

### New Tours for 2014

**O**ur April issue always announces the schedule for the next year...and 2014 promises to be a great one, with more than 125 advertised tours reaching far and wide around the globe. We also organize unadvertised private trips; if you'd like to put one together, contact our office about the possibilities. On the schedule are dozens of long-running itineraries you've helped us make popular. Of course we all love a little novelty, too, so our Scheduling Committee has worked diligently with our guides to create these seven new tours for 2014. We look forward to seeing you in the field!

#### Northern Ecuador: Andes, Cloudforest & Otavalo Market

with Willy Perez

We'll bird our way through stunning landscapes from the central Highlands of the Quichuas down through the cloudforests of the Intag and Mindo Valleys, all full of unique dry-valley specialties and Choco endemics. We'll also visit the famous Otavalo Market, the largest indigenous crafts market in South America. *June 5-15*

#### Costa Rica: Birding the Edges

with Jay VanderGaast

Though smaller than most US states, Costa Rica has an incredible number of superb birding areas packed within its boundaries—so many, in fact, that they can't all fit a single tour, which is why we've put together a new, two-parted trip designed to visit some outlying areas.

*January 10-18 (Part I) and January 17-26 (Part II)*

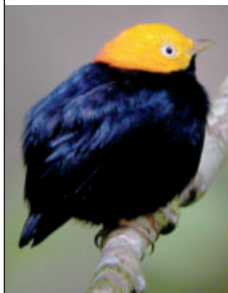


#### Panama's Canopy Camp: Lowland Darien

with John Coons

The brand new birder's "camp" continues the tradition of the Canopy Tower and Canopy Lodge, giving quite comfortable access to a little-birded part of Panama. We'll explore the camp's trails, nearby marshes, and rivers as we search for the specialties of lowland Darien province.

*January 24-31*

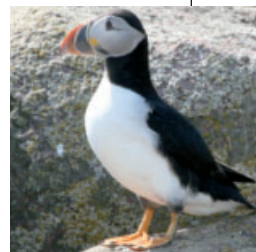


#### Maine: Birding Downeast with Eric Hynes

Birding one of the most scenic states on the Atlantic Coast, we'll seek a rich diversity of birds on their breeding grounds with emphasis on the regional specialties—from beak to claw (lobsters and fantastic seafood, anyone?). *May 31-June 8*

#### Guyana with Megan Crewe

After a multi-year hiatus, Megan Crewe leads our return to this small but bird-rich country east of Venezuela in search of regional specialties in some wild and undisturbed lowland habitats. *February 8-19*



#### Cloudforests of El Triunfo, Mexico:

##### The Horned Guan & More with Jay VanderGaast

We'll hike and camp in the wild Sierra Madre of southern Mexico in search of the spectacular Horned Guan as well as numerous other local and regional specialties. It should be a great birding adventure!

*March 8-17*

#### Spring in Cape May with Megan Crewe

A week filled with exciting birding and bright spring migrants, all under the leadership of Megan Crewe, who lives here and knows all the best haunts! *May 18-24*

At top, the stunning Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan found in the cloudforests on Ecuador's West Slope; Spotted Antbird from Costa Rica; Golden-headed Manakin from Panama's Darien; and an Atlantic Puffin from Maine. Photos by participants Bob Sprague & Amy Levensgood and guides Dave Stejskal, John Rowlett, and Chris Benesh.

# Fickle Rose Ann Rowlett Dumps Favorite Place! Breaks Heart of Manu!

## *Field Guides Newsletter Taken Over By Tabloid!*

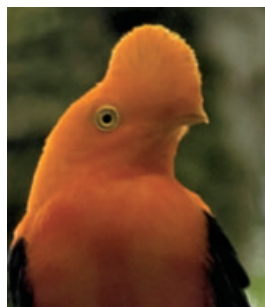
Richard Webster

**C**onfidential sources close to Rose Ann Rowlett have confirmed that the Guide Star has acknowledged previously reported, unencrypted cell phone conversations in which she said that *Borneo* is her Current Favorite Tour! [Editor's Note: And a darn good thing because she is there for six weeks right now.]

A tearful *Mountains of Manu* was seen checking into a spa outside of Cusco with a bottle of Pisco, a bunch of eggs, some citrus, and a blender, bitter at Rose Ann and at having no Angostura. A lotta yolks are going to be available. Co-leader Pepe Rojas, set to co-star with Rose Ann for *Mountains of Manu*, July 13-28 this summer, was seen rushing after the jilted Manu, Angostura in hand, seeking to placate the spurned Tour.

Rojas, who loves Manu like the homeboy he is, was expected to take the easy course with Manu and admit the obvious: When it comes to Favorite Places, Rose Ann is as Inconstant as the North Star during the Big Bang. Rose Ann's favorite place is where she is Now. So long as there is habitat, then there will be birds, and Rose Ann's happiness will know no Zenith.

And in Manu there are loads of both. More than a thousand species are on the list of Manu National Park. How do we know that Manu will be Rose Ann's New Favorite Place again for the 20th time?



Because the road from Cusco to Atalaya is the best transect of the Andes anywhere. Patience, dear *Mountains of Manu*—Rose Ann will come back to you.

We know what will happen to her before she even hits the pass and drops into the Manu. She will have seen a Bearded Mountaineer or a Creamy-crested Spinetail, and will be in love all



over again, ready for a Golden-collared Tanager. For 3000 meters the road drops to the Alto Madre de Dios, and every bend in the road has a history with Rose Ann. The Big Bird Flock stretch, where mixed flocks with Strong-billed Woodcreeper, Hooded Mountain-Tanager, and Mountain Cacique may be joined by a Golden-headed Quetzal; the thicket where she has had several great views of Red-and-white Antpitta; the slope with

the secretive Slaty Gnateaters; the home of the Yungas Manakins; the curve where an undescribed tanager was found (and the canyon where it has been seen since by the fortunate very few, Rose Ann not yet one of them); forested ravines over which Black-and-chestnut Eagles soar above mixed flocks with Cinnamon-faced Tyrannulets (you can look for the eagles if you don't care about the tyrannulets—that is the great thing about this road, there are endless alternatives); rushing rivers with Torrent Ducks and White-capped Dippers; the forested gorge through which Blue-headed Macaws may fly; the fruiting tree that had the Amazonian Umbrellabirds one trip, the fruiting tree that had the Amazonian Umbrellabirds on another trip, the fruiting tree with twelve species of tanager, the fruiting tree with the Wattled Guans against a backdrop of the Alto Madre de Dios and its Fasciated Tiger-Herons; the flowering *Inga* with so many hummingbirds; and the fruitless, flowerless tree with the troop of Common Woolly Monkeys; and we have not yet reached our home for five nights, Amazonia Lodge, hosted by our friends the Yabar family at the edge of the Amazonian lowlands that stretch for 2000 miles to the Atlantic, and where we will walk past that classic in itinerary writing, the “hoatzin-infested lagoon,” enjoying those avian folivores before moving farther out the trail to look for a swarm of army ants with its attendant birds (very, very, very occasionally including Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo); climb the ridge to the canopy tower to look for Everything, some of which will be there for You; choose between checking the vervain hedge for the regular Rufous-crested Coquettes, hoping for a knock-down, drag-out fight among several, viewing the feeders that have increasingly been visited by Gould's Jewelfront and Koepcke's Hermit, and watching the rice pile that has increasingly hosted (!!) Undulated Tinamous; and oh wait, my editor is jerking my chain about the word count! *Borneo*, prepare to be dumped for a few months. *Mountains of Manu*, Rose Ann will see you in July!

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*Editor's note: Richard asked us to add that Rose Ann is constant about a few things. Is her favorite jay currently the Crested Jay in Borneo or the White-collared Jay along the Manu road? Neither! It is the Blue Jay; always has been, always will be, as evidenced by her frequent “Ooooooohs, more Blue Jays” during fall migration visits to the East Coast.*

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*We still have a few spaces open on Mountains of Manu with Rose Ann and Pepe, July 13-28. There'll be lots of your own “Ooooooohs” along the way, for sure.*



Birds and birding in Peru are so diverse that you can focus on a single theme and have plenty to see. So how about birds with cool crests? Or perhaps a small sampling of birds with just cool orange crests? Exhibit A: Rufous-crested Coquette; B: Andean Cock-of-the-rock; C: Hoatzin. Photos by participants Francesco Veronesi, Johnny Powell, and David & Judy Smith.



# 2014 TOURS

## JANUARY 2014

Oman & the UAE: Birding Arabia I

**NEW** Costa Rica: Birding the Edges — Part One: The Deep South

Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge I

Colombia: Bogota, the Magdalena Valley, and Santa Marta

Thailand

South Texas Rarities

**NEW** Costa Rica: Birding the Edges — Part Two: The Far North

Nowhere But Northeast Brazil — Part One: Beaches to the Badlands

Oaxaca

Yellowstone in Winter

Jewels of Ecuador: Hummers, Tanagers & Antpittas I

East Africa Highlights: Kenya & Tanzania

Panama's Canopy Tower I

South Texas Rarities II

**NEW** Panama's Canopy Camp: Lowland Darien

Jan 9-25

Phil Gregory

Jan 10-18

Jay VanderGaast & local guide

Jan 10-19

Mitch Lysinger

Jan 11-27

Jesse Fagan

Jan 11-Feb 1

Dave Stejskal & local guide

Jan 17-23

Chris Benesh

Jan 17-26

Jay VanderGaast & local guide

Jan 17-Feb 3

Bret Whitney & Marcelo Padua

Jan 18-25

Megan Crewe & Pepe Rojas

Jan 18-26

Terry McEneaney & Karen McEneaney

Jan 18-Feb 4

Willy Perez

Jan 18-Feb 7

Terry Stevenson

Jan 19-25

John Coons & local guide

Jan 24-30

Chris Benesh

Jan 24-31

John Coons & local guide

"I do not usually fill out these forms, but I want you to know that Willy Perez is a great guide. I really enjoyed his good nature, humor, and ability to get us on the bird. **KEEP HIM!**" A.H., Southwestern Ecuador Specialties

## FEBRUARY 2014

Nowhere but Northeast Brazil — Part Two: West to the Araguaia

Trinidad & Tobago

Winter Japan: Cranes & Sea Eagles

Best of the Pacific Northwest

**NEW** Guyana

Colombia: The Cauca Valley and Western & Central Andes

Guatemala: Shade-grown Birding

Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge II

Birds & Wines of Chile and Argentina

Panama's Canopy Tower II

Honduras: Land of the Emeralds

Cambodia

Jewels of Ecuador: Hummers, Tanagers & Antpittas II

Thailand II

Namibia & Botswana

Feb 1-18

Bret Whitney & Pepe Rojas

Feb 5-14

Eric Hynes & local guide

Feb 7-22

Phil Gregory

Feb 8-13

Terry McEneaney

Feb 8-19

Megan Crewe & local guide

Feb 8-24

Richard Webster

Feb 12-22

Jesse Fagan

Feb 14-23

Willy Perez

Feb 15-Mar 1

Marcelo Padua & local guide

Feb 22-28

John Coons & local guide

Feb 22-Mar 2

Jesse Fagan

Feb 22-Mar 7

Phil Gregory

Feb 22-Mar 11

Willy Perez

Feb 22-Mar 15

Dave Stejskal & Chris Benesh

Feb 25-Mar 16

Terry Stevenson

"Jesse Fagan has superb birding skills and was a pleasure to bird with—and, he has a sense of humor. All aspects of the tour went well, including facilities." J.B., Guatemala:

Shade-Grown Birding

## MARCH 2014

**NEW** Cloudforests of El Triunfo, Mexico: The Horned Guan & More

Brazil Nutshell: Intervalles, Iguazu Falls & the Pantanal

Southwestern Ecuador Specialties: Jocotoco Foundation Reserves

Costa Rica

Bahamas: Abaco, Eleuthera & the Kirtland's Warbler

Ecuador's Wildsumaco Lodge

Colombia: Santa Marta Escape

Dominican Republic

Borneo I

Spring in South Texas

Ghana

Puerto Rico

Mar 8-17

Jay VanderGaast & local guide

Mar 8-22

Marcelo Padua & Pepe Rojas

Mar 8-22

Mitch Lysinger

Mar 8-23

Megan Crewe & local guide

Mar 11-16

Jesse Fagan

Mar 14-24

Willy Perez

Mar 15-23

Richard Webster

Mar 16-23

Jesse Fagan & local guide

Mar 17-Apr 2

Rose Ann Rowlett

Mar 22-30

Chris Benesh

Mar 22-Apr 7

Phil Gregory

Mar 23-29

Eric Hynes & second guide

Spectacled Barwing photographed in Thailand by guide Dave Stejskal.



# 2014 TOURS

“Marcelo’s natural leadership abilities, great communication skills, and love of birding made this a particularly enjoyable tour for all of us.” N.D., Nowhere But Northeast Brazil!

## APRIL 2014

Ethiopia  
Hawaii  
Colorado Grouse I  
Belize  
Texas Coast Migration Spectacle I  
Colorado Grouse II  
Texas Coast Migration Spectacle II  
Texas’ Big Bend & Hill Country  
Arizona Nightbirds & More I  
Classical Greece  
**Birding Plus** Do the Charleston! Spring in South Carolina  
Alta Floresta & the Pantanal, Brazil

Apr 4-24 Terry Stevenson & Richard Webster  
Apr 5-14 George Armistead & Megan Crewe  
Apr 5-15 Dan Lane & Pepe Rojas  
Apr 6-12 Peter Burke & second guide  
Apr 12-18 John Coons  
Apr 13-23 Eric Hynes & second guide  
Apr 19-25 John Coons  
Apr 19-28 Chris Benesh & second guide  
Apr 24-28 Dave Stejskal  
Apr 25-May 9 Megan Crewe & local guide  
Apr 26-May 3 Jesse Fagan  
Apr 26-May 12 Marcelo Padua

## MAY 2014

China: Manchuria & the Tibetan Plateau  
Arizona Nightbirds & More II  
Arizona: Birding the Border I  
Point Pelee Migration Spectacle  
Arizona: Birding the Border II  
**NEW** Spring in Cape May  
Uganda: Shoebill, Rift Endemics & Gorillas  
Virginias’ Warblers  
Alaska I – Part One (Pribilofs & Denali)  
Northern Arizona’s Canyons and Condor  
**NEW** Maine: Birding Downeast

May 3-24 Dave Stejskal & Jesper Hornskov  
May 8-12 Chris Benesh  
May 9-18 John Coons  
May 10-17 Peter Burke  
May 16-25 Chris Benesh  
May 18-24 Megan Crewe  
May 22-Jun 12 Phil Gregory & Jesse Fagan  
May 29-Jun 2 John Rowlett & second guide  
May 30-Jun 7 Chris Benesh & Pepe Rojas  
May 31-Jun 5 John Coons  
May 31-Jun 8 Eric Hynes

“Chris Benesh was expert in introducing us to the birds of Texas, and he had a great sense of humor. It was a bonus to me that he was also very knowledgeable about native plants and animals other than birds.” M.M., Texas’s Big Bend & Hill Country

“Our first ‘birding holiday’ was a great experience. We were particularly impressed with the well-planned and organized itinerary, which provided exposure to a variety of habitats and bird life. For novices to tropical birding, it at times seemed a bit overwhelming but by the end of the tour, we felt we had gained a huge amount of knowledge and experience.” R. & P.U., Holiday Costa Rica

## JUNE 2014

**NEW** Northern Ecuador: Andes & Otavalo Market  
Borneo II  
Alaska II – Part One (Pribilofs & Denali)  
Alaska I – Part Two (Nome, Seward & Barrow)  
Montana: Yellowstone to Glacier  
Alaska II – Part Two (Nome, Seward & Barrow)  
Galapagos: An Intimate Look at Darwin’s Islands I  
Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge III  
Newfoundland & Nova Scotia

Jun 5-15 Willy Perez  
Jun 5-22 Dave Stejskal & local guide  
Jun 6-14 Megan Crewe & second guide  
Jun 6-16 Chris Benesh & Pepe Rojas  
Jun 7-17 Terry McEneaney & John Coons  
Jun 13-23 Megan Crewe & second guide  
Jun 14-24 Willy Perez  
Jun 27-Jul 6 Willy Perez  
Jun 27-Jul 7 Chris Benesh & second guide

## JULY 2014

The Norwegian Arctic: Spitsbergen & the Svalbard Archipelago  
Kenya Highlights  
Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru I  
Galapagos: An Intimate Look at Darwin’s Islands II  
Papua New Guinea  
Mountains of Manu, Peru I  
Montane Ecuador: Cloudforests of the Andes  
Arizona’s Second Spring I  
**NEW** Peru: Hiking the Inca Trail

Jul 1-13 John Coons  
Jul 2-20 Terry Stevenson  
Jul 4-13 Dan Lane  
Jul 5-15 Megan Crewe  
Jul 6-24 Jay VanderGaast  
Jul 12-27 John Rowlett & Dan Lane  
Jul 25-Aug 3 Mitch Lysinger  
Jul 26-Aug 4 John Coons  
Jul 26-Aug 5 Pepe Rojas

“Peter Burke and John Coons were superb guides—incredibly patient, knowledgeable and helpful... Both of them had infectious enthusiasm, a great sense of humor, and were totally dedicated to making sure we all saw as many birds as possible.” S.S., Belize

## AUGUST 2014

Peru's Magnetic North: Spatuletails, Owlet Lodge & More  
Arizona's Second Spring II  
Galapagos: An Intimate Look at Darwin's Islands III  
Jaguar Spotting: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon  
Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru II  
Kenya Safari Spectacular  
Slice of California: Seabirds to Sierra  
France: Camargue & Pyrenees

Aug 1-12	Dan Lane & Dave Stejskal
Aug 2-11	Chris Benesh
Aug 2-12	Eric Hynes
Aug 2-13	Marcelo Padua
Aug 7-16	Jesse Fagan
Aug 29-Sep 25	Terry Stevenson
Aug 30-Sep 8	Chris Benesh
Aug 30-Sep 9	Megan Crewe & Willy Perez

## SEPTEMBER 2014

New Caledonia, Fiji & Vanuatu  
Serra dos Tucanos, Brazil  
Bolivia's Avian Riches  
Ecuador: Rainforest & Andes II  
Morocco  
Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus, Brazil  
Ecuador's Shiripuno Lodge: Heartland of the Waorani  
Cape May Megan's Way

Sep 1-19	Phil Gregory
Sep 6-16	John Rowlett
Sep 6-21	Dan Lane & Pepe Rojas
Sep 7-21	Rose Ann Rowlett & second guide
Sep 8-25	Jesse Fagan
Sep 13-26	Bret Whitney & Marcelo Padua
Sep 27-Oct 6	Mitch Lysinger & Willy Perez
Sep 28-Oct 4	Megan Crewe

"Megan Crewe is truly exceptional. She related personally and positively to each of us, was terrific at spotting the birds and getting everyone on them, and her energy never flagged. It's obvious that she enjoys birding. I appreciated her ability to convey detailed information about the life history and special studies of the birds that we saw." M.C., Trinidad & Tobago

"I can't say enough about Pepe Rojas. Besides, being very personable, he went out of his way to try and get the birds so we could see them. He had a very good eye and could hear birds that I couldn't hear and I have good hearing." E.L., Peru's Magnetic North: Spatuletails, Owlet Lodge & More

## OCTOBER 2014

New Guinea & Australia  
Barrow: Search for Ross's Gull  
Australia - Part One  
Peruvian Rainforests of the Tambopata  
Safari Brazil: The Pantanal & More  
South Africa  
Northwestern Argentina  
Australia - Part Two  
Louisiana: Yellow Rails & Crawfish Tails  
Chile  
Spectacular Southeast Brazil: Part One - North of the Tropic  
Sri Lanka

Oct 2-20	Jay VanderGaast
Oct 3-7	Dave Stejskal & second guide
Oct 3-23	Chris Benesh & Eric Hynes
Oct 4-17	Pepe Rojas
Oct 4-19	Marcelo Padua & second guide
Oct 9-Nov 1	Terry Stevenson & Joe Grosel
Oct 15-Nov 2	Willy Perez & Jesse Fagan
Oct 21-Nov 5	John Coons & second guide
Oct 23-27	Dan Lane & second guide
Oct 26-Nov 15	Peter Burke & local guide
Oct 31-Nov 16	Bret Whitney & Jay VanderGaast
Oct 31-Nov 17	Megan Crewe & local guide

## NOVEMBER 2014

Southern Argentina  
Northern Peru: Endemics Galore  
*Birding Plus* Ireland in Fall  
Madagascar, Mauritius & Reunion  
New Zealand  
Spectacular Southeast Brazil: Part Two - South of the Capricorn  
Southern India: Western Ghats Endemics

Nov 1-18	Dave Stejskal & local guide
Nov 2-22	Richard Webster & Pepe Rojas
Nov 6-16	Terry McEneaney & Karen McEneaney
Nov 8-Dec 4	Phil Gregory
Nov 9-27	Dan Lane & local guide
Nov 14-Dec 1	Bret Whitney & Marcelo Padua
Nov 16-Dec 7	Terry Stevenson

## DECEMBER 2014

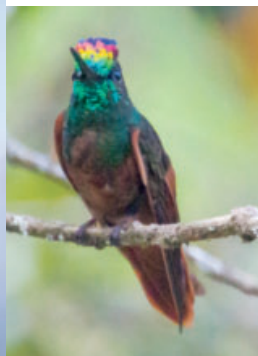
Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista I  
Holiday in Peru: Iquitos - Canopy Walkways & Ancient Forests  
Panama's Canopy Lodge: El Valle de Anton  
Arizona Winter Specialties  
Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista II  
Holiday at San Isidro, Ecuador  
Holiday in Honduras: The Lodge at Pico Bonito

Dec 20-28	Megan Crewe & local guide
Dec 20-31	Pepe Rojas & Dan Lane
Dec 21-28	John Rowlett & local guide
Dec 27-Jan 2	Dave Stejskal
Dec 27-Jan 4	Chris Benesh & local guide
Dec 27-Jan 5	Mitch Lysinger
Dec 29-Jan 3	Jesse Fagan & local guide

View from Atalaya Ridge across the Alto Madre de Dios River on the Mountains of Manu, Peru tour. Photo by guide Rose Ann Rowlett.



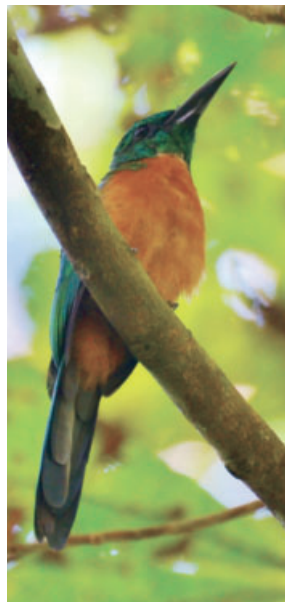
# FRESH FROM THE FIELD



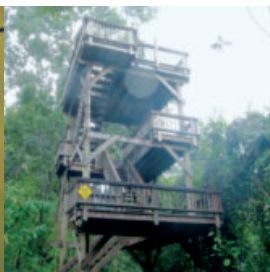
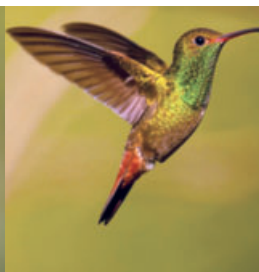
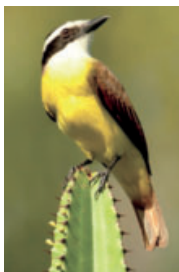
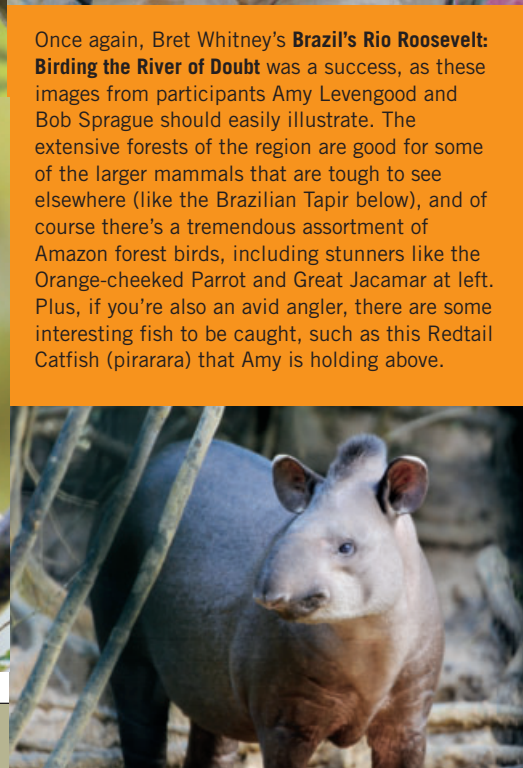
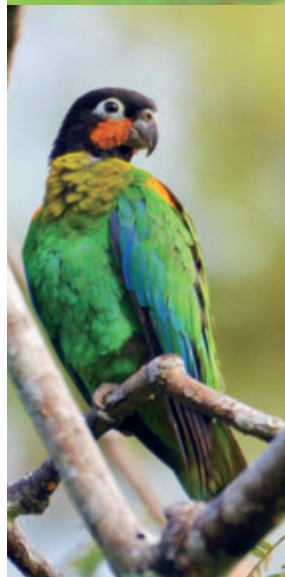
It's well known that Northern Peru is a must-visit destination for one of the most spectacular hummingbirds imaginable—the incomparable Marvelous Spatuletail (above right), but as participants on our **Northern Peru: Endemics Galore** tour found out, the spatuletail is only the oh-so-sweet cherry on top of a delectable assortment of wonderful birds this region has to offer. Enticing endemics seen included such difficult-to-find species as Great Spinetail, Ash-throated Antwren, and Pale-billed Antpitta. Non-endemics aren't too bad either; just check out the gorgeous Rainbow Starfrontlet (above left). At left, guide Mitch Lysinger and the group scour the forested slopes for other avian delights. (Photos by guide Richard Webster)



Holiday trips are always popular, our **Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista** tour especially so, and we offer it twice each Christmas season. There's just something about staying put for a week and seeing a ton of birds that appeals to folks! Not hard to understand, looking at these wonderful images sent in by tour participants David and Judy Smith after 2012's second tour. Around the horn clockwise from the lower right we have Cocoa Woodcreeper, Blue-crowned Motmot, White-breasted Wood-Wren, and Black-cheeked Woodpecker. If you're thinking of joining Jesse or Megan for our 2013 outings, you might want to sign up soon... these tours fill up fast!

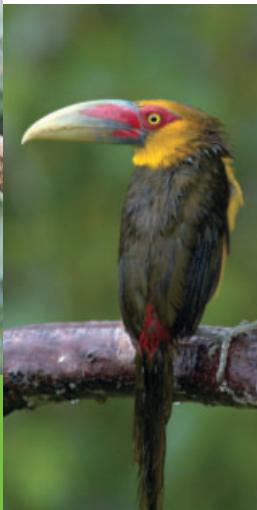


Once again, Bret Whitney's **Brazil's Rio Roosevelt: Birding the River of Doubt** was a success, as these images from participants Amy Levensgood and Bob Sprague should easily illustrate. The extensive forests of the region are good for some of the larger mammals that are tough to see elsewhere (like the Brazilian Tapir below), and of course there's a tremendous assortment of Amazon forest birds, including stunners like the Orange-cheeked Parrot and Great Jacamar at left. Plus, if you're also an avid angler, there are some interesting fish to be caught, such as this Redtail Catfish (pirarara) that Amy is holding above.



Speaking of holiday tours, John Coons guided the inaugural outing of **Holiday in Honduras: The Lodge at Pico Bonito**, and from all accounts, this tour is destined to become another holiday favorite. Photogenic birds around the lodge included the Great Kiskadee and Rufous-tailed Hummingbird seen here, while the viewing tower at right provided great views of many other wonderful birds, including the stunning Lovely Cotinga. And yes, if you're wondering, the tour also includes a visit to the home of the lone Honduran endemic, the Honduran Emerald. (Photos by tour participant Henrik Jornvall & guide John Coons)



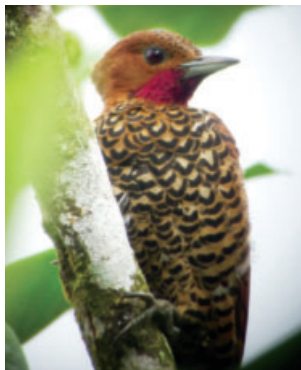


Few places in the world rival Brazil's southeast for the sheer number of regional endemics. Why, we even split our **Spectacular Southeast Brazil** tour into two parts a couple of years back, just to give us the chance to track down more of them. Seen here are four of the specialties found on the 2012 tours in photos by participant Ken Havard and guide Marcelo Padua. Above, a Black-fronted Piping-Guan seen with its chick; to the right of the piping-guans, a Saffron Toucanet; below the toucanet, a Scaled Woodcreeper. And below, one of the great prizes on Part I of the tour, the poorly known Black-capped Piprites. Both parts of this tour are chock full of endemics, so even if you can only take one, your life list is sure to increase dramatically!



In contrast to southeastern Brazil, Ireland has no endemic bird species, but it does have a unique and vibrant music scene and pub culture that had our 2012 **Birding Plus—Ireland in Fall: Birds, Traditional Music, & Pubs** group enjoying a rollicking good time. The group spent the days birding, searching for tits, wagtails, and finches in the forests and meadows, and scanning the coast (above) for an abundance of shorebirds and waterfowl (like the Tufted Duck shown here), then spent the evenings in pubs and country farmhouses like Tossie's (top picture) enjoying traditional folk music and a pint of Guinness. Sounds like a winning combination! (Photos by guide Karen McEaney and tour participants Bill Denton and Dave Wright)

With trip lists regularly topping 450 bird species, **Thailand** is a super place for a first taste of Asian birds. Guide Dave Stejskal returned from our 2013 outing with these photos, which show they had great luck with some rarely seen species. Clockwise from top left: a Hodgson's Frogmouth, often heard but rarely seen; Rufous-collared Kingfisher seen on the extension; an often-missed White-fronted Scops-Owl; the unique Nicobar Pigeon, the lone reliable species of the bunch (on the extension). What surprises lie in store for the 2014 tour?



**Jewels of Ecuador**, with Rose Ann Rowlett and Willy Perez at the helm, is another tour with a lot of birds. The highlight among the 500+ species they encountered was the amazing view of the almost-mythical Banded Ground-Cuckoo (some FG guides still don't believe this bird exists) at top right. Several hundred other birds vied for second place including: (clockwise from the cuckoo) a most cooperative Dusky Piha, a furtive Dark-backed Wood-Quail, and a beautiful Cinnamon Woodpecker. Don't wait too long if you've got Ecuador on your mind! (Photos by guides Rose Ann Rowlett & Willy Perez, and tour participants Bev MacMaster & Jim Rundell)



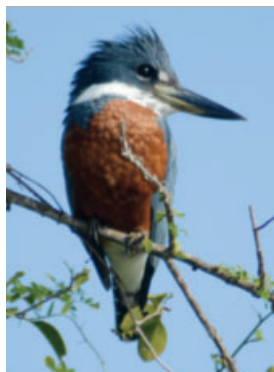
# FRESH FROM THE FIELD



For a first taste of Neotropical birds, it's hard to beat the **Trinidad & Tobago** tour. Reporting back after her recent trip, guide Megan Crewe described many wonderful encounters with some classic Trinidad birds. Among them were the biggest number of Oilbirds (photo at left) Megan's seen to date, a spectacular display of dazzling Scarlet Ibis at the Caroni Swamp (large photo), and a nice showing of many of the regulars from the Asa Wright porch including the trio above, from left, the endemic Trinidad Motmot, a male Violaceous Euphonia, and the charming Tufted Coquette. (Photos by guide Megan Crewe)



A look at some of the birds that can be found **Nowhere but Northeast Brazil!** illustrates why the dwindling forests of this region are a must-visit area for anyone with an interest in South American birds. Guides Dan Lane and Marcelo Padua joined Bret Whitney for this two-part tour and came back with these photos of NE Brazil specialties: the Endangered Lear's Macaw (top), the very local Araripe Manakin (lower left) and the wonderful Great Xenops (*Megaxenops*!)—three great reasons (and there are many, many more) to get down there soon!



**Belize** is another excellent starter destination for Neotropical newcomers, with a great, but not overwhelming, variety of tropical species. Guides John Coons and Peter Burke teamed up for our 2013 tour and came back with a glowing report. An incredible 4 Agami Herons, including the juvenile at top right, were highlights among the many waterbirds at the Crooked Tree lagoon, which also featured such notables as Jabiru, Sungrebe, and Ringed Kingfisher (above), while the forested regions around Blackrock Lodge offered such tropical fare as toucans, trogons, motmots, and jacamars (one of which John Coons is lining up in the scope at lower right). (Photos by guide Peter Burke)







Few tours combine fabulous birding opportunities and exceptional cultural and historical experiences as well as **Oaxaca**. This year's annual foray into this lovely Mexican state was a smashing success, as the group enjoyed a good selection of area specialties and local ruins and culture. Representing the first category we have (clockwise from top left): a flashy (especially for a sparrow!) Bridled Sparrow, a Collared Towhee (both Mexican endemics), and a lethargic Mountain Trogon. In the cultural category, one of the Mendoza sisters demonstrates her rug-weaving techniques in the artisanal village of Teotitlan del Valle. (Photos by guide Megan Crewe & tour participant Brian Anderson)

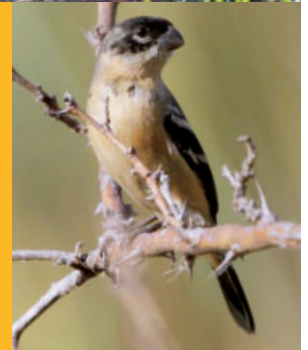


At the other end of Central America, Chris Benesh was busy leading one of our annual **Panama's Canopy Tower** tours. In between pointing out such incredible birds as the skulking Pheasant Cuckoo at lower left and the always tough-to-see Slaty-backed Forest Falcon (left), Chris took the time to give directions to a wandering sloth (above). Continuing on to the Canopy Lodge on the tour extension, the group piled up another list of great birds, highlighted by the awesome Black-crowned Antpitta at lower right. (Photos by guide Chris Benesh)



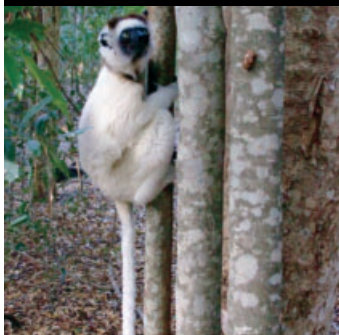
Not all our winter tours head to the tropics, as these photos clearly indicate. Guide Terry McEneaney started off the year with his ever-popular **Yellowstone in Winter** tour. Traveling around the park in a unique variety of winter vehicles, one of which the group is posing in front of (top photo), he and his group enjoyed a classic Yellowstone experience, complete with great birds (like the Trumpeter Swans above), wolves, bison, geysers (that's Old Faithful to the right), and so much more. Terry's doing it all again in 2014, so dig out your long underwear and join him for some snowy fun in Yellowstone's winter wonderland.

With two departures, our new **South Texas Rarities** tour got off to a great start, though guide Chris Benesh reports that Mexican vagrants were a little thin on the ground. But even without those unpredictable species, the Rio Grande region has a lot of great local birds, and the two tours enjoyed such regional specialties as Groove-billed Ani, Green Jay, Altamira Oriole, and White-collared Seedeater (at right), in addition to a whole bunch of more widespread species such as the American Bittern above. We'll be offering two of these tours again in 2014, and we hope to see you in the Valley! (Photos by guide Chris Benesh)

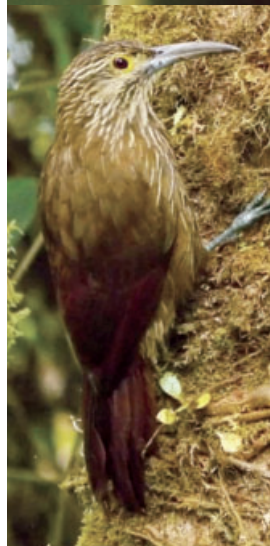
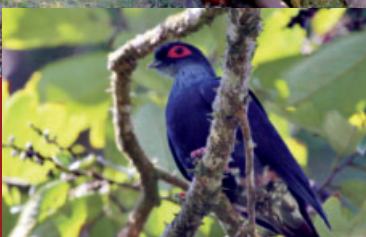




# FRESH FROM THE FIELD



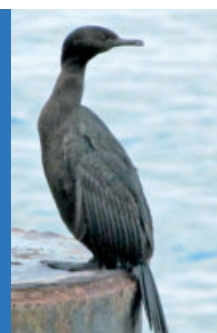
Is **Madagascar** the most exotic birding destination in the world? Well, the group that joined guides Phil Gregory and Jesse Fagan on our 2012 offering might well think so after their visit. They were treated to encounters with a whole slew of endemic birds, some familiar, like the Madagascar Blue Pigeon at bottom right, others completely foreign, such as the cryptic Scaly Ground-Roller at the top. Then there were all those exotic lemurs from tiny mouse lemurs to the huge, singing Indri, not to mention the cuddly Verreaux's Sifaka on the left. As unfamiliar as the wildlife might have been, the warm, beautiful smiles of the local children helped make our folks feel right at home! (Photos by guide Jesse Fagan)



It was like the 10 days of Christmas on our **Holiday at San Isidro, Ecuador** tour—guide Mitch Lysinger was presenting his group with loads of lifers every day. And while there was no partridge in a pear tree, they did enjoy 30 hummers a-buzzing (including the Bronzy Inca and the Sword-billed Hummingbird above), Torrent Ducks a-swimming, woodcreepers a-creeping (like the massive Strong-billed Woodcreeper at left), dippers a-dipping, 5 Golden Tanagers, 4 antpittas, 3 Sharpe's Wren, 2 Turquoise Jays, and a seedsnipe in the paramo! And a whole lot more, of course. This year's tour runs over Thanksgiving, but don't worry, Mitch loves giving out Thanksgiving presents, too! (Photos by tour participant Sandy Paci)



Beautiful coastal scenery, scrumptious seafood, and some superb birding was what the group who joined Terry McEneaney's **Best of the Pacific Northwest** tour in February had to put up with. The second run of this new tour was a great success, and in between dining on some of the best seafood imaginable, the gang enjoyed visiting what for all appearances could be a Snow Goose plantation (at left) and searching out some true west coast specialties, like the Pelagic Cormorant (above) and Northwestern Crow (below), plus Tufted Puffin, Rhinoceros Auklet, Pacific Golden-Plover, and Chestnut-backed Chickadee, to name a few more. Terry will be heading northwest again next February, and as he only takes a small group along, it's not too early to think about joining him. (Photos by guide Terry McEneaney)





## July-August

**Papua New Guinea**—June 30-July 18, 2013 with Phil Gregory. Birds-of-paradise and bowerbirds are the crown jewels of one of the most remarkable bird faunas, set against a fascinating cultural backdrop far removed from our own.

**Kenya Highlights**—July 3-21, 2013 with Terry Stevenson. Our spectacular tour hitting Kenya's best birding and mammal viewing areas in less than 3 weeks.

**Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru I**—July 5-14, 2013 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.

**Jaguar Spotting: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon I**—July 5-16, 2013 with Marcelo Padua & Dave Stejskal. This short but action-packed Brazil birding tour features the Pantanal at its best, a nice taste of southern Amazonian birds, and excellent chances of seeing a Jaguar.

**Galapagos: An Intimate Look at Darwin's Islands II**—July 6-16, 2013 with Eric Hynes. A

must for any naturalist and birder; small-group birding tour with broad coverage of the islands with plenty of time for the birds, exploring, and photography.

**Spitsbergen & Svalbard Archipelago: A Cruise to the Norwegian Arctic**—July 10-22, 2013 with John Coons. A high-arctic birding adventure on our tour aboard a comfortable vessel for fantastic seabirds, marine mammals including Walrus and Polar Bear, and fabulous scenery.

**Mountains of Manu, Peru**—July 13-28, 2013 with Rose Ann Rowlett & Pepe Rojas. Our in-depth birding tour transect of the higher-elevation half of the Manu Biosphere Reserve.

**Montane Ecuador: Cloudforests of the Andes II**—July 26-August 4, 2013 with Mitch Lysinger. Small-group tour for superb Andean subtropical birding on both East and West slopes.

**Arizona's Second Spring I**—July 27-August 5, 2013 with John Coons. An ideal time for visiting one of the best birding regions in North America: great for local specialties and Mexican vagrants.

**Jaguar Spotting: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon II**—July 27-August 7, 2013 with

Marcelo Padua. This short but action-packed Brazil birding tour features the Pantanal at its best, a nice taste of southern Amazonian birds, and excellent chances of seeing a Jaguar.

**Peruvian Rainforests of the Tambopata: Macaw Lick Extraordinaire**—July 27-August 9, 2013 with Pepe Rojas & Dave Stejskal. Two-site tour to the most species-rich rainforest on Earth. Largest known macaw lick, canopy walkway and towers, eagles, and monkeys.

**Arizona's Second Spring II**—August 3-12, 2013 with Chris Benesh. An ideal time for visiting one of the best birding regions in North America: great for local specialties and Mexican vagrants.

**Galapagos: An Intimate Look at Darwin's Islands III**—August 3-13, 2013 with Megan Crewe. A must for any naturalist and birder; 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 II**—August 8-17, 2013 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.

**Ecuador's Shiripuno Lodge: Heartland of the Waorani**—September 28-October 7, 2013 with Mitch Lysinger & Willy Perez. A new tour to Shiripuno Lodge, gateway to the Yasuni Biosphere Reserve in Ecuador's Amazon region.

**Cape May Megan's Way**—September 29-October 5, 2013 with Megan Crewe. See bird migration in action at one of the country's top migration hotspots.

**New Guinea & Australia**—October 3-21, 2013 with Phil Gregory. A rich and diverse sampler of the best birding of New Guinea and Australia.

**Barrow, Alaska: Search for Ross's Gull**—October 4-8, 2013 with Dave Stejskal. A short sojourn to 71 degrees North latitude, the US's northernmost point, for the legendary Ross's Gull, loons, eiders, and possibly even Polar Bear and Ivory Gull.

**South Africa**—October 10-November 2, 2013 with Terry Stevenson & Joe Grosel. Endemic-rich birding, spectacular landscapes, and a unique flora are the highlights of our energetic survey tour of this beautiful country.

**Holiday at San Isidro, Ecuador**—November 23-December 2, 2013 with Mitch Lysinger. A bird-rich holiday escape based primarily at the very comfortable San Isidro Lodge.

**Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista I**—December 19-27, 2013 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.

**Iquitos, Peru: Canopy Walkways & Ancient Forests**—December 21, 2013-January 1, 2014 with Pepe Rojas & Dan Lane. A two-week immersion in the most species-rich region of Amazonia, including the white-sand forests near Iquitos. River travel on the Amazon and Napo rivers, canopy access via the famed walkway at ACTS.

**Arizona Winter Specialties**—December 27, 2013-January 2, 2014 with Dave Stejskal.

# UPCOMING TOURS

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

**Kenya Safari Spectacular**—August 30-September 26, 2013 with Terry Stevenson. A tour unsurpassed in its combined wealth of bird life and mammal spectacle; includes the coast. Time-saving internal flights.

**Slice of California: Seabirds to Sierra**—August 31-September 9, 2013 with Chris Benesh. A wonderfully diverse birding tour with a mix of West Coast specialties, montane species, and pelagics in rugged and scenic sites.

**France: Camargue & Pyrenees**—August 31-September 10, 2013 with Megan Crewe. Two of Europe's finest birding destinations combined in this wonderful eleven-day tour, with varied highlights and some great French food.

**Safari Brazil: The Pantanal & More**—October 11-26, 2013 (Brazilian Merganser Extension) with Marcelo Padua. The spectacular wetlands of the Pantanal, with Hyacinth Macaws and Jabirus, combine with the many specialties of Brazil's Planalto Central to make for the perfect first birding trip to Brazil.

**Northwestern Argentina: The Chaco, Cordoba & Northern Andes**—October 16-November 3, 2013 (Rincon del Socorro Extension) with Dave Stejskal & Willy Perez. Comprehensive birding tour of the many bird habitats of the diverse northwest; many specialty birds.

**Louisiana: Yellow Rails & Crawfish Tails**—October 24-28, 2013 with Dan Lane. Late-autumn tour on the Gulf Coast targeting Yellow Rails and other migrants and wintering species of the region.

**Chile**—October 27-November 16, 2013 with Peter Burke & Ricardo Matus. Comprehensive survey tour of this visually spectacular and tourist-friendly country.

Exceptional winter birding with numerous specialties and potential rarities.

**Panama's Canopy Lodge: El Valle de Anton**—December 28, 2013-January 4, 2014 with Chris Benesh. A superb introduction to Neotropical birds or a complement to your broader Middle American birding, all based at a charming lodge.

**Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista II**—December 28, 2013-January 5, 2014 with Megan Crewe & 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.

**Holiday in Honduras: The Lodge at Pico Bonito**—December 29, 2013-January 3, 2014 with John Coons & local guide. Holiday tour over New Year's based in a lovely and bird-rich setting at The Lodge at Pico Bonito.

## September-October

**Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus, Brazil I**—September 1-14, 2013 with Bret Whitney. The rainforests and rivers of the mighty Amazon and Rio Negro in an unforgettable mix of forest hikes and live-aboard luxury.

**New Caledonia, Fiji & Vanuatu**—September 2-20, 2013 with Phil Gregory. Island endemics and tropical Pacific specialties abound on this tour to three highlight destinations.

**Serra dos Tucanos, Brazil**—September 7-17, 2013 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 7-22, 2013 (Blue-throated Macaw (and More) Extension) with Dan Lane & Pepe Rojas. The special bird life of the Bolivian Andes; wonderful mountain scenery.

**Ecuador: Rainforest & Andes**—September 8-22, 2013 with Willy Perez. Highlight tour 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.

**Morocco**—September 9-26, 2013 with Jesse Fagan & local guide. 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 II**—September 14-27, 2013 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**—September 26-October 17, 2013 (Part I) with Chris Benesh & second guide and October 15-30, 2013 (Part II) with John Coons & Jesse Fagan. Our tour is split 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 tour of Australia.

Rojas. 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.

**Madagascar, Mauritius & Reunion**—November 9-December 5, 2013 (Masoala Peninsula Extension) with Phil Gregory & Megan Crewe. 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.

**East Africa Highlights: Kenya & Tanzania**—November 16-December 6, 2013 with Terry Stevenson. A three-week tour combining the richest birding and mammal spots in Kenya and northern Tanzania: an impressive diversity of habitats, many with spectacular scenery.

## November-December

**Spectacular Southeast Brazil**—November 1-17, 2013 (Part I) with Bret Whitney & Chris Benesh and November 15-December 1, 2013 (Iguazu Falls Extension) (Part II) with Bret Whitney & Marcelo Padua. Prepare to be blown away, two times over, on this tour through 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.

**New Zealand**—November 3-21, 2013 with Dan Lane & local guide. Beautiful landscapes as a backdrop for nearly 50 endemic birds plus a great selection of seabirds.

**Northern Peru: Endemics Galore**—November 3-23, 2013 with Richard Webster & Pepe





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*1st tour*

I: 5/31-6/8

II: 6/7-6/17

*2nd tour*

I: 6/7-6/15

II: 6/14-6/24

# Alaska

Photos by participants Linda Rudolph & Cliff Hensel.

