

# fieldguides®

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

### Exotic Birding, Near and Far

*Five destinations from  
Thailand to Brazil*

Jan Pierson

Whether travel veteran or novice, each of us has special destinations we've heard of, perhaps since we were young, that sound wonderfully exotic. When I was a kid, it was places like Zanzibar, Tahiti, Kamchatka, Zambezi, and Dakar—names derived from a book I'd read, or map I'd seen, or painting I'd contemplated, or even a game I'd played. There wasn't any Google then, so you learned what little bits you could, and you imagined the rest...that was great fun.

Nowadays I see a lot of Field Guides triplists and tour photos coming in on a daily basis. I've traveled a lot on birding trips around the world, and these days I get to do so virtually at home as well...through the eyes of our guides and participants via said lists and photos. And I never cease to be amazed at the exotic nature of most of the places our tours go...and how wonderfully accessible those exotic places have become. So herewith a small sampling of some places I'd like to go (yes, still a few on my go-to list!) or get back to.



Two very distracting birds: Long-tailed Broadbill and, though you might wonder about the name, Black-and-yellow Broadbill. (Photos by guide Dave Stejskal)



#### THAILAND

My mom had a Thai friend we saw regularly when I was a kid. He had a wonderful name, Tosi Phakdikun. He is long since gone, but I remember talking with him when I was 10 or 11 and thinking, wow, I wonder what it's like where he's from. Now, every time a fresh Thailand triplist or batch of photos is submitted, I get to pretend-explore again, only these days it's from a birder's perspective, too. Exotic pheasants? Count me in—how can I go wrong pondering a Silver Pheasant or a Siamese Fireback? They are unbelievable birds.

*Continued on page 2*

2014 ~ Our 30th Year of Birding Near and Far

Also in this issue: 4/Fresh From the Field • 10/Where's That Guide? • 11/Upcoming Tours

800-728-4953 / [www.fieldguides.com](http://www.fieldguides.com)



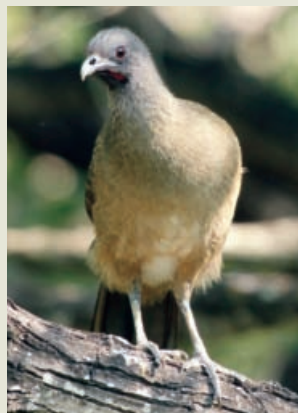


Let's raise a little mezcal toast to Ocellated Thrasher and, how do you say, Wok-za-ka Sparrow! (Photos by guides Megan Crewe & Chris Benesh)

look at Monte Alban and Mitla and savor a *tlayuda* assembled on my plate. I wouldn't mind, too, raising a little mezcal to toast the day's birding and other discoveries. Turn on that tractor beam. I am so ready!  
*Mexico: Oaxaca, January 18-25 with Megan Crewe & Pepe Rojas.*

## SOUTH TEXAS RARITIES

Admittedly, growing up in L.A., I did not think about South Texas. After all, I was in L.A., and we were cool and everything else was, well, just everything else. Then I moved to Maine and became a birder. And I had my first field guide with range maps. And there were many, many amazing-looking birds way, way down south in...yes, Texas. So Texas was now so cool (and so far), and everywhere else I'd birded in the East was, well, you know... On my first jaunt through Texas, we pulled into the parking lot at Santa Ana, followed the signs to one of the old blinds, entered, and peeked out through the openings. Nothing at first. But then a Green Jay flew in and I thought I might be having a little color-



After a full South Texas dose of raucous Plain Chachalaca and loquacious Green Parakeets, it's nice to lay eyes and ears on the elegant and rather demure Scaled Quail. (Photos by participant Bernie Grossman and guide Chris Benesh)

# Exotic Birding, Near and Far

*Continued from page 1*

The only thing that might distract me from a pheasant, though, is (believe it or not) a broadbill—and Thailand has a wonderful assortment of them, from Banded and Dusky to Black-and-red, Black-and-yellow, and Long-tailed. After seeing my first one, a Long-tailed, in Malaysia, I was hooked—I can't not look (can I say that?). Oh, and there's one more thing about Thailand: I like to cook, but our home meals from that part of the world are mainly Indian. Guide Dave Stejskal and his wife, Julie Hecimovich, however, take all of us at the annual FG business meeting on a gourmet's tour with their Thai night, during which we would all make great subjects for Dr. Pavlov's experiments, since in the 30 minutes before we're called to the meal there might be some salivating going on. It would seem those Pavlovian experiments are repeated in the field on our Thailand tours...where our support team headed by the incomparable Wat is rumored to produce amazing snacks and meals in some pretty fantastic birding venues. Exotic enough for me. *Thailand, January 11-February 1 (I) and February 22-March 15 (II) with Dave Stejskal (I & II), Uthai Treesucon (I), and Chris Benesh (II).*

## OAXACA

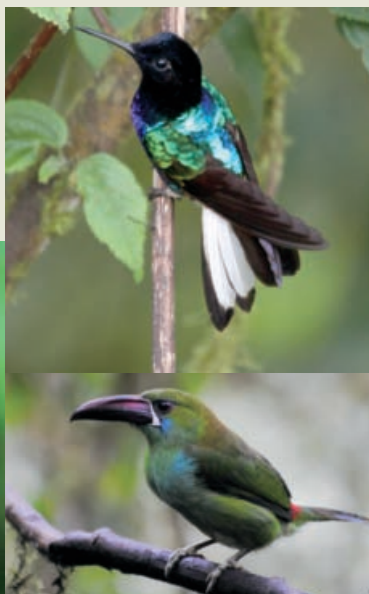
This one's another flash from my childhood past. I grew up in L.A., and I'd hear or read about things south of the border in Mexico. Some of these had to do with the pre-Columbian cultures of the Maya and Aztec and others, and there were some beguiling names: Popocatepetl and Quetzalcoatl, which just rolled off the tongue, and more challenging ones like Tenochtitlan, all enough to make me want to go. And all those places with x's in the name were mysteries, since I'd never heard them spoken. For the longest time, I thought it was pronounced Wok-za-ka...sorry! Now, of course, I've straightened that out. But still, all my Mexico birding has taken me *around*, but not *to* Oaxaca. So there's this strong tractor-beam sensation when I read about Beautiful Hummingbird, Dwarf Jay, Ocellated Thrasher, and Wok-za-ka Sparrow on a triplist, not to mention wanting to have a



saturation problem with my eyes. A White-tipped Dove wandered by, and the chachalacas “went off” (as I later knew chachalacas are wont to do) and began to call—what a cacophony! It was an audio-visual feast, and I was pumped. Exotic? You bet. Exotic doesn’t have to be on the other side of the world. It just has to be novel...and South Texas has novelty in spades for the birder! *South Texas Rarities, January 17-23 (I) and January 24-30 (II) with Chris Benesh.*

## JEWELS OF ECUADOR

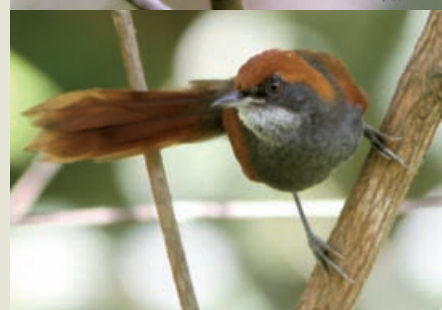
What do you say when someone asks, “What do you like best about birding?” I used to have various answers, and a lot of them had to do with the most beautiful and active and interesting wild things, and seeing birds interact with their environment, and seasonal changes, and song. And those are, of course, all wonderful and enlightening and fantastic things about birding. But if you told me it had to be just one thing, no add-ons, it would be this: I love the fact that, even in places where I’ve birded a hundred times before, I can never be sure exactly what I’ll see today, or if today is the day I find some amazing rarity or see some new behavior for the first time. It’s that feeling that, every time, I’m going out to discover. That never gets old. And where do I get the biggest sense of impending discovery, a little buzz in my ear that something amazing could happen any minute? Hands down, it’s the Andes of Ecuador. Plunk me down somewhere, anywhere there, take away the map and the road signs, and it doesn’t really matter which direction we head. So long as there’s good habitat, there will be some very cool birds—and that little buzz in my head saying maybe today I’ll see that really rare hummingbird or antpitta or brilliant tanager or cryptic tapaculo or something else I haven’t even thought of...the possibilities seem (and almost are, if you look at the country list) endless. I feel like a kid in a candy store there. It doesn’t get any better, or any more exotic, than that. *Jewels of Ecuador: Hummers, Tanagers & Antpittas, January 18-February 4 (I) and February 22-March 11 (II) with Willy Perez.*



Turn any corner on a two-week trip to the Andes of Ecuador and there’s always bound to be something new, since the birding is so rich! Pictured here: Long-tailed Sylph, Velvet-purple Coronet, and Crimson-rumped Toucanet. (Photos by participants Bob Sprague & Amy Levensgood and guide Richard Webster)



As the tour name says, these are literally “nowhere but Northeast Brazil”: Great Xenops (we think of it as the true “mega”—*Megaxenops*!), Araripe Manakin, and Pinto’s Spinetail. (Photos by guide Marcelo Padua and participant Markus Lagerqvist)



## NORTHEAST BRAZIL

Now, if you ask me what’s my favorite country to go birding in, that’s a very different question, bringing a whole lot of extra key birding variables into the query. What’s it like to travel there? How much diversity of birding? And of landscapes? How’s the infrastructure? And what about the people, the food, the culture? Favorite country, it turns out, is also no contest for me: Brazil. There aren’t many (any?) single-country destinations the size of the US’s Lower 48, with such an amazing and rich diversity of habitats (and watch out, Brazil’s bird list is coming on strong and might nose every other country on Earth at the tape!), important things like flights and roads and hotels and lodges that really work (you know, those things that get us out birding!), delicious and distinctive food (you gotta have a *moqueca* with a *caipirinha* to sip on the side), lovely people, and a truly distinctive culture, not to mention language (Brazilian Portuguese is just fun), that combine to make it such a wonderful place to go birding. It’s all exotic at some level, of course, if you haven’t been there, but within Brazil itself, I’d say the Northeast is the most distinctive (just as I’d say the US’s Southwest is the most distinctive, no?). The Northeast is a big place (think France), the landscapes are varied and beautiful, and the birds just draw you in—you don’t even have to have seen any illustrations to think they might be cool. Consider Pink-legged Graveteiro, Great Xenops, Araripe Manakin, Spotted Nothura, Pygmy Nightjar, Hooded Visorbearer, Indigo Macaw, Fringe-backed Fire-eye, and, as of this year, Stresemann’s Bristlefront? Only 500-plus to go, by the 2013 count...exotica galore! *Nowhere But Northeast Brazil, January 14-31 (Part I) and January 29-February 15 (Part II) with Bret Whitney (Parts I & II), Marcelo Padua (Part I), and Pepe Rojas (Part II).*

Visit our web site (where you may download a tour itinerary) or call our office for complete details.



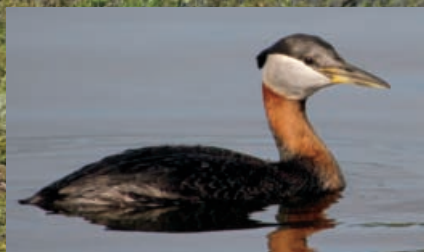
# FRESH FROM THE FIELD



On the recent **Rainforest & Savanna: Alta Floresta & the Northern Pantanal, Brazil** tour with guide Marcelo Padua, tour participants had a tough time choosing their favorite sighting from the great mix of birds seen. Was it the world's smallest Passerine, the normally inconspicuous Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant (near right)? Or perhaps any of a bevy of gorgeous tanagers such as the beautiful Blue-necked Tanager pictured above? Or maybe it was the predatory Red-legged Seriema (upper right) strutting across the open grasslands of the Pantanal? The likely choice for a mammal highlight has to be the Jaguar at far right. Looks like it's just daring folks to choose another mammal as their favorite! (Photos by guide Marcelo Padua)



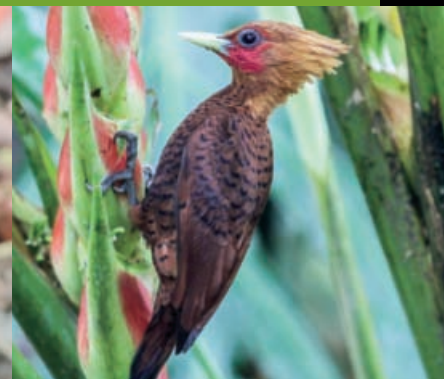
Each spring millions of birds wing their way northward, aiming for their breeding grounds in the vast wilderness of Alaska. And each spring, our guides head north too, aiming to share the joys of Alaskan birding with another group of excited migrant birders. Tour participant Kevin Watson came back from one of our two 2013 **Alaska** tours with these superb photos which illustrate just what makes Alaska so special. Whether searching for familiar species like the gorgeous Red-necked Grebe (below left) or true Alaskan specialties, such as the very local Bristle-thighed Curlew (below), you're usually looking for them in areas where the scenery is distractingly spectacular, as demonstrated by the group birding along the Denali Highway!



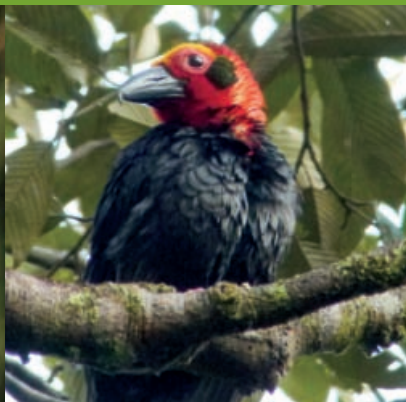




There aren't many African nations that can boast of having more endemic birds than Ethiopia, fewer still that can boast of more endemic mammals! Ethiopia's highlands are home to many species found nowhere else, and our tours regularly encounter 30+ endemic birds and at least a half-dozen endemic mammals. Pictured here are a few of the wonderful sightings from this year's **Ethiopia** tour with guide Phil Gregory: at top, a Blue-winged Goose, next to it, a Thick-billed Raven, and at bottom right, an Ethiopian Wolf; all endemics. (Photos by participants David and Judy Smith)



Costa Rica has a rich variety of habitats and an amazing number of birds inhabiting them. On this year's **Costa Rica** tour, new guide Lena Senko teamed up with Megan Crewe to show tour participants several hundred of these inhabitants, including the female Black-hooded Antshrike (above left), endemic to the lowland Pacific forests of CR and Panama, the lovely Chestnut-colored Woodpecker (above right) in the verdant Caribbean lowlands, and the bizarre (and ear splittingly loud!) Three-wattled Bellbird (left) in the famous cloudforests of Monteverde. (Photos by guide Megan Crewe and participant Merl Annot)



Home to the tallest and oldest rainforests and largest flowers in the world, as well as some truly wonderful creatures such as Proboscis Monkeys and Orangutans, **Borneo** is one of the most exotic places on Earth. It's also one of guide Rose Ann Rowlett's current favorites, and she came back from one of this year's offerings raving about all the amazing wildlife sightings they enjoyed, clearly excited to be going back there again in 2014! Rose Ann and tour participant Bill Fraser brought back these great pictures of some of the island's avian highlights: (clockwise from left) a Gray-and-buff Woodpecker, one of Asia's smallest woodpeckers; an Oriental Bay-Owl caught in the spotlight; Bornean Bristlehead, one of the real weirdos of the bird world!

With just two species in the rather remote and difficult-to-access tropical forests of western and central Africa, the Picathartes, or Rockfowl,

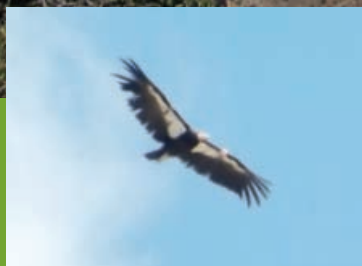


was among the toughest of all avian families to see. Ghana's rise as a birding hotspot has changed all that, and the White-necked Rockfowl, is, if not easy, at least more easily accessible. As guide Phil Gregory reported after his recent **Ghana** tours, both groups had "great views of at least 2 and maybe 3 birds, a wonderful experience for all of us!" Tour participant Randy Siebert's photo of a rockfowl (right) certainly backs up that claim. Among the many other highlights were the scarce Blue-bellied Roller (top left) and the brilliant African Emerald Cuckoo (top right). (Photos by participant John Drummond and guide Phil Gregory)

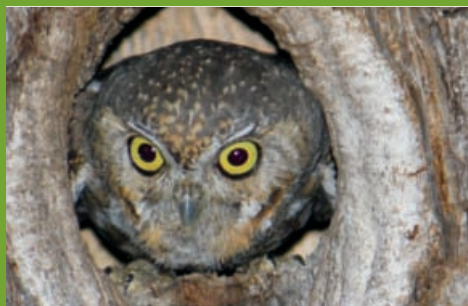




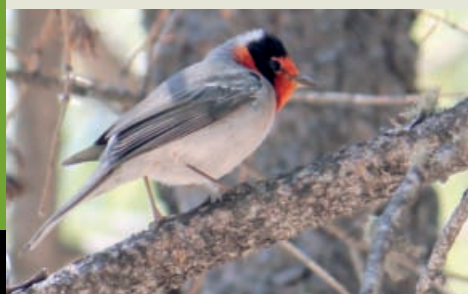
# FRESH FROM THE FIELD



Rarely do two photos represent a trip as well as the two above from the **Northern Arizona's Canyons & Condor** tour, which completed its initial run back in June. And what a run it was, with the showcase condors putting in their first appearance within minutes of our group arriving at this very scenic overlook on the Grand Canyon's South Rim! It'll be hard to beat this on the tour's second run next year, but guide John Coons is up for the challenge! (Photos by participant Pat Newman and guide John Coons)



Take one of the best birding spots in the US, add one of the most charismatic and enigmatic groups of birds on the continent (owls), and what do you get? **Arizona Nightbirds & More**, a short tour that packs quite a punch! Once again we had two departures of this popular trip this spring, and both recorded 8 species of owls, along with a good bunch of diurnal birds. Guide Lena Senko provided the two images here: a minuscule Elf Owl peering out of a hollow tree (above) and the gorgeous Red-faced Warbler below. Don't wait too long if this short tour is on your short list—spaces for 2014 are filling up fast!



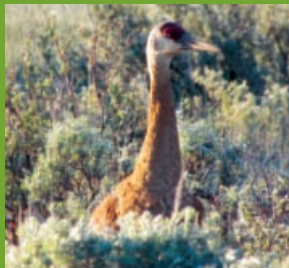
After his recent **Texas's Big Bend & Hill Country** tour, guide Chris Benesh reported that "the tour was successful despite an ongoing drought that has brought little rain to the area in the past few years." The target birds—such as Colima Warbler in Big Bend and Golden-cheeked Warbler (below left) in the Hill Country—performed well, and a bunch of other great birds made appearances. These included clown-faced Acorn Woodpeckers, Clark's Grebes, and a real specialty of the Mexican border region, the Gray Hawk. (Photos by guide Chris Benesh and participant Mary Lou Barritt)







If it's April and you're John Coons, it's pretty likely you're leading a couple of tours in Texas. That certainly held true this year as John was at the helm of both of our **Texas Coast Migration Spectacle** tours. With good weather and cooperative birds, our two groups racked up a substantial list of migrants, with 25+ species of warblers recorded on each trip! Other fun sightings included Common Nighthawks posing on fence posts at Anahuac (top left), and breeding colonies featuring Great Egret and Neotropic Cormorant (middle) and the showy Roseate Spoonbill (left). In between birds, John took the time to lecture a young Box Turtle on the dangers of crossing busy roads. (Photos by participant Daphne Watson and guide Lena Senko)



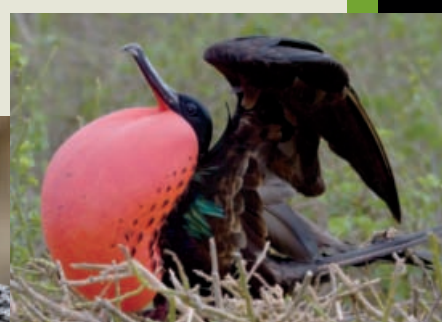
The magnificent landscapes of two of America's most scenic national parks were the beautiful backdrop for some fine Rocky Mountain birding on our **Montana: Yellowstone to Glacier** tour. In between watching Grizzlies, wolves, bison, and Bighorn Sheep, and photographing the amazing scenery (such as this lovely waterfall photographed by participant Beth Tillman), the group found a little time to enjoy some birds, such as the Sandhill Crane skulking through the sage brush (above) and the two male Harlequin Ducks lounging next to a fast-flowing mountain stream. (Photos by guide Terry McEaney)



Judging from guide Dave Stejskal's report, our revamped **China: Manchuria & the Tibetan Plateau** tour should enjoy a long and successful run. For family listers, perhaps the most important bird of the trip is Przevalski's Rosefinch (below left), recently elevated to its own family. Other bird highlights included goodies like the rare Siberian Crane and stunning Blue Eared-Pheasants, as well as less spectacular but very localized species such as Przevalski's Nuthatch and Gansu Leaf-Warbler (below right). Throw in some great scenery, such as the Huzhu Valley pictured below, and you have the makings of a great trip! (Photos by guide Dave Stejskal)



Of all the tours we offer, the one on which binoculars are the least necessary has got to be the **Galapagos**. A rather high percentage of the bird species on the islands will occasionally get way too close for binoculars to be useful, which means great up-close and personal views of a variety of birds, from displaying Great Frigatebirds, like the pumped up male at far right, to the numerous Darwin finches, like this Large Ground-Finch. But just in case something turned up beyond arm's length, our group (pictured here at the Pirate Cave on Floreana) always kept their binoculars handy. Well done! (Photos by participant Linda Rudolph and guide Willy Perez)





# FRESH FROM THE FIELD

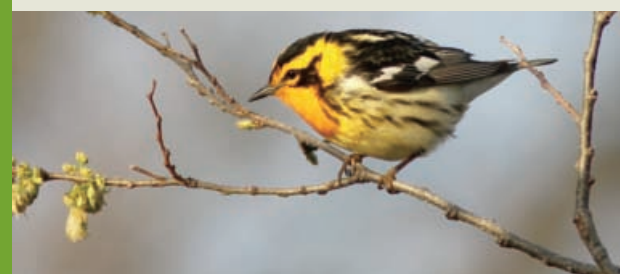


After the successful launch of our BIRDING PLUS—**Scotland: Famous Grouse in the Land of Whisky** tour in 2012, guide John Rowlett was back for the follow-up this spring. He reported that the generally good weather allowed the group to tally “an enviable bird list and some thrilling sightings against a backdrop of scenic grandeur.” Two standouts among these thrilling sightings had to be the bold Corn Crane that called loudly in full view (top right) and the famous Red Grouse, aka Willow Ptarmigan (right). We’re not sure that the whisky stills pictured above qualify as “scenic grandeur,” but observing the process of producing whisky (and testing its result) was certainly a fascinating tour experience as well! (Photos by guide John Rowlett and participant Jim Rome)



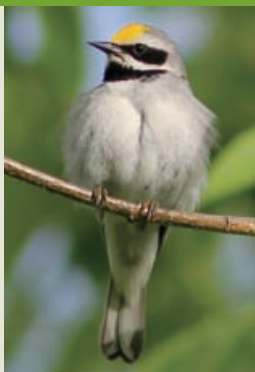
Point Pelee is arguably one of the most famous birding spots in Canada, and photos from Peter Burke's spring **Point Pelee Migration Spectacle** tour show us a few of the reasons why. The rare Kirtland's Warbler, at top left, which has become something of a regular as its numbers have increased in the last decade, and the dazzling Blackburnian Warbler (below) were just two of the 27 warbler species encountered, along with a bunch of other great migrants, from Scarlet Tanager to Indigo Bunting to the splendid Rose-breasted Grosbeak, above right. (Photos by participant Sue Carr and guide Peter Burke)

**Spring in South Texas** is a wonderful thing judging by these photos provided by guide Chris Benesh and participant Jakapat Vanichanan! Always a highlight of this tour, the Whooping Cranes winging across the marshes at Aransas were a real treat for the group once again. But other South Texas specialties like the Buff-bellied Hummingbird (inset photo), Crested Caracara (above) and Audubon's Oriole (far right) weren't too bad either.





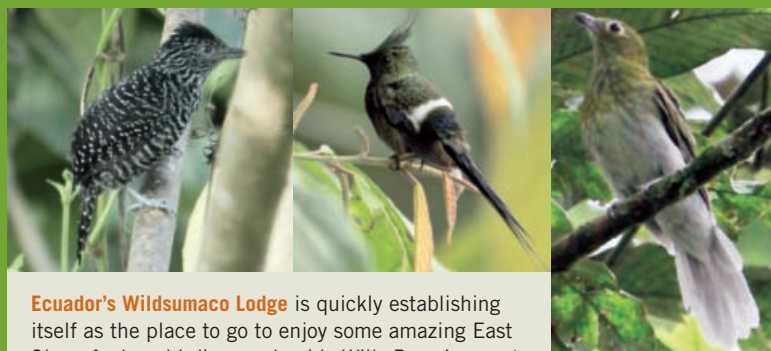
Whisky isn't the only thing that improves with age; hot on the heels of his Scotland tour, John Rowlett was back in the field leading the **Virginias' Warblers** tour, this 22nd running of his tour in the past 18 years! This short tour just keeps getting better and better, thanks not only to the fine assortment of warblers to be seen—26 species, including the stellar Golden-winged (above) and Cerulean (right)—but also to some wonderful food and hospitality the group enjoyed in the homes of some very generous folks across the region. (Photos by guides Eric Hynes & Lena Senko)



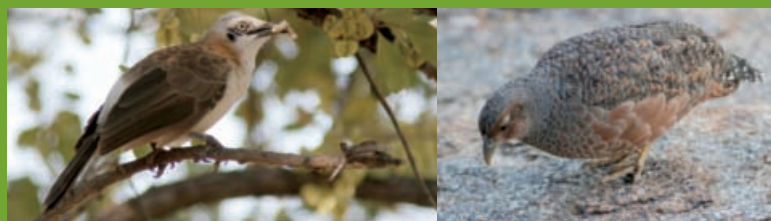
It was a cold and snowy spring in Colorado this year, but that didn't seem to deter the grouse from displaying, and both of our **Colorado Grouse** tours this spring tallied 10 species of "chickens" despite the wintry conditions. Guides Dan Lane and Eric Hynes came back from their respective tours with these fantastic images:



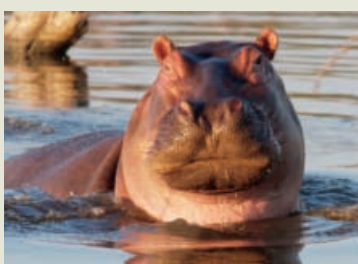
(clockwise from above) a booming male Greater Sage-Grouse on the lek at Walden; a bright Steller's Jay adding a dash of color to the winter backdrop; a displaying male Greater Prairie-Chicken stomping his feet on the frozen prairie.



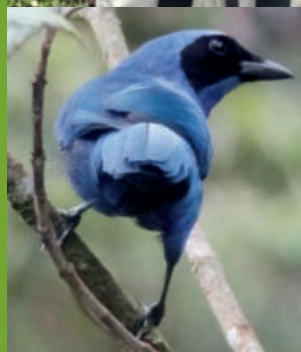
**Ecuador's Wildsumaco Lodge** is quickly establishing itself as the place to go to enjoy some amazing East Slope Andean birding, and guide Willy Perez's report from his recent tour there was nothing short of glowing. With highlights that included some generally tough-to-see birds like Buckley's Forest-Falcon, Wing-banded Wren, and the scarce and local Gray-tailed Piha (above) the lodge is certainly cementing its reputation as the place for some rare species! Not all East Slope specialties are tough to see, thankfully, and birds like the Lined Antshrike and Wire-crested Thorn-tail shown above are among the regulars around the lodge. (Photos by participant Steve Wakeham)



According to guide Terry Stevenson, folks on the recent **Namibia & Botswana** tour "had great success in finding virtually all the region's endemic and near-threatened endemic birds, plus some of our best mammal sightings ever!" The Bare-cheeked Babbler (above left) and Hartlaub's Francolin (above right) were just two of the regional endemics seen so well on the tour, a group that also included goodies like Rueppell's Parrot, White-tailed Shrike, and Herero Chat. The rarely seen Aardwolf and 9 endangered Hunting Dogs vied for the title of best mammal sighting, though many more widespread mammals (such as the hippos at right) gave the group a true African safari experience! (Photos by participant Ken Havard)



Our **Peru's Magnetic North** tour, a shorter version of our Northern Peru trip, visits some of the major birding areas of the region with a chance to see many of the star avian attractions, including the legendary Long-whiskered Owl and the unbelievable Marvelous Spatuletail, both of which were seen well on this year's tour. Of course there are plenty of other more widespread Andean birds to be had as well, including the spectacular Andean Cock-of-the-rock (above) and the lovely White-collared Jay (left). At top left, guide Pepe Rojas, who joined Dan Lane this year, shows off a colorful frog he found on the forest floor. (Photos by guide Dan Lane)







## CHRIS BENESH

New to Chris in early 2014 is Thailand, where he'll be joining Dave Stejskal for the second of our tours there. Closer to home, with Arizona, Texas, Alaska, and Newfoundland on his schedule, Chris can look forward to some great birding in some of the best birding locales in the US and Canada.

# WHERE'S THAT GUIDE?

2014 tour schedules through June for six of our guides.

For complete listings, please visit our web site ([www.fieldguides.com/guides](http://www.fieldguides.com/guides)).

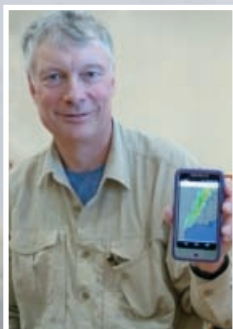
## JESSE FAGAN

Between tours, Jesse has been busy working on his field guide to the birds of Northern Central America, and with trips to Guatemala and Honduras, he'll be showing those birds he's been writing about to Field Guides participants.



South Texas Rarities I & II, January 17-23 and January 24-30  
Thailand, February 22-March 15  
Spring in South Texas, March 22-30  
Texas's Big Bend & Hill Country, April 19-28  
Arizona's Nightbirds & More, May 8-12  
Arizona: Birding the Border, May 16-25  
Alaska, May 30-June 7 (Part I) and June 6-16 (Part II)  
Newfoundland & Nova Scotia, June 27-July 7

Colombia: Bogota, the Magdalena Valley & Santa Marta, January 11-27  
Guatemala: Shade-Grown Bidding, February 12-22  
Honduras: Land of the Emeralds, February 22-March 2  
Bahamas: Abaco, Eleuthera & Kirtland's Warbler, March 11-16  
Dominican Republic, March 16-23  
Birding Plus—Do the Charleston! Spring in South Carolina, April 27-May 4  
Uganda: Shoebill, Rift Endemics & Gorillas, May 22-June 12



## JOHN COONS

The Kingfisher, who migrates to Panama every winter, has a new tour there in 2014—to Darien Province where he'll be birding the remote eastern lowlands for such specialties as Black Oropendola, Black Antshrike, and Golden-headed Manakin while comfortably accommodated in a safari-style tented camp with private baths and good food.



## MEGAN CREWE

Megan has two new tours in the first half of 2014, one to the wilderness of Guyana, where Guianan Cocks-of-the-rock, Harpy Eagles, and trumpeters are still possible, and the other closer to home in Cape May for spring migration, where less exotic but still exceptional birds like Blackburnian Warblers and Scarlet Tanagers will definitely be around.

Panama's Canopy Tower I & II, January 19-25 and February 22-28  
**NEW** Panama's Canopy Camp: Lowland Darien, January 24-31  
Texas Coast Migration Spectacle I & II, April 12-18 and April 19-25  
Arizona: Birding the Border, May 9-18  
Northern Arizona's Canyons & Condor, May 31-June 5  
Spitsbergen & Svalbard Archipelago: A Cruise to the Norwegian Arctic, June 29-July 11

Mexico: Oaxaca, January 18-25  
**NEW** Guyana: Wilderness Paradise, February 8-19  
Costa Rica, March 15-30  
Colorado Grouse, April 5-15  
Classical Greece, April 25-May 9  
**NEW** Spring in Cape May, May 18-24  
Alaska, June 6-14 (Part I) and June 13-23 (Part II)

## DAVE STEJSKAL

With two tours to Thailand followed by trips to China and Borneo, Dave will be spending much of the first half of next year in Asia, which means he'll be seeing broadbills and pittas and pheasants galore.

Thailand I & II, January 11-February 1 and February 22-March 15  
Arizona Nightbirds & More, April 24-28  
China: Manchuria & the Tibetan Plateau, May 5-26  
Borneo, June 8-25



## WILLY PEREZ

Willy and his family have been living in his wife's native England this last year, and while he's enjoying his stay there, he misses Ecuador and can hardly wait to find himself on the East Slope of the Andes happily showing his tour groups those hummers, antpittas, and fruiteaters he grew up with.

Jewels of Ecuador: Hummers, Tanagers & Antpittas I & II, January 18-February 4 and February 22-March 11  
Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge II & III, February 14-23 and June 27-July 6  
Ecuador's Wildsumaco Lodge, March 14-24  
**NEW** Northern Ecuador: Andes, Cloudforest & Otavalo Market, June 5-15  
Galapagos: an Intimate Look at Darwin's Islands, June 14-14



*"Field Guides is the best! The guides consistently combine all the skills needed for the best bird tour leaders: Great birding knowledge, high energy, and superb social skills."*

D.H., Guatemala: Shade-Grown Birding



## January-February

**Oman & the UAE: Birding Arabia**—January 9-25, 2014 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 I & II**—January 10-19, 2014 with Mitch Lysinger and February 14-23, 2014 with Willy Perez. One-site tour to one of the most comfortable lodges in western Amazonia with some of the birdiest canopy platforms anywhere.

**NEW/Costa Rica: Birding the Edges**—January 11-19, 2014 (Part I) and January 18-27, 2014 (Part II) with Jay VanderGaast & local guide. A new two-parted tour to this bird-rich country exploring sites and birds not covered on our March or holiday tours.

**Colombia: Bogota, the Magdalena Valley & Santa Marta**—January 11-27, 2014 with Jesse Fagan. Energetic, endemic-oriented (30+) tour connecting reserves up the Magdalena Valley from Bogota to the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

**Thailand I & II**—January 11-February 1, 2014 (Nicobar Pigeon Extension) with Dave Stejskal & Uthai Treesucon and February 22-March 15, 2014 (Nicobar Pigeon Extension) with Dave Stejskal & Chris Benesh. A wide variety of forest birds in the friendly heart of Southeast Asia (and fabulous Thai food).

**Nowhere but Northeast Brazil!**—January 14-31, 2014 (Part I) and January 29-February 15, 2014 (Part II) with Bret Whitney (I & II), Marcelo Padua (I), and Pepe Rojas (II). From beautiful beaches to barren badlands, Part I of our 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 the valleys of northern Minas Gerais west to the Araguaia.

**South Texas Rarities**—January 17-23, 2014 and January 24-30, 2014 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!

**Yellowstone in Winter**—January 17-25, 2014 with Terry McEneaney & Karen McEneaney. A winter birding, wildlife, and landscape adventure to one of the world's legendary destinations.

**Mexico: Oaxaca**—January 18-25, 2014 with Megan Crewe & Pepe Rojas. Superb birding with two-dozen Mexican endemics and fascinating ruins while based in lovely Oaxaca City.

**Jewels of Ecuador: Hummers, Tanagers & Antpittas I & II**—January 18-February 4, 2014 and February 22-March 11, 2014 with Willy Perez. Survey tour of Andean Ecuador; diverse avifauna dominated by colorful hummers and tanagers and more subtle and haunting antpittas.

**East Africa Highlights: Kenya & Tanzania**—January 18-February 7, 2014 with Terry Stevenson. Combines the richest birding and mammal spots in Kenya and northern Tanzania: an impressive diversity of habitats, many with spectacular scenery.

**Panama's Canopy Tower I & II**—January 19-25, 2014 with John Coons & Lena Senko and February 22-28, 2014 (Canopy Lodge Extension) with John Coons & local guide. A towering introduction to Neotropical birds

based entirely in a unique lodge; quick access to famous Pipeline Road.

**NEW/Panama's Canopy Camp: Lowland Darien**—January 24-31, 2014 with John Coons & local guide. A new birding tour to a remote part of Panama with many specialties seen nowhere else in Central America.

**Trinidad & Tobago**—February 5-14, 2014 with Eric Hynes & Lena Senko. Wonderful introduction to South America's riches, including bellbirds, toucans, manakins, and motmots.

**Winter Japan: Dancing Cranes & Spectacular Sea-Eagles**—February 7-22, 2014 with Phil Gregory. Japan's winter spectacles, including the fabulous cranes and Steller's Sea-Eagle.

**Best of the Pacific Northwest: Skagit Valley & Puget Sound, Washington**—February 8-13, 2014 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.

**NEW/Guyana: Wilderness Paradise**—February 8-19, 2014 with Megan Crewe & local guide. A survey tour of the country's vast untrammelled rainforest, with an emphasis on Guianan shield specialties, and side trips to coastal and savanna regions and spectacular Kaieteur Falls.

**Colombia: The Cauca Valley, Western & Central Andes**—February 8-24, 2014 with Richard Webster. Endemic-oriented tour connecting reserves up the Cauca Valley from Medellin to Cali.

**Guatemala: Shade-grown Birding**—February 12-22, 2014 (Temples of Tikal Extension) with Jesse Fagan. Birding tour for numerous Middle

# UPCOMING TOURS

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

American specialties, among them Resplendent Quetzal, a host of hummingbirds, and Azure-rumped Tanager, set against a dramatic volcanic landscape and colorful Mayan culture.

**Birding Plus: Birds & Wines of Chile and Argentina**—February 15-March 1, 2014 with Marcelo Padua & local guide. Tour combining an exploration of the great birds and vineyards of these two wonderful countries!

**Honduras: Land of the Emeralds**—February 22-March 2, 2014 with Jesse Fagan. Tour for the endemic Honduran Emerald plus arid Pacific slope, Central Highland, and Caribbean lowland coverage; nearly 300 species!

**Cambodia**—February 22-March 7, 2014 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.

**Namibia & Botswana**—February 25-March 16, 2014 with Terry Stevenson. Southwestern Africa's bird specialties, striking scenery, wilderness, and the famed game of Etosha and the Okavango Delta.

and culture sum up the smooth shots to be taken on this *Birding Plus* tour.

**Texas's Big Bend & Hill Country**—April 19-28, 2014 with Chris Benesh & Lena Senko. Colima and Golden-cheeked warblers, Montezuma Quail, and other southern borderland specialties in Texas's grand desert mountain landscapes.

**Arizona Nightbirds & More I & II**—April 24-28, 2014 with Dave Stejskal and May 8-12, 2014 with Chris Benesh. A short tour focused on this area's many owl and nightjar specialties.

**Classical Greece**—April 25-May 9, 2014 with Megan Crewe & local guide. Fine southeast European birding at the peak of migration with archaeological and cultural stops.

**Rainforest & Savanna: Alta Floresta & the Northern Pantanal, Brazil**—April 26-May 12, 2014 with Marcelo Padua. 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.

**Birding Plus: Do the Charleston! Spring in South Carolina**—April 27-May 4, 2014 with Jesse Fagan. Our tour combining spring migration and a touch of the mountains with lovely and historic Charleston, South Carolina.

## March-April

**NEW/Cloudforests of El Triunfo, Mexico: The Horned Guan & More**—March 8-17, 2014 with Jay VanderGaast & local guide. Hiking and camping to see the fabulous Horned Guan and much more while birding the Sierra Madre de Chiapas.

**Brazil Nutshell: Intervalles, Iguazu Falls & the Pantanal**—March 8-22, 2014 with Marcelo Padua & Pepe Rojas. This medium-length tour hits three of Brazil's premier birding venues, staying several nights at each to ensure an unhurried pace as we rack up some 400 species of birds.

**Southwestern Ecuador Specialties: Jocotoco Foundation Reserves**—March 8-22, 2014 with Mitch Lysinger. Focuses on the many specialties of the southwest, in particular the very local endemics of the humid foothills and mountains and Tumbesian specialties.

**Bahamas: Abaco, Eleuthera & Kirtland's Warbler**—March 11-16, 2014 with Jesse Fagan. Small-group tour for four Bahamian endemics, several Caribbean endemics, a few early migrants, Kirtland's Warbler, and a sampling of West Indian butterflies; exciting birding at a relaxed pace.

**Ecuador's Wildsumaco Lodge**—March 14-24, 2014 with Willy Perez. Exploring the riches of the eastern Andean foothills of northern Ecuador for numerous specialties at Wildsumaco Lodge.

**Colombia: Santa Marta Escape**—March 15-23, 2014 with Richard Webster & local guide. An easier subset of "Bogota, the Magdalena Valley & Santa Marta," reached by a direct flight from Miami, and with a couple more days for a more leisurely approach.

**Costa Rica**—March 15-30, 2014 with Megan Crewe & local guide. Resplendent Quetzals, Three-wattled Bellbirds, Scarlet Macaws in a beautiful country with easy travel.

**Dominican Republic**—March 16-23, 2014 with Jesse Fagan & local guide. Short tour for many specialties and endemics including the unusual Palmchat.

**Borneo I**—March 16-April 2, 2014 with Rose Ann Rowlett. Three prime areas in some of Earth's richest forests while based in comfort right in the wild.

**Spring in South Texas**—March 22-30, 2014 with Chris Benesh. Magnificent Whooping Cranes, lots of South Texas specialties, and spring hawk migration on this exciting tour.

**Ghana**—March 22-April 8, 2014 with Phil Gregory. In search of numerous West African specialties as well as White-necked Rockfowl.

**Puerto Rico**—March 23-29, 2014 with Eric Hynes & Lena Senko. A week of respite to a very birdy and beautiful Caribbean island, a mix of North American and local culture and cuisine; 16 endemic birds and a number of other Caribbean specialties.

**Ethiopia: Endemic Birds & Ethiopian Wolf**—April 4-24, 2014 (Lalibela Extension) with Terry Stevenson & Richard Webster. A remarkable journey through a remarkable land, from Rift Valley lakes to the Bale Mountains and south for Prince Ruspoli's Turaco and the strange Stresemann's Bush-Crow.

**Belize**—April 5-11, 2014 with Peter Burke. A terrific introduction to (or continuation of!) your tropical birding, including some regional bird specialties.

**Hawaii**—April 5-14, 2014 with Dan Lane. We'll visit three of the major islands—Oahu, Kauai, and Hawaii—giving us a chance to sample a great portion of the Hawaiian endemic birds and the seabird specialties.

**Colorado Grouse I & II**—April 5-15, 2014 with Megan Crewe & Pepe Rojas and April 13-23, 2014 with Eric Hynes. A short tour to seek out the state's prairie-chicken and grouse species.

**Texas Coast Migration Spectacle I & II**—April 12-18, 2014 and April 19-25, 2014 with John Coons. The migration mecca of High Island plus specialties of the Big Thicket and myriad waterbirds and shorebirds.

**Birding Plus: Scotland: Famous Grouse in the Land of Whisky**—April 18-May 1, 2014 with John Rowlett & local guide. Imbibing Highland Scotland's famous grouse, distilling birds in the Hebrides, sorting through geese, sorting out crossbills, and sampling Scottish whisky





9433 Bee Cave Road / Building 1, Suite 150 / Austin, TX 78733  
800-728-4953 / 512-263-7295 / fax: 512-263-0117  
fieldguides@fieldguides.com / www.fieldguides.com

**CONSERVATION** Field Guides contributes to the following conservation organizations: The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, BirdLife International, World Land Trust, American Bird Conservancy



2014 is right  
around the corner.  
*Great birds await.*

**SEE PAGE 11 FOR UPCOMING TOURS**



## BIRDING TOURS WORLDWIDE

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Lewiston, ME  
Permit #82