sharks, rays, crabs, and sea turtles) found in Galápagos. The book does not cover the fish (except for one shark and one ray), plants, or landscape of Galápagos. This book is not and does not claim to be a "field guide." The focus of the book is well stated in the title: *Portraits of Galápagos.*

The authors chose over 100 finely detailed photographs to demonstrate their captivation with the animals of the Islands. They obviously know their subject and have had the time to capture the rare moments. The layout is appealing, with coordinating colors on most of the pages and frequent use of effective borders. The photographs flow harmoniously from page to page; the book is not a jumble of individual images as some photographic essays are. Only occasionally does a photograph seem ill-chosen (such as one of the flamingos which has a somewhat distracting landscape). The quality of the paper seems to have slightly affected the brilliance of the photographs, but this would not keep me from buying the book, especially at the current price.

The book contains an introduction which emphasizes the impact Galápagos seems to have on all who venture there. We are given a brief insight into the philosophy of the authors as it relates to their experiences in Galápagos. Tui has lived in Galápagos since the age of two and Mark has lived there for about 10 years.

The table of contents contains a descriptive paragraph about each species to go along with the corresponding section of photographs. Each paragraph contains pertinent and memorable information about each animal. And for those who wish to know more about each photograph, there is a section at the end of the book with information about where each photo was taken and under what conditions.

The book I am reviewing is the first edition. The second edition (the one for sale at present) has more photographs, better color separation where needed, and a few editorial corrections (it is hoped that more of the pages will be numbered and the map will be interpreted). With these changes, this will be a valuable book for tourists or others who desire a "coffee-table" book. It is a book of captivating photographs with the amount and type of information which is perfect for the nonscientist. Or, for those of us who have been to the Galápagos, the book is a vivid and handy reminder of our experiences with the animals. Many of these photos are the ones we wish we could have taken. I consider the book a welcome addition to my library of Galápagos books.

This book is available only through the authors and not in US bookstores [order through: Mark Jones, "Calendars and Books," Isla Santa Cruz, Galápagos, Ecuador; $22.00 plus $5.00 shipping and handling ($7.00 outside of USA); checks in US dollars on US banks or equivalent in pounds sterling on UK bank]. A Spanish version is planned for the near future. Gay Ver Steeg, Route 4, Box 205-B, Porterville, California 93257, USA.

**REVIEW: THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS: THE ESSENTIAL HANDBOOK FOR EXPLORING, ENJOYING & UNDERSTANDING DARWIN’S ENCHANTED ISLANDS**

**Authored By: Marylee Stephenson**

**Published 1989, 160 pages, US - $12.95. The Mountaineers,**

306 2nd Avenue West, Seattle, Washington 98119, USA.

Reviewed By: Gregory C. Mayer

The Galápagos continue to attract visitors from around the world who are interested in the rich natural and human history of the Islands. A number of books are now available to assist them in appreciating this history and in planning their visits. The newest of these is Marylee Stephenson's *The Galapágos Islands.* The book, as indicated by its subtitle, is specifically aimed at the visitor. It is divided into three sections: an overview, a description of visitor sites, and travel tips, followed by brief appendices.
The book is illustrated with numerous black-and-white photographs, 8 pages of color photos, and 13 sketch maps of visitor sites.

The first section, of 42 pages, attempts to briefly outline in nine chapters the history, wildlife, plants, and conservation problems of the Galápagos. Given the amount of space devoted to it, the account is necessarily very sketchy and only partially succeeds in conveying the reasons why the Galápagos are so widely hailed as a laboratory of evolution. There is, for example, no adequate discussion of adaptive radiation, natural selection, or speciation. Also, the author, to my mind, overstates somewhat the extent to which the environment of the Islands has been degraded by man. Unlike other island archipelagos, such as Hawaii, which have a long history of human occupation, the Galápagos’ brief period of disturbance has allowed much more of the natural ecosystem to survive. This is not to deny the great damage done by man and introduced organisms, but one of the great attractions of the Galápagos is their relatively pristine condition. It is also somewhat curious that the author contends that the “sheer scientific value of the Islands alone” justifies their preservation, yet maintains that the effects of scientific exploration have not been “benign” and that early scientific work (Darwin’s?) was of “dubious value.” It is, of course, through the efforts of collectors such as Darwin and his collaborators and successors that the uniqueness and value of the Galápagos ecosystem have been uncovered.

The second section, “Major Islands and Visitor Sites,” is the heart of the book, and the reason why it is a worthwhile addition to the Galápagos guidebook literature. It consists of accounts of visitor sites throughout the Islands from the point of view of the tour boat visitor. The accounts include the nature of the landing, topography, trail layout, and plants and animals likely to be encountered. The 13 sketch maps in this section (similar to those in Jackson’s *Galápagos: A Natural History Guide*, 1985, University of Calgary Press, Calgary) illustrate a number of the visitor sites. Reading these accounts and looking over the maps in the morning before going ashore would be the perfect preparation for the visitor; this is a book to be taken along on the trip, not for studying at home.

The third section provides some practical tips on costs, clothing, equipment, etc., and gives some idea of the physical and mental requirements of hiking on the Islands and living on a boat. The cost information is, of course, only current as of the date of writing (January 1989). There are also hints on photography; although I found the Galápagos to make anyone a good photographer—with such cooperative subjects, it is hard to take a bad picture. One piece of photographic equipment not mentioned, but which I regard as essential, is a flash unit for macrophotography, which allows close-up work with fine-grained film on flowers, lizards, etc., regardless of light conditions.

The appendices give information on mainland Ecuador, suggested reading, conservation funding, and a “Trip Log.” The book concludes with an index.

By filling a niche only partially occupied by other books on the Galápagos, *The Galápagos Islands* secures for itself a place on the Galápagos traveler’s bookshelf and suitcase. This niche is that of a guide to the specific sites the visitor will encounter. This role is filled by the accounts and maps in the second section, which will be valuable not only as preparation, but as reminder of places visited and things seen after the trip is over. It is not a complete guide. The overview of natural and human history in the first section is too brief, and the visitor will need a more detailed general guide, such as White and Epler’s *Galápagos Guide* (1986, Libri Mundi, Quito) or, my preference, Jackson’s *Galápagos: A Natural History Guide* for natural history and Hickman’s *The Enchanted Islands* (1985, Anthony Nelson, Oswestry, UK) for human history. Nonetheless, I would recommend it, along with Jackson and Harris's *A Field Guide to the Birds of Galápagos* (1982, Collins, London), as the basic take-along library for the Galápagos visitor. Gregory C. Mayer, Zoological Museum, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706, USA.
The Galapagos Islands: The Essential Handbook for Exploring, Enjoying and Understanding Darwin's Enchanted Islands [Marylee Stephenson] on Amazon.com. *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. A dedicated amateur naturalist presents an updated guide to visiting Ecuador's Galapagos Islands. Covers the plants. When not traveling in the Galapagos Islands or dreaming of it, MARYLEE STEPHENSON has her own consulting business as a program evaluator and social policy researcher. She lives in Vancouver, B.C. Read more. The Galapagos Islands accidental discovery: How did it affect Darwin's thoughts. During Charles Darwin's nearly five-year circumnavigation of the globe aboard HMS Beagle, he spent only five weeks on the Galapagos Islands. The year was 1835 and Darwin was 26 years old. His discoveries on the islands were paramount to the development of his Theory of Evolution by Natural Selection. On the islands, Charles Darwin discovered several species of finches. Thanks to his close observations, he discovered that the different species of finches varied from island to island. Besides elaborating h