

COURTSHIP IN THE GALAPAGOS

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The male Magnificent Frigatebird

has a flap of loose bright red skin on his neck called a “gular sac.” During mating season, they huff and puff, filling it with air to blow it up like a balloon. They then parade around showing off for the ladies, for the bigger the red balloon, the more the ladies are aroused. Size matters, even in the Galapagos.

This is only one of many courtship displays among the birds and animals of these extraordinary islands. No wonder the Galapagos are called “evolution’s laboratory.” (*Glimpses of Our Breathtaking World #199* photo ©Jack Wheeler)

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