

ARE THERE ANY BIRDS IN CHINA?

Dave Stejskal



A single rider passes near Chaka. (Photo by guide Dave Stejskal)

I've been lucky enough to co-lead our last two tours to China with China birder *extraordinaire* Jesper Hornskov. It was a remarkable experience—the country, the avifauna, and Jesper.

But in talking to people about China, I've had, more than a few times, to answer a rather odd question: "Are there any birds left there?" Well, the obvious short answer is "You bet!" and a quick look at our 2013 triplist for the *China: Manchuria & the Tibetan Plateau* tour will attest to that. But the question leaves me scratching my head. Do people really think that the birds, or most

of them, are gone? It may be that they've heard that there aren't any birds in the cities, where most tourists end up going; but surely birders can't be thinking that there aren't any birds left in a country as big and diverse as China!

Most birders know very little about birding in China, so here's a quick summary of what we do on our May trip. We begin this wonderful tour in Beijing, at a hotel that actually does have some birds on the grounds, before heading to the Northeast, into the

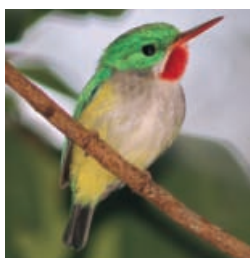
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Puerto Rico—The Island of Enchantment

Eric Hynes

Puerto Rico is just a quick hop from Miami—and it is, of course, part of the US—but from the moment you touch down in San Juan, it feels like you're somewhere far, far away. The excitement of tropical island birding, highlighted by 17 endemic species and numerous regional specialties, combined with the convenience of no passport, no currency exchange, no jet lag, and pleasant accommodations, make it an irresistible getaway.

Puerto Rico is the easternmost and the smallest of the four large islands comprising the Greater Antilles. From San Juan, our itinerary makes a lap of the island,



The tiny, endemic Puerto Rican Tody often gets voted the favorite bird of the tour. (Photo by guide Eric Hynes)

visiting all the major habitat types. Our focus is on the endemics, but we're traveling at a Caribbean pace, so there's plenty of time to enjoy the rest of the avian community as well. Lowland forests at Cambalache and Rio Abajo, the highland elfin-woods at Maricao, the dry forest of Guanica Biosphere Reserve, the coastal marshes and lagoons at several national wildlife refuges, and the only tropical rainforest in the US at El Yunque are all on the itinerary. En route, we enjoy plenty of fresh fish and tasty *mofungo*, the fried plantain-based national dish of Puerto Rico.

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ARE THERE ANY BIRDS IN CHINA?

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region of the country formerly known as Manchuria (Jilin Province and Inner Mongolia). We spend our time in the Northeast at a couple of venues that are rich in waterbirds, migrants, scarce resident landbirds, and, best of all, cranes. Two reserves, Momoge and Xianghai, are the focus of our efforts. It is here that what is essentially the world's entire population of Siberian Cranes stages before continuing to the north to breed, and where both Red-crowned and White-naped cranes breed in small numbers. Three other crane species—Demoiselle, Common, and

Hooded—also migrate through these reserves in varying numbers. Throw in the critically endangered Rufous-backed (Jankowski's) Bunting (probably east Asia's most endangered landbird species), Oriental Stork, a host of migrant and resident waterfowl and shorebirds, displaying Great Bustard, plus many other enticing species, and the first half of this tour is a great place to get your feet wet in China!

In sharp contrast to the flat lowlands of Manchuria, our next destination is near the geographic center of the country in mountainous Qinghai Province to the southwest. Here we relish a wealth of redstarts, raptors, warblers, finches, tits, larks, and others while searching for prizes like Blue Eared-Pheasant, Severtzov's Grouse, Lammergeier, Pallas's and Tibetan sandgrouse, both White-browed and Crested tit-warblers, Pere David's and Elliot's laughingthrushes, Ala Shan (Przevalski's) Redstart, Siberian Rubythroat, Mongolian Ground-Jay, Wallcreeper, and Tibetan Rosefinch. There are still waterbirds to see, too, at the huge highland lake of Koko Nor (China's largest natural lake). Here we have a



Red-crowned Crane, at top, is fairly rare in China; above left, a stunning Blood Pheasant in the forests around Xining; and Przevalski's Rosefinch, the sole member of its family. (Photos by guide Dave Stejskal)

chance to find what might be our *seventh* species of crane on the tour, the scarce Black-necked, along the shallow margins of the lake.

This region of China and the Tibetan Plateau are also home to the phenomenal Przevalski's Rosefinch (Pink-tailed Bunting), recently elevated to its own family. There's no other place in the world to see this beauty, and we have a very good shot not only to see it but also to watch it perform its remarkable song-flight display above the scrub habitat it calls home. And the backdrops for all of these birds range from dense spruce forest to Great Basin-like juniper-clad mountains, to dry desert flats with towering snow-covered mountains in the distance, to high alpine tundra and scree above 15,000 feet. The Tibetan Plateau is a place that must be seen—and birded—to be believed! Join us in May for a tour unlike any other—in China!

Dates for next spring's tour are May 5-26. For 2014 we've added a cultural and historical extension to Beijing from May 26-30. A few of the places we plan to visit include the Forbidden City, the botanical gardens, the Great Wall, the Summer Palace, and more.



National wildlife refuges like Cabo Rojo at the southwest tip of the island can be loaded with a delightful mix of shorebirds such as these Black-necked Stilts. The critically endangered *venator* subspecies of Sharp-shinned Hawk is more colorful than most and is restricted to the highlands of Puerto Rico. (Photos by guide Eric Hynes)



Puerto Rico— The Island of Enchantment

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In our five days of relaxed birding we typically encounter close to 120 species, many of them threatened or highly endangered. The Elfin-woods Warbler, a parulid that resembles Black-and-white Warbler, remained hidden in the Maricao Highlands until it was discovered almost by accident by two researchers in 1969. Last year my friend Julio Gallardo, a PhD candidate studying the gorgeous and critically endangered *venator* subspecies of Sharp-shinned Hawk, put us right on one of the few known remaining pairs of this bird. It was a trip highlight that we hope to repeat in 2014. Puerto Rican Nightjar, with a population of just 1500 to 2000 mature birds, is limited to a few patches in the southwest of the island—but we know where to find them. And thanks to a successful captive-breeding program, the Puerto Rican Parrot is back from the brink, and in 2014, with the help of a local guide and an expanding wild population, we hope to track down this gem for the first time!

Puerto Rico is a place where even the more common species are a treat. The tiny, charismatic Puerto Rican Tody is about as cute as a bird gets. Puerto Rican Woodpecker with its black body and bright red throat is a standout, reminiscent of its cousin, Lewis's Woodpecker. Laguna Cartagena National Wildlife Refuge, where we begin our tour, and the Humacao wetlands, where we end it, are full of waterbirds—including the tough-to-see Masked Duck and West Indian Whistling-Duck.

With great experiences on our 2012 and 2013 tours, I'm itching to get back. There's still space available...why not join us this coming March?!

Dates for Eric's tour are March 23-29. You may download an itinerary from our web site or call our office and they'll be happy to mail you a copy.



Horned Guan (Photo by Will Carter)

Cloudforests of El Triunfo: The Horned Guan & More

John Rowlett

Join our Jay Vandergaast and Mexico's Jorge Montejo for a world-class adventure to this unimaginably beautiful montane cloudforest holding spectacular *Oreophasis*—the noble Horned Guan, surely the most legendary bird of Middle America. This monotypic Cracid typifies what Aldo Leopold would have called the imponderable “numenon,” the characteristic spirit, of its phenomenal world. The Biosphere Reserve at El Triunfo, located in the Sierra Madre de Chiapas, is by far the best place to see this threatened “mountain pheasant,” along with its supporting cast of nesting Resplendent Quetzals, Fulvous Owls, Black-throated Jays, Blue-throated Motmots, Highland Guans, Wine-throated Hummingbirds, Azure-rumped Tanagers (on the slope down), and a breathtaking checklist of avian others! So don't deny yourself this splendid opportunity to celebrate a triumph that will stay with you forever.

Dates are March 8-17 for this camping tour to Mexico's splendid cloudforest reserve. As for the camping, well, it's camping—but pretty comfortable camping—with the availability of flush toilets and hot water showers at El Triunfo.

FRESH FROM THE FIELD



The ruins at Machu Picchu are truly one of the world's archaeological treasures and the principal destination for our **Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru** tour. Guide Jesse Fagan (a.k.a. The Motmot) is always delighted to point out birds, and spotting a magnificent Andean Motmot (left) got him particularly jazzed. White-throated Quail-Dove (right) is known to be a shy and retiring species but Jesse shared a hotspot for them so everyone could savor frame-filling looks. (Photos by participant Marshall Dahl)



Prevailing winds in late summer bring rejuvenating rain to the desert. Wildflowers and insects flourish, which stimulates local birds to breed and draws vagrants from Mexico. Our **Arizona's Second Spring** tour purposefully coincides with this spike in bird activity. Mississippi Kite (upper left), Montezuma Quail (lower left), and Say's Phoebe (below) were enjoyed on the tour, but all paled in excitement to the mega-rarity Slaty-throated Redstart that turned up in Huachuca Canyon. (Photos by guide Chris Benesh and participant Mary Lou Barritt)



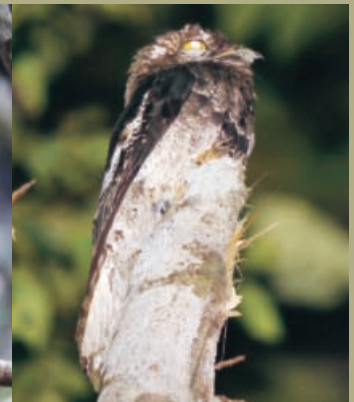
Reaching 80 degrees North latitude, our **Spitsbergen & Svalbard Archipelago: A Cruise to the Norwegian Arctic** tour is truly a high-arctic adventure. Only 650 miles from the North Pole, these islands host tens of thousands of seabirds and charismatic marine mammals like Walrus (middle left) and Polar Bear. In fact, our group saw almost two-dozen Polar Bears on this tour. Long-tailed Jaeger (lower left), an uncommon but regular breeder, exemplifies that the trip list for this outing is about quality, not quantity. The finer details of the enormous glaciers along our route made for great viewing from Zodiacs launched from the comfortable ship (above). (Photos by participant Peggy Keller)



The images shared by participants Roy Giles and Gregg Recer from our **Ecuador: Rainforest & Andes** tour were absolutely bursting with color. Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager (upper right) and Paradise Tanager (lower right) were two standouts among the dozens of brilliant tanager species tallied. The parrot lick at Sacha Lodge is always a hit and on our visit was loaded with Cobalt-winged Parakeets (left).



The southeastern region of Brazil, often referred to as the Atlantic Forest, is a hotbed for avian endemism. A remarkable 59 endemic birds occur just on the grounds of the lovely lodge we use for our **Serra dos Tucanos, Brazil** tour. You have to get to this part of the world to see gems like Gilt-edged Tanager (near right), Maroon-bellied Parakeet (upper right), and Saw-billed Hermit (lower right). Streamer-tailed Tyrant (above) enjoys a slightly wider range, but southeastern Brazil is still your best bet to take in their showy courtship behavior. (Photos by participant Max Rodel)



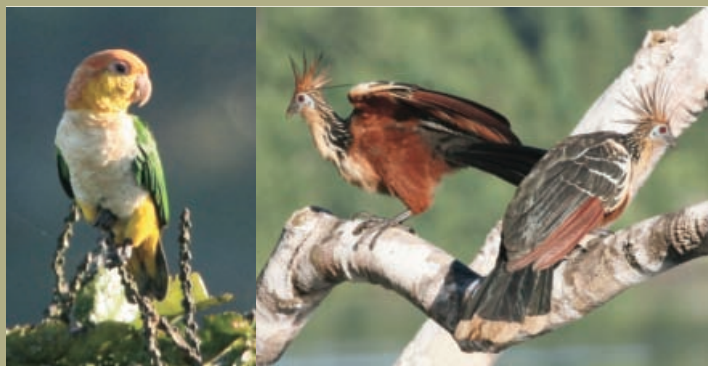
Participants on the **Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus, Brazil** tour cruised remote and unspoiled stretches of the crown jewel of Amazonia in comfort aboard a splendid riverboat. Some of the avian treasures they experienced were a dazzling Guianan Cock-of-the-rock (above), a cryptic White-winged Potoo (upper right), and this striking Waved Woodpecker (right). And no one complained when we were eating fresh-caught fish and sipping *caipirinhas* (Brazil's national cocktail) each evening while going over the checklist! (Photos by participants David & Judy Smith)



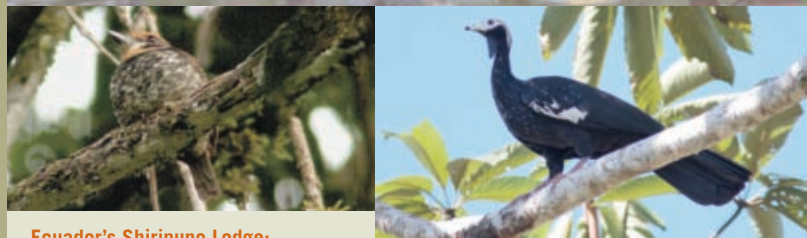
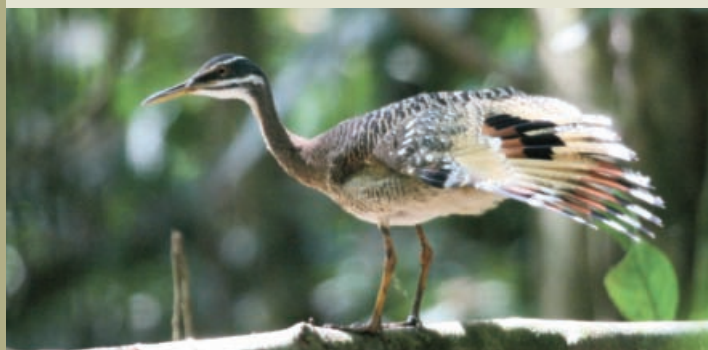
Cape May is widely regarded as one of North America's finest funneling points for birds in migration. The numbers of common species like Tree Swallows, American Robins, and Yellow-rumped Warblers can be staggering, and rarities turn up regularly. Our **Cape May Megan's Way** tour is guide Megan Edwards Crewe's (far left) exploration with you of her favorite local patches. Marbled Godwit (above) and Black Skimmers (near left) were just a couple of the numerous highlights encountered. (Photos by participant Nancy Newman)

FRESH FROM THE FIELD

The stark landscapes of the High Andes can be sublime. Guide Dan Lane captured this perspective well in the image below from our **Bolivia's Avian Riches** tour. Wedge-tailed Hillstar (near left) is nearly endemic and definitely a target for this tour. Guira Cuckoo (far left) always seems to be having a bad hair day but this individual was looking particularly disheveled. Considering the limited vegetation in its high-elevation habitat, Gray-breasted Seedsnipe (lower right) relies heavily on camouflage. (Photos by participants Paul Koker & Keith Betton)



Southeastern Peru is widely regarded as the most species-rich birding region on Earth, and one of the reserves we visit hosts the largest known clay lick. So it didn't take much arm-twisting to get guides Dave Stejskal and Pepe Rojas to lead our first tour to **Peruvian Rainforests of the Tambopata** after a five-year hiatus. Dave returned with some excellent photos including Hoatzin (above right), White-bellied Parrot (upper left), and a snazzy Sunbittern (below).

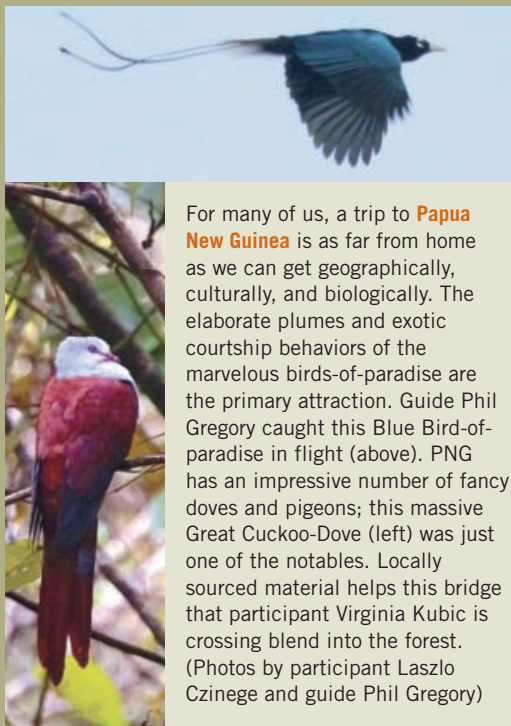


Ecuador's Shiripuno Lodge:

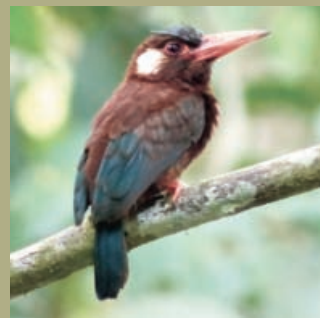
Heartland of the Waorani was another new tour for us in 2013, and judging from the response we received, we will definitely be offering it again. This new lodge provides access to the wildest Amazonian rainforest in Ecuador, and a number of species were easier to find here compared to our other tours. Cruising the Shiripuno River gave us access to the rich diversity of habitat (top). Spotted Puffbird (left) is rare and poorly known in Ecuador, but this site seems to be a hotspot. The Blue-throated Piping-Guan is a conspicuous canopy-dweller (right). (Photos by participants Barbara Williams & Ken Havard)



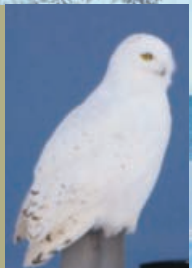
Guide Chris Benesh beats the summer heat back home in Arizona by heading to **Newfoundland & Nova Scotia**. Co-leader Lena Senko and an agreeable bunch of birders (above) got to join him. This tour visits some major seabird colonies, and the thousands of Northern Gannets (near right) swirling around the cliffs at Cape St. Mary's will blow your mind. Ruffed Grouse (far right) in the northern forest can be accommodating at times. (Photos by guide Lena Senko)



For many of us, a trip to **Papua New Guinea** is as far from home as we can get geographically, culturally, and biologically. The elaborate plumes and exotic courtship behaviors of the marvelous birds-of-paradise are the primary attraction. Guide Phil Gregory caught this Blue Bird-of-paradise in flight (above). PNG has an impressive number of fancy doves and pigeons; this massive Great Cuckoo-Dove (left) was just one of the notables. Locally sourced material helps this bridge that participant Virginia Kubic is crossing blend into the forest. (Photos by participant Laszlo Czinege and guide Phil Gregory)



One of the richest biomes on Earth is literally just outside your door on our **Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge** tour. This impressive rainforest destination offers a vast network of trails, waterways, and its signature canopy walkway. At almost 100 feet up, you gain the perspective of the wildlife in the treetops. The giant towers that anchor the walkway are wonderful observation platforms (upper right). White-eared Jacamar (above) and Yellow-rumped Cacique (right) were just a couple of the hundreds of confiding birds reported by guide Willy Perez and friends. (Photos by participants Jean Rigdon & Marsha Morris)



Guides Dave Stejskal and Pepe Rojas (lower middle) led our inaugural **Barrow, Alaska: Search for Ross's Gull** tour. The final tally of over 1200 Ross's Gulls (near left) placed them firmly in the successful category. Scoping the unforgiving landscape (above) produced additional highlights. A few Snowy Owls (far left) and a couple of Polar Bears were just gravy. (Photos from participants Marshall Dahl & Bernie Grossman)

FRESH FROM THE FIELD



September was a wonderful time to enjoy the birds, landscapes, and cuisine of **France: Camargue & Pyrenees**. Our group easily found Greater Flamingoes (left) in the Camargue. Other lowland highlights were Little Bustard, Eurasian Dotterel, and Eurasian Eagle-Owl. Megan Edwards Crewe (above left) and Jay VanderGaast were our guides. Ascending into the Pyrenees (above) really got the list rolling with highlights such as Lammergeier, Black Woodpecker, Alpine Accentor, Eurasian Wryneck, and the tour favorite: Wallcreeper. (Photos by guide Megan Edwards Crewe and participant Randall McFarlane)

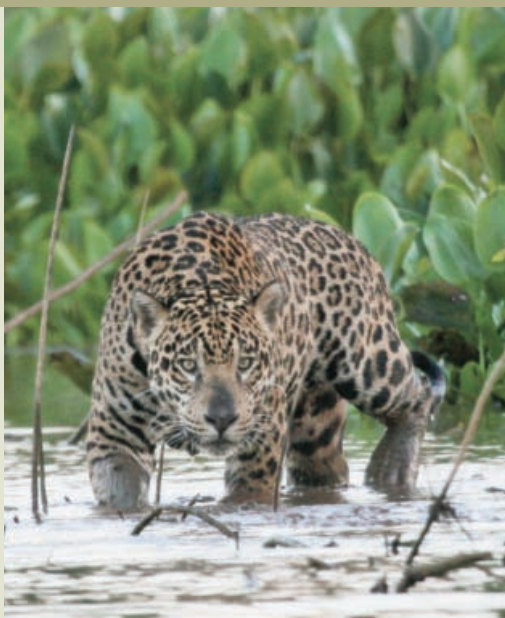


Participant George Sims shared some wonderful images from his **Mountains of Manu** adventure with guides Rose Ann Rowlett and Pepe Rojas. They explored the upper elevation of the world-famous Manu Biosphere Reserve, from the high puna zone, down through temperate and subtropical cloudforests, to the eastern base of the Andes. The patchwork plumage and bill of a Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan (left) adds up to one handsome bird. The sparkling Golden-tailed Sapphire (above) ended up on the favorites list for hummingbirds. Andean Cock-of-the-rock (upper left) might be the most iconic species of the Andes.



Combining **New Caledonia, Fiji & Vanuatu** into one tour provides a fantastic getaway for lovers of island endemics and the tropical Pacific. Sand underfoot and salty air on the nose are never far away (above). This part of the world is where the Columbidae family (pigeons and doves) really shines. Once again, we got great looks at the likes of Orange Dove and Cloven-feathered Dove (a New Caledonia endemic). But the star of the show on this tour is reliably the legendary Kagu. The only member of its family and endemic to New Caledonia, this gray ghost of the forest came out and put on quite a performance for us (above right). (Photos by guide Phil Gregory)

Our last offering for this batch of Fresh From the Field photos comes from one of our **Jaguar Spotting: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon** tours. Marcelo Padua and Dave Stejskal teamed up to guide this once-in-a-lifetime experience. We have quite a streak going with seeing Jaguars on this tour, and thanks to Dave's images, you know we kept that streak alive. Waders abound on this predominantly wetland tour, but we tally hundreds of other species as well, including the likes of Black-bellied Antwren (upper right) and Southern Screamer (lower right).



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.

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 Edwards 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.

Belize—April 6-12, 2014 with Peter Burke. A terrific introduction to (or continuation of!) your tropical birding, including some regional bird specialties.

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 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.

all guided by our own Flagstaff-based resident expert, John Coons.

NEW/Maine: Birding Downeast—May 31-June 8, 2014 with Eric Hynes. A new summer birding tour for warblers, boreal specialties, puffins, "lobstah," and more.

NEW/Northern Ecuador: Andes, Cloudforest & Otavalo Market—June 5-15, 2014 with Willy Perez. New tour for stunning landscapes from the central Highlands of the Quichuas down through the cloudforests of the Intag and Mindo Valleys, full of unique dry-valley specialties and Choco endemics.

Montana: Yellowstone to Glacier—June 7-17, 2014 with Terry McEneaney. Great western birding and wildlife on this tour amidst the scenery of Big Sky country.

Borneo II—June 8-25, 2014 with Dave Stejskal. Three prime areas in some of Earth's richest forests while based in comfort right in the wild.

Mountains of Manu, Peru—July 12-27, 2014 with Dan Lane. Our in-depth transect of the higher-elevation half of the Manu Biosphere Reserve.

Montane Ecuador: Cloudforests of the Andes—July 25-August 3, 2014 with Mitch Lysinger. Superb Andean subtropical birding on both East and West slopes.

Arizona's Second Spring I & II—July 26-August 4, 2014 with John Coons and August 2-11, 2012 with Chris Benesh. An ideal time for

UPCOMING TOURS

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

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 Edwards 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.

Galapagos: An Intimate Look at Darwin's Islands—June 14-24, 2014 with Willy Perez. A must for any naturalist and birder; small-group, broad coverage of the islands with plenty of time for the birds, exploring, and photography.

Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge III—June 27-July 6, 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.

Newfoundland & Nova Scotia—June 27-July 7, 2014 with Chris Benesh & Lena Senko. Boreal specialties, seabird colonies, and numerous breeding landbirds in the beautiful Canadian Maritimes.

Spitsbergen & Svalbard Archipelago: A Cruise to the Norwegian Arctic—June 29-July 11, 2014 with John Coons. A high-arctic adventure aboard a comfortable vessel for fantastic seabirds, marine mammals including Walrus and Polar Bear, and fabulous scenery.

visiting one of the best birding regions in North America: great for local specialties and Mexican vagrants.

Peru's Magnetic North: Spatuletails, Owllet Lodge & More—July 31-August 11, 2014 with Dan Lane & Dave Stejskal. A 12-day taste of northern Peru's east-slope Andes! Five nights at Long-whiskered Owllet Lodge; much time in the field, yet no camping.

May-June

China: Manchuria & the Tibetan Plateau—May 5-26, 2014 with Dave Stejskal & Jesper Hornskov. A truly fabulous adventure—six possible crane species and a multitude of coveted waterbirds and scarce landbirds in Manchuria and the monotypic Przevalski's Rosefinch high in the mountains of the remote northeastern Tibetan Plateau.

Arizona: Birding the Border I & II—May 9-18, 2014 with John Coons and May 16-25, 2014 with Chris Benesh. One of the most exciting destinations in North America with a backdrop of spectacular mountain scenery.

Point Pelee Migration Spectacle—May 10-17, 2014 with Peter Burke. Exciting migration birding at several premier hotspots on the Lake Erie shore.

NEW/Spring in Cape May—May 18-24, 2014 with Megan Edwards Crewe & Lena Senko. Spring migration at one of the country's famed birding hotspots.

Uganda: Shoebill, Rift Endemics & Gorillas—May 22-June 12, 2014 with Phil Gregory & Jesse Fagan. The rare Shoebill and a wealth of other birds and many Central African specialties combined with opportunities to trek for Chimps and Mountain Gorillas.

Virginias' Warblers—May 28-June 1, 2014 with John Rowlett. Unsurpassed locale for breeding wood-warblers; cool, mountain climate in both beautiful states.

Alaska I & II—May 30-June 7, 2014 (Part I) and June 6-16, 2014 (Part II) with Chris Benesh & Pepe Rojas and June 6-14, 2014 (Part I) and June 13-23, 2014 (Part II) with Megan Edwards Crewe & Lena Senko. Survey in two parts: Part I to the Pribilofs and Denali; Part II to Nome, Seward, and Barrow.

Northern Arizona's Canyons & Condor—May 31-June 5, 2014 with John Coons. This tour features mountain and high-desert birds of the western US amidst stunning scenery with California Condors at the Grand Canyon,

Galapagos: An Intimate Look at Darwin's Islands II—July 5-15, 2014 with Megan Crewe. A must for any naturalist and birder; small-group, broad coverage of the islands with plenty of time for the birds, exploring, and photography.

Papua New Guinea—July 6-24, 2014 with Jay VanderGaast. 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.

July

Kenya Highlights—July 2-20, 2014 with Terry Stevenson. Kenya's best birding and mammal viewing areas in less than 3 weeks.

Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru I & II—July 4-13, 2014 with Dan Lane and August 7-16, 2014 with Jesse Fagan. Southern Peru's east-slope, temperate birding at its best, featuring several endemics and scenic Andean puna; also Machu Picchu and great subtropical birding on and near lovely hotel grounds.

WHERE'S THAT GUIDE?

March through December tours for eleven of our guides.

For complete listings, please visit our web site

(www.fieldguides.com/guides).

PHIL GREGORY

Following three Asia tours in January and February, Phil will enjoy an African diversion with tours to Ghana and Uganda—and return in the fall for Madagascar. Maybe in between he'll get to spend a little time at home, where he has Southern Cassowaries and Red-necked Crakes as yard birds. You wonder how he ever leaves.



Ghana, March 22-April 8

Uganda: Shoebill, Rift Endemics & Gorillas, May 22-June 12

New Caledonia, Fiji & Vanuatu, September 1-19

Madagascar, Mauritius & Reunion, November 8-December 4

MARCELO PADUA

Beginning his tour year in Chile and Argentina (for Birds & Wines!), Marcelo will be back in Brazil for the rest of 2014, doing tours to nearly every part of that huge country. Marcelo knows Brazil and its birds like the back of his hand, and as a bonus, he speaks fluent Portuguese—with charm!



Brazil Nutshell: Intervalles, Iguazu Falls & The Pantanal, March 8-22

Rainforest & Savanna: Alta Floresta & The Northern Pantanal, April 26-May 12

Jaguar Spotting: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon, August 2-13

Safari Brazil: The Pantanal & More, October 4-19

Spectacular Southeast Brazil (Part II), November 14-30

PEPE ROJAS

So where in the world is Pepe Rojas? He could be anywhere in the New World from Alaska to Peru—check out the photo of Pepe in Barrow on page 7 and Pepe on page 12 dressed like a mummy in the Manu.



Brazil Nutshell: Intervalles, Iguazu Falls & The Pantanal, March 8-22

Colorado Grouse, April 5-15

Alaska, May 30-June 7 (Part I) and June 6-16 (Part II)

Bolivia's Avian Riches, September 6-21

Peruvian Rainforests of the Tambopata, October 4-17

Northern Peru: Endemics Galore, November 2-22

Iquitos, Peru: Canopy Walkways & Ancient Forests, December 20-31

TERRY STEVENSON

While it's hard for the rest of us to be very sympathetic, Terry does like to get out of Africa every now and then, and he thoroughly enjoys his annual tours to both northern and southern India—and don't forget Terry's new Hungary & Romania tour coming in April of 2015.



Ethiopia: Endemic Birds & Ethiopian Wolf, April 4-24

Kenya Highlights, July 2-20

Kenya Safari spectacular, August 29-September 25

South Africa, October 9-November 1

Southern India: Western Ghats Endemics, November 16-December 7

JAY VANDERGAAS

After some time off to be with his young family, Jay is back in the saddle at Field Guides. And he's got a couple of new tours in 2014—one in two parts to Costa Rica in January and a new and improved version of our El Triunfo tour (see page 3 for details).

Cloudforests of El Triunfo, Mexico: The

Horned Guan & More, March 8-17

Papua New Guinea, July 6-24

New Guinea & Australia, October 2-20

Spectacular Southeast (Brazil Part I),

October 31-November 16



"Field Guides is the complete package: guides, office staff, trip planning and assistance, destinations, and our first look when planning and shopping for a new tour. In other words, our first choice."

B. & N.D., Louisiana: Yellow Rails & Crawfish Tails

BRET WHITNEY

As one participant put it, “Bret is legendary.” Seems like every time you turn around, he’s come up with a new bird species. And having Bret show you one of those species is almost as much fun as hearing his stories to go with it.



Nowhere but Northeast Brazil, January 29-February 15 (Part II)

Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus, Brazil, September 8-21

Spectacular Southeast Brazil, October 31-November 16 (Part I) and November 14-30 (Part II)

PETER BURKE

Tour participants often comment that Pete is a great guide—a “polished gem” according to a participant on one of his tours. And he’s also an artist, working with both Bret Whitney on his *Birds of Brazil* and Jesse Fagan on his *Birds of Northern Central America*—he’s already illustrated North American and Chilean birds.



Belize, April 6-12

Point Pelee Migration Spectacle May 10-17

Chile, October 26-November 15

DAN LANE

Anyone who has paged through the plates of the *Birds of Peru* can see that Dan is an accomplished artist. But combine his discerning eye with a great ear, a wealth of knowledge, and a lively sense of humor, and you have a first-rate birding companion.

Hawaii, April 5-14

Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru, July 4-13

Mountains of Manu, Peru, July 12-27

Peru’s Magnetic North: Spatuletails, Owllet Lodge & More, July 31-August 11

Bolivia’s Avian Riches, September 6-21

Louisiana: Yellow Rails & Crawfish Tails, October 23-27

New Zealand, November 9-27

Iquitos, Peru: Canopy Walkways & Ancient Forests, December 20-31



MITCH LYSINGER

At Field Guides it’s impossible to think of Ecuador without also thinking of Mitch. And with good reason—since his knowledge of and know-how with Neotropical birds are the result of more than two decades of living there. After a tour with him, Ecuador and Mitch will be synonyms for you, too.



Southwestern Ecuador Specialties: Jocotoco

Foundation Reserves, March 8-22

Montane Ecuador: Cloudforests of the Andes, July 25-August 3

Ecuador’s Shiripuno Lodge: Heartland of the Waorani, September 26-October 5

Holiday at San Isidro, Ecuador, December 27-January 5

LENA SENKO

The newest member of our Field Guides team has jumped into the field with a full schedule, and as you can see, Lena will be busy seeing a lot of great birds and more importantly, showing them to participants on her tours, which include several encores from her 2013 schedule and several new ones, too.

Puerto Rico, March 23-29

Texas’s Big Bend & Hill Country, April 19-28

Spring in Cape May, May 18-24

Alaska, June 6-14 (Part I) and June 13-23 (Part II)

Newfoundland & Nova Scotia, June 27-July 7

Ecuador: Rainforest & Andes, September 7-21

Australia, October 2-23 (Part I)

Trinidad & Tobago, December 27-January 5



ERIC HYNES

We hear nothing but good things about Eric in post-tour evaluations: great eyes and ears, skillful at getting participants on birds, always eager to share his deep knowledge of the natural world with participants on his tours. We’re looking forward to his 2014 tours, as we bet you are, too! (Be sure to check Eric’s article on page 1 on his Puerto Rico tour.)

Puerto Rico, March 23-29

Colorado Grouse, April 13-23

Maine: Birding Downeast, May 31-June 8

Galapagos: An Intimate Look at Darwin’s Islands, August 2-12

Barrow, Alaska: Search for Ross’s Gull, October 3-7

Australia, October 21-November 5 (Part II)



“I stick with a good thing once I find it! I have never had a complaint about any experience with Field Guides and I have been traveling with them since 1989.”

C.M., Jaguar Spotting: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon



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



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