

III Principles of Evolution

Two male frigate birds (Fregata minor) in the Galápagos Islands, far from the coast of Ecuador. Each male inflates a gular sac, a balloon of red skin at his throat, in a display that may catch the eye of a female. The males lurk together in the bushes, sacs inflated, until a female flies by. Then they wag their head back and forth and call out to her. Like other structures that males use only in courtship, the gular sac is probably an outcome of sexual selection—one of the topics you will read about in this unit.

