



HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Announcement

Volunteer Opportunity for the Project:

LANDBIRD CONSERVATION IN THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

Application deadline: November 13, 2026

Start date: January 8, 2027

Duration: Minimum 2 months, maximum 6 months

Introduction

The Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) and the Galapagos National Park Directorate (GNPD) have been developing a research plan on the ecology and status of Galapagos landbirds and the identification of factors affecting their conservation since 2014. The objectives are i) to provide information on the population status of small landbirds and determine changes in their populations, ii) to monitor their health status using baseline data, iii) to develop and implement management techniques to conserve landbird populations at risk, such as the vermilion flycatcher or tree finches, and iv) to involve the Galapagos community and visitors in the monitoring and observation of landbirds.

The project works closely with national and international scientific institutions, as well as with the *Philornis* Project, the Mangrove Finch Project, and the Galapagos Highlands Restoration Project, which contribute to the management and conservation of Galapagos ecosystems. Selected individuals will assist with the research and activities identified in the Landbird Conservation Project and will be supervised by the lead researchers. The activities will provide training in bird studies and will include field and laboratory activities, data entry, activities with students and local institutions, collaboration with scientists in long-term programs, park rangers, and the Galapagos community.

Volunteer conditions

The CDF will provide the equipment and materials necessary for the development of the project, as well as logistical support for field trips to other islands. Technical

Quito: Francisco Andrade Marín E6-122 y Av. Eloy Alfaro. + 593 (2) 2 231 174 **Galápagos:** Av. Charles Darwin s/n, Santa Cruz, Puerto Ayora. + 593

(5) 2 526 146 The 'Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands', in French 'Fondation Charles Darwin pour les îles Galapagos', Association internationale sans but lucratif (AISBL), has its registered office at 54 Avenue Louise, 1050 Brussels, Belgium. Trade Registry # 0409.359.103

www.darwinfoundation.org cdrs@fcdarwin.org.ec



guidance will also be provided by the CDF scientific team, in accordance with institutional policies and procedures.

The volunteer will be under the supervision of the scientist responsible for the project and will comply with the schedule assigned by the CDF.

Compliance with the Internal Regulations and the CDF Procedures Manual will be mandatory, as will strict adherence to the regulations of the Galapagos National Park Directorate (GNPD) during field activities.

Required profile

- Student or graduated on biology or related fields or a person with a strong interest in birds.
- Previous experience in avian ecology, participation in bird projects, or fieldwork experience is preferred.
- Experience with mist-netting, bird calls, and blood sampling is desirable.
- Ability to work in remote locations and field camps under challenging conditions (often with poor or no internet connection).
- Good physical condition for long hikes while carrying heavy field packs over long distances.
- Languages: Spanish (required); English (desired).

Desirable competencies

- Openness to the opportunity to participate in fieldwork activities that may take place outside regular office hours.
- Excellent ability to work in groups and with people of different nationalities and cultural backgrounds.
- Resilience in laboratory work / field trips.
- Maintain a positive attitude and be open to feedback.
- Be responsible, proactive, and committed to conservation.

Responsibilities

Selected volunteers will support one of the following sub-projects:

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Avian Vampire Fly (*Philornis downsi*) Control Techniques

- Search for and monitor finch nests in arid and humid zones; update databases post-monitoring.
- Assist in executing control techniques to reduce *Philornis downsi* nest infestation rates (both in the lab and field).

Little Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus nanus*) in Santa Cruz and/or Isabela Islands

- Reproductive and ecological monitoring.
- Foraging observations.
- Nest management support to mitigate *Philornis downsi* impacts.
- Database updates post-monitoring.

Mangrove Finch (*Camarhynchus heliobates*) on Isabela Island

- Reproductive and ecological monitoring.
- Experimental support to mitigate *Philornis downsi* nest impacts.
- Extended field trip commitment (up to 2 months in remote camps).

Note: Fieldwork takes place in hot environments with rocky terrain, spiny vegetation, isolation, and rainy weather. Applicants must be physically active and motivated to walk several kilometers daily.

Benefits:

- Uniform provided.
- Accident insurance.

How to apply?

Interested individuals must complete the online form available at the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/jf7Y7gAJfm> , attaching the requested documentation in accordance with the instructions provided in the form.

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Please note that compliance with the completion guidelines, established deadlines, and required formats for attachments is mandatory.

Only applications that fully comply with all established criteria regarding profile, format, documentation, and content will be considered.

Do you have any general questions about the volunteer opportunity?

If you would like more information about the volunteer opportunity, please send your questions to the following email address so that we can respond appropriately:

✉ vol@fcdarwin.org.ec

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