

Colombia Tours *A Progress Report*

Richard Webster

To keep you abreast of the coffee news, a recent article (*The New York Times*, 9 March 2011) detailed a 25% drop in Colombia's coffee exports, largely a result of warmer temperatures and more intense and unpredictable rains (resulting in more coffee pests). You are paying for that decline in *arabica* "at the pump" (and like petroleum, there is talk of "peak coffee")! Fortunately, the recently hatched Field Guides Colombia tour program is stable, and the bird yield is predictable. "Peak birds" may have passed, but "peak access to birds" has yet to come.

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Blossomcrown, endemic to Colombia, by guide Richard Webster

MINING FOR BIRDS

Marcelo Padua

The name *Carajas* most likely has no meaning for you. But if you were born in Brazil, like I was, you grew up hearing the name because your school teacher would tell you that Carajas is the second largest iron ore mine in the world and that the place is rich in gold and other valuable minerals. So you can easily imagine my surprise when, two years ago, I was invited by Bret Whitney to join him in Carajas as a guest leader for a birding tour. But it turns out that what my teacher failed to tell me was that Carajas is surrounded by over 900,000 acres of National Forest.

Our plane landed in the middle of the afternoon, and we went on to a little town that was built for the executive workers of the mine. I could hardly believe my eyes as we passed through the gates that give access to the town. There were South American Coatis running on the streets, Agoutis on people's lawns, and a Howler Monkey munching on some leaves in the central square. There were entire city blocks of nothing but forest with houses just across the street. I remember thinking to myself that this had to be one of those stereotypical movie sets of Amazonian towns from Hollywood films, and I might still be thinking that if it hadn't been for the days that followed.

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The White-crested Guan, one of 15 species in a genus with the lovely name *Penelope*, is perhaps fanciest of them all and restricted to Amazonian Brazil. [Photo by participant Lynn Jackson]

Our 2012 Schedule

Jan Pierson

It's our April newsletter issue, so that means officially introducing the next year's schedule on pages 7-9—and it's a great one! To put it all into context, here are a few notes about some changes and new itineraries you'll find:

Northeast Brazil (January into February): Bret has expanded the reach of the full itinerary (adding some great extra birding—see more on page 3) and split the tour into two parts (mirroring what we've done with Spectacular Southeast Brazil) to allow folks with limited vacation time to participate one section at a time—Part I (*Beaches to the Badlands*) is just 17 days, Part II (*West to the Araguaia*) 18 days. As of this writing there are just a few spaces still open on each, so check with our office if you're interested.

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Colombia Tours: *A Progress Report*

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The Colombia details, including past triplists, can of course be found on our web site. We have two 17-day tours with only minor overlap in the specialties (*The Cauca Valley, Western & Central Andes* and *Bogota, The Magdalena Valley & Santa Marta*), and a third that is a shorter, easier subset of one (*Santa Marta Escape*). As with any rich region of South America, over a month of tour days does not come close to covering the country—Colombia has two coasts, a desert, the llanos, Amazonia, the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, and the trifurcated Andes with their intervening valleys, the Cauca and Magdalena. We will not reach some of those anytime soon; the habitats (and their birds) are more easily reached in adjoining countries. Instead, we have concentrated our tours on an endemic-rich core.

The nature of these itineraries should stay the same for a while to come, but we will always be tinkering with them. Colombian ornithology is dynamic, and new discoveries, occasionally including new species, are being made all the time. Hand in hand with the science, conservation organizations are making impressive strides, and the NGO ProAves has made ecotourism easier by starting several small lodges in reserves, providing that ultimate luxury, birding by walking out the door.

Itineraries involve tough choices. For instance, the legendary Recurve-billed Bushbird is a bird for which you don't want to miss the chance, but when you have the chance, missing the bird itself is quite possible, and the prime spot to find it is remote (= travel time). It was a great event one visit (see Jesse's delightful Bird Buzz—enter the keyword 'bushbird' on our News page and click 'Search'), but a sorry thud another. Jesse will direct the pursuit again, but with experience may come tinkering. Itinerary writers also fantasize a lot—what if the Colombian Grebe were to turn out not to be extinct after all? We would sure write that one into the itinerary. [Perhaps that comes to mind because I was at the spot of the last sighting in the year of the last sighting, 1977, and didn't happen to see them, didn't know it was the last gasp, really didn't know anything other than that I was in birding heaven. Oops, bad miss. Let's call it a subspecies of Eared Grebe! :)]

Fortunately, in Colombia the tough choices are among great choices. While there are some wonderful national parks, and we bird in several of



A Golden-fronted Redstart at Jardin, and a trail bridge at Las Tangaras [Photos by guide Richard Webster]

them, my favorite spots are a number of regional (government) or private (NGO) reserves. The university town of Manizales gets 35% of its water from the watershed reserve known as Rio Blanco (Fundacion Ecologica Gabriel Arango Restrepo, to be formal). The staff has adopted the techniques of Antpitta Central, Ecuador's Refugio Paz, and the endemic Brown-banded Antpittas now come to worms. And when you walk out of the lodge, the tough choice is between turning right (where we saw a flock of Rusty-faced Parrots foraging in the alders in January) or left (fabulous looks at Masked Saltator!).

And, fortunately, for every pusillanimous bushbird (excuse me, sweet, darling bushbird), there are plenty of easy birds in Colombia. Three-fourths of Santa Marta's endemics are routine, and we see most of the rest with work, skill, or luck. In order to avoid the dread "G" word (Guarantee), we commit Equivocation by Euphemism. Hence, the Endangered Cauca Guan seems reliable, the stunning Gold-ringed Tanager is highly probable, its slightly less sexy congener Black-and-gold is similarly likely, and we have a good chance of . . . having a great trip seeing a big pile of great birds while walking in lovely forests in welcoming Colombia.

MINING FOR BIRDS

Continued from page 1

On our first day of birding, we left early and drove past the mines where the giant trucks made our bus look like a toy—adding a last surreal touch before we reached our birding site. As we stepped out of the bus, our local guide heard some Dark-winged Trumpeters, which we managed to pull right to the edge of the road. Not a bad beginning.

Our birding continued with a very cooperative Great Jacamar and the occasional Pearly Parakeets shooting past as we watched Spotted Tanagers, White-winged Shrike-Tanagers, Black-faced Dacnis, and several other canopy specialists from the side of the road—the same road that would lead us to a Harpy Eagle's nest the following morning. Our afternoon was much like our morning, full of rare and difficult-to-see birds like Red-fan Parrot, Spotted Antpitta, and the very beautiful and rare Black-chested Tyrant (if only all flycatchers looked like this!). I realized then that we were doing some mining ourselves as we carefully searched the area to find gems such as the Guianan Red-Cotinga, Russet-crowned Crake, Black-bellied Gnateater, Rufous-necked Puffbirds, White Bellbirds, and White-tailed Cotingas, and I couldn't help but think back to those days when my teacher told me that Carajas was a national



Bird-rich rainforest rises alongside a river on our Carajas tour. [Photo by participant Lynn Jackson]

treasure. How right he was—even if he would never know the riches that are hidden in this forest!

Marcelo will be returning to Carajas, September 1-10. For full details on the tour, please call our office or check our web site, where you may download a detailed itinerary.

FRESH FROM THE FIELD



Two signature species of our **Northeast Brazil** tour, both true rarities: Lear's Macaw, cousin to the more widespread Hyacinth, and the red-and-white Araripe Manakin. [Photos by guide Bret Whitney]

and the many other endemic birds of Northeast Brazil, from White-browed Antpitta and Great Xenops to Silvery-cheeked Antshrike and Broad-tipped Hermit fell into place relatively easily.

Bret did some productive post-tour scouting, and he and Marcelo are looking forward to another great tour next year. Here's an advance hint: They are splitting the traditional tour into two, each part of about 17 days that will cover not only all of the usual route, but also pick up a good number of range-restricted endemics of the middle Rio São Francisco River of Minas Gerais and the Araguaia region of southwest Tocantins state. Bret is working up the itinerary and we should have it priced and available in May.



Participant Peter Relson sent in a nice selection of images from our **Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus, Brazil** tour with Bret and Marcelo, including these three: Green Honeycreeper (who named it green, anyway?), a fly-over pair of Blue-and-yellow Macaws, and a dazzler in the dark forest understory, Wire-tailed Manakin.



NORTHEAST BRAZIL *Long Live the Lear's!*

Bret and Marcelo were thrilled to be able to show their group the ultra-rare White-collared Kite not once, but twice (how lucky can you get?), with one low-circling, adult bird coming in to perch in trees overhead.

That show was followed minutes later by a fantastic view of a pair of Seven-colored Tanagers feeding on fruits just above eye-level! Lear's Macaws and the gorgeous Araripe Manakin again performed perfectly,

Marcelo Padua and Dan Lane co-led our new **Brazil Nutshell** trip that Marcelo developed, and Dan documented some of the tour's great sightings, from the span and spectacle of Iguazu Falls, below, to a Cooi Heron in full breeding glory and the fantastic (and Atlantic Forest endemic) Black-fronted Piping-Guan.



FRESH FROM THE FIELD

PANAMA'S CANOPY TOWER

John Coons

The Canopy Tower is a lovely place to spend a week—with new and great birds every day. There were several highlights from our February trip, but a few that stand out for me are:

- the army ant swarm with a Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo in attendance. The swarm also included a few Ocellated and Bicolored antbirds and a number of Gray-headed Tanagers. Wow!

- the immature Agami Heron at Summit Pond
- the Green-and-rufous Kingfisher just after the American Pygmy Kingfisher which allowed us to see all of the New World kingfishers on one trip (almost on one day)
- the Pheasant Cuckoo in the scope at Metro Park
- a tree boa we found at Metro Park with a horde of birds including Rufous-breasted Wren, Yellow-throated Vireo, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Lesser Greenlet, Tropical Gnatcatcher, Western Slaty-Antshrike, and a nearby Yellow-green Tyrannulet scolding the boa.

Other highlights included the Great Tinamou sightings along the road, our Tiny Hawk flying right overhead, White-throated Crake, two Spectacled Owls in the scopes, a pair of Rufous-breasted Hermits building a nest, a singing Bare-crowned Antbird at point blank range, scope views of the tiny Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant, brilliant male Blue Cotingas, Green Shrike-Vireo,

White-headed Wren, and a couple of Montezuma Oropendolas. We even had some familiar birds that raised eyebrows in Panama. A White-eyed Vireo was drawing some of the local birders, and a Blue-winged Warbler that is uncommon in Panama as are Magnolia and Palm warblers.

Mammals put on a good show for us as well with four species of monkeys including two Gray-bellied Night Monkeys peering at us wide-eyed from a hole in a tree. A curled-up Silky Anteater was a treat, as were a Kinkajou, Olingo, and Rothschild's Porcupine during our night drive. There were also near-daily sightings of Two-toed and Three-toed sloths. The weather was pretty good to us, and the staff at the Canopy Tower took great care of us with wonderful food each day.



Cambodia joined our schedule with our inaugural 2011 tour featuring lots of great birds of interest, from super-specialties such as Mekong Wagtail (above right) to more widespread ones such as Painted Stork, and a visit to the famed cultural site of Angkor Wat. Shown above: a stone face at the Bayon Temple. [Photos by guide Phil Gregory]



Our **Thailand** tour with Dave Stejskal and Uthai Treesucon ran from far north to far south. And along the way? Beauties such as Heart-spotted Woodpecker (Southeast Asia is fantastically rich in woodpeckers—this tour's checklist features more than 20 species!), Whiskered Yuhina at Doi Lang, and Red-flanked Bluetail at Doi Inthanon. [Photos by guide Dave Stejskal]



Below, from our **Colombia: The Cauca Valley, Central & Western Andes** tour, one of the prize endemics of the montane Choco of Colombia, Gold-ringed Tanager. At right, Buff-tailed Coronet (which can be a real bully at feeders) and, below right, the extra-brilliant *sanguinolentus* west-slope subspecies of Andean Cock-of-the-rock at Jardin. [Photos by guide Richard Webster]





Classic **Antarctica**—feel like an explorer: Landing among the Adelies at Paulet Island, and a Chinstrap Penguin portrait. But perhaps unexpected? A few endemic landbirds, such as this Cobb's Wren from the Falklands, if your itinerary includes, as ours does, the fabulous island arc of the Falklands to South Georgia to the South Orkneys and more. If you'd like to join us in January 2012, be sure to book **before May 1** to secure a cabin. [Photos by guide George Armistead]



Our **Colima & Jalisco** tour is a long-popular combination of west coast birding with a jaunt inland to the volcanic peaks around Colima City, as seen below. Above, two variants on birds familiar to those of us from "north of the border": Gray-crowned Yellowthroat and Brown-backed Solitaire (which comes with remarkable audio!). [Photos by guide Chris Benesh]



Not a bad way to begin the day or catch a few birds during lunch: birding off the balcony on our **Holiday Costa Rica** tour at **Rancho Naturalista**. And what's out there? Such goodies as Long-tailed Tyrant (shown here), chachalacas, oropendolas, fancy tanagers, hummers, and much more. [Photos by participants Tom Ludes and Bill Brown]



FRESH FROM THE FIELD

NORTHERN INDIA Tiger, Birds & the Taj Mahal

Terry Stevenson

Our 2011 Northern India tour was different from our usual route in that we reversed the order and we replaced the crowded Ranthambore with the famous (and much less crowded) Kanha National Park. It worked remarkably well, with our earlier than usual arrival in the Himalayan foothills giving us almost balmy weather, and our visit to Kanha at the end of the tour producing not only Tiger but also the rare Indian Wild Dog, Gaur—the world’s largest bovine—and the very localized Malabar Pied Hornbill.

We visited Corbett National Park and Nainital, where we had magnificent views of the Himalayan peaks and where, as always, the birds were spectacular, from Kalij

Pheasants to soaring Lammergeier, colorful Great Barbets, gorgeous Red-flanked Bluetails, and Pink-browed Rosefinches. After a visit to the glorious Taj Mahal, we watched Red-naped Ibis, Great Thick-knee, and Small Pratincole on the Chambal River and enjoyed daytime views of three species of owl—Brown Hawk-Owl, Indian Scops-Owl, and Spotted Owllet—followed by scope views of the magnificent Rock Eagle-Owl. At Bharatpur, Indian Cormorant, Black and Yellow bitterns, Painted Stork, and Sarus Crane were memorable among the more numerous ducks, herons, and egrets. But we also enjoyed a teed-up Imperial Eagle out in the open marshes, Dusky-Eagle-Owl and Orange-headed Thrush in the woodland, a colony of the rare Indian Vulture, and a totally unexpected Stoliczka’s (White-browed) Bushchat.

And finally, at Kanha National Park, Gray-headed Fish-Eagle, Alexandrine Parakeet, Jungle Owlet, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Asian Paradise-Flycatcher, Ultramarine Flycatcher, and Indian Scimitar-Babbler were just some of the new species we added. Swamp Deer, large reddish-brown deer with twelve horns, were quite common, as were the more widespread Spotted Deer and a few Sambar. Most of us saw Indian Wild Dog and some of the group saw Gaur. However, as we all knew, if luck was with us, Tiger would steal the show—and it certainly did, first a female lying within the forest that we saw from elephant back and then another gorgeous individual walking down the track late one afternoon. Magnificent!

We’ve all seen peacocks at the zoo, but a male Peafowl in the wild on our Northern India tour is still, well, *loooong* and absolutely gorgeous! An elephant ride or two with a *mahout* up front adds to the adventure of the tour—and what a fantastic vantage point it provides, especially if we’re out looking for Tiger (and better to be up than down on the ground, in that case, anyway!). [Photos by participants David & Judy Smith]



Why does our group with guide Rose Ann Rowlett (left) on our Southwestern Ecuador Specialties tour look so happy? Well, imagine peering into a hole in the forest undergrowth and discovering this huge Jocotoco Antpitta! We now see habituated Jocotocos that emerge to feed on earthworms along the trail at Tapichalaca. And an endemic El Oro Parakeet at Buenaventura ain't bad either! [Photos by guide Rose Ann Rowlett]



Our unique Yellowstone in Winter tour is full of surprises, from erupting steamy landscapes (here the Castle Geyser near Old Faithful) to...hey, what's that in that tree...a Mountain Lion! Very cool. [Photos by participant Steve Wakeham]

2012 TOURS

January

Antarctica: Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia & the Falklands	Jan 8-28	Chris Benesh
Mexico: Colima & Jalisco	Jan 13-21	Megan Crewe
Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge I	Jan 13-22	Jay VanderGaast
Yellowstone in Winter	Jan 14-22	Terry McEneaney
Northeast Brazil: Long Live the Lear's! (Part I)	Jan 14-30	Bret Whitney & Marcelo Padua
Colombia: Bogota, the Magdalena Valley & Santa Marta	Jan 14-30	Jesse Fagan & local guide
Thailand	Jan 14-Feb 4	Dave Stejskal & Uthai Treesucon
Colombia: The Cauca Valley, Western & Central Andes I	Jan 21-Feb 6	Richard Webster & local guide
Jewels of Ecuador: Hummers, Tanagers & Antpittas I	Jan 21-Feb 7	Rose Ann Rowlett
Northern India: Tiger, Birds & Taj Mahal	Jan 21-Feb 12	Terry Stevenson
Mexico: Oaxaca	Jan 22-29	Megan Crewe
The Heart of Chile	Jan 28-Feb 11	Peter Burke & Ricardo Matus
Northeast Brazil: Long Live the Lear's! (Part II)	Jan 29-Feb 15	Bret Whitney & Marcelo Padua

February

Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge II	Feb 3-12	Dan Lane
Best of the Pacific Northwest	Feb 4-8	Terry McEneaney
Winter Japan: Dancing Cranes & Spectacular Sea-Eagles	Feb 4-19	Phil Gregory
Panama's Canopy Tower I	Feb 10-17	John Coons & local guide
Jewels of Ecuador: Hummers, Tanagers & Antpittas II	Feb 11-28	Mitch Lysinger
Panama's Wild Darien: Cana & Cerro Pirre	Feb 17-26	John Coons
Cambodia	Feb 18-Mar 1	Phil Gregory
Guatemala: Shade-grown Birding	Feb 22-Mar 3	Jesse Fagan
Panama's Canopy Tower II	Feb 25-Mar 3	Chris Benesh & local guide
Trinidad & Tobago I	Feb 25-Mar 5	Megan Crewe

"Jesse Fagan is a fabulous guide—as good as I've ever been with. He has extraordinary patience and skill and is very likable."

G.S., Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista 2010

"I chose Field Guides because I have confidence in quality. I chose this tour because it is short and has great target birds. It was excellent. I loved being able to meet and interact with local birders, farmers, musicians, etc."

B.P., Louisiana: Red Beans & Yellow Rails 2010

March

Suriname: Wild & Wonderful	Mar 2-17	Dan Lane
Honduras: Land of the Emeralds	Mar 3-11	Jesse Fagan
NEW Birding Plus Egypt	Mar 3-18	Terry Stevenson
Borneo I	Mar 15-Apr 1	Rose Ann Rowlett & Dave Stejskal
Ecuador's Wildsumaco Lodge	Mar 16-26	John Rowlett
Colombia: Santa Marta Escape	Mar 17-25	Richard Webster & local guide
Brazil Nutshell: Atlantic Forest, Iguazu Falls & Pantanal	Mar 17-31	Marcelo Padua & John Coons
Southwestern Ecuador Specialties	Mar 17-31	Mitch Lysinger
Ghana	Mar 17-31	Phil Gregory & local guide
Costa Rica	Mar 17-Apr 1	Megan Crewe & local guide
Puerto Rico	Mar 18-24	George Armistead
Ecuador: Rainforest & Andes I	Mar 18-Apr 1	Jay VanderGaast
Dominican Republic	Mar 24-31	Jesse Fagan
Spring in South Texas	Mar 24-Apr 1	Chris Benesh
Bahamas: Birds & Butterflies	Mar 31-Apr 5	Jesse Fagan

East Africa sunset, by guide Richard Webster

2012 TOURS

April

Namibia & Botswana

Bhutan

Birding Plus Belize: Birds, Banding & Mayan Ruins

Colorado Grouse I

Texas Coast Migration Spectacle I

Colorado Grouse II

Texas Coast Migration Spectacle II

Texas's Big Bend & Hill Country

Hawaii

NEW Birding Plus Scotland's Famous Grouse in the Land of Whiskey

Classical Greece

Apr 3-22

Apr 6-27

Apr 7-14

Apr 8-18

Apr 14-20

Apr 14-24

Apr 21-27

Apr 21-30

Apr 21-May 1

Apr 21-May 2

Apr 27-May 11

Terry Stevenson

Richard Webster

Jesse Fagan & Peter Burke

Chris Benesh

John Coons

Dan Lane

John Coons

Chris Benesh

George Armistead

John Rowlett & local guide

Megan Crewe & local guide

"The best feature of this tour was leadership—both Dave Stejskal and Peter Burke were outstanding; lots of great endemics and lots of fun! Peter Burke added so much to the enjoyment of the tour and we learned a lot from him. Please use him more often!"

R.B., Northwestern Argentina 2010

May

Arizona Nightbirds & More I

Ethiopia: Endemic Birds & Ethiopian Wolf

Arizona Nightbirds & More II

Arizona: Birding the Border I

Point Pelee Migration Spectacle

Uganda: Shoebill, Rift Endemics & Gorillas

Arizona: Birding the Border II

Virginias' Warblers

Alaska I (Part I)

May 3-7

May 5-25

May 10-14

May 11-20

May 12-19

May 17-Jun 7

May 19-28

May 30-Jun 3

May 31-Jun 9

Dave Stejskal

Terry Stevenson & Richard Webster

Dave Stejskal

John Coons

Jay VanderGaast

Phil Gregory

Dave Stejskal

John Rowlett & John Coons

Chris Benesh & Jesse Fagan

June

Central Peruvian Endemics: The High Andes

Alaska II (Part I)

Montana: Yellowstone to Glacier

Borneo II

Montane Ecuador I

Alaska I (Part II)

Alaska II (Part II)

Rainforest & Savanna: Alta Floresta & the Northern Pantanal, Brazil

Galapagos I

Papua New Guinea I

Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge III

Newfoundland & Nova Scotia

Manu Wildlife Center, Peru I

Jun 1-18

Jun 7-16

Jun 7-17

Jun 7-24

Jun 8-17

Jun 8-18

Jun 15-25

Jun 15-Jul 1

Jun 16-26

Jun 24-Jul 16

Jun 29-Jul 8

Jun 29-Jul 9

Jun 30-Jul 12

Dan Lane

George Armistead & Megan Crewe

Terry Mceneaney & John Coons

Rose Ann Rowlett

Mitch Lysinger

Chris Benesh & Jesse Fagan

George Armistead & Megan Crewe

Bret Whitney & Marcelo Padua

Alvaro Jaramillo & local guide

Phil Gregory

Mitch Lysinger

Chris Benesh

Dan Lane

"The overall experience was excellent. Mitch Lysinger was great as guide—very patient with all of us, knowledgeable, and a joy to be with. Your office service was helpful and efficient. I liked everything about the trip."

M.A., Jewels of Ecuador 2011

July

Kenya Highlights

Galapagos II

Papua New Guinea II

Peru's Magnetic North: Spatuletails, Owlet Lodge & More

Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru

Montane Ecuador II

Jaguar Spotting: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon

Mountains of Manu, Peru

Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge IV

Arizona's Second Spring I

Jul 4-22

Jul 7-17

Jul 8-30

Jul 11-22

Jul 13-22

Jul 19-28

Jul 21-Aug 1

Jul 21-Aug 5

Jul 27-Aug 5

Jul 28-Aug 6

Terry Stevenson

Megan Crewe & local guide

Dave Stejskal

John Rowlett & Pepe Rojas

Jesse Fagan

Mitch Lysinger

Marcelo Padua

Dan Lane

Jay VanderGaast

John Coons

August

Arizona's Second Spring II

Galapagos III

Kenya Safari Spectacular

Aug 4-13

Aug 4-14

Aug 31-Sep 28

Megan Crewe

George Armistead & local guide

Terry Stevenson

September

Slice of California: Seabirds to Sierras	Sep 1-10	Chris Benesh
France: Camargue & Pyrenees	Sep 1-11	Megan Crewe
Carajas: Lower Amazonian Brazil	Sep 6-15	Marcelo Padua
New Caledonia, Fiji & Vanuatu	Sep 6-23	Phil Gregory
Serra Dos Tucanos, Brazil	Sep 8-18	John Rowlett
Bolivia's Avian Riches	Sep 8-23	Dan Lane
Ecuador: Rainforest & Andes II	Sep 9-23	Mitch Lysinger
Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus, Brazil	Sep 15-28	Bret Whitney & Marcelo Padua
Australia (Part I)	Sep 21-Oct 11	Chris Benesh
Cape May Megan's Way	Sep 29-Oct 5	Megan Crewe

"I did not think having a Red-and-white Antpitta in the scope by day, then an Andean Potoo perched in a scope by night could be topped, but it was. A Harpy Eagle flying low over our heads, then perching for us all to get a great look while it was being mobbed by a pair of Plumbeous Kites was the highlight for many!"

R.B., Mountains of Manu 2010

October

New Guinea & Australia	Oct 4-22	Phil Gregory
Safari Brazil: The Pantanal & More	Oct 6-22	Marcelo Padua
East Africa Highlights: Kenya & Tanzania	Oct 6-26	Terry Stevenson
Australia (Part II)	Oct 9-24	John Coons & Jesse Fagan
Manu Wildlife Center, Peru II	Oct 13-25	Dan Lane
Northwestern Argentina: The Chaco, Cordoba & Northern Andes	Oct 17-Nov 4	Dave Stejskal
Sri Lanka	Oct 26-Nov 12	Megan Crewe
New Zealand	Oct 27-Nov 14	Chris Benesh & local guide
Chile	Oct 28-Nov 17	Peter Burke & local guide

November

Louisiana: Red Beans & Yellow Rails	Nov 1-5	Dan Lane
<i>Birding Plus</i> Ireland in Fall: Birds, Traditional Music & Pubs	Nov 1-11	Terry McEaney & local guide
Spectacular Southeast Brazil: North of the Tropic (Part I)	Nov 2-18	Bret Whitney & Marcelo Padua
Southern Argentina: The Pampas, Patagonia & Tierra del Fuego	Nov 3-20	George Armistead & local guide
Northern Peru: Endemics Galore	Nov 4-24	Richard Webster & Mitch Lysinger
Madagascar, Mauritius & Reunion	Nov 7-Dec 5	Phil Gregory
Southern India	Nov 11-Dec 2	Terry Stevenson & local guide
Western Mexico: San Blas & the Sinaloa Highlands	Nov 14-24	David Mackay
Spectacular Southeast Brazil: South of the Capricorn (Part II)	Nov 16-Dec 3	Bret Whitney & Marcelo Padua
Guatemala Thanksgiving: Temples of Tikal	Nov 17-26	Jesse Fagan
Vietnam	Nov 17-Dec 8	Dave Stejskal & Uthai Treesucon

December

Uruguay: Birding the Land of the Gauchos	Dec 1-15	Alvaro Jaramillo
Brazil's Rio Roosevelt: Birding the River of Doubt	Dec 14-27	Bret Whitney
Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista I	Dec 19-27	Jesse Fagan & local guide
Holiday at San Isidro	Dec 27-Jan 7	Mitch Lysinger
Mexico: Oaxaca & the Pacific Coast	Dec 27-Jan 7	Megan Crewe
Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista II	Dec 28-Jan 5	Chris Benesh & local guide
Holiday in Honduras: The Lodge at Pico Bonito	Dec 30-Jan 5	John Coons & local guide

"Overall, this trip was fun, informative, birdy, and memorable. The first day in the Pantanal we saw over 130 species under Bret Whitney and Marcelo Padua's expert and kind guidance. I'd absolutely travel with Bret and Marcelo again. I have five years left on my visa! Thank you everyone!"

P.G., Alta Floresta & the Northern Pantanal 2010

Dune Lark, Namibia, by participant Rich Ridenhour

UPCOMING TOURS

For details on any trip or trips, please call our office or check our web site, where you may download tour itineraries.

June-July

Virginias' Warblers—June 1-5, 2011 with John Rowlett. Unsurpassed locale for breeding wood-warblers; cool, mountain climate in both beautiful states on our birding tour; optional visit to Monticello.

Churchill & Southern Manitoba—June 2-8, 2011 (Part I) & June 7-14, 2011 (Part II) with John Coons & local guide. Perennial favorites among Field Guides travelers; Part I includes varied birding through prairie, marshlands, and deciduous and boreal forests; Part II includes the tundra, coast, and spruce forests of Hudson Bay; always something exciting to see at Churchill, including Ross's Gull. Each part may be taken separately or combined; Part I is limited to just 8 participants.

Alaska I—June 2-11, 2011 (Part I) & June 10-20, 2011 (Part II) with Chris Benesh & George Armistead. Comprehensive survey birding tour of spectacular Alaska in two parts: Part I to the Pribilofs and Denali; Part II to Nome, Seward, and Barrow.

Alaska II—June 9-18, 2011 (Part I) & June 17-27, 2011 (Part II) with Dave Stejskal & Megan Crewe. Comprehensive survey birding tour of spectacular Alaska in two parts: Part I to the Pribilofs and Denali; Part II to Nome, Seward, and Barrow.

Montana: Yellowstone to Glacier—June 9-19, 2011 with Terry McEaney & Jesse Fagan. A tour for great western birding and wildlife amidst the scenery of Big Sky country.

Borneo II—June 9-26, 2011 with Rose Ann Rowlett. Three prime areas on this birding tour to some of the Earth's richest forests while based in comfort right in the wild.

Montane Ecuador I & II—June 10-19, 2011 with Mitch Lysinger & July 29-August 7, 2011 with Rose Ann Rowlett. Small-group tour for superb Andean subtropical birding on both East and West slopes.

Rainforest & Savanna: Alta Floresta & the Northern Pantanal, Brazil—June 17-July 3, 2011 with Bret Whitney & Marcelo Padua. A two-week birding tour in pristine rainforest on the beautiful Rio Cristalino combined with the wilds of the Pantanal in search of Hyacinth Macaw, Harpy Eagle, Jabiru, Jaguar, and a large piece of the meaning of life.

Galapagos I, II & III—June 18-28, 2011 with Jay VanderGaast; July 9-19, 2011 with Megan Crewe; & August 6-16, 2011 with George Armistead. A must for any interested naturalist and birder in search of a fascinating set of endemics; small-group birding tour with broad coverage of the islands with plenty of time for the birds, exploring, and photography.

Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru I & II—June 24-July 3, 2011 with Dan Lane & July 15-24, 2011 with Jesse Fagan. Our birding tour to southern Peru's East-slope; temperate birding at its best, featuring lots of endemics and scenic Andean puna; also Machu Picchu and great subtropical birding on and near lovely hotel grounds.

Kenya Safari Spectacular I & II—June 24-July 22, 2011 & September 2-30, 2011 with Terry Stevenson. Unsurpassed in its combined wealth of bird life and mammal spectacle; includes the coast. Time-saving internal flights.

Papua New Guinea I & II—June 26-July 18, 2011 with Phil Gregory & July 10-August 1, 2011 with Jay VanderGaast. Birds-of-paradise and bowerbirds are the crowning jewels of one of the most remarkable bird faunas, set against a fascinating cultural backdrop far removed from our own.

Spitsbergen & Svalbard Archipelago: A Cruise to the Norwegian Arctic—June 27-July 9, 2011 with John Coons. A high-arc adventure aboard a comfortable vessel for fantastic seabirds, marine mammals, Polar Bear, and fabulous scenery. Guided by John Coons, veteran of numerous tours to the far north.

Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge III & IV—July 1-10, 2011 with Mitch Lysinger & July 21-30, 2011 with Dave Stejskal. One-site birding tour to one of the most comfortable lodges in western Amazonia with some of the birdiest canopy platforms anywhere.

Newfoundland & Nova Scotia—July 1-11, 2011 with Chris Benesh. A birding tour for boreal specialties, seabird colonies, and numerous breeding landbirds in the beautiful Canadian Maritimes.

Manu Wildlife Center, Peru I & II—July 2-14, 2011 & October 15-27, 2011 with Dan Lane. One-site birding tour to the most species-rich rainforest on Earth. Macaw lick, canopy tower, tapir wallow, and wonderful trails through Amazonian lowlands of Manu Biosphere Reserve.

Peru's Magnetic North: Spatuletails, Owlet Lodge & More—July 13-24, 2011 with John Rowlett. A 12-day birding tour for a taste of northern Peru's east-slope Andes, designed for birders with little vacation time and hence unable to take our longer, more diverse NORTHERN PERU tour—or for those who, having delighted in that tour, long for a San Martin reprise!

Jaguar Spotting: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon—July 23-August 3, 2011 with Marcelo Padua. This short but action-packed Brazil tour features the Pantanal at its best, a nice taste of southern Amazonian birds, and excellent chances of seeing a Jaguar.

Mountains of Manu, Peru—July 23-August 7, 2011 with Dan Lane. Our in-depth birding tour transect of the higher-elevation half of the Manu Biosphere Reserve.

Arizona's Second Spring I & II—July 30-August 8, 2011 with John Coons & August 6-15, 2011 with Chris Benesh. An ideal time for visiting one of the best birding regions in North America: great for local specialties and Mexican vagrants.

Summer Costa Rica—July 30-August 14, 2011 with Megan Crewe & local guide. Our "green-season" birding tour for Costa Rica's numerous specialty birds, from Resplendent Quetzals and Three-wattled Bellbirds to Scarlet Macaws; beautiful landscapes with easy travel, good facilities, and welcoming people; a wealth of other interesting natural history.

August-September

Galapagos III—August 6-16, 2011 with George Armistead. See June/July listing.

Arizona's Second Spring II—August 6-15, 2011 with Chris Benesh. See June/July listing.

Carajas: Lower Amazonian Brazil—September 1-10, 2011 with Marcelo Padua. A birding tour to a huge, remote forest reserve with excellent Amazonian forest access, lots of specialty birds, some unbelievably big dump trucks, and a fine hotel.

France: Camargue & Pyrenees—September 2-12, 2011 with Megan Crewe & Jesse Fagan. Two of Europe's finest birding destinations combined in this wonderful nine-day birding tour, with varied highlights and some great French food.

Kenya Safari Spectacular II—September 2-20, 2011 with Terry Stevenson. See June/July listing.

Slice of California: Seabirds to Sierra—September 3-12, 2011 with Chris Benesh. A wonderfully diverse birding tour with a mix of West Coast specialties, montane species, and pelagics in rugged and scenic sites.

New Caledonia, Fiji & Vanuatu—September 5-23, 2011 with Phil Gregory. Island endemics and tropical Pacific specialties abound on this tour to three highlight destinations.

Morocco—September 9-26, 2011 with George Armistead & Dave Stejskal. Birding tour for endemic, rare, and specialty birds from coastal wetlands and towering cliffs to the Atlas Mountains and the northwest corner of the Sahara.

Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus, Brazil—September 10-23, 2011 with Bret Whitney & Marcelo Padua. Birding tour to the rainforests and rivers of the mighty Amazon and Rio Negro in an unforgettable mix of forest hikes and live-aboard luxury.

Bolivia's Avian Riches—September 10-25, 2011 (Blue-throated Macaw & More Extension) with Dan Lane & Jay VanderGaast. Comprehensive survey birding tour of the special bird life of the Bolivian Andes; wonderful mountain scenery.

Ecuador: Rainforest & Andes III—September 11-25, 2011 with Mitch Lysinger. Highlight birding tour of the best of Ecuador's rainforest birding at Sacha Lodge combined with two exciting destinations in the Andes, the Miraflores area and San Isidro.

Australia—September 23-October 13, 2011 (Pelagics Pre-trip & Tasmania Extension) (Part I) with John Coons & October 11-26 (Part II) with Chris Benesh & Jay VanderGaast. Our Australia birding tour is split into two parts for those with limited time. Part I will cover the environs of Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, southwest Australia, and Alice Springs. Part II will begin in Darwin and continue to Queensland (Cairns, Atherton Tableland, Outback Queensland, and O'Reilly's Guest House). Both parts combine for a complete birding tour of Australia.

Serra dos Tucanos, Brazil—September 24-October 4, 2011 with John Rowlett. A short but rich birding tour immersion in the avifauna of the Atlantic Forest, based at one lovely site near Rio.

October-November

Cape May Megan's Way—October 1-7, 2011 with Megan Crewe. See bird migration in action and learn about regional movements and local influences, and pick up important identification tips for raptors and other groups—all while birding one of the best migration hotspots in North America.

Brazil's Cristalino Jungle Lodge—October 3-14, 2011 with John Rowlett. A week in climax rainforest on our birding tour to Brazil's beautiful Rio Cristalino.

New Guinea & Australia—October 6-24, 2011 with Phil Gregory. A rich and diverse sampler of the best birding of New Guinea and Australia.

South Africa—October 6-29, 2011 with Terry Stevenson & local guide. Endemic-rich birding, spectacular landscapes, and a unique flora are the highlights of our energetic survey tour of this beautiful country.

Safari Brazil: The Pantanal & More—October 8-24, 2011 with Mitch Lysinger & Marcelo Padua. Our birding tour to the spectacular wetlands of the Pantanal, with Hyacinth Macaws and Jabirus, combined with the many specialties of Brazil's Planalto Central, makes for the perfect first birding trip to Brazil.

Manu Wildlife Center, Peru II—October 15-27, 2011 with Dan Lane. See June/July listing.

New Zealand—October 27-November 14, 2011 with George Armistead & local guide. Beautiful landscapes as a backdrop to our birding tour for nearly 50 endemic birds plus a great selection of seabirds.

Spectacular Southeast Brazil—October 28-November 13, 2011 (Part I: *North of the Tropic*) & November 11-28 (Part II: *South of the Capricorn*) with Bret Whitney & Marcelo Padua. Prepare to be blown away, two times over, on this birding tour through the center of avian endemism in eastern Brazil; particularly well endowed with hummingbirds, cotingas, antbirds, and beautiful scenery.

Sri Lanka—October 28-November 14, 2011 with Megan Crewe. A two-week introduction to Asia's birds, including more than two-dozen species endemic to the island, with one of the country's foremost birders as a co-leader.

Chile—October 30-November 19, 2011 with Alvaro Jaramillo & Ricardo Matus. Comprehensive survey birding tour of this visually spectacular and tourist-friendly country.

Louisiana: Red Beans & Yellow Rails—November 3-7, 2011 with Dan Lane. Late-autumn birding tour on the Gulf Coast targeting Yellow Rails and other migrants and wintering species of the region.

Birding Plus—Ireland in Fall: Birds, Traditional Music & Pubs—November 3-13, 2011 with Terry McEaney. The birds, culture, music, and pubs of this beautiful country in fall.

Northern Peru: Endemics Galore—November 6-26, 2011 with Rose Ann Rowlett & Richard Webster. Dry-season birding tour to one of the least-known and most endemic-rich areas of South America, with many recently described species from the Andes and the Marañon basin. Targets geographic specialties as it surveys the rich and diverse habitats of northern Peru, including some remote and beautiful wild areas.

Madagascar, Mauritius & Reunion—November 8-December 4, 2011 (Seychelles Extension) with Phil Gregory. In-depth birding tour coverage of the accessible parts of Madagascar: many endemic birds, striking lemurs, bizarre flora and chameleons, fascinating culture.

Southern India: Western Ghats Endemics—November 13-December 4, 2011 with Terry Stevenson & local guide. Journey on our birding tour from the mammal-rich lowlands of Nagarhole to the endemic-rich mountains of the Western Ghats.

Western Mexico: San Blas & the Sinaloa Highlands—November 16-26, 2011 with Chris Benesh & David Mackay. A tour for superb and varied birding in one of Mexico's richest areas with a number of northwestern Mexican endemics and plenty of scenery.

Guatemala Thanksgiving: Temples of Tikal, Antigua & Finca Las Nubes—November 19-28, 2011 with Jesse Fagan. A holiday tour combining rich birding at lovely fincas in the highlands as well as the Mayan ruins of Tikal in the Peten lowlands.

Holiday at San Isidro, Ecuador—November 19-28, 2011 with Mitch Lysinger. A bird-rich holiday escape based primarily at the very comfortable San Isidro Lodge.



Antarctica is often described as the trip of a lifetime, both by people who have been there and people trying to persuade you to go. But why is that? Perhaps it's the remoteness of the place and the difficulty of getting there—though much less difficult now than it was for those early explorers. And perhaps that's part of it as well, those stories of incredible fortitude and survival that happened not all that long ago. Antarctica is the last great wilderness to be touched by human exploration.

After his trip this year, our guide George Armistead described Antarctica as “the world's most elusive continent.” It's the fifth-largest, the coldest, driest, highest, and most southerly, and there is truly no other place like it; it is completely outside anything most of us will ever know in our ordinary lives.

Over the years, Field Guides has offered Antarctica tours that include visits to South Georgia and the Falklands. We are offering this trip again for 2012, but our supplier has experienced increased demand and the cruise is almost completely sold out, even this early. As a result, we must release our allotment of cabins by May 1. So if you are considering this trip, now is the time to book. Chris Benesh, who will be guiding the tour, is looking forward to his fourth cruise to the south polar region.



May 1 deadline for cabins

A Black-browed Albatross shows off his wingspan on West Point Island. At top, more than 200,000 King Penguins breed at Salisbury Plain on South Georgia. [Photos by guide George Armistead]

Our 2012 Schedule

Continued from page 1

NEW Best of the Pacific Northwest: Skagit Valley & Puget Sound, Washington (early February): We announced this new itinerary originally for fall 2011, but guide Terry McEaney has moved the dates and modified the concept to make it a long weekend in this bird-rich part of coastal Washington state. It should make for a terrific birding excursion to this beautiful area.

NEW Birding Plus—Egypt: A new itinerary for March 2012 guided by Terry Stevenson. It will hit both the birding and archaeological treasures of this great land, and, to add even more, there's an optional extension to the World Heritage Site of Petra in Jordan. Judging by early interest, this one is going to be very popular.

NEW Birding Plus—Scotland's Famous Grouse in the Land of Whiskey: Capercaillie and Black Grouse on leks, Red Grouse and Rock Ptarmigan in courtship—these are the “famous grouse” we take in on guide John Rowlett's new *Birding Plus* itinerary for April, which will also visit some of Scotland's finest distilleries and other cultural sites in this land of whiskey and Enlightenment.

NEW Kenya Highlights: Another way to experience East Africa with Field Guides: a spectacular three-week tour visiting many of Kenya's very best birding and mammal viewing areas under the expert guidance of guide-author Terry Stevenson.

NEW Holiday in Honduras—The Lodge at Pico Bonito: John Coons will guide this new December 2012 itinerary over New Years in a lovely and bird-rich setting at Pico Bonito.

Did you miss the opportunity to join one of our new 2011 offerings? If so, the following are also scheduled for the rest of this year and in 2012:

Spitsbergen & Svalbard Archipelago: A cruise to the Norwegian Arctic with John Coons (Jun; 2011 only)

Jaguar Spotting: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon with Marcelo Padua (Jul)

New Caledonia, Fiji & Vanuatu with Phil Gregory (Sep)

Colombia: The Cauca Valley, Western & Central Andes with Richard Webster (Jan)

Ghana with Phil Gregory (Mar)

Brazil Nutshell with Marcelo Padua & John Coons (Mar)

Ecuador's Wildsumaco Lodge with John Rowlett (Mar)

Birding Plus—Belize: Birds, Banding & Mayan Ruins with Jesse Fagan & Peter Burke (Apr)

In addition to all of the above, of course, we have dozens of other favorite itineraries returning in 2012—you know, everything from Alaska, Argentina, and Australia, through Borneo, Brazil, Ecuador, France, and Louisiana to Peru, Texas, Vietnam, and much more!

Enjoy browsing our 2012 schedule on pages 7-9, and good birding to you from all of us at Field Guides. See you in the field!

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BIRDING TOURS WORLDWIDE

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PERU IN YOUR SIGHTS? WE'VE GOT SEVEN FIELD GUIDES DEPARTURES COMING UP.

Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru

June 24-July 3 with Dan Lane
July 15-24 with Jesse Fagan

Manu Wildlife Center, Peru

July 2-14 & October 15-27 with Dan Lane

Mountains of Manu, Peru

July 23-August 5 with Dan Lane

Peru's Magnetic North: Spatuletails, Owlet Lodge & More

July 13-24 with John Rowlett

Northern Peru: Endemics Galore

November 6-26 with Rose Ann Rowlett &
Richard Webster



We'll take you from the high Andes to rainforest. Here guide Dan Lane and his group watch for an antpitta on our *Mountains of Manu* tour. [Photo by participant Joe Suchecki]