

Trip Report — Galapagos: An Intimate Look at Darwin's Islands II 2024

July 13-23, 2024 with Willy Perez & local guide



The happy group at Floreana

The Galapagos Islands have long been a top destination for naturalists and of course, birders. This tour to this magical place was stunning, once again. Staying 7 nights in the comfortable Nemo III and one night in Puerto Ayora gave us the chance to explore this incredible archipelago. We visited all the major islands for the endemics, and we came across the incredible Waved Albatross that at this time of the year had chicks. To look for the elusive Galapagos Rail we had to adventure to the highlands of Isabela, where we had a great encounter with this secretive small crane. For most of the people, one of the highlights was watching the Wedge-rumped Storm Petrel colony, with thousands of birds flying around and getting into the little cracks trying to avoid the Short eared Owl that was hunting there. The nesting sites of both Frigatebirds were great, and we could study them properly and see the difference between each of them. The three species of Boobies were eye-catching, especially the Blue-footed. The challenge of identifying the Finches was good fun, but we managed to see 14 species and several subspecies of them. Sailing between the islands was very productive too, specially for sea animals. We saw Blue whale, Manta Ray, Mola Mola and people who did snorkeling even saw Hammerhead Sharks.



A stunning sunset from the Nemo III

The last day we visited the highlands of Santa Cruz, and there we saw Large Tree Finch and the Giant Tortoises in the wild, and even had some time to walk the lava tunnel.

The most important part of the trip for me was to have a great group of people with different necessities but with the same goal, to enjoy watching these beautiful birds. Some people enjoyed the Flamingos, others the Penguins, Flightless Cormorant, Swallow-tailed Gull, or the one and only Galapagos Martin. Some people even enjoyed the Finches, especially the (Smedium) that came across several times... For me, also a highlight was the Great Blue Heron and you all know why. Overall it was a fun birding trip and I would like to say thank you to all of you for coming to the Galapagos to enjoy the islands.

Also thank you to our Galapagos guide Jairo for his excellent work and the crew of the Nemo III.

I will be back soon, until then, just keep birding.



Large Ground Finch at Genovesa by Denise Hackert-Stoner

Other Wildlife in the tour.

Mammals:

Short-beaked Common Dolphin

Blue Whale

Galapagos Sea Lion

Galapagos Fur Seal

Santa Fe Rice Rat

Black Rat

Marine Iguana

Land Iguana

Santa Fe Land Iguana

Galapagos, Espanola, Floreana, San Cristobal, Santa Fe and Isabela Lava Lizards

Green Sea Turtle

Mobula Ray

Manta Ray

Spotted Eagle Ray

Hammerhead Shark

Sally Light Foot Crab

Hermit Crab

Mola Mola, Marlin and many incredible colorful fish.

Blue and Monarch Butterflies.

You can see my complete trip report on eBird at this link: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/267487>

A big hug, Willy.

Field Guides Birding Tours-- GALAPAGOS, 2024 (with Willy Perez)

14 – 21 Jul 2024 (8 days) Link-only



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Galápagos, Ecuador

Willian Perez

















For a narrative summary of this tour, including a Field Guides photo gallery and additional media for this trip...

62
Species Observed







18
Checklists

Species Observed

[Show all details](#)

26	White-cheeked Pintail <i>Anas bahamensis</i>	  4
16	American Flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	  3
28	Galapagos Dove <i>Zenaida galapagoensis</i>	  8
28	Smooth-billed Ani <i>Crotophaga ani</i> *	  7
4	Dark-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus melacoryphus</i>	  3
1	Paint-billed Crake <i>Mustelirallus erythrops</i>	  1
14	Common Gallinule <i>Gallinula galeata</i>	  2
1	Purple Gallinule <i>Porphyrio martinica</i>	  1
2	Galapagos Rail <i>Laterallus spilonota</i>	  1
10	Black-necked Stilt <i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	  3
6	American Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	  3
1	Black-bellied Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	  1
9	Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	  5
6	Wandering Tattler <i>Tringa incana</i> 	  3
13	Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	  4
100	Swallow-tailed Gull <i>Creagrus furcatus</i>	  6
26	Lava Gull <i>Leucophaeus fuliginosus</i>	  8
64	Brown Noddy <i>Anous stolidus</i>	  8
26	Red-billed Tropicbird <i>Phaethon aethereus</i>	  4
17	Galapagos Penguin <i>Spheniscus mendiculus</i>	  4
11	Waved Albatross <i>Phoebastria irrorata</i>	  2

84	Elliot's Storm-Petrel <i>Oceanites gracilis</i>	▶ 16
4	Band-rumped Storm-Petrel <i>Hydrobates castro</i> ✓	▶ 1
114	Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel <i>Hydrobates tethys</i>	▶ 6
11	Galapagos Petrel <i>Pterodroma phaeopygia</i>	▶ 2
146	Galapagos Shearwater <i>Puffinus subalaris</i>	▶ 14
109	Magnificent Frigatebird <i>Fregata magnificens</i>	▶ 14
52	Great Frigatebird <i>Fregata minor</i>	▶ 5
31	Red-footed Booby <i>Sula sula</i>	▶ 3
64	Nazca Booby <i>Sula granti</i>	▶ 11
128	Blue-footed Booby <i>Sula nebouxii</i>	▶ 14
16	Flightless Cormorant <i>Nannopterum harrisi</i>	▶ 2
84	Brown Pelican <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	▶ 13
9	Yellow-crowned Night Heron <i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	▶ 5
17	Striated Heron <i>Butorides striata</i>	▶ 8
43	Western Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	▶ 5
1	Great Egret <i>Ardea alba</i>	▶ 1
12	Galapagos Hawk <i>Buteo galapagoensis</i>	▶ 6
1	Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	▶ 1
2	Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>	▶ 1
2	Brujo Flycatcher <i>Pyrocephalus nanus</i>	▶ 1
13	Galapagos Flycatcher <i>Myiarchus magnirostris</i>	▶ 6
2	Galapagos Martin <i>Progne modesta</i>	▶ 1
30	Galapagos Mockingbird <i>Mimus parvulus</i>	▶ 6

- 3 **Floreana Mockingbird** *Mimus trifasciatus* ▶  1
- 11 **Española Mockingbird** *Mimus macdonaldi* ✓ ▶  2
- 2 **San Cristobal Mockingbird** *Mimus melanotis* ▶  1
- 65 **Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia* ▶  14
- 6 **Green Warbler-Finch** *Certhidea olivacea* ▶  2
- 20 **Gray Warbler-Finch** *Certhidea fusca* ▶  5
- 1 **Vegetarian Finch** *Platyspiza crassirostris* ✓ ▶  1
- 4 **Woodpecker Finch** *Camarhynchus pallidus* ▶  2
- 2 **Large Tree-Finch** *Camarhynchus psittacula* ▶  1
- 3 **Medium Tree-Finch** *Camarhynchus pauper* ▶  1
- 22 **Small Tree-Finch** *Camarhynchus parvulus* ▶  5
- 48 **Small Ground-Finch** *Geospiza fuliginosa* ▶  11
- 10 **Large Ground-Finch** *Geospiza magnirostris* ▶  2
- 29 **Genovesa Ground-Finch** *Geospiza acutirostris* ▶  2
- 1 **Common Cactus-Finch** *Geospiza scandens* ▶  1
- 11 **Medium Ground-Finch** *Geospiza fortis* ▶  4
- 4 **Española Ground-Finch** *Geospiza conirostris* ✓ ▶  2
- 4 **Genovesa Cactus-Finch** *Geospiza propinqua* ▶  1