip Star	<i>Nidorellia armata</i>				X		X			X						
11	Red-sun Sea Star	<i>Heliaster cumingii</i>							X								
12	Sea Cucumber	<i>Stichopus fuscus</i>				X		X	X			X					
13	Sea Cucumber	<i>Holothuria atra</i>									X		X				
14	Sea Cucumber	<i>Holothuria kefersteini</i>							X								
15	Sally Lightfoot Crab	<i>Grapsus grapsus</i>	X	X		X		X		X			X		X	X	X
16	Ghost Crab	<i>Ocypode sp.</i>		X						X	X						
17	Orange-tipped Hermit Crab	<i>Calcinus exp/orator</i>		X	X												
18	Galapagos Fiddler Crab	<i>Uca galapagensis</i>						X								X	
19	Heller's Fiddler Crab	<i>Uca helleri</i>										X					
20	Crab	<i>Eurypanopeus planus</i>							X								
21	Crab	<i>Mithrax nodosus</i>											X				
22	Red spiny lobster	<i>Panulirus penicillatus</i>									X						

	Common name	Scientific name	December													
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
23	Thatched-roof Barnacle	<i>Tetraclita milleporosa</i>								X			X			X
24	Volcano (Giant) Barnacle	<i>Megabalanus peninsularis</i>		X						X				X		X
25	Snail Worm	<i>Sepurlobis margaritaceus</i>								X						
26	Mexican Anemone	<i>Bunodactis mexicana</i>										X				
27	Anemone	(many species)	X	X												
28	Walking Seahare	<i>Aplysia cf. Cedrosensis</i>										X				
29	Panama Aglaja	<i>Navanax aenigmaticus</i>			X											
30	Sea Cucumber	<i>Stichops fuscus</i>				X										
31	Great Muricid	<i>Hexaplex princeps</i>										X				
32	Nut Cone	<i>Conus nux</i>		X						X						
33	Brown Cone	<i>Conus brunneus</i>		X												
34	Gladiator Cone	<i>Conus gladiator</i>								X	X					
35	Purple Cone	<i>Conus purpurascens</i>								X						
36	Coral Snail	<i>Coralliophila parva</i>								X						
37	Crown Cone	<i>Conus Diadema</i>				X										
38	Black-spotted Cowri	<i>Cypraea nigropunctata</i>								X		X				
39	Minute Arc	<i>Arcopsis solida</i>		X								X				
40	Common Arc	<i>Barbatia reeveana</i>								X	X	X				
41	Falcated Arc	<i>Barbatia gradata</i>										X				
42	Heart Clamb	<i>Globivenus isocardia</i>		X								X				
43	Heart shape Clamb	<i>Strophocardia megastrophia</i>										X	X			
44	Carved Musle	<i>Brachidontes puntarenensis</i>		X												
45	Galapagos Clamb	<i>Protothaca pertincta</i>		X							X					
46	Bearded Hoof	<i>Pilosabia pilosa</i>		X												
47	Fisularia	<i>Fisularia derroi</i>		X							X	X				
48	Carved Chiton	<i>Chiton sulcatus</i>									X	X				
49	Common fireworm	<i>Eurythoe complanata</i>				X										

	Common name	Scientific name	December													
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25

Plants (Native species only)

Coastal, Arid & Transitional lowland zones

(NB some species also occur in humid upland zones)

1	Spiny-headed chaff flower	<i>Alternanthera echinocephala</i>														X
2	Thread-leaved chaff flower	<i>Alternanthera filifolia</i>					X	X			X					X
3	Galapagos three-awn grass	<i>Aristida subspicata</i>									X					
4	Salt sage	<i>Atriplex peruviana</i>			X											
5	Black Mangrove	<i>Avicenna germinans</i>	X			X				X						
6	Baccharis	<i>Baccharis steetzii</i>		X												
7	Lava cactus	<i>Brachycereus nesioticus</i>						X		X			X			
8	Palo Santo (holy pole)	<i>Bursera graveolens</i>	X	X		X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
9	Palo Santo	<i>Bursera malcophilla</i>														X
10	Galapagos Shore Petunia	<i>Cacabus miersi</i>									X	X				
11	Bitterbush	<i>Castela galapaeia</i>				X	X	X	X		X		X		X	X
12	Spurred Chamaesyce	<i>Chamaesyce viminea</i>						X	X		X					
13	Wartclub	<i>Commicarpus tuberosus</i>					X									
14	Button Mangrove	<i>Conocarpus erectus</i>														X
15	Muyuyo	<i>Cordia lutea</i>			X	X	X		X		X	X		X	X	
16	Revolvate-leaved Cordia	<i>Cordia revoluta</i>							X	X						
17	Croton	<i>Croton scouleri</i>		X		X	X		X							
18	Saltbush	<i>Cryptocarpus pyriformis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
19	Galapagos (Anderson's) Sedge	<i>Cyperus anderssonii</i>										X				
20	Galápagos cotton	<i>Gossypium barbadense</i>				X	X		X							
21	Heliotrope (scorpionweed)	<i>Heliotropium angiospermum</i>				X	X				X	X	X	X		
22	Seaside Heliotrope	<i>Heliotropium curassavicum</i>	X	X	X	X						X	X			
23	Manzanillo (poison apple)	<i>Hippomane mancinella</i>		X			X	X	X	X	X			X	X	
24	Beach morning glory	<i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i>					X			X	X					
25	Candelabra cactus	<i>Jasminocereus thouarsii</i>		X		X	X	X					X			
26	Galapagos Lantana	<i>Lantana peduncularis</i>									X					
27	White Mangrove	<i>Laguncularia racemosa</i>	X						X		X					

	Common name	Scientific name	December													
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
28	Curve-spined lecocarpus	<i>Lecocarpus darwinii</i>		X												
29	Wing-fruited lecocarpus	<i>Lecocarpus pinnatifidus</i>				X										
30	Galapagos Lycium	<i>Lycium minimum</i>			X											
31	Galápagos tomato	<i>Lycopersicon cheesmanii</i>												X		
32	Macraea Galapagos Rosemary	<i>Macraea loricifolia</i>		X		X	X	X	X	X				X		
33	Leather leaf	<i>Maytenus octogona</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X	X						X
34	Carpet Weed	<i>Mollugo flavescens subsp. Gracillina</i>							X							
35	Crocker's Mollugo	<i>Mollugo crockeri</i>											X			
36	Club Leaf	<i>Nolana galapagensis</i>				X										
37	Prickly pear cactus	<i>Opuntia echios</i>	X				X	X	X					X	X	X
38	Prickly pear cactus	<i>Opuntia galapageia</i>									X					
39	Prickly pear cactus	<i>Opuntia helleri</i>										X				
40	Prickly pear cactus	<i>Opuntia megasperma</i>		X		X										
41	Palo verde	<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>				X	X								X	
42	Running Pop	<i>Passiflora foetida</i>				X	X								X	
43	Pectis	<i>Pectis subsquarrosa</i>														
44	Pectis	<i>Pectis tenuifolia</i>							X	X	X					
45	Galápagos mistletoe	<i>Phoradendron henslovii</i>				X	X							X		
46	Matazarno	<i>Piscidia carthagenensis</i>		X										X	X	
47	Galápagos milkwort	<i>Polygala galapageia</i>										X				
48	St George's milkwort	<i>Polygala sancti-georgii</i>										X				
49	Mesquite	<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>			X	X	X									
50	Galapagos guava	<i>Psidium galapageium</i>		X										X		
51	Red Mangrove	<i>Rhizophora mangle</i>	X			X	X	X		X		X		X	X	
52	Galapagos Sarcostemma	<i>Sarcostemma angustissimum</i>						X			X					
53	Flat-fruited Sena	<i>Sena pistacifolia</i>				X										
54	Radiate-headed Scalesia	<i>Scalesia affinis</i>					X	X	X	X						
55	Gordillo's Scalesia	<i>Scalesia gordilloi</i>		X												
56	Heller's Scalesia	<i>Scalesia helleri</i>													X	
57	Cut-leafed Scalesia	<i>Scalesia incisa</i>		X												
58	Long-haired Scalesia	<i>Scalesia villosa</i>				X										
59	Inkberri/ Sea grape	<i>Scaevola plumieri</i>		X												

	Common name	Scientific name	December													
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
60	Thorn Shrub	<i>Scutia spicata var. pauciflora</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	
61	Galapagos carpetweed	<i>Sesuvium edmonstonei</i>			X											X
62	Common carpetweed	<i>Sesuvium portulacastrum</i>	X	X		X		X				X	X			X
63	Grey Mat Plant	<i>Tiquilia galapagoa</i>	X	X							X					X
64	Grey Mat Plant	<i>Tiquilia darwinii</i>							X							
65	White-haired Tournefortia	<i>Tournefortia pubescens</i>												X		
66	Rufous-haried tournefortia	<i>Tournefortia rufo-sericea</i>					X									
67	Punctureweed	<i>Tribulus cistoides</i>							X		X	X				X
68	Pearl Berry	<i>Vallesia glabra</i>	X	X		X			X		X					
69	Velvet shrub	<i>Waltheria ovata</i>				X	X		X							

Humid upland zones

1	Alternate-leaved aster	<i>Darwiniothamnus alternifolius</i>						X								
2	Darwin's Aster	<i>Darwiniothamnus tenuifolius</i>				X	X									
3	Buttonhole orchid	<i>Epidendrum spicatum</i>												X		
4	Clubmoss	<i>Lycopodium cernuum</i>		X												
5	Miconia	<i>Miconia robinsoniana</i>												X		
6	Colinvaux's passion flower	<i>Passiflora colinvauxii</i>												X		
7	Galapagos Peperomia	<i>Peperomia galapagoensis</i>				X								X		
8	White wild coffee	<i>Psychotria rufipes</i>												X		
9	Soapberry	<i>Sapindus saponaria</i>					X									
10	Scalesia "Daisy Tree"	<i>Scalesia pedunculata</i>		X		X								X		
11	Cat's Claw	<i>Zanthoxylum fagara</i>		X		X	X									

Birds seen in the Quito/Cotapaxi/Otavalo area on 27 December

1	Andean Teal	<i>Anas andium</i>	10	24	Giant Hummingbird	<i>Patagona gigas</i>	1
2	Yellow-billed Pintail	<i>Anas spinicauda</i>	2	25	Stout-billed Cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes excelsior</i>	12
3	Silvery Greebe	<i>Podiceps occipitalis</i>	3	26	Bar-winged Cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes fuscus</i>	20
4	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	10	27	Many-striped Canastero	<i>Asthenes flammulata</i>	1
5	Andean Condor	<i>Vultur gryph</i>	1	28	Streak-backed canastero		2
6	Black-faced (Andean) Ibis	<i>Theristicus melanopis</i>	9	29	Andean Tit-spinetail	<i>Leptasthenura andicola</i>	1
7	Variable Hawk	<i>Buteo poecilochrous</i>	10	30	Azaraá Spinetail		h
8	Plain-breasted Hawk	<i>Accipiter ventralis</i>	1	31	Tawny Antpitta	<i>Grallaria quitensis</i>	h
9	Black-chested Buzzard Eagle	<i>Geranoaetus melanoleucus</i>	3	32	Brown-backed Chat-tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca fumicolor</i>	2
10	Carunculated Caracara	<i>Phalcoeboenus carunculatus</i>	50	33	Paramo Ground Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola alpina</i>	6
11	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	2	34	Tufetd Tit-tyrant	<i>Anairetes parulus</i>	2
12	Merlin	<i>Falco columbinus</i>	1	35	Black-billed Shrike-tyrant	<i>Agriornis montanus</i>	2
13	Andean Coot	<i>Focha andina</i>	100	36	Great Thrush	<i>Turdus fuscater</i>	20
14	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	2	37	Brown-bellied Swallow	<i>Notiochelidon murina</i>	10
15	Andean Lapwing	<i>Vanellus resplendens</i>	6	38	Blue and White Swallow	<i>Notiochelidon cyanoleuca</i>	10
16	Andean Gull	<i>Larus serranus</i>	200	39	Grass Wren	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	1
17	Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>	50	40	Paramo Pipit	<i>Anthus bogotensis</i>	3
18	Black-winged Ground-dove	<i>Metriopelia melanoptera</i>	30	41	Black Flower-piercer	<i>Diglossa humeralis</i>	2
19	Sparkling Violet-ear	<i>Colibri coruscans</i>	6	42	Blue and Yellow Tanager	<i>Thraupis bonariensis</i>	
20	Ecuadorian Hillstar	<i>Oreotrochilus chimborazo</i>	10	43	Plumbeous Sierra-finch	<i>Phrygilus unicolor</i>	20
21	Shining Sunbeam	<i>Aglaeactis cupripennis</i>	1	44	Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>	40
22	Black-tailed Trainbearer	<i>Lesbia victoriae</i>	2	45	Southern Yellow Groaskeak	<i>Pheucticus chrysogaster</i>	1
23	Tyrian Metaltail	<i>Metallura tyrianthina</i>	2	46	Hooded Siskin	<i>Carduelis magellanica</i>	100

Mainland bird taxonomy is according to Ridgely and Greenfield, 1998.

Mammal and reptile taxonomy is according to Jackson, 1993.

Fish taxonomy is according to Humann, 1993.

Flowering plant names according to Conley K McMullen, 1999