

fieldguides®

B I R D I N G T O U R S W O R L D W I D E

LONG LOST AND FOUND

Marcelo Padua

Brazilian ornithology has come a long way in recent years. The enormous increase in numbers of birders and ornithologists in the country has resulted in a vast number of new records, the discovery of several new species, and the rediscovery of birds that have puzzled and haunted us for countless years. This last group is particularly intriguing to me, simply because we knew that they were out there but had no clue of where to find them. Indeed, the very existence of some species was questioned, even though there were specimens of them in museum collections throughout the world.

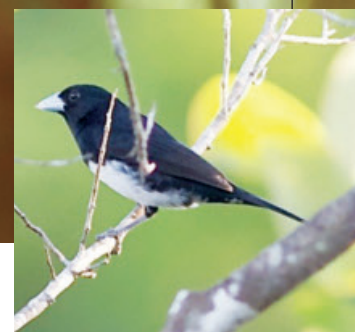
Two cases illustrate this better than any in recent years—the Cone-billed Tanager and the Kaempfer's Woodpecker. The first was collected in 1938 and named as a new species, and for 65 years there was no other record of it. Many people suggested that the bird was extinct, while others claimed that the bird was a hybrid and therefore not a true species. Even the illustration of the tanager in the first edition of Deodato de Souza's *All the Birds of Brazil*, the only Brazil field guide available for years, was removed from subsequent editions. But then, in 2003, a group of birders visiting Emas National Park in the state of Goiás saw the bird; their guide, Bráulio Carlos, recognized the species and reported the sighting to Brazilian ornithologist Dante Buzetti, who later recorded the bird and confirmed the sighting. We've now learned much about its habitat, song, and behavior, and not long after its rediscovery we began to find the bird in other locations.

However, let's face it, a small black-and-white bird that lives in flooded forest and has a high-pitched song and is hard to find, is not a bird that you'd pay much attention to. But what about a good-sized, incredibly colorful, and fairly vocal woodpecker? Well, apparently that can be just as hard to find, since the Kaempfer's Woodpecker managed to go unseen and unheard for 80 years after it was first collected by Emil Kaempfer in 1926. It wasn't until a male Kaempfer's flew into a mist net during a survey for the building of a new

road in the state of Tocantins in 2006 that the bird was seen again. The woodpecker had never been depicted in any field guide and so Advaldo Dias do Prado, the ornithologist who conducted the survey, was puzzled. He photographed the bird and sent the pictures to fellow ornithologist Fernando Pacheco, who recognized it. And once again, learning about the habitat and vocalizations of the bird soon led to its discovery at other sites.

We now know a few sites for both these species, but many others remain undiscovered, which is in part what makes birding in Brazil so exciting. So pack your bags and come bird with us in this amazing country.

*Want to see these two incredible birds? Both are possible on Field Guides tours. For a chance of seeing the Cone-billed Tanager, consider **Jaguar Spotting: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon** or **Safari Brazil: The Pantanal & More**; for Kaempfer's Woodpecker, join **Part II of our Nowhere but Northeast Brazil** tour.*



PHOTOS BY GUIDE MARCELO PADUA

August's a-coming

Jan Pierson

And late August means, of course, our annual Field Guides meeting of guides and office staff, where we are always reminded of what a great bunch of folks we work with...and what a great bunch of birders we travel with—you. On page 9, we've put together a little collage of pics of some of our guides and some of your comments we thought would be fun. Enjoy!

NEW TOURS FOR 2013



Spotted Puffbird (Photo by guide Mitch Lysinger)

ECUADOR'S SHIRIPUNO LODGE: HEARTLAND OF THE WAORANI

For birders, there's a lot to love about Ecuador—almost 1600 species of birds, wonderful places to see them all, plus our Field Guides, including resident leaders Mitch Lysinger and Willy Perez, there to show them to you. And now, there's a new Amazonian rainforest lodge located in an area that has only begun to be explored ornithologically. Where, you ask? About fifty miles southeast of the town of Coca along the Shiripuno River in the remote Waorani nation. Needless to say, the habitat is spectacular, still graced with healthy populations of macaws (4 species are easy), curassows (no guarantees, of course, but Salvin's and Nocturnal are here!), some interesting antbirds (White-plumed, Hairy-crested, Lunulated, Black Bushbird), and awesome flocks.

As a result of its remoteness—and the owners' desire to have as little impact on the area as possible—the lodge itself is simple: it does not have 24-hour electricity, internet or cellphone service (escape!), or hot showers, but the food is plentiful and well prepared. Shiripuno's primary strength is that it offers a birding experience more pristine than most other more accessible areas in Ecuador's wilds. Right behind the lodge the flocks will blow your mind: Ocellated Woodcreeper, Yasuni Antwren, Yellow-browed Antbird, and Slender-billed Xenops took us by surprise...all tough birds to find along the Napo! Further in, along the relatively flat trails behind the lodge, it just gets better and better:

Wing-banded Antbird and Spotted Puffbird are there waiting as Yellow-throated Flycatchers call from the treetops above. Rolling terra firme forests lie only short canoe rides away for yet another set of birds. Looking for something new and different? Come see the wildest side of Ecuador for some adventure and great birding!

September 28-October 7, 2013 with Mitch Lysinger & Willy Perez

BIRDING PLUS—DO THE CHARLESTON: SPRING IN SOUTH CAROLINA!

Step One: step back with your right foot. **Step Two:** kick back with your left foot. **Step Three:** raise your binoculars...huh? That's right; raise your bins because we are headed to the Deep South, to Charleston, South Carolina for shrimp and grits, Painted Buntings, and many other fine cultural and avian combinations!

We'll begin in Charleston (site of the first shots fired on Fort Sumter that launched the Civil War), where we'll balance touring lovely antebellum homes and a museum or two in the afternoons with mornings visiting the important coastal migration spots for colorful spring warblers, orioles, and tanagers and mudflats for shorebirds heading north. The Francis Marion National Forest, a must visit for us, is just 30 minutes north of Charleston, and its longleaf pine-savannah habitat is



Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox, in Francis Marion Square (Photo by guide Jesse Fagan)



Looking out to the Georgia mountains (Photo by guide Jesse Fagan)

home to Bachman's Sparrow and the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker (and pitcher plants and Red Wolves!).

From the coast we'll head to the North Georgia mountains, the foothills of the rolling Appalachians, where the breeding warblers include Black-throated Blue (and Green) and Louisiana Waterthrush, and Scarlet Tanagers provide a splash of vibrant red amidst the greenery. There is much history here as well, including the first major US gold rush before the "forty-niners" moved west. Do you know what a "running shine" is? Find out (legally, of course)!

We're headed to Charleston next spring! Join us, but just don't expect Rhett to co-lead.

April 27-May 4, 2013 with Jesse Fagan

BIRDING PLUS—BIRDS & WINES OF CHILE AND ARGENTINA

Argentina and Chile, two countries divided by the longest mountain range on Earth, are joined by a passion for making and drinking excellent wine! This new tour aims to take you to the wine producing regions of these two countries while showing you the exuberant natural world that surrounds them.

The main star of the tour is undoubtedly the Andes, the mountain range largely responsible for the megadiversity of South America's avifauna. This geographical barrier is at the root of different cultures, *terroirs*, and distinctive bird communities that we aim to explore during our stay here.

On the Chilean side, we'll explore the region around Santiago, a vibrant city surrounded by not one, but two mountain ranges that cradle a variety of birds, including the odd-looking Moustached Turca (one really strange tapaculo!), the aptly named Giant Hummingbird, Chilean Mockingbird, White-throated Tapaculo, Dusky-throated Canastero, Striped Woodpecker, Austral Screech-Owl,



Touring a vineyard in Argentina (Photo by guide Marcelo Padua)



California Condor in Arizona.
(Photo by guide Chris Benesh)

and the very handsome Rufous-tailed Plantcutter. Santiago is also home to some of the best wineries in Chile, and we will take time to visit them and learn how great wines are produced.

In Argentina, we'll be in the world headquarters of Malbec, the province of Mendoza, where we will spend two nights in a winery and explore this large province in search of Burrowing Parrot, Sandy and Crested gallitos, White-tipped Plantcutter, White-winged Black-Tyrant, White-throated Cacholote, and Correndera Pipit.

And although we will be in two different countries, we will always keep an eye on the sky for those incredible Andean Condors watching over us as we discover the true meaning of *savoir vivre*! *March 23-April 6, 2013 with Marcelo Padua*

NORTHERN ARIZONA'S CANYONS & CONDOR

Northern Arizona's Colorado Plateau is well known for its unrivaled beauty of canyons, mountains, pine forests, and Red Rock formations, as well as the Painted Desert and the spectacular Grand Canyon. On this short tour, based in the cool pines of Flagstaff at an elevation of 7000 feet, we will visit these breathtaking habitats in search of high-desert and mountain specialties, many not normally encountered in southern Arizona. Within short drives of Flagstaff, we'll encounter birds from the southern Arizona deserts, the Rocky

Mountains, and the Great Basin desert of the north. Such species as Common Black-Hawk, Red-faced Warbler, and Painted Redstart reach the northern limits of their ranges here, while some Rocky Mountain birds such as Dusky Flycatcher, Clark's Nutcracker, and MacGillivray's Warbler breed no farther south, and Pinyon Jays and Gray Vireos are found in the Transition zone.

During our four full days of birding we'll search for these species along with Zone-tailed Hawk, Lewis's Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Gray and Cordilleran flycatchers, Mountain Bluebird, Green-tailed Towhee, and Black-chinned Sparrow along with more widespread western birds. We'll explore the Red Rock area of Oak Creek Canyon and Sedona, the San Francisco Peaks, Arizona's highest mountains at 12,600 feet, and visit the Grand Canyon, where we'll seek the majestic California Condor, which was returned to the wild here in 1996 and has successfully nested on nearly inaccessible ledges of the canyon.

June 1-6, 2013 with John Coons

SOUTH TEXAS RARITIES

Subtropical habitats along the lower Rio Grande are part of the Tamaulipan Biotic Province and hence a biogeographic extension of Mexico north of the US border. As a result, many of our resident species, along with "Mexican vagrants," are known only from South Texas. For this reason, South Texas has long been a "must" for every North American birder!

Mid-winter is the time most likely to produce unpredictable vagrants to spice up the already extremely rich resident avifauna, but we can never be sure what species may turn up next. One past season brought a scattering of Masked Ducks and Northern Jacanas; others, a fresh supply of one or more species never before recorded north of the Mexican border (one year yielded North America's first Masked Tityra, White-throated Thrush, and Yellow-faced Grassquit!). In fact, during the past 20 years or so an average of one species per year new to the ABA



Plain Chachalaca (Photo by participant Bernie Grossman)

Area list has been added from the region.

Supplement the vagrants and rarities with large numbers of wintering waterfowl, sparrows, warblers, raptors, and coastal birds present, and you have a winter birding adventure of major proportions! We'll look for all the specialties for which South Texas is famous as well as its many resident species. In past years, rarities have included Roadside, Short-tailed, and Crane hawks, Green-breasted Mango, Green Violet-ear, Golden-crowned Warbler, Gray-crowned Yellowthroat, Crimson-collared Grosbeak, and Blue Bunting. *January 18-24, 2013 (I) and January 25-31, 2013 (II) both with Chris Benesh*

BARROW, ALASKA: SEARCH FOR ROSS'S GULL

Few birds in North America elicited more excitement when discovered than the diminutive and elegant Ross's Gull of the High Arctic. To see one in the Lower 48, you need to

be lucky; you just can't predict when one will show up.

Not so in Barrow in early October! Barrow, Alaska is remarkable in many ways, and one of the more fascinating attributes of this remote site on the shores of the Arctic Ocean is its unique geographic position for witnessing the annual fall migration of Ross's Gulls. It's a migration phenomenon that was first witnessed here in the late 1800's and documented in the 1970's and 1980's. Every fall, beginning in late September, what is likely the majority of the world's Ross's Gulls migrate past this remote outpost from the Chukchi Sea in Arctic Russia to the Beaufort Sea in Arctic Alaska. Often passing by and lingering to feed in the coastal habitats in small numbers on a daily basis at this season, local weather conditions sometimes force *thousands* of these beautiful, pink-plumaged gulls close to shore. Small numbers of these intriguing birds would be memorable enough, but the chance to see large numbers compels us to offer this short trip to Alaska's far north for those who want the opportunity to witness one of birding's most remarkable and little-known spectacles.

Barrow at this season, when the long, cold winter is just around the corner, also offers other prizes as well, including Spectacled, King, and Common eiders, Yellow-billed Loon, Snowy Owl, and perhaps even an Ivory Gull or a Polar Bear. Join us in the fall for what is sure to be a memorable experience!

October 4-8, 2013 with Dave Stejskal



It's true, this Snowy Owl wasn't photographed in Barrow but by participant Spike Baker in Canada. But we thought it would get you psyched for the cool birds at Barrow (this being one, another being the tour's headline bird!).

FRESH FROM THE FIELD

As Rose Ann Rowlett noted of her recent **Borneo** tour guided with Dave Stejskal: "Take an enthusiastic group of birders to some of the world's most impressive forests, full of exotic birds and mammals, "flying" reptiles and a long list of other incredible critters and plants, and we're sure to have a great time." And so it was! Shown here: the canopy walkway at Borneo Rainforest Lodge, our boat ride on the Menanggul River, and Black-and-yellow Broadbill and Crimson-winged Woodpecker...just a small taste. (Photos by participants Diana Bradshaw and Steve Rannels and guide Dave Stejskal)



Belize, that tiny jewel, is back in our schedule...and we're delighted! It's just plain fun birding (and a terrific intro to the tropics, if you're a first-timer), with a great variety of Middle American birds. Participants David & Susan Disher, who joined guide Jesse Fagan on our recent April tour, returned with these great images of Gray-necked Wood-Rail, Collared Aracari, and Yellow-winged Tanager (a regional specialty). In April 2013 guides Peter Burke and John Coons will be at the helm.



The delightful Collared Redstart is known in **Costa Rica** as "Amigo de Hombre" or Friend of Man...and here's a fine, close example from our spring tour. American Pygmy Kingfisher is likewise a diminutive delight, but there's of course no question who reigns supreme on the "Favorite Bird of the Tour" list at the end of the trip every year—the long-trained male and oh-so-Resplendent Quetzal. (Photos by guide Megan Crewe)





These three species are perhaps the most-wanted trifecta for birders visiting Arizona—and guide Dave Stejskal and group hit the triple on our recent **Arizona Nightbirds & More** tour. Drumroll, please: the fantastic Montezuma Quail, the very flashy Red-faced Warbler, and a dayroosting Spotted Owl, all by Dave.



Above, guide Chris Benesh (at left) and our **Texas's Big Bend & Hill Country** group in the Lone Star state's warm embrace. Among the fun: a perky Greater Roadrunner and Dazzling Bunting (OK, doesn't that sound better than Painted?). But these just scratch the surface, leaving out Colima and Golden-cheeked warblers, Black-capped Vireo, and a heckuva lot of other great birds. (Photo by guide Chris Benesh)



Guide Chris Benesh is everywhere...in Texas at the upper right and in Colorado below (at right), celebrating with fellow guide Terry McEneaney (in red) and group their success with the ever-elusive White-tailed Ptarmigan at Loveland Pass on our **Colorado Grouse** tour. Other reasons to celebrate? Well, a fantastic Greater Sage-Grouse, above left, for just one! (Photos by guide Chris Benesh)



Twenty-six endemics and a bunch of other Caribbean specialties packed into just a week of island birding? No wonder there's already a lot of interest for our 2013 **Dominican Republic** tour. Jesse Fagan guided the troops through hill and dale on our late-March tour, and participant Dave Chantler helps us reminisce with three photo highlights: the slate-headed White-winged Warbler, Hispaniolan Trogon, and the long-billed Hispaniolan Lizard-Cuckoo.

FRESH FROM THE FIELD

Would we be able to go to **Egypt** this spring? Indeed we did and it was fab, plus we had the birding and the antiquities virtually to ourselves, including the fabulous light and sound show at the Great Temple of Ramses II at Abu Simbel. Our thanks to participant Daphne Gemmill for these images, including our group out for Desert Wheatear and participant Linda Morgan on her lifer camel ride!

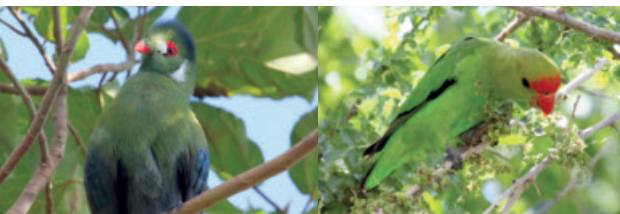


A lovely Pearl Kite on a cactus? Yes, we're somewhere dry—on our **Southwestern Ecuador Specialties** tour with guide Mitch Lysinger, in fact. The kite ranges widely, but the two birds below exemplify the "specialties" aspect of the tour...Chapman's Antshrike and Pacific Parrotlet have small ranges confined to southwestern Ecuador and northwest Peru. (Photos by participant Brian Stech)



Above, a Blue-bellied Roller in full fan as it pulls up to a perch on our **Ghana** tour—it's a West African specialty that isn't always easy to find, and this was a lovely view—and above right, its streamer-tailed cousin, Abyssinian Roller. Phil Gregory guided our March return to this now-popular birding destination (and sent in these images) and is back on tap for 2013. White-necked Rockfowl, anyone?





Terry Stevenson and Richard Webster guided our recent **Ethiopia** tour, and Richard shared these images: From the bottom, a Gelada group moving along the edge of the Ankober escarpment at an elevation of 10,000 feet; the plain but endemic Ankober Serin, described only in 1976; the endemic (and lovely!) Black-winged Lovebird; and White-cheeked Turaco—the "other" turaco of Ethiopia, seemingly taking second place to Prince Ruspoli's, but a beautiful endemic in its own right.



It's a **Texas Coast Migration Spectacle** in April, and a lot of birds were just showing off, like this hot-pink Roseate Spoonbill and a hard-to-miss Summer Tanager. Common Nighthawk, on the other hand, was just trying to blend in as it took a rest en route northward. Participant Rich Frank shared these images...thanks!



Here are: one bird you almost never see (it's often just a voice in the forest), another you have to go prowling for, and a third that's inconspicuous and occurs only in Panama—a very cool Pheasant Cuckoo, an intense-looking Spectacled Owl, and Yellow-green Tyrannulet. All photographed by guide Chris Benesh on our **Panama's Canopy Tower** tour.

Our Puerto Rico group in El Yunque, which just happens to be the place where the black-and-white bird at right, Elfín-woods Warbler, was first discovered...but not till 1968! Our birders on the tour, as usual, fell under the charm of the teeny Puerto Rican Tody, the trip favorite for many. (Photos by guide George Armistead and participant Marilyn Williams)



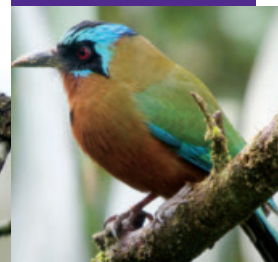
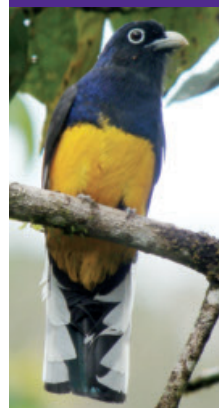
FRESH FROM THE FIELD



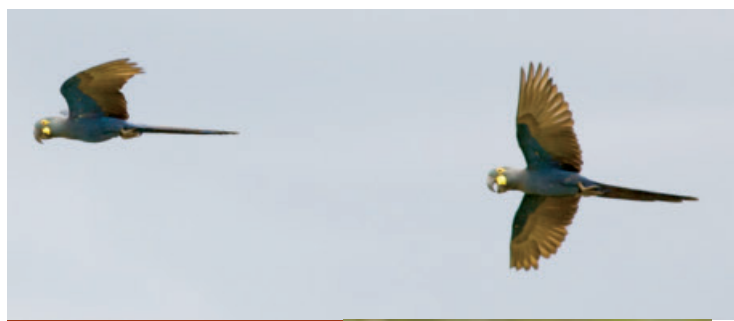
What did Chris Benesh and group see on **Spring in South Texas**? Well, some cool waterbirds, like the Reddish Egrets above, plus various South Texas/Mexican specialties like Buff-bellied Hummingbird and Long-billed Thrasher (and we can add White-collared Seedeater and Crimson-collared Grosbeak to the list, too, among others). (Photos by guide Chris Benesh)

Some birds have been doing the splits...did you miss them? Blue-crowned Motmot? That is sooooo Middle America now! On **Trinidad & Tobago**, it's now Trinidad Motmot. And White-tailed Trogon? Keep that west of the Andes, please! This one's Green-backed, wouldn't you know! Our early 2012 T&T group got to enjoy these and all the other

local goodies, from Oilbirds to Scarlet Ibis, with guide Megan Crewe, who posted these pics.



Brazil boasts a fantastic list of big and flashy birds, and our **Brazil Nutshell** tour ogles a whole bunch of them. But small is beautiful, too, as these regional endemics show: Yellow-fronted Woodpecker (who needs coffee when one of these shows up right outside the dining room?) by participants Steve & Alison Wakeham and the subtly elegant Black-capped Foliage-gleaner and Chestnut-backed Tanager by guide Marcelo Padua.



Our two-parted **Nowhere but Northeast Brazil!!** tour with Bret Whitney and Marcelo Padua packs in an amazing number of endemics and little-known species, from the endangered (think Lear's Macaws, above) to the virtually unknown (White-collared Kite, bottom right) to super-fancy (say, Hooded Visorbearer). And then there's just legend: Stresemann's Bristlefront's been added as a possibility for 2013! Guide Marcelo Padua and participant Markus Lagerqvist contributed these pics...thanks!



Guides: Our comments and yours!

Jan Pierson



● Rarely sighted: guides **Megan Crewe** and **Dave Stejskal** bundled up quite this much, since they spend so much time in the tropics. But you gotta do what you gotta do when you team up for the far north, eh? "Friends recommended Field Guides, and this Alaska tour experience was excellent! I loved it all. Guides Megan Crewe and Dave Stejskal were amazing birders and worked so hard to make it fun for us. ...We laughed a lot, found many birds. Couldn't have been better. Office service was also outstanding." Just what we'd expect traveling with Meegs and the Roadrunner...

● Access into the right habitat for our target birds a little difficult? Get out a fat-tired tractor and a cart and improvise! Guide **Bret Whitney** gets an on-the-hood ride as the group heads out for some more endemics in this pic by co-leader Marcelo Padua. And we loved hearing this: "FG's Brazil tours are the best available, thanks to Bret and Marcelo. Their trips are productive, fun, well-planned and executed."

● Guide **Terry Stevenson** feels right at home in the mountains, in Ethiopia (shown here) or anywhere else. After all, he is currently living (by his own assessment) in a mud-and-cow-dung mansion near Mt Kenya, so the highlands are one of his regular habitats! Re Terry's 2012 Egypt trip: "It was wonderful, as usual with a Field Guides tour. We knew Terry would handle everything with aplomb...and he did! We are looking forward to another tour with Terry..."



● Cool-bird specialists, on-the-move sommeliers, spur-of-the-moment sketcher and in-country expert...what else did we miss with guides **Peter Burke** (I.) and **Ricardo Matus**? Oh, yeah, this re their Chile tour: "Peter and Ricardo were superb guides" and "Ricardo was great at adding cultural info along the way, while Peter is a bit of a comedian and got us laughing a lot." Magellanic Woodpeckers, huett-huets, cabernets and carmeneres, spectacular scenery, and plenty of smiles and laughs along the way? OK, works for us! (As it could for you, Oct 28-Nov 17!)



● King of the mountain? Or a new spot for a workout? Nah...just a little bit of that "Motmot" enthusiasm by guide **Jesse Fagan** enjoying an exhilarating day at Machu Picchu—having put down all his gear! One report from a recent trip with Jesse: "Field Guides came highly recommended. This Guatemala tour was awesome! So interesting and the birding was great. I'd most definitely travel with Jesse again."

● **Chris Benesh** wins in the "Best Hood Ornament" category with this Australian King-Parrot! Of the recent Big Bend tour with Chris: "It was an awesome experience. It was better than I could have imagined. I was sad when the trip was over. Chris was a great guide. Very, very knowledgeable, funny, made sure everyone saw the bird."

● Best guide yard bird? No contest—**Phil Gregory's** Southern Cassowary at...where else...Cassowary House in NE Australia! From Phil's 2012 Ghana tour: "An outstanding trip. Phil Gregory was a great leader and guide. We have been thoroughly impressed with every guide we have traveled with on Field Guides tours. We're eagerly planning and anticipating our next Field Guides adventure!"



● What, this pic again? OK, you've heard of Brazil nuts, right? Well, there are native ones and imported ones, and our Brazil Nutshell tour features one of each. Yes, cap-contrarians **Marcelo "Manakin" Padua** (r.) and **John "Kingfisher" Coons** will be breaking the birding wide open again next March. And the results this year? "Marcelo was amazing in his knowledge of Brazilian birds. John was a wealth of bird trivia and humor." Also, "my Field Guides experiences are always better...you have a knack to select the best leaders." (And that's why we like hanging out with these guys.)

UPCOMING TOURS

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

September-October

Slice of California: Seabirds to Sierra—September 1-10, 2012 with Chris Benesh. A wonderfully diverse mix of West Coast specialties, montane species, and pelagics in rugged and scenic sites.

France: Camargue & Pyrenees—September 1-11, 2012 with Megan Crewe & Jesse Fagan. Two of Europe's finest birding destinations with varied highlights and some great French food.

New Caledonia, Fiji & Vanuatu—September 21-21, 2012 with Phil Gregory. Island endemics and tropical Pacific specialties abound on this tour to three highlight destinations.

Carajas: Lower Amazonian Brazil—September 6-15, 2012 with Marcelo Padua. Huge, remote forest reserve with excellent Amazonian forest access, lots of specialty birds, some unbelievably big dump trucks, and a fine hotel.

Serra dos Tucanos, Brazil—September 8-18, 2012 with John Rowlett. A short but rich immersion in the avifauna of the Atlantic Forest, based at one lovely site near Rio.

Bolivia's Avian Riches—September 8-23, 2012 (Blue-throated Macaw (and More) Extension) with Dan Lane & Willy Perez. Tour for the special bird life of the Bolivian Andes; wonderful mountain scenery.

Ecuador: Rainforest & Andes—September 9-23, 2012 with Mitch Lysinger. Highlights of the best of Ecuador's rainforest birding at Sacha Lodge combined with two exciting destinations in the Andes, the Mindo/Tandayapa area and San Isidro.

Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus, Brazil—September 15-28, 2012 with Bret Whitney & Marcelo Padua. The rainforests and rivers of the mighty Amazon and Rio Negro in an unforgettable mix of forest hikes and live-aboard luxury.

Australia (Part I)—September 21-October 11, 2012 with Chris Benesh & Eric Hynes. In two parts for those with limited time. Part I covers the environs of Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, southwest Australia, and Alice Springs. Part II begins in Darwin and continues to Queensland (Cairns, Atherton Tableland, Outback Queensland, and O'Reilly's Guest House). Both parts combine for a complete birding tour of Australia.

Cape May Megan's Way—September 30-October 6, 2012 with Megan Crewe. See bird migration in action at one of the country's top migration hotspots.

New Guinea & Australia—October 4-22, 2012 with Phil Gregory. A rich and diverse sampler of the best birding of New Guinea and Australia.

Safari Brazil: The Pantanal & More—October 6-21, 2012 with Marcelo Padua. 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.

East Africa Highlights: Kenya & Tanzania—October 6-26, 2012 with Terry Stevenson. Combines the richest birding and mammal spots in Kenya and northern Tanzania: an impressive diversity of habitats, many with spectacular scenery.

Australia (Part II)—October 9-24, 2012 (Tasmania Extension) with John Coons & Jesse Fagan. In two parts for those with limited time. Part I covers the environs of Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, southwest Australia, and Alice Springs. Part II begins in Darwin and continues to Queensland (Cairns, Atherton Tableland, Outback Queensland, and O'Reilly's Guest House). Both parts combine for a complete birding tour of Australia.

Manu Wildlife Center, Peru—October 13-25, 2012 with Dan Lane. One-site 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.

Northwestern Argentina: The Chaco, Cordoba & Northern Andes—October 17-November 4, 2012 (Rincon del Socorro Extension) with Dave Stejskal & Willy Perez. Comprehensive tour of the many bird habitats of the diverse northwest; many specialty birds.

Sri Lanka—October 26-November 12, 2012 with Megan Crewe & local guide. 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.

New Zealand—October 27-November 14, 2012 with Chris Benesh & local guide. Beautiful landscapes as a backdrop for nearly 50 endemic birds plus a great selection of seabirds.

Chile—October 28-November 17, 2012 with Peter Burke & Ricardo Matus. Comprehensive survey tour of this visually spectacular and tourist-friendly country.

November-December

Louisiana: Yellow Rails & Crawfish Tails I—November 1-5, 2012 with Dan Lane. Late-autumn birding 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 1-11, 2012 with Terry McEneaney & Karen McEneaney. The birds, culture, music, and pubs of this beautiful country in fall.

Spectacular Southeast Brazil (Part I)—November 2-18, 2012 with Bret Whitney & Marcelo Padua. Prepare to be blown away, two times over, in the center of avian endemism in eastern Brazil; particularly well endowed with hummingbirds, cotingas, antbirds, and beautiful scenery. Part I: North of the Tropic; Part II: South of the Capricorn. The Iguazu Falls Extension features an amazing landscape with additional great birding.

Southern Argentina: The Pampas, Patagonia & Tierra del Fuego—November 3-20, 2012 with Dave Stejskal & local guide. Superb springtime birding through southern South America amid stark and spectacular landscapes.

Northern Peru: Endemics Galore—November 4-24, 2012 with Richard Webster & Mitch Lysinger. Dry-season tour to one of the least-known and most endemic-rich areas of South America. Targets geographic specialties as it surveys the rich and diverse habitats of northern Peru, including some remote and beautiful wild areas.

Louisiana: Yellow Rails & Crawfish Tails II—November 8-12, 2012 with Dan Lane. Late-autumn birding on the Gulf Coast targeting Yellow Rails and other migrants and wintering species of the region.

Madagascar, Mauritius & Reunion—November 10-December 6, 2012 (Masoala Peninsula Extension) with Phil Gregory & Jesse Fagan. In-depth coverage of the accessible parts of Madagascar: many endemic birds, striking lemurs, bizarre flora and chameleons, fascinating culture. Mauritius and Reunion provide an additional bevy of rare and interesting endemics.

Southern India: Western Ghats Endemics—November 11-December 2, 2012 with Terry Stevenson & local guide. Journey from the mammal-rich lowlands of Nagarhole to the endemic-rich mountains of the Western Ghats.

Western Mexico: San Blas & the Sinaloa Highlands—November 14-24, 2012 with David Mackay. Superb and varied birding in one of Mexico's richest areas with a number of northwestern Mexican endemics and plenty of scenery.

Spectacular Southeast Brazil (Part II)—November 16-December 3, 2012 (Iguazu Falls Extension) with Bret Whitney & Marcelo Padua. Prepare to be blown away, two times over, in the center of avian endemism in eastern Brazil; particularly well endowed with hummingbirds, cotingas, antbirds, and beautiful scenery. Part I: North of the Tropic; Part II: South of the Capricorn. The Iguazu Falls Extension features an amazing landscape with additional great birding.

Uruguay: Birding the Land of the Gauchos—December 2-16, 2012 with Alvaro Jaramillo. The birds of the Pampas and then some; great birding and wonderful destinations.

Brazil's Rio Roosevelt: Birding the River of Doubt—December 14-27, 2012 with Bret Whitney. A birding adventure on the remote Rio Roosevelt in the spirit of Teddy himself, as we search for bushbirds, ant swarms, and, of course, the unknown.

Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista I—December 19-27, 2012 with Jesse Fagan & local guide. One-site holiday tour based at the comfortable Rancho Naturalista Lodge, with excursions to other habitats on Costa Rica's bird-rich Caribbean slope.

Trinidad & Tobago—December 27, 2012-January 5, 2013 with Megan Crewe & local guide. Wonderful introduction to South America's riches, including bellbirds, toucans, manakins, and motmots.

Holiday at San Isidro, Ecuador—December 27, 2012-January 5, 2013 with Mitch Lysinger. A bird-rich holiday escape based primarily at the very comfortable San Isidro Lodge.

Arizona Winter Specialties—December 28, 2012-January 2, 2013 with Dave Stejskal. Exceptional winter birding with numerous specialties and potential rarities.

Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista II—December 28, 2012-January 5, 2013 with Chris Benesh & local guide. One-site holiday tour based at the comfortable Rancho Naturalista Lodge, with excursions to other habitats on Costa Rica's bird-rich Caribbean slope.

Ecuador's Wildsumaco Lodge—December 28, 2012-January 7, 2013 with Willy Perez. The riches of the eastern Andean foothills of northern Ecuador for numerous specialties at the recently opened Wildsumaco Lodge.

Holiday in Honduras: The Lodge at Pico Bonito—December 30, 2012-January 4, 2013 with John Coons & local guide. A new holiday tour over New Year's based in a lovely and bird-rich setting at The Lodge at Pico Bonito.

January-February

Nowhere but Northeast Brazil! (Part I)—January 8-25, 2013 with Marcelo Padua & Dan Lane. From beautiful beaches to barren badlands, Part I of our birding tour is a quest for specialties of the endangered caatinga, chapada, and Atlantic Forest habitats. Part II takes us from the forests of southern Bahia through northern Minas Gerais and west to the Araguaia.

Oman & the UAE: Birding Arabia—January 10-26, 2013 with Phil Gregory. Some of the best Arabian Peninsula birding in two friendly and scenic countries; many regional endemics and specialty birds, including a chance for the Hypocolius.

Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge—January 11-20, 2013 with Willy Perez. One-site tour to one of the most comfortable lodges in western Amazonia with some of the birdiest canopy platforms anywhere.

Yellowstone in Winter—January 12-20, 2013 with Terry McEneaney & Karen McEneaney. A winter birding, wildlife, and landscape adventure to one of the world's legendary destinations.

Colombia: Bogota, the Magdalena Valley & Santa Marta—January 12-28, 2013 with Jesse Fagan. Energetic, endemic-oriented tour connecting reserves up the Magdalena Valley from Bogota to the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

Thailand—January 12-February 2, 2013 (Gurney's Pitta & Nicobar Pigeon Extension) with Dave Stejskal & Uthai Treesucon. A wide variety of forest birds in the friendly heart of Southeast Asia (and fabulous Thai food).

NEW/South Texas Rarities I—January 18-24, 2013 with Chris Benesh. Escape the winter birding doldrums on our week-long tour to the bird-rich Rio Grande Valley, with specialties from kiskadees and Green Jays to Hook-billed Kites and Altamira Orioles. And the winter potential for Mexican vagrants is terrific!

Panama's Canopy Tower I—January 19-25, 2013 with John Coons. A towering introduction to Neotropical birds based entirely in a unique lodge; quick access to famous Pipeline Road.

Mexico: Oaxaca—January 19-26, 2013 with Megan Crewe & Pepe Rojas. Two dozen Mexican endemics and fascinating ruins while based in lovely Oaxaca City.

Colombia: The Cauca Valley, Western & Central Andes—January 19-February 4, 2013 with

Richard Webster. Energetic, endemic-oriented tour connecting reserves up the Cauca Valley from Medellin to Cali.

Jewels of Ecuador: Hummers, Tanagers & Antpittas I—January 19-February 5, 2013 with Rose Ann Rowlett & Willy Perez. Survey of Andean Ecuador; diverse avifauna dominated by colorful hummers and tanagers and more subtle and haunting antpittas.

Northern India: Tiger, Birds & the Taj Mahal—January 19-February 10, 2013 with Terry Stevenson. Birding and wildlife adventure from the Ganges plains to the Himalayan foothills, with the Bharatpur wetlands, a good chance of Tiger, and the wondrous Taj Mahal.

Nowhere but Northeast Brazil! (Part II)—January 23-February 8, 2013 with Bret Whitney & Marcelo Padua. From beautiful beaches to barren badlands, Part I of our birding tour is a quest for specialties of the endangered caatinga, chapada, and Atlantic Forest habitats. Part II takes us from the forests of southern Bahia through northern Minas Gerais and west to the Araguaia.

NEW/South Texas Rareties II—January 25-31, 2013 with Chris Benesh. Escape the winter birding doldrums on our week-long tour to the bird-rich Rio Grande Valley, with specialties from kiskadees and Green Jays to Hook-billed Kites and Altamira Orioles. And the winter potential for Mexican vagrants is terrific!

Winter Japan: Dancing Cranes & Spectacular Sea-Eagles—February 1-16, 2013 with Phil Gregory. Japan's winter spectacles, including the fabulous cranes and Steller's Sea-Eagle.

Jewels of Ecuador: Hummers, Tanagers & Antpittas II—February 1-18, 2013 with Mitch Lysinger & Pepe Rojas. Survey of Andean Ecuador; diverse avifauna dominated by colorful hummers and tanagers and more subtle and haunting antpittas.

Best of the Pacific Northwest: Skagit Valley & Puget Sound, Washington—February 2-7, 2013 with Terry McEneaney. A winter birding and wildlife tour to a surprisingly mild maritime climate with breathtaking mountain backdrops and beautiful seascapes peppered with islands.

Trinidad & Tobago—February 15-24, 2013 with Megan Crewe. Wonderful introduction to South America's riches, including bellbirds, toucans, manakins, and motmots.

Cambodia—February 16-March 1, 2013 with Phil Gregory. A "last chance" destination for some of the large, rare Asian waterbirds now extinct in neighboring countries, plus additional regional specialties and world-famous Angkor Wat.

Belize—February 17-23, 2013 with Peter Burke & John Coons. A terrific introduction to (or continuation of!) your tropical birding, including some regional bird specialties.

Guatemala: Shade-grown Birding—February 20-March 2, 2013 (Tikal Extension) with Jesse Fagan. Numerous Middle American specialties, among them Resplendent Quetzal, a host of hummingbirds, and Azure-rumped Tanager, set against a dramatic volcanic landscape and colorful Mayan culture.

Panama's Canopy Tower II—February 23-March 1, 2013 (Canopy Lodge Extension) with Chris Benesh. A towering introduction to Neotropical birds based entirely in a unique lodge; quick access to famous Pipeline Road.

HOLIDAY TOURS

If holiday birding with Field Guides is in your plans for later this year, it's good to get flights booked early for this busy travel time to allow yourself the best options and fare. Call our office and our travel agents can help you sort out the possibilities. Our holiday destinations include:

Brazil's Rio Roosevelt: Birding the River of Doubt—December 14-27, 2012 with Bret Whitney. A birding tour adventure on the remote Rio Roosevelt in the spirit of Teddy himself, as we search for bushbirds, ant swarms, and, of course, the unknown.

Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista I—December 19-27, 2012 with Jesse Fagan & local guide. One-site tour based at the comfortable Rancho Naturalista Lodge, with excursions to other habitats on Costa Rica's bird-rich Caribbean slope.

Trinidad & Tobago—December 27, 2012-January 5, 2013 with Megan Crewe & local guide. Wonderful introduction to South America's bird riches, including bellbirds, toucans, manakins, and motmots.

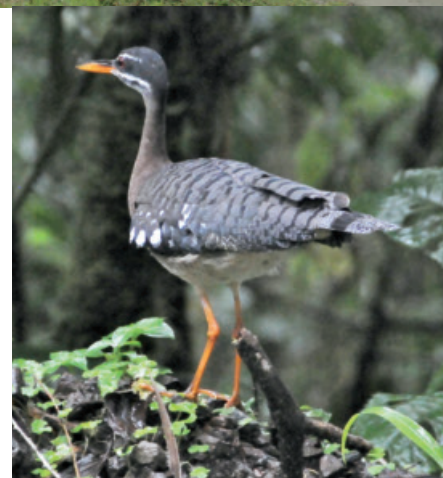
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At top, one of our groups exploring the incredibly bird-rich Andes of Ecuador; above, a Sunbittern in Costa Rica and, from left to right below, Honduran Emerald, Wing-banded Wren at Wildsumaco, and Painted Redstart in Arizona. (Photos by guide Richard Webster, participants Daphne Gemmill and Dominic Sherony, and guide Dave Stejskal)



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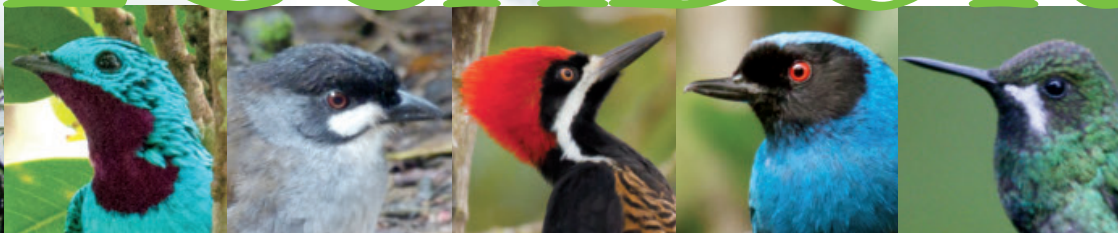
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Jewels of Ecuador (Jan & Feb) • Sacha Lodge (Jan) • Southwestern Ecuador (Mar)
Wildsumaco Lodge (Mar) • Rainforest & Andes (Mar)



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