

Come to think of it, who was Gordon?

There are at least two well-known island names whose origins are, if not lost, then certainly mislaid—Baltra and Tower. The former seems to have originated during World War II, when American forces occupied South Seymour. U.S. Government records of the period alternately refer to the Island by both names, but do not offer any explanation of Baltra. Some residents of Santa Cruz recall that it might have been an acronym, but so far, none can recall more than that.

As for Tower, the name seems to have originated at about the time of Charles Darwin's visit. But who (or possibly, what) was it named after? One French chart (Duperrey 1822) labels the same Island with the English name Hawk. Could this be the bird of the same name? Perhaps not; Harris (1982) describes the Galápagos hawk as "Previously common on all main islands *except* Tower" (emphasis added).

In his "The Encantadas," Herman Melville referred to the present Española as both Hood's and McCain's Beclouded Isle. Interestingly enough, the Melville literature does not turn up any leads to the origin of McCain. Melville scholar Harrison Hayford (pers. comm.) speculates that McCain might have been a shipmate who observed that the Island lay under some clouds and that Melville's pen did the rest.

On a final note, there are the three O's: Olmedo

(José Joaquín), Osborn (Henry Fairfield), and Onslow. The first was the Ecuadorian poet/warrior (Von Hagen 1949), the second was the president of the New York Zoological Society (Beebe 1926), and the third was . . . ?

Information on the origin of any of these names, or of others that may occur to the reader, will be much appreciated by the author.

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REVIEW: A FIELD GUIDE TO THE FISHES OF THE GALAPAGOS

Authored and Illustrated By: Godfrey Merlen

Published 1988, US - \$12.50, UK - £6.95. Wilmot Books, 243 King's Road, London SW3 5EL, England. Coedition published by Ediciones Libri Mundi, Juan Leon Mera 851, Quito, Ecuador.

Reviewed By: John E. McCosker

It has been suggested that if Charles Darwin had been an avid fishwatcher during his 1835 visit to the Galápagos, he could have based his theories of *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* on the ichthyofauna alone, without even having to venture above the high-tide line. The only things he lacked were swim fins, goggles, a scuba tank, and an adequate knowledge of the local fishes and their nearest

relatives. In point of fact, Darwin did collect 15 specimens of the local ichthyofauna and returned with them to England. They were all subsequently described as new by his friend and fellow-naturalist, the Reverend Leonard Jenyns; and one of them was named *Cossyphus darwini* in his honor.

The subsequent century and a half has experienced a checkered history of ichthyological investigation

and now, for the first time, Godfrey Merlen's field guide allows Galápagos fishwatchers an opportunity to identify 101 of the most common species. His guide includes: a map with the main diving and snorkeling sites identified; brief discussions about the oceanographic setting, the effect of fishing, advice to snorkelers and divers such as water temperature and the danger of shark attack (as yet, there has been none); comments on the coloration and size of fishes; and a brief list of further references (notably lacking the 1984 *Key Environments: Galápagos* and the 1987 *Oceanus* "Galápagos Marine Resources Reserve" volumes). However, it is the 17 color plates which make up more than half the guide that are the real value of this effort. Although none are fine art illustrations, all are color correct and more than adequate to allow for proper identification. A brief paragraph about each of the 55 families (I recognize the presence of 92 families in Galápagos) represented includes notes about their behavior, distribution, and habits. For example, it is interesting to discover that some parrotfishes sleep in mucous cocoons, or about the mating behavior of sex-changed serranids; however, I would have preferred that the author make some mention of the number (even approximate, if available) of Galápagos species within each family, thereby allowing one a feeling for the kinds of fish diversity that exist. Nevertheless, his warning that the skin of pufferfishes of the family Tetraodontidae "is also covered in a highly poisonous mucus . . ." is well worth the price of the volume to any incautious Galápagos gourmet. The author notes, "Dead pufferfishes have been seen surrounded by thousands of dead flies. A human, too, can die from eating a pufferfish . . ."

Island biogeographers will benefit from the

knowledge that the endemism of Galápagos shorefishes is comparable to that of many terrestrial plant and animal groups. This is particularly true for those forms that have short-lived larval forms and are particularly unsuited to pelagic transport. Of the 309 shorefish species now known from Galápagos, at least 51 (16.5%) of them are endemic or shared only by Islas Cocos and Malpelo. The ichthyofauna is primarily Panamic in origin, with 60% coming from the eastern tropical Pacific mainland and 16% from the western Pacific. The remainder are pantropical in distribution or are shared with the western Atlantic. The recent El Niño event has brought records of several new Indo-Pacific species to our attention, as well as a major change in the abundance and distribution of many key species.

Errors are rare in this field guide, which apparently benefited from careful proofreading by the author and fact checking by ichthyologists Leighton Taylor of the California Academy of Sciences and Alwyne Wheeler of the British Museum. Those few errors that I noticed and deserve correction are: substitute "North Equatorial Countercurrent" for "North Equatorial Undercurrent," and "Equatorial Undercurrent" for "Equatorial Countercurrent" on page 4; substitute *Halichoeres dispilus* for *Stethojulis bandanensis* on page 15; and *Semicossyphus* for *Pimelometopon* on page 42 (this is a fine nuance of ichthyological nomenclature).

In brief, Godfrey Merlen is to be commended for his fine work, and all Galápagos visitors, be they amateur or professional naturalists, will be wise to include this in their libraries. At \$12.50 (U.S.) or £6.95 (British Isles), it is quite a bargain. **John E. McCosker, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California 94118, USA.**

REVIEW: GALAPAGOS: THE ENCHANTED ISLES

Authored By: David Horwell

Published 1988, 64 pages, UK - £7.95. Dryad Press Limited, 8 Cavendish Square, London W1M OAJ, England.

Reviewed By: Gay Ver Steeg

This book is one of a series of books published by Dryad Press on the subject of islands. To quote the

publisher, "This is very much a geographical view of islands, but the ideas and study skills used in the

by Godfrey Merlen. No Customer Reviews. Select Format. Paperback. \$4.69 - \$4.99. Paperback \$4.69 - \$4.99. Select Condition. Like New. Book Overview. No Synopsis Available. Product Details. Format:Paperback. Language:English. ISBN:9978990224. ISBN13:9789978990223. Godfrey Merlen is British and has lived in Galapagos for 41 years, starting out as a volunteer at the Charles Darwin Research Station. After spending years studying Sperm Whales and writing the first Galapagos guide book for cetaceans, he worked with the Galapagos National Park Service in developing a patrol fleet. He now works in collaboration with Siggal, the quarantine inspectorate, and the Galapagos National Park to prevent the arrival of new invasive species through the practical application of known and new techniques, based upon novel government regulations. He is also involved in study Godfrey Merlen. Although the Galapagos Islands were first colonized over 160 years ago, the major impact on the marine resources by local fishermen has occurred only during the last 40-45 years. During this period, and especially more recently, a lack of attention to the largely uncontrolled fishery has led to confusion, a conflict of interests, and a series of in View. The impact of the 1982-1983 El Niño-Southern Oscillation on seabirds in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. Article. Dec 1987. Coastal people suffered floods, crop losses and failure of fish catches as the ocean waters grew warmer and the rainfall increased more than tenfold. Wildlife was affected in many different ways. The author has been worki Godfrey Merlen's Field Guide to the Fishes of Galapagos is highly recommended for snorkelers. This booklet describes and illustrates more than 100 of the most frequently seen species. One interesting fact that you may learn from this book is that many species of tropical fish change their color and shape as they age; a few can even change their sex midway through life. This certainly makes identification confusing! Tropical Fish. Because the Humboldt Current brings cold water from the south, the water temperature tends to be cooler and more varied than in many other tropical destinations. Typi Used items may not include supplementary materials such as CDs or access codes. May show signs of minor shelf wear and contain limited notes and highlighting It is also the first to illustrate these fishes in colour. Lacking fresh water and soil, swept by salty winds and occasional breakers from the sea, they are boiling hot under the equatorial sun and cold at night. Read full description. See details and exclusions - A Field Guide to the Fishes of Galapagos. See all 4 pre-owned listings. Buy it now.