

FIELD GUIDE

RESIDENT LANDBIRDS OF GALAPAGOS



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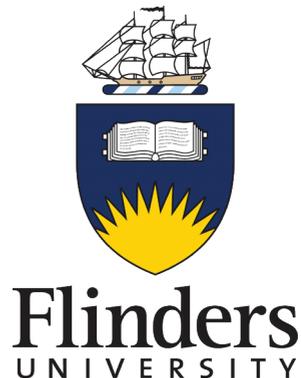
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CONSERVING THE ICONIC LANDBIRDS OF THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

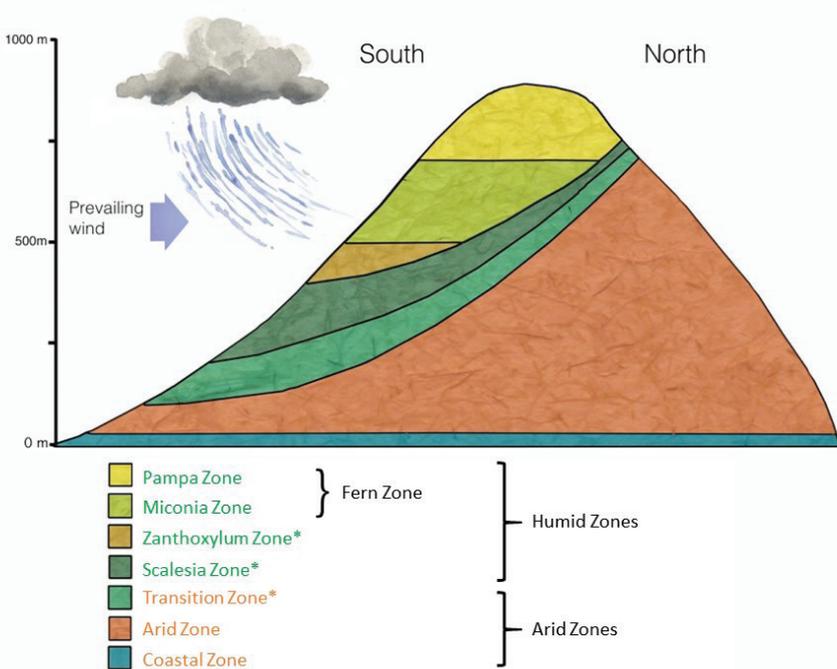
This guide is the result of extensive long-term research and monitoring efforts carried out by members of the Landbird Conservation Program. This program is coordinated by the Charles Darwin Foundation and the Galapagos National Park Directorate and counts on the help of Galapagos residents, visitors, and researchers from around the world. The program was started in 2014 in response to concerns about the decline of several iconic bird species on the Galapagos, including Darwin's finches.

Activities are focused on three main objectives:

- 1. Establish a monitoring program to detect changes in bird populations:** thanks to targeted studies and surveys, we currently have a growing database for bird numbers on the larger islands of the archipelago. In the future, these data will be compared with results from monitoring expeditions, allowing us to detect changes (positive or negative) in bird numbers.
- 2. Identify the factors that are affecting the well-being of small landbirds:** surprisingly little is known about the ecology of most Galapagos landbirds. We are studying the causes of avian decline, including the effects of an invasive parasitic fly (*Philornis downsi*), cats, rats, disease, and loss of habitat.
- 3. Develop tools to ensure the long-term conservation of Galapagos landbirds:** the data and information that we are collecting is enabling us to develop tools and management plans to safeguard birds and reverse the declines of threatened species.

Visit our website www.darwinfoundation.org to get research updates and an overview of conservation efforts to save these World Heritage birds.

VEGETATION ZONES ON HIGH ELEVATION ISLANDS



*The agricultural zone spans several habitat types including the transition zone and Scalesia zone, and has replaced the *Zanthoxylum* zone.

Figure: Santa Cruz Island (source - CDF), modified by A. Robertson and D. Anchundia

The Galapagos Islands have two seasons: a hot season (~January-May), with sporadic downpours in the lowlands and highlands; and a cool garúa season (~June-December), with precipitation in the highlands and almost none in the lowlands.

Eight Galapagos islands have highland humid zones: four are inhabited (Florea, Isabela, San Cristobal, Santa Cruz) and four are uninhabited (Fernandina, Pinta, Pinzon, Santiago).

BIRD SPECIES

In total, 169 bird species have been recorded on the Galapagos Islands, not including domesticated species. 105 are resident species or regular migrants and 64 are irregular vagrants.

This book describes the landbirds that are residents in Galapagos: 29 species of small landbirds (passerines, cuckoos, dove), 4 rails, 1 hawk, and 2 owls.

The landbird species include 28 endemic species (17 Darwin's finches, 4 mockingbirds, 3 flycatchers, 1 dove, 1 martin, 1 rail, 1 hawk) and 3 endemic subspecies (Yellow Warbler, 2 owls). In addition, there are 3 native rails, 1 native cuckoo, and 1 introduced cuckoo (Smooth-billed Ani).

Among the landbirds, 18 resident species are categorized as threatened by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

IUCN Categories	
LC	Least Concern
NT	Nearly Threatened
VU	Vulnerable
EN	Endangered
CR	Critically Endangered

Origin of Species	
E	Endemic
N	Native
I	Introduced

Habitat Occurrence	
Pres	Present
Abs	Absent
Rare	Rare
Reg	Regular
Com	Common
VCom	Very Common

DARWIN'S GROUND FINCHES

Geospiza



Small Ground-finch males of different ages

© M.Dvorak

Plumage Coloration: females and yearling males look alike. Ground finch plumage is streaky, especially on the crown and chin. Males get darker with every annual molt until they are fully black from about five years and older.

Beak: black during the breeding season and pale during the rest of the year.

Nest: dome-shaped.



© R.Dudaniec

SMALL GROUND-FINCH

Geospiza fuliginosa

IUCN Category

LC

Origin of Species

E



Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	VCom
Dry	VCom
Transition	VCom
Agriculture	Com
Scalesia	Reg
Fern	Reg

Diet: very opportunistic. Mostly consumes seeds but also feeds on fruits and invertebrates.

Distribution: all the islands except Genovesa, Darwin and Wolf.

Note: the smallest of the ground finches. It is the most recently diverged Darwin's finch species, according to phylogenetic analysis. It breeds opportunistically during months of high rainfall. During the non-breeding months (~May to December) it forms large groups with other ground finches and the Small Tree-finch.

Mass: ~ 13 g

MEDIUM GROUND-FINCH

Geospiza fortis

IUCN Category

LC

Origin of Species

E



Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Com
Dry	VCom
Transition	Com
Agriculture	Reg
Scalesia	Rare
Fern	Pres

Diet: very opportunistic. Mostly consumes seeds but also feeds on fruits and invertebrates.

Distribution: all islands except Española, Genovesa, Darwin and Wolf. In decline on Floreana Island.

Note: its beak size can be extremely variable on some islands, but is always larger than that of the Small Ground-finch. During the non-breeding months (~May to December) it forms large groups with other ground finches and the Small Tree-finch.

Mass: 16-20 g

LARGE GROUND-FINCH

Geospiza magnirostris

IUCN Category



Origin of Species



Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Pres
Dry	Pres
Transition	Pres
Agriculture	Rare
Scalesia	Rare
Fern	Abs

Diet: mostly large seeds, also fruits and invertebrates.

Distribution: all islands except Española and Darwin.

Extinct on Floreana and San Cristobal.

Note: : the largest and biggest bodied of the ground finches, with a large head and a strong neck. The bill is very big and typically covers the entire face.

Mass: 30-35 g

SHARP-BEAKED GROUND-FINCH

Geospiza difficilis

IUCN Category

LC

Origin of Species

E



Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Abs
Dry	Abs
Transition	Rare
Humid	Com
Fern	Abs

Diet: mostly invertebrates (including snails), also seeds.

Distribution: highlands of Fernandina, Pinta and Santiago.
Extinct on Floreana, Santa Cruz, San Cristobal and probably Isabela.

Note: as indicated by its name, this finch has a pointed beak.

Mass: 20-25 g

GENOVESA GROUND-FINCH

Geospiza acutirostris

IUCN Category



Origin of Species



Diet: mostly seeds, also invertebrates.

Distribution: only present on Genovesa.

Note: classified by IUCN as a new species in 2016 (originally grouped with the Sharp-beaked Ground-finch) The only finch of this size on the island.

Mass: ~ 12 g

Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Com
Dry	Com

VAMPIRE GROUND-FINCH

Geospiza septentrionalis

IUCN Category

VU

Origin of Species

E



© Tui De Roy

Diet: mostly seeds and invertebrates. It is known to consume the blood of boobies and their chicks and may steal and consume seabird eggs.

Distribution: Darwin and Wolf.

Note: classified by IUCN as a new species in 2016 (originally grouped with the Sharp-beaked Ground-finch).

Mass: 20-25 g

Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Com
Dry	Com

COMMON CACTUS-FINCH

Geospiza scandens

IUCN Category



Origin of Species



Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Reg
Dry	Com
Transition	Rare
Agriculture	Abs
Scalesia	Abs
Fern	Abs

Diet: feeds mainly from the *Opuntia* cactus (flowers, nectar, fruits); also seeds and invertebrates.

Distribution: all islands except Española, Fernandina, Genovesa, Darwin and Wolf. Rare on Floreana and San Cristóbal where *Opuntias* are scarce.

Note: its beak is longer and more pointed than that of other finches. Despite consuming a variety of food types, it is rarely observed in areas without cacti.

Mass: ~ 20 g

ESPAÑOLA CACTUS-FINCH

Geospiza conirostris

IUCN Category

VU

Origin of Species

E



Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Com
Dry	Com

Diet: large seeds and invertebrates.

Distribution: only present on Española.

Note: the separation of the Large Cactus-finch into two species (*G. conirostris* and *G. propinqua* on Genovesa) was accepted by the IUCN in 2016. It is the biggest finch on Española.

Mass: ~ 35 g

© M. Dvorak

GENOVESA CACTUS-FINCH

Geospiza propinqua

IUCN Category

VU

Origin of Species

E



© M.Dvorak

Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Com
Dry	Com

Diet: seeds and invertebrates.

Distribution: only present on Genovesa.

Note: the separation of the Large Cactus-finch into two species (*G. conirostris* on Española and *G. propinqua*) was accepted by the IUCN in 2016.

Mass: ~ 25 g

DARWIN'S TREE FINCHES

*Camarhynchus**



Small Tree-finch males of different ages

© M.Dvorak

Plumage coloration: Male tree finches and male Vegetarian Finches get darker with every molt until they have acquired a black hood and chin.

Male Woodpecker Finches (with the exception of birds on San Cristobal) and most Mangrove Finches do not develop black hoods, and have similar plumage coloration as females and yearlings. Some male Mangrove Finches develop dark hoods with age.

Beak: black during the breeding season and pale during the rest of the year.

Nest: dome-shaped.

* IUCN classifies this genus under *Geospiza*



© K.Peters

SMALL TREE-FINCH

Camarhynchus parvulus

IUCN Category



Origin of Species



Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Rare
Dry	Reg
Transition	Com
Agriculture	Com
Scalesia	VCom
Fern	Rare

Diet: mostly invertebrates and seeds, also fruits and nectar. Often glean invertebrates from the surface of leaves and bark.

Distribution: all the main islands except Española, Genovesa, Marchena, Darwin and Wolf. Absent from Rabida, Pinta and Santa Fe during recent surveys (2017-18).

Note: the smallest of the tree finches. On San Cristobal, only few males have black hoods. During the non-breeding season (~May to December) it forms large groups with ground finches.

Mass: 12-15 g

MEDIUM TREE-FINCH

Camarhynchus pauper

IUCN Category

CR

Origin of Species

E



Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Abs
Dry	Abs
Transition	Rare
Agriculture	Com
Scalesia	Com
Fern	Abs

Diet: mainly invertebrates and seeds, also fruits and nectar. Often chip and pry at bark to extract prey.

Distribution: only present on Floreana.

Note: the largest tree finch on Floreana; its plumage is more streaked compared with the Small Tree-finch. It nests in tall trees. Its slower song consists of 3-7 repeated notes (chui chui chui chui chui or too too too too) compared to the faster song of the Small Tree-finch with 6-13 notes (chi chi chi chi chi chi chi chi chi). There are less than 10,000 individuals of this species on the island.

Mass: ~ 16 g

LARGE TREE-FINCH

Camarhynchus psittacula

IUCN Category



Origin of Species



Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Abs
Dry	Rare
Transition	Rare
Agriculture	Reg
Scalesia	Reg
Fern	Abs

Diet: mostly invertebrates, also fruits and seeds. Often chip and pry at bark and small twigs to extract prey.

Distribution: Fernandina, Isabela, Marchena, Pinta, Santa Cruz and Santiago. Absent from Rabida and Santa Fe during recent surveys (2017-18). Extinct on Floreana and Pinzon.

Note: Thick beak resembling a parrot's beak; upper beak hooked at the tip. Prefers old Scalesia and other tall trees for feeding and nesting. Low densities on Isabela, Santa Cruz and Santiago. Possibly severely threatened.

Mass: ~ 18 g.

WOODPECKER FINCH

Camarhynchus pallidus

IUCN Category



Origin of Species



Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Rare
Dry	Reg
Transition	Reg
Agriculture	Com
Scalesia	Com
Fern	Reg

Diet: mainly invertebrates, often probes a substrate by inserting its beak. Very famous for its tool-use behaviour to extract beetle larvae from wood. It also eats fruits and nectar.

Distribution: Fernandina, Isabela, Pinta, San Cristobal, Santa Cruz, Santiago. Absent from Pinzon, Rabida and Santa Fe during recent surveys (2017-18).

Note: males and females have similar plumage. On San Cristobal, some males acquire a black hood.

Mass: ~ 22 g

MANGROVE FINCH

Camarhynchus heliobates

IUCN Category



Origin of Species



© M.Dvorak

Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Pres
Dry	Abs
Transition	Abs
Agriculture	Abs
Scalesia	Abs
Fern	Abs

Diet: mostly invertebrates, also fruits and nectar. Does not use tools.

Distribution: small breeding population in the northwest of Isabela, vagrant on Fernandina. Lives exclusively in mangroves, which are scarce on the Galapagos. Non-breeding finches can occasionally be seen in the dry zone.

Note: there are fewer than 100 individuals. Some males acquire a black hood. The song consists of 3-4 metallic notes (cha cha cha cha) compared to the 3-6 melodic notes in the Woodpecker Finch song (chu chu chu chu chu). Since 2006 an intensive conservation program is underway to increase the population size and the distribution range of this species.

Mass: ~ 20 g

VEGETARIAN FINCH

Platyspiza crassirostris

IUCN Category

LC

Origin of Species

E



© M.Dvorak

Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Reg
Dry	Com
Transition	Com
Agriculture	Reg
Scalesia	Rare
Fern	Abs

Diet: mostly fruits, leaves, nectar, buds, plants and a few invertebrates.

Distribution: all islands except Española, Genovesa, Santa Fe, Darwin and Wolf. Absent on Pinzon and Rabida during recent surveys (2017-18).

Possibly extinct on Floreana.

Note: large finch with a chunky body, long tail and a striped/dotted breast. Head is small in proportion to its body and its weight is centred on the chest and belly. Characteristic parrot-like beak, strong and blunt, slightly hooked at the tip. Expanding in the highlands of Santa Cruz.

Mass: 30-35g

GREEN WARBLER-FINCH

Certhidea olivacea

IUCN Category



Origin of Species



Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Abs
Dry	Rare
Transition	Com
Agriculture	Reg
Scalesia	VCom
Fern	Com

Diet: mostly small invertebrates gleaned from the surface, rarely fruits and nectar.

Plumage: males have orange throat.

Distribution: Baltra, Fernandina, Isabela, Pinzon, Rabida, Santa Cruz and Santiago. In decline on Santa Cruz.

Note: Warbler Finches are the smallest finches on the Galapagos. The Green Warbler-finch is a sister species to the Grey Warbler-finch; the two species never co-occur on the same island.

Mass: ~ 8 g

GREY WARBLER-FINCH

Certhidea fusca

IUCN Category



Origin of Species



Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Rare
Dry	Reg
Transition	Com
Agriculture	Com
Scalesia	Com
Fern	Com

Diet: mostly small invertebrates gleaned from the surface, rarely fruits and nectar.

Plumage: males have orange throat.

Distribution: Española, Genovesa, Marchena, Pinta, San Cristobal, and Santa Fe, Absent from Darwin and Wolf. Extinct on Floreana.

Note: Warbler Finches are the smallest finches on the Galapagos. The Grey Warbler-finch is a sister species to the Green Warbler-finch; the two species never co-occur on the same island. Generally occurs in the dry zone. On San Cristobal it occurs from the transition zone to the highlands.

Mass: ~ 8 g

GALAPAGOS MOCKINGBIRD

Mimus parvulus

IUCN Category



Origin of Species



Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Com
Dry	VCom
Transition	VCom
Agriculture	Reg
Scalesia	Rare
Fern	Rare

Diet: very generalist. Diet includes small vertebrates, invertebrates, carrion, eggs, fruits, and iguana ticks. On Santa Fe, observed to drink blood from iguanas.

Distribution: all islands except Española, Floreana, Pinzon and San Cristobal.

Note: males and females similar in plumage; males larger than females. Juveniles (up to 9 months) have spots on their breast. Cooperative breeding system with variable group size on different islands. Cup nests.

Mass: ~ 50-60 g

ESPAÑOLA MOCKINGBIRD

Mimus macdonaldi

IUCN Category

VU

Origin of Species

E



© D. Anchundia

Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	VCom
Dry	Com

Diet: very generalist. Diet includes small vertebrates, invertebrates, carrion, eggs, fruits, and iguana ticks. Known to drink blood from seabirds, iguanas and sea lions.

Distribution: Española and islet Gardner (opposite Española).

Note: males and females similar in plumage; males larger than females. Juveniles (up to 9 months) have spots on their breast. Cooperative breeding system: they form groups of up to 8 birds during the breeding season, but cooperative behavior has rarely been observed.

Mass: ~ 60-80 g

FLOREANA MOCKINGBIRD

Mimus trifasciatus

IUCN Category

EN

Origin of Species

E



Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	VCom
Dry	Com

Diet: very generalist. Diet includes small vertebrates, invertebrates, carrion, eggs, fruits, and iguana ticks.

Distribution: formerly common species on Floreana but has disappeared since the 1900s. Now only found on two islets close to Floreana: Gardner and Champion.

Note: < 600 individuals. Males and females similar in plumage; males larger than females. Juveniles (up to 9 months) have spots on their breast. Cooperative breeding system.

Mass: ~ 55-70 g

SAN CRISTOBAL MOCKINGBIRD

Mimus melanotis

IUCN Category

NT

Origin of Species

E



Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Com
Dry	VCom
Transition	Com
Agriculture	Reg

Diet: very generalist. Diet includes small vertebrates, invertebrates, carrion, eggs, fruits, and iguana ticks.

Distribution: only present on San Cristobal.

Note: males and females similar in plumage; males larger than females. Juveniles (up to 9 months) have spots on their breast. Cooperative breeding system: maximum group size 3 individuals (two males and one female).

Mass: ~ 45-55 g

GALAPAGOS FLYCATCHER

Myiarchus magnirostris

IUCN Category



Origin of Species



Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Com
Dry	VCom
Transition	VCom
Agriculture	Reg
Scalesia	Rare
Fern	Rare

Diet: mostly invertebrates; also seeds and fruits. Often catches invertebrates by sallying or pouncing: perches, observes, and then flies to catch prey mid-air or on the ground.

Distribution: all islands except Genovesa, Darwin and Wolf.

Note: When nervous, it raises its head feathers. Males and females have similar plumage. The only small Galapagos landbird that nests in cavities.

Mass: ~ 15 g

LITTLE VERMILION FLYCATCHER

Pyrocephalus nanus

IUCN Category

VU

Origin of Species

E



Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Com
Dry	VCom
Transition	VCom
Agriculture	Reg
Scalesia	Rare
Fern	Rare

Diet: exclusively invertebrates. Often catches invertebrates by sallying or pouncing: perches, observes, and then flies to catch prey mid-air or on the ground.

Plumage: males have a distinct and conspicuous red plumage while females are more cryptic with a pale, creamy yellow belly and grey-brownish body. Young males somewhat orange.

Distribution: all large islands except Baltra, Española, Genovesa and San Cristobal. Absent on Santa Fe during a recent survey (2017). Rare and declining on Santa Cruz and Santiago. The population on Santa Cruz dropped to around 30 territories in 2021; it occurs in the humid zone. Probably extinct on Floreana.

Note: cup nest. Since 2016 the two subspecies in the Galapagos are classified by the IUCN as distinct species.

Mass: ~ 10 g

SAN CRISTOBAL VERMILION FLYCATCHER *Pyrocephalus dubius*

Extinct (IUCN). Last sighting in 2016 (still to be confirmed), intense searches between 2015-2021 did not find individuals.

YELLOW WARBLER

Setophaga petechia aureola

IUCN Category



Origin of Species



© M.Dvorak

Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Reg
Dry	Com
Transition	VCom
Agriculture	Com
Scalesia	Reg
Fern	Reg

Diet: mostly invertebrates, also seeds and fruits.

Distribution: on all islands, extensive and common.

Note: cup nest. Endemic subspecies. The only yellow bird in the Galapagos. Males can have an orange crown and reddish streaks on the underparts. Juveniles are greyish with some yellow.

Mass: ~ 11 g

GALAPAGOS MARTIN

Progne modesta

IUCN Category

EN

Origin of Species

E



Diet: invertebrates caught in flight.

Distribution: probably present on all islands and all habitat types. However, it has not been observed on Genovesa, Marchena, Pinta, Darwin or Wolf.

Note: narrow tail with a deep “V”. Needs cliffs to nest. It can also be seen around craters of volcanoes. Due to its mobility, it is difficult to evaluate the population size.

Mass: 30-35 g



GALAPAGOS DOVE

Zenaida galapagoensis

IUCN Category

NT

Origin of Species

E



Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Pres
Dry	Pres
Transition	Pres
Agriculture	Pres
Scalesia	Pres
Fern	Pres

Diet: mainly seeds and plant material.

Distribution: all the main islands. Very rare on the four inhabited islands with patchy distribution on Isabela and Santa Cruz.

Note: they make their nests under stone plates and sometimes use old mockingbird nests. Reluctant to fly, which increases their risk of predation by introduced mammals.

Mass: ~ 80 g

DARK-BILLED CUCKOO

Coccyzus melacoryphus

IUCN Category



Origin of Species



© M.Dvorak

Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Pres
Dry	Pres
Transition	Pres
Agriculture	Pres
Scalesia	Pres
Fern	Pres

Diet: mostly invertebrates, also fruits.

Distribution: all larger islands.

Note: cup nest. Long dark tail with white tips; very shy; easier to hear than to see, low voice with same intensity of 2 to 5 notes (cu-cu-cu-cu-cu). Almost nothing is known about this species. Call activity varies greatly between years making it difficult to obtain reliable population estimates.

Mass: 40-60 g

SMOOTH-BILLED ANI

Crotophaga ani

IUCN Category

LC

Origin of Species

I



Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Pres
Dry	Pres
Transition	Pres
Agriculture	Pres
Scalesia	Pres
Fern	Pres

Diet: mostly invertebrates, but also small vertebrates, seeds and fruits.

Distribution: all large islands except Darwin and Wolf.

Note: live and nest in groups: several females lay their eggs in the same nest and the group cares for the young. Introduced during the 1960s to control ticks on introduced cattle. Now considered a pest because it competes with native species for food and nesting areas. Anis affect Galapagos ecosystems by dispersing introduced plant seeds such as blackberries and preying on endemic animals.

Mass: 70-100 g

GALAPAGOS RAIL

Laterallus spilonotus

IUCN Category



Origin of Species



Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Pres
Dry	Abs
Transition	Abs
Agriculture	Reg
Scalesia	Com
Fern	VCom

Diet: mostly invertebrates, some seeds.

Distribution: Fernandina, Isabela, Pinta, Pinzon, Santa Cruz and Santiago.
Extinct on Floreana and San Cristobal.

Note: A very dark, compact and small rallidae, with a pointed black beak, red eyes and dull reddish legs. Reluctant to fly. It is most easily detected by its calls and song. Nests on the ground and is susceptible to predation by rats, cats and pigs.

Mass: 35-45 g

PAINT-BILLED CRAKE

Neocrex erythrops

IUCN Category



Origin of Species



© M.Dvorak

Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Abs
Dry	Abs
Transition	Rare
Agriculture	Com
Scalesia	Rare
Fern	Rare

Diet: mostly invertebrates and some seeds.

Distribution: Floreana, Isabela, San Cristobal and Santa Cruz. It is expanding its distribution in the Galapagos.

Note: secretive bird. It can be distinguished from the Galapagos Rail by the color of its beak (red base, yellow tip) and red legs and from the Moorhen (which has yellow legs). Nests on the ground - susceptible to predation by rats, cats and pigs.

Mass: ~ 70 g

COMMON GALLINULE

Gallinula galeata

IUCN Category

LC

Origin of Species

N



Diet: mostly invertebrates and some seeds.

Distribution: lagoons on several islands (coastal and higher elevation). It is expanding its distribution in the Galapagos. It is one of the most widespread species in the western hemisphere.

Note: yellow legs. Nests on the ground - susceptible to predation by rats, cats and pigs. Forages in vegetation near lagoons.

Mass: 350-450 g

PURPLE GALLINULE

Gallareta purpura

IUCN LC, Native

Reproducing in Santa Cruz in recent years. Similar to Common Gallinule with more colourful and shiny plumage.

GALAPAGOS BARN OWL

Tyto alba punctatissima

IUCN Category



Origin of Species



Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Pres
Dry	Pres
Transition	Pres
Agriculture	Pres
Scalesia	Pres
Fern	Pres

Diet: mostly rats and mice (85%), some small birds and large invertebrates (15%).

Distribution: Baltra, Española, Fernandina, Isabela, San Cristobal, Santa Cruz and Santiago. Extinct on Floreana.

Note: endemic subspecies, darker and smaller than the continental species. Active only at night. Numbers fluctuate considerably. Often found in human-inhabited areas. On Santa Cruz, there is high mortality on roads. Nests in tree hollows or cavities.

Mass: 200-280 g

GALAPAGOS SHORT-EARED OWL

Asio flammeus galapagoensis

IUCN Category

LC

Origin of Species

N



Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Pres
Dry	Pres
Transition	Pres
Agriculture	Pres
Scalesia	Pres
Fern	Pres

Diet: rodents, birds, lizards and large invertebrates.

Distribution: on all islands.

Note: endemic subspecies. Flies between islands. Where it coexists with the Galapagos Hawk, the owl is nocturnal. Where it coexists with the Barn Owl or when it is the only raptor species on an island, it is also active during the day. Nests on the ground.

Mass: 300-380 g

GALAPAGOS HAWK

Buteo galapagoensis

IUCN Category



Origin of Species



Habitat	Occurrence
Coast	Pres
Dry	Pres
Transition	Pres
Agriculture	Pres
Scalesia	Pres
Fern	Pres

Diet: predator and scavenger; feeds on a wide variety of prey (rodents, lizards, birds, centipedes, placenta of sea lion).

Distribution: formerly common on all large islands except Genovesa, Darwin and Wolf. Now extinct on Floreana, San Cristobal and Santa Cruz due to human persecution.

Note: the only large broad-winged bird that can be observed making circles in the sky. Adults almost black. Females larger than males. Mostly polyandrous breeding system: 2 to 8 males assist in rearing the chicks; monogamous behaviour on Española: The nests are built in low trees, on cliffs or on the ground.

Mass: smaller on Marchena (0.9 / 1.2 kg), larger on Española (1.1 / 1.5 kg).

MAIN THREATS TO GALAPAGOS LANDBIRDS

Avian Vampire Fly, *Philornis downsi*: This fly is invasive to the Galapagos and is thought to have been accidentally introduced from mainland Ecuador. To date, the fly is known to parasitize 19 endemic bird species and two native species. *Philornis downsi* is seriously affecting the survivorship of several of these species, including the critically endangered Mangrove Finch and Medium Tree-finch. Flies are adept at locating bird nests to lay their eggs. Once hatched, the fly larvae feed on the blood of the young birds, often killing all the chicks in the nest. To reduce the impact of *Philornis downsi* on birds, the Charles Darwin Foundation and the Galapagos National Park Directorate are overseeing a multi-institutional collaborative effort that includes researchers from 24 institutions and 10 countries. The aim is to understand the biology and ecology of this little-known fly and simultaneously to conduct research into effective and environmentally friendly control methods.

Rats, cats and introduced Smooth-billed Ani: These species prey on adult birds, eggs and chicks. Therefore, monitoring and control of these species is important, especially on human-inhabited islands.

Diseases and disease vectors: New diseases and animals that are potential disease vectors are becoming more prevalent in the Galapagos, especially on human-inhabited islands. Preventing future introductions is a key conservation strategy.

Habitat degradation: Protecting and restoring remnant endemic *Scalesia* forests and patches in the highlands of Santa Cruz, San Cristobal, Isabela and Floreana is a top priority. This endemic habitat is essential for many endemic species. Agricultural areas are also refuges for various bird species and we focus on promoting bird friendly agricultural practices.

Visit our website www.darwinfoundation.org to get research updates and an overview of conservation efforts to save these World Heritage birds.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Your bird observations are important to us!

1. Send a report or photograph of the birds with the date and location to birds@fcdarwin.org.ec
2. Send your report to eBird or iNaturalist
3. If you see a sick bird, attach #sickbird to your sightings of eBird or iNaturalist so that scientists can easily extract and use this information.

If you are interested in receiving more information about Galapagos birds, download the free “Merlin” application with the Ecuador package!

eBird

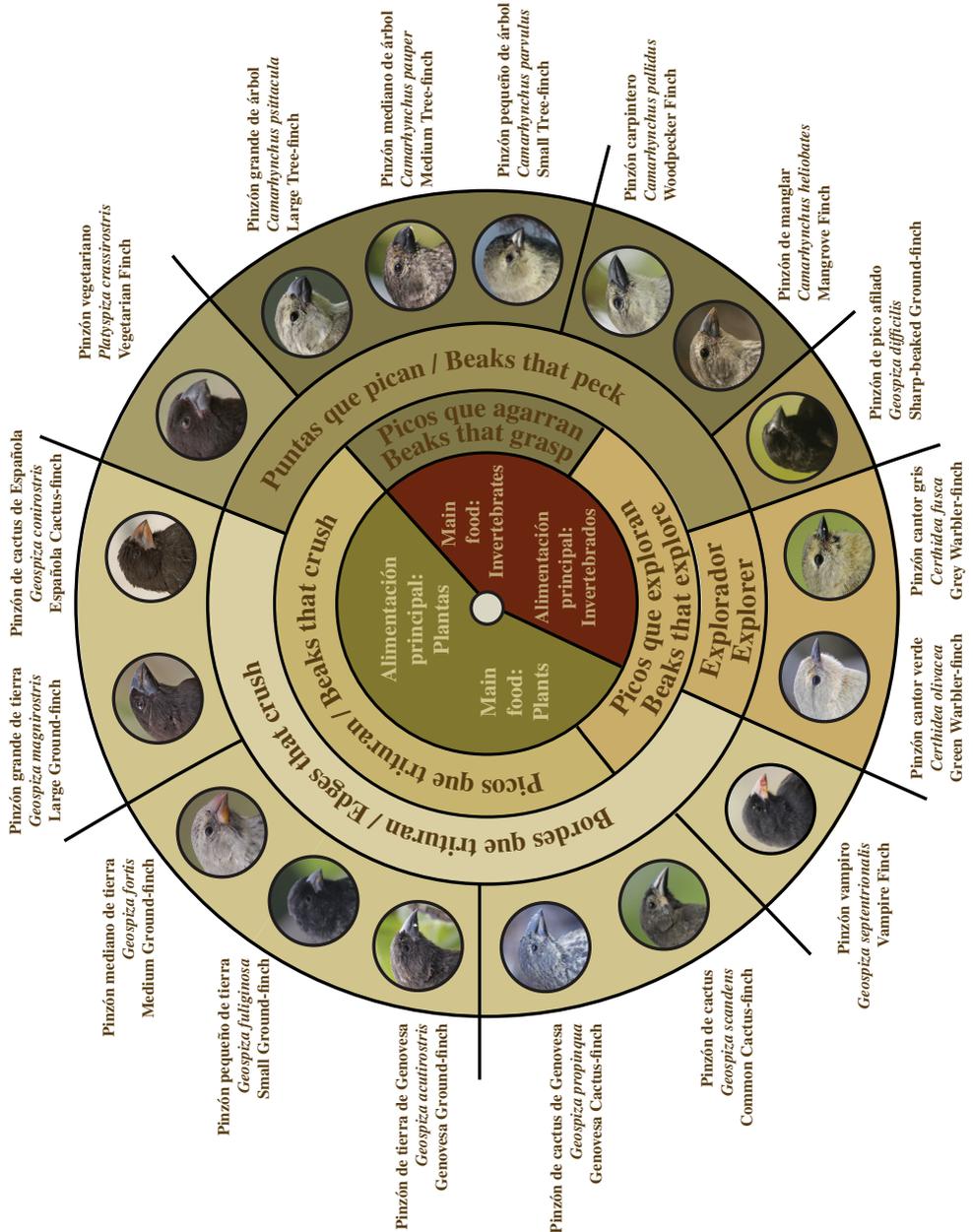
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BEAK FORMS OF THE GALAPAGOS FINCHES



STATUS OF GALAPAGOS LANDBIRDS

The table on the following pages shows the presence, declines and extinctions of landbird populations on the main Galapagos Islands; human-inhabited islands in grey. Islands where *Philornis downsi* has not yet been detected in yellow.

- Bird populations stable
- Populations in decline (data of the Landbird Conservation Program of CDF and GNPD)
- Species reported in the past, but not found in recent surveys (2016-2021)
- X Absence confirmed – considered extinct on this island
- (X) Absence confirmed – former presence on the island doubtful
- X* Only present on two islets close to Floreana

Species with IUCN categories in red: NT - Nearly Threatened, VU – Vulnerable, EN – Endangered, CR – Critically endangered, EX* – Probably extinct (but sightings until 2016).

The other species have the category LC – Least Concern.

Species that are hosts of *Philornis downsi* have a star (*) after their name.

The baseline for the distribution comes from: Swarth 1931, “The avifauna of the Galápagos Islands”. Occasional papers of the California Academy of Science.

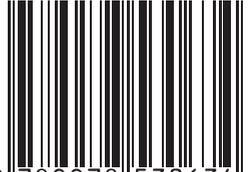
Species	Baltra	Española	Fernandina	Floreana	Genovesa	Isabela	Marchena
Small Ground-finch*	●	●	●	●		●	●
Medium Ground-finch*	●		●	○		●	●
Large Ground-finch*	●		●	X	●	●	●
Sharp-beaked Ground-finch			●	X		(X)	
Genovesa Ground-finch VU					●		
Vampire Ground-finch VU							
Common Cactus-finch*	●			○		●	●
Española Cactus-finch VU		●					
Genovesa Cactus-finch VU					●		
Small Tree-finch*	●		●	●		●	
Medium Tree-finch CR*				○			
Large Tree-finch VU*	●		●	(X)		○	●
Woodpecker Finch VU*	●		●			●	
Mangrove Finch CR*			○ Does not nest			○	
Vegetarian Finch*	●		●	X		●	●
Green Warbler-finch VU*	●		●			●	
Grey Warbler-finch*		●		X	●		●
Galapagos Mockingbird*	●		●		●	●	●

Pinta	Pinzon	Rabida	San Cristobal	Santa Cruz	Santa Fe	Santiago	Darwin y Wolf
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
●	●	●	X	●	●	●	Wolf
●			X	X		●	
							●
●	●	●	○	●	●	●	
X	●	X	●	○	X	●	
●	X	X		○	X	○	
	X	X	●	○	X	●	
●	X	X	●	●		●	
	●	●		○		●	
●			●		●		●
●		●		●	●	●	●

Species	Baltra	Española	Fernandina	Floreana	Genovesa	Isabela	Marchena
Española Mockingbird VU		●					
Floreana Mockingbird EN*				X*			
San Cristobal Mockingbird NT*							
Galapagos Flycatcher*	●	●	●	●		●	●
Little Vermilion Flycatcher VU*			●	X		●	●
Vermilion Flycatcher of San Cristobal EX							
Yellow Warbler*	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Galapagos Martin EN*	●	●	●	●		●	
Galapagos Dove NT*	●	●	●	○	●	○	●
Dark-billed Cuckoo*	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Smooth-billed Ani*	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Galapagos Rail VU			●	X		○	
Paint-billed Crake				●		●	
Common Gallinule		●	●	●		●	
Purple Gallinule						●	
Galapagos Barn Owl	●	●	●	X		●	
Galapagos Short-eared Owl	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Galapagos Hawk VU		●	●	X		●	●

Pinta	Pinzon	Rabida	San Cristobal	Santa Cruz	Santa Fe	Santiago	Darwin y Wolf
			●				
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
●	●	●		○	●	○	
			●				
●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●
	●	●	●	●	●	●	
●	●	●	○	○	●	●	●
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
●	●		✗	○		●	
			●	●			
			●	●			
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			●	●		●	
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
●	●	●	✗	✗	●	●	

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