

avalanche, and smaller avalanches were continuing while the group was on the rim. A zone of nearly 3 km along the E wall has been affected. At 1403 on 19 September, David Day was on a cone about 200 m from the E rim when a huge landslide removed a slice of rim perhaps 10 m thick by 40 m or so wide. This was followed immediately by a violent E-W jolt which he described as a rebound sensation. "This jolt was not felt by the rest of the team on the S rim, nor were any other tremors felt during our stay." Fissures were observed in the new scoria within 50 m of the rim "sagging like glacier crevasses under snow." Landslides were common ("sometimes going on uninterrupted for an hour or more") during the group's 3 days on the rim, and the caldera was obscured by rock-fall dust during much of 20-21 September.

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## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By: John M. Woram

In doing some research on the human history of the Galápagos Islands, I thought it would be interesting to compile a list of names that have been used over the years for this or that island. My "little list" has subsequently gotten a bit out of hand; there are now some 200 names on it. Some are, of course, well-known (Fernandina, Isabela) but others are not (Foche, Mazarredo). Some are in popular usage (Floreana), others never got much beyond their author's pen (McCain's Beclouded Isle). To help further confuse the issue, at least a few names have moved from one island to another over the years. Perhaps the migration of Charles from the present San Cristóbal to Santa María is the most noteworthy of these. (Space permitting, this move will be covered in detail in the next issue of *Noticias de Galápagos*.) And of course there is the presumed juxtaposition of Crossman and Brattle (Grant 1975) and the various collections of hermanos and hermanas.

But there is one notable switch that seems to have slipped by almost unnoticed. It is described here, followed by a few other island-naming problems that I have had no luck in resolving. I would be delighted to hear from any readers who can help answer the questions put forth below.

In 1813, the American frigate *Essex*, sailing under

Captain David Porter, cruised the Galápagos while generally making a nuisance of itself to the British. Porter kept a log which later became a *Journal of a Cruise Made to the Pacific Ocean*. At one point in his *Journal*, Porter writes:

I now made sail [from Floreana to] Chatham island, running along to windward of Barrington island, which appears bold and free from danger. Towards sunset, the man on the look-out cried out, *a sail to the N.W.!* All sail was made in chace, but in a short time we discovered from the mast-head, by our glasses, that it was one of two rocks that lie off the north end of Porter's island (Santa Cruz), which we have called Bainbridge's Rocks.

In a chart bound into the second edition of the *Journal* (Porter 1822), the rocks appear to the east of Porter's, at about the position of today's Gordon Rocks and the Plazas. Actually the move was probably a simple correction of a manuscript editing error; rocks to the north of the Island could not have been seen by ship's glass from a point near Santa Fé. And unless Porter's lookout was atop an unusually high mast, he certainly could not have seen the twentieth-century Rocas Bainbridge, which now reside off the coast of San Salvador (as seen on the chart on the back cover of *Noticias*). Do any readers know how Porter's Bainbridge's Rocks made the journey to their present location? Perhaps Gordon moved them.

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**

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**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