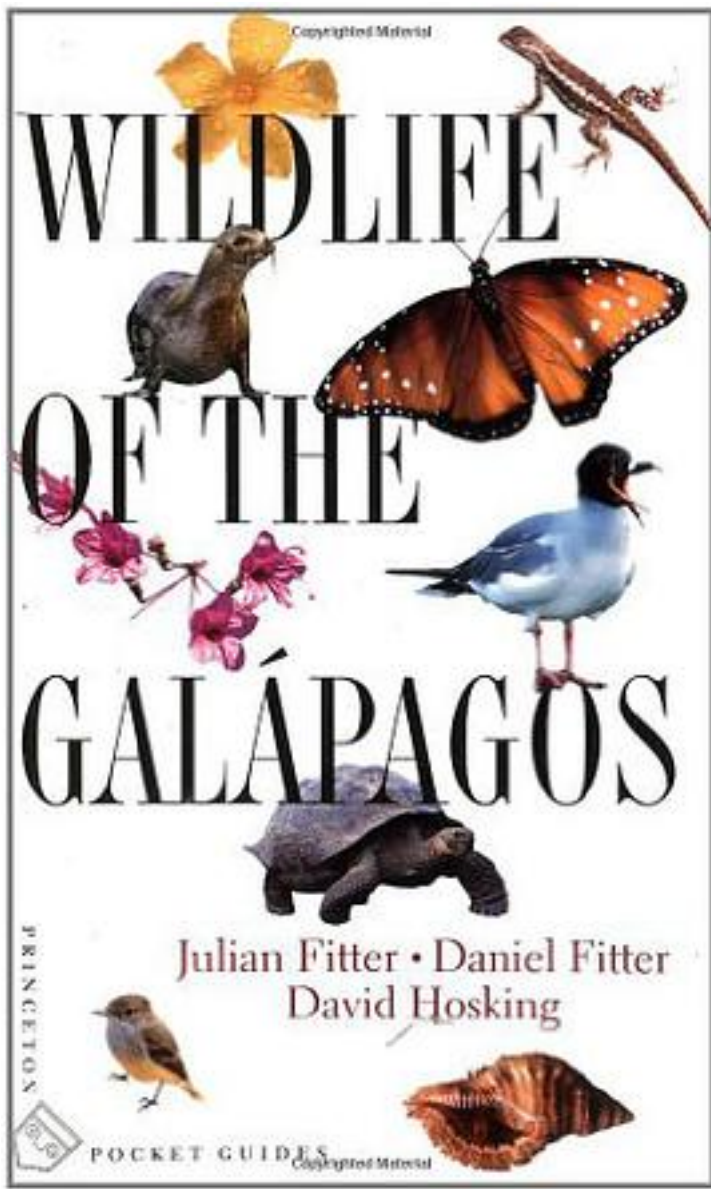


Wildlife of the Galápagos



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The Galapagos is a truly special place. Unlike the rest of the world's archipelagoes, it still has 95 percent of its prehuman quota of species. "Wildlife of the Galapagos" is the most superbly illustrated and comprehensive identification guide ever to the natural splendor of these incomparable islands - islands today threatened by alien species and diseases that have diminished but not destroyed what so enchanted Darwin on his arrival there in 1835. Covering over 200 commonly seen birds, mammals, reptiles, invertebrates, and plants, it reveals the archipelago's striking beauty through more than 400 color photographs, maps, and drawings and well-written, informative text. While the Galapagos Giant Tortoise, the Galapagos Sea Lion, and the Flightless Cormorant are recognized the world over, these thirty-three islands - in the Pacific over 600 miles from mainland Ecuador - are home to many more unique but less famous species. Here, reptiles well outnumber mammals, for they were much better at drifting far from a continent the archipelago was never connected with; the largest native land mammals are rice rats. The islands' sixty resident bird species include the only penguin to breed entirely in the tropics and to inhabit the Northern Hemisphere. There is a section offering tips on photography in the Equatorial sunlight, and maps of visitors' sites as well as information on the archipelago's history, climate, geology, and conservation. "Wildlife of the Galapagos" is the perfect companion for anyone who wants to know what so delighted Darwin. It covers over 200 commonly seen species including birds, mammals, reptiles, invertebrates, plants, and coastal and marine life. It is illustrated with over 400 color photographs, maps, and drawings; includes maps of visitors' sites. Written by wildlife experts with extensive knowledge of the area, it includes information on the history, climate, geology, and conservation of the islands. This is the most complete identification guide to the wildlife of the Galapagos.

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