

fieldguides®

APRIL 2016

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

New Tours for 2017

Our guides are always developing great new tour ideas, and they've been hard at work planning with our Scheduling Committee. On our docket for 2017 are eight exciting new trips, spanning everything from spring warblers, winters owls, and Ecuadorian cloudforests to Mongolia, New Guinea & New Britain, a remote Brazilian river, and two short Colombia itineraries. Read about them below and on page 11 and contact our office to hold space!



Cloudforest at Colombia's famed Las Tangaras Reserve where we'll spend three nights on our *Medellin Escape* tour; a regal Northern Hawk Owl, possible on the *Owlberta* tour. (Photos by guide Richard Webster and participant Spike Baker)

Colombia: Medellin Escape, February 4-13 with Richard Webster

We'll be birding Colombia's rich forests from the foothills to treeline while staying in good country hotels and comfortable ecotourism lodges at some of the country's best private reserves. We should see many Colombian endemics, but the tour is primarily an opportunity to gorge on the birds of the Andes after just a short flight across the Caribbean.

Owlberta: Alberta's Owls & More, February 18-24 with Jay VanderGaast

Who says we need to head south for an exciting winter birding getaway? A short trip to the north can be just as enticing, with Alberta being a particularly excellent winter birding region. Specialties like Great Gray, Snowy, and Northern Hawk owls, irruptive in many parts of their winter ranges, are regulars in the boreal forests, prairies, and foothills of the Canadian province of Alberta.

Continued on page 11

Bolivia: A Stealth Birding Treasure

Dan Lane

South America is universally known as the "bird continent," and rightly so: nearly half of the world's birds are found there alone! Five of the birdiest countries in the world (the countries with the biggest bird lists) are in South America: Colombia, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia. Bolivia, you ask? Who ever thinks about birding Bolivia? Well, we do!

Field Guides has been leading tours to Bolivia for decades, providing our participants with great experiences in one of the world's great unsung birding destinations. Bolivia is not yet famous for its ecotourism, but it should be—there are fabulous birds and landscapes, we can stay in comfortable lodgings in the main cities, and there are even some ecotourism-geared lodges closer to our birding destinations.

Continued on page 4



Barred Fruiteater (Photo by guide Dan Lane)

Also in this issue: 2/2017 Schedule 4/Lear's Macaws 5/Fresh From The Field

2017 Schedule Inside

2017 TOURS

It's time once again to preview our new schedule. 2017 looks to be a very full one, with nearly 140 advertised and private departures (we can organize that special trip for your group!) to destinations around the globe. On the schedule are dozens of long-running and popular itineraries, plus a few new and revised ones—we're always looking to improve our tours. For full details, visit our web site. We look forward to seeing you in the field.

—From all of us at Field Guides, good birding!

JANUARY 2017

Yellowstone in Winter
Colombia: Bogota, the Magdalena Valley & Santa Marta
Nowhere but Northeast Brazil!
Guyana: Wilderness Paradise I
Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge I
South Texas Rarities
Costa Rica: Birding the Edges Part I
Thailand
Winter Japan: Dancing Cranes & Spectacular Sea-Eagles
Jewels of Ecuador: Hummers, Tanagers & Antpittas I
Costa Rica: Birding the Edges Part II
Guyana: Wilderness Paradise II
Northern India: Birds, Tiger & the Taj Mahal

Jan 7-15 Terry McEneaney & Karen McEneaney
Jan 7-22 Jesse Fagan & local guide
Jan 9-27 Bret Whitney & Dan Lane
Jan 12-23 Megan Edwards Crewe & local guide
Jan 13-22 Willy Perez & local guide
Jan 14-20 Chris Benesh
Jan 14-23 Tom Johnson & local guide
Jan 14-Feb 4 Dave Stejskal & Jay VanderGaast
Jan 20-Feb 5 Phil Gregory
Jan 21-Feb 7 Willy Perez
Jan 22-31 Tom Johnson & local guide
Jan 28-Feb 8 Megan Edwards Crewe & local guide
Jan 28-Feb 17 Terry Stevenson

FEBRUARY 2017

Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge II
New Colombia: Medellin Escape
Cambodia: Angkor Temples & Vanishing Birds
Birding Plus Birds & Wines of Chile and Argentina
Panama's Canopy Tower
Guatemala: Shade-grown Birding
Mexico: Oaxaca I
Trinidad & Tobago I
New Owlberta: Alberta's Owls & More
Jamaica I
Borneo I

Feb 3-12 Mitch Lysinger & local guide
Feb 4-13 Richard Webster
Feb 4-17 Phil Gregory
Feb 4-18 Marcelo Padua & John Coons
Feb 5-11 Chris Benesh & local guide
Feb 10-19 Jesse Fagan
Feb 11-18 Pepe Rojas & Dan Lane
Feb 11-20 Tom Johnson & local guide
Feb 18-24 Jay VanderGaast
Feb 26-Mar 4 Jesse Fagan & local guide
Feb 28-Mar 17 Megan Edwards Crewe & local guide

MARCH 2017

Colombia: Santa Marta Escape
Southwestern Ecuador Specialties:
Jocotoco Foundation Reserves
Brazil Nutshell: Intervalles, Iguazu Falls & the Pantanal
East Africa Highlights: Kenya & Tanzania
Jamaica II
Dominican Republic
Spring in South Texas
Costa Rica
Panama's Canopy Tower & Lodge
Ecuador's Wildsumaco Lodge I
Puerto Rico
Western Panama: Chiriqui & Bocas del Toro
Jewels of Ecuador: Hummers, Tanagers & Antpittas II
Hawaii
Ghana: Window into West African Birding

Mar 4-12 Richard Webster & local guide
Mar 4-18 Mitch Lysinger
Mar 4-18 Marcelo Padua & Pepe Rojas
Mar 4-24 Terry Stevenson
Mar 5-11 Eric Hynes & local guide
Mar 11-18 Tom Johnson & local guide
Mar 11-19 Chris Benesh
Mar 11-26 Jay VanderGaast & local guide
Mar 12-19 John Coons & local guide
Mar 12-22 Willy Perez
Mar 18-24 Tom Johnson
Mar 18-27 Jesse Fagan
Mar 21-Apr 7 Willy Perez
Mar 30-Apr 8 Dan Lane & Chris Benesh
Mar 31-Apr 18 Phil Gregory & local guide

"I loved this trip. It was my first to the USA, so nearly every bird was new to me; the guides and other participants ensured that I saw over 125 lifers. The mood was genial, organized, fun, and informative. It was a superb birding, travel, and vacation experience. I hope to travel with Field Guides again." M.C., Alaska

Bronze-winged Jacana from Thailand
(Photo by guide Dave Stejskal)

APRIL 2017

Bahamas: Endemics & Kirtland's Warbler
Colorado Grouse I
Rarely Visited Belize: Punta Gorda
Bhutan
Colorado Grouse II
Texas Coast Migration Spectacle I
Texas Coast Migration Spectacle II
Texas's Big Bend & Hill Country
Hungary & Romania: The Best of Eastern Europe
Birding Plus Do the Charleston!: Spring in South Carolina
Arizona Nightbirds & More I

MAY 2017

Arizona Nightbirds & More II
Birding Plus Ireland in Spring:
Birds, Traditional Music & Pubs
Arizona: Birding the Border I
Ethiopia: Endemic Birds & Ethiopian Wolf
Point Pelee Migration Spectacle
Spain: La Mancha, Coto Donana & Extremadura
Arizona: Birding the Border II
Spring in Cape May
Maine: Birding Downeast
New Pennsylvania's Warblers & More:
From Cerulean Warbler to Henslow's Sparrow

JUNE 2017

Alaska I—Part One (Pribilofs & Denali)
New Mongolia: The Gobi Desert, Steppe & Taiga
Kenya Safari Spectacular
Northern Arizona's Canyons & Condor
Borneo II
Alaska II—Part One (Pribilofs & Denali)
Alaska I—Part Two (Nome, Seward & Barrow)
Montana: Yellowstone to Glacier
Galapagos: An Intimate Look at Darwin's Islands I
Brazil's Rio Roosevelt: Birding the River of Doubt
Alaska II—Part Two (Nome, Seward & Barrow)
Iceland
Rainforest & Savanna:
Alta Floresta & the Northern Pantanal, Brazil
Spitsbergen & Svalbard Archipelago:
A Cruise to the Norwegian Arctic
Cloudforests of Ecuador: All the Best of the Wild Northwest
Jaguar Spotting: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon I
Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge III

JULY 2017

Newfoundland & Nova Scotia
East Africa Highlights: Kenya & Tanzania
Papua New Guinea
Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru I
Galapagos: An Intimate Look at Darwin's Islands II
Peru's Magnetic North: Spatuletails, Owllet Lodge & More
Jaguar Spotting: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon II
Arizona's Second Spring I
Iquitos, Peru: Canopy Walkways & Ancient Forests
Arizona's Second Spring II

Jul 1-13
Jul 1-21
Jul 2-20
Jul 7-16
Jul 8-18
Jul 15-26
Jul 16-27
Jul 22-31
Jul 23-Aug 3
Jul 29-Aug 7

Chris Benesh
Terry Stevenson
Jay VanderGaast
Jesse Fagan
Willy Perez & local guide
Dan Lane & Jesse Fagan
Marcelo Padua
John Coons
Pepe Rojas
Chris Benesh

AUGUST 2017

Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru II
Great Rivers of the Amazon II: Birding the Madeira-Tapajos Interfluvium
Brazil's Mouth of the Amazon: Mexiana Island, the Lower Xingu & Carajas

Aug 3-12
Aug 4-19
Aug 6-19

Pepe Rojas
Bret Whitney & Tom Johnson
Marcelo Padua & Dave Stejskal

SEPTEMBER 2017

France: Camargue & Pyrenees I
Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus, Brazil I
Ecuador: Rainforest & Andes
France: Camargue & Pyrenees II
Slice of California: Seabirds to Sierra I
Slice of California: Seabirds to Sierra II
Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus, Brazil II
Morocco
New Papua New Guinea & New Britain in Style
Ecuador's Shripuno Lodge: Heartland of the Waorani
Safari Brazil: The Pantanal & More
Cape May Megan's Way
New Brazil's Remote Rio Tapajos
Mountains of Manu, Peru

Sep 2-12
Sep 2-16
Sep 3-17
Sep 6-16
Sep 7-16
Sep 9-18
Sep 9-23
Sep 11-27
Sep 14-30
Sep 21-30
Sep 23-Oct 8
Sep 24-30
Sep 30-Oct 11
Sep 30-Oct 13

Megan Edwards Crewe
Marcelo Padua & Pepe Rojas
Willy Perez
Jay VanderGaast
Chris Benesh
Tom Johnson
Bret Whitney & Dan Lane
Jesse Fagan
Phil Gregory
Mitch Lysinger
Marcelo Padua & Willy Perez
Megan Edwards Crewe
Bret Whitney & John Coons
Pepe Rojas

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"Even though tropical rainforest birding is challenging...having fantastic, enthusiastic, and caring guides made it possible to see just about every bird. Birding in the canopy was breathtaking, and something every birder should do!"

R.C., Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge

Apr 1-7
Apr 1-11
Apr 2-8
Apr 8-26
Apr 9-19
Apr 15-21
Apr 22-28
Apr 22-May 1
Apr 22-May 8
Apr 23-29
Apr 27-May 1

Jesse Fagan
Pepe Rojas & Dave Stejskal
Megan Edwards Crewe
Richard Webster
Tom Johnson
John Coons
John Coons
Chris Benesh & Pepe Rojas
Terry Stevenson & local guide
Jesse Fagan
Tom Johnson

May 4-8

Dave Stejskal

May 4-14
May 5-14
May 5-25
May 6-13
May 6-18
May 12-21
May 14-20
May 20-28

Terry McEneaney & Karen McEneaney
John Coons
Richard Webster
Jay VanderGaast
Chris Benesh & Marcelo Padua
Dave Stejskal
Tom Johnson
Eric Hynes

May 23-27

Tom Johnson

Jun 1-9
Jun 1-18
Jun 2-26
Jun 3-8
Jun 6-23
Jun 8-16
Jun 8-18
Jun 8-18
Jun 10-20
Jun 10-24
Jun 15-25
Jun 20-29

Chris Benesh & Tom Johnson
Phil Gregory
Terry Stevenson
John Coons
Dave Stejskal & local guide
Megan Edwards Crewe
Chris Benesh & Tom Johnson
Terry McEneaney
Jesse Fagan & local guide
Bret Whitney
Megan Edwards Crewe & Pepe Rojas
Eric Hynes

Jun 23-Jul 9

Marcelo Padua

Jun 27-Jul 9
Jun 29-Jul 9
Jun 29-Jul 10
Jun 30-Jul 9

John Coons
Willy Perez
Pepe Rojas
Mitch Lysinger & local guide

OCTOBER 2017

Barrow, Alaska: Search for Ross's Gull
Australia (Part One)
Namibia & Botswana
Peruvian Rainforests of the Tambopata: Macaw Lick Extraordinaire
Australia (Part Two)
Louisiana: Yellow Rails & Crawfish Tails
New Guinea & Australia
Great Rivers of the Amazon I: Exploring the Rio Aripuana
Brazil's Cristalino Jungle Lodge

Oct 6-10
Oct 6-26
Oct 10-29
Oct 12-23
Oct 24-Nov 8
Oct 26-30
Oct 26-Nov 13
Oct 27-Nov 11
Oct 31-Nov 11

Tom Johnson
Chris Benesh & Jesse Fagan
Terry Stevenson
Pepe Rojas
John Coons & Tom Johnson
Dan Lane
Jay VanderGaast
Bret Whitney & Pepe Rojas
Marcelo Padua

NOVEMBER 2017

China: Yunnan Province
Madagascar, Mauritius & Reunion
Chile
Serra dos Tucanos, Brazil
Colombia: The Llanos & More
New Zealand
New Colombia: Cali Escape
Mexico: Yucatan & Cozumel
Holiday at San Isidro, Ecuador
Peru's Rarely Explored South:
High Arid Deserts & Nazca Lines

Nov 3-25
Nov 4-26
Nov 5-25
Nov 11-21
Nov 11-21
Nov 12-30
Nov 18-27
Nov 18-27
Nov 18-27

Dave Stejskal & Jesper Hornskov
Phil Gregory & local guide
Willy Perez & Megan Edwards Crewe
Marcelo Padua
Jesse Fagan & local guide
Dan Lane & local guide
Richard Webster & local guide
Chris Benesh & local guide
Mitch Lysinger

Nov 25-Dec 7

Jesse Fagan

DECEMBER 2017

Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista I
Mexico: Oaxaca II
Arizona Winter Specialties
Ecuador's Wildsumaco Lodge II
Panama's Canopy Camp: Lowland Darien
Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista II
Trinidad & Tobago II
Panama's Canopy Lodge: El Valle de Anton

Dec 19-27
Dec 23-30
Dec 27-Jan 2
Dec 28-Jan 7
Dec 29-Jan 6
Dec 29-Jan 6
Dec 29-Jan 7
Dec 30-Jan 6

Jay VanderGaast & local guide
Dan Lane
Tom Johnson
Willy Perez
John Coons & local guide
Jesse Fagan & local guide
Megan Edwards Crewe & local guide
Chris Benesh & local guide

"I was so glad we were encouraged to take time to watch the birds and other wildlife we were seeing, instead of ticking a new species and then moving onto the next. What a delight to watch for gliding squirrels, to look for night mammals, to make a stop to see a flowering plant. It made the tour more robust, while still focusing on birds." S.R., Borneo

Bolivia: A Stealth Birding Treasure

Continued from page 1

Bolivia is replete with incredible scenery: from the open plains within sight of the “bend in the Andes” near Santa Cruz city, to the striking arid landscapes of the intermontane valleys at the border of Santa Cruz and Cochabamba departments, to the (quite literally!) breathtaking beauty of the high Andes of Cochabamba and La Paz. Those with cameras and a good eye will have their hands full if they want scenics! These settings are a fine backdrop for the amazing biogeography that has generated the country’s avian wealth. Bolivia, near the very center of the South American continent, is also at the nexus of many of the continent’s characteristic habitats, from the Altiplano and high, snow-capped peaks of the Andes, and the humid cloud-forests on the Amazonian-facing slopes, to the arid rainshadow valleys that harbor many of the country’s true endemics, to the mixture of Amazonian and semi-deciduous forests at the foot of the Andes and out into the open grasslands in the lowlands of Santa Cruz and Beni departments.

These habitats provide Bolivia with an extraordinarily rich avifauna that compares well to any of its better-known neighbors as a birding destination...only its lack of a coast prevents it from climbing the list into the top-most tier! “Endemism” is a term known to many world birders, and though Bolivia has not fared well “officially” in the endemism game (fewer than 20 species that are true endemics), the fact is many near-endemic species just barely spill over political borders into neighboring countries, and in many cases these species are far easier to find within Bolivia than in the remote mountains of Peru or the border regions of Brazil or Argentina. Taking such species into account, the number of specialties in Bolivia suddenly jumps up to about 100 or so — essentially stealth endemics. Plus, there are still distinct forms within Bolivia that may be separated as species and may cause the Bolivian specialties list to swell yet more.

The birdlife of Bolivia features some real stars that will captivate your imagination with their beauty and charm: from the mind-blowing aqua rump of the Black-hooded Sunbeam to the stealth of the Rusty-faced Antpitta, from the garrulous flocks of Bolivian Blackbirds to the solitary lifestyle of the Scribble-tailed Canastero. Bolivian birds are also quite varied in their coloration. In the dusty, semi-arid habitats such as in the intermontane valleys, humble brown and gray birds abound, such as the Bolivian Earthcreeper or Gray-crested Finch, but when you enter more humid forests, eye candy such as Hooded Mountain-Toucan and Orange-browed Hemispingus brighten up the



Three of Bolivia’s bird treasures. From top: White-collared Jay, Hooded Mountain-Toucan, and Scribble-tailed Canastero (Photos by guide Dan Lane and participant Terry Baltimore)

list. Hummingbirds are well-represented, too, such as the fantastic Red-tailed Comet and the impressive Wedge-tailed Hillstar. And of course, we can’t leave out parrots, such as the endemic Red-fronted Macaw and the endemic intermontane forms of Monk Parakeet and Blue-crowned Parakeet, both of which are likely distinct enough that they will be split once research has exposed their differences from other populations of those species!

We’ve revamped our Bolivia tour with visits to a few more foothill localities that should increase our chances at finding rare specialties such as Bolivian Recurvebill and Ashy Antwren, at the same time getting us out of the bustling cities and closer to our birding sites. We still offer an extension to the Beni, a region of incredible diversity with habitats similar to the llanos or Pantanal, but with birds all its own such as Blue-throated Macaw, Unicolored Thrush, and endemic forms of Plain Softtail and Velvet-fronted Grackle, as well as a huge potential list of other open country and gallery forest species!

Why not join us to discover Bolivia’s bird bounty? Our tour this year is scheduled for **September 3-19**, with the *optional pre-tour to the Beni beginning on August 29*. There are still a few spaces left to join me!



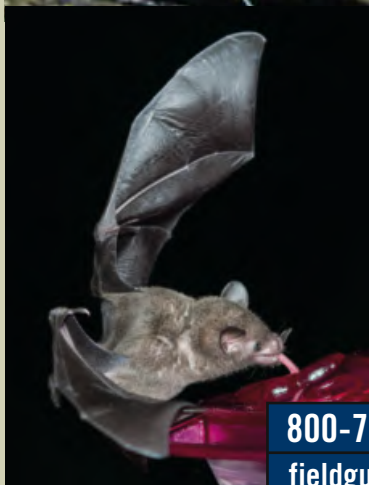
LEAR’S MACAWS

If you’re having a bad day—or a good one that you’d like to make even better—take a look at Bret Whitney’s video from his ***Nowhere But Northeast Brazil!*** tour of dozens of pairs of Lear’s Macaws taking wing from their roosting sites. As Bret describes it, after the first group flew off, “numerous pairs...continued to wheel around at and below eye-level, looking pretty marvelous against those ancient, red cliffs, even under dark, drizzly skies. Several pairs sat on the canyon rim or on nesting ledges, and the loud voices of the birds echoed all around for over an hour as we soaked it all in.” You’ll find the video at fieldguides.com/lears. We hope it will make your day!

FRESH FROM THE FIELD



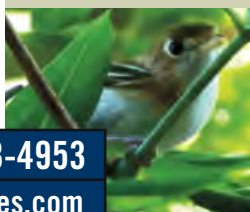
Last November marked the first run of our new **China: Yunnan Province** tour with Dave Stejskal. Pictured above, a snowy section of the Great Wall that our group visited on the *Beijing Birds & Culture Extension* preceding the main tour. Following a flight to Yunnan, there were many more sights to enjoy in this tucked-away (and warmer!) corner of the world, including a few of China's fine avian sights. Shown here from top right: Crimson-breasted Woodpecker; a pair of pretty Coral-billed Scimitar-Babblers; Black-eared Shrike-Babbler; and Brown-breasted Bulbul. All of which make Dave pretty excited about returning in 2017, when the tour will next be offered. (Photos by guide Dave Stejskal and participants Ken Havard & Patricia Bacchetti)



Field Guides **Trinidad & Tobago** tours offer ten days of tropical birding on two beautiful islands just off the coast of Venezuela. Shown here, a few of the birds and one aptly named mammal from guide Tom Johnson's December tour. At top left, an always dazzling coquette, this one a Tufted, feeding on purple flowers that accentuate the already colorful sight; a Magnificent Frigatebird in pursuit of a Red-billed Tropicbird offshore of Little Tobago; a huge (in life) Oilbird at its nesting site in Dunston Cave; and a Lesser Long-tongued Bat demonstrating that it's well equipped to take advantage of a convenient hummingbird feeder. (Photos by guide Tom Johnson and participants Rick Woodruff & Neil Boyle)



The ruins at Uxmal may not be as well known as those of Chichen Itza, but to some they are more beautiful. Here in a photo from our recent **Yucatan & Cozumel** tour, one of the temples rises above the surrounding forest. The area is also known, of course, for its many endemic and specialty birds, among them the Yucatan Wrens (above right), the Cozumel Vireo (below left), and the Lesser Roadrunner sunning itself in the road. The Cinnamon Hummingbird, which guide Megan Crewe describes as glowing in the early morning sunshine, was a pleasing sight as well, almost the same shade as the flowers it's feeding on. (Photos by participants Johanne Charbonneau & Michel Matayer)

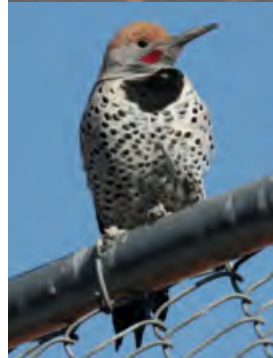


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FRESH FROM THE FIELD



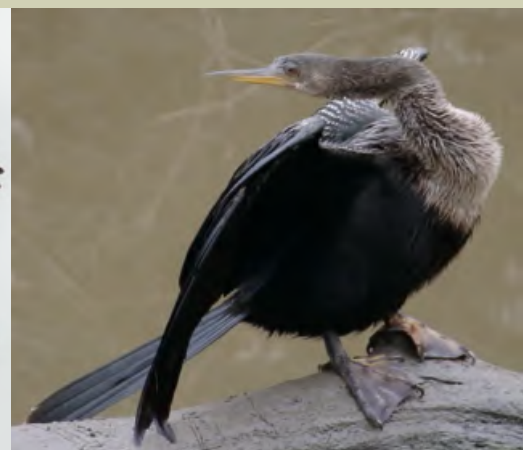
A very birdy week at a comfortable lodge was how guide John Coons and his **Panama's Canopy Lodge** tour group called in the New Year. A Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo provided one of the most exciting encounters of the tour, and though we don't have a photograph of *it*, we can show you some of the other great birds the group enjoyed—namely, a nice Orange-bellied Trogon at top, sitting quietly; a splendid Crested Owl, perched just off a trail at the lodge; a Rufous Motmot to the left of the owl, one of five motmot species seen on the tour, including the uncommon little Tody Motmot; and views of Altos del Maria, a mountainous area we'll spend a day birding. (Photos by participants Betsy Fulmer & Louise Hawley)



You can almost hear the bugling cries of these Sandhill Cranes flying over Whitewater Draw on our **Arizona Winter Specialties** tour, where the wintering birds number in the thousands. Among the many raptors present in the area at this time of year were several light-morph Ferruginous Hawks—one pictured at bottom left—and a more unusual dark morph. Handsome Gilded Flickers (at left), two coveys of Montezuma Quail, and much, much more made the tour, in guide Chris Benesh's words, a pleasure for all. (Photos by guide Chris Benesh and participant Scott Stoner)



A few of the special birds on Chris Benesh's two **South Texas Rarities** tours this winter included a Northern Jacana, a female Crimson-collared Grosbeak, a nice Tropical Parula for both groups, and a Greater Pewee and Pacific-slope Flycatcher for one. But this trip is about more than rarities as the birds pictured here attest—to wit, a pair of Red-crowned Parrots at left, and below, an Audubon's Oriole, Aplomado Falcon, and Anhinga, all South Texas regulars. (Photos by guide Chris Benesh and participant Kyle Sandersen)

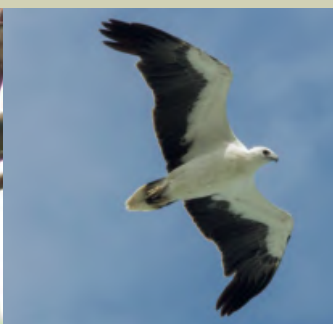




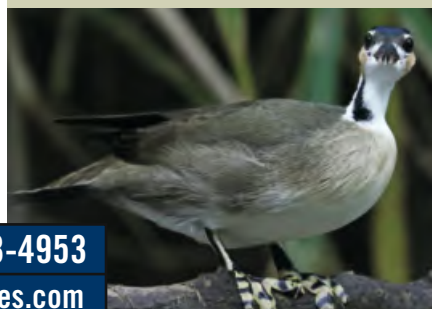
A combination of Namibia's spectacular desert scenery and the magical crystal waters of Botswana's Okavango Delta, our popular **Namibia & Botswana** tour is always special. Guide Terry Stevenson reports that his recent tour, which recorded all of the possible endemics, enjoyed some simply magnificent birding. Pictured here, a tree loaded with a colony of Southern Carmine Bee-eaters; an African Fish-Eagle catching dinner at Stanley's Camp in the Delta; a pair of Southern Ground-Hornbills, the world's largest hornbill; and part of a herd of the localized Mountain Zebra in the Namib Desert. (Photos by guide Terry Stevenson)



The **New Guinea & Australia** tour is filled with spectacular sights and sounds, and even in the land of the birds-of-paradise, this Papuan Lorikeet (above) elicited more "oohs" and "aahs" than almost any other bird on the trip, according to guide Jay VanderGaast. A few of the other incredible birds of these two countries shown below include the Australasian Figbird with red skin around the eyes; a White-bellied Sea-Eagle, seen at close range at Royal National Park; and Smoky Honeyeater, a bird that changes the color of its facial skin from yellow to red—a change the bird pictured here appears to be undergoing. (Photos by participant Conny Palm)



When do you ever get to see a Sungrebe's surprising feet so well? Or the inside of a Boat-billed Heron's mouth? The answer, of course, is with guides Jay VanderGaast and Tom Johnson (both shown above with the Part I group) on their recent **Costa Rica: Birding the Edges** tours. And if it's color you're looking for, take a glance at that simply glowing Turquoise Cotinga at right, spectacular enough to distract from all those pictures of Black-crested Coquettes and Emerald Tanagers and Shining Honeycreepers we didn't have space for. (Photos by guide Tom Johnson and participants Charlotte Byers & Bill Byers)



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FRESH FROM THE FIELD



Some of the contrasts in both landscape and birdlife from Jesse Fagan's new **Peru's Rarely Explored South** tour, which covers southern Peru from its coastal marshes to the high Andes, are pictured here. The Endangered Titicaca Grebe, below right, endemic to the lake whose name it shares, is found in small numbers mainly in that location, while on the coast the group encountered what Jesse estimated as 300,000 Franklin's Gulls—a few shown at left. The Gray-breasted Seedsnipe is a bird typical of the highlands though not typically seen this well, and a flyover of the Nazca Lines to end the tour revealed the famous hummingbird. (Photos by guide Jesse Fagan)



A close encounter with a Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan (below right) was just one of the many highlights for Willy Perez and his group on Willy's **Holiday at Ecuador's Wildsumaco Lodge**. Paradise Tanager (above left) was an everyday sight at Wildsumaco, a flock of twenty or so Military Macaws dropped in to feed on fruiting trees, and after a couple of tries, a Plain-backed Antpitta made its appearance. A Chestnut-breasted Coronet and Long-tailed Sylph (above right) were among the many hummers present at San Isidro, where the tour spends two nights, and the recently split Chestnut-winged Cinclodes (along with Andean Condors and Ecuadorian Hillstar) was the bonus of a stop at Antisana Ecological Reserve. (Photos by guide Willy Perez and participant Larry Peavler)



A displaying Sunbittern, shown above, is a glorious (and rarely seen) thing, a bird transformed from subtle browns and grays to bright patterns of red and yellow and black—and it was a delight for one of our recent **Holiday Costa Rica** groups. Other birds enjoyed on the two recent tours were this Fiery-throated Hummingbird, above right, with its gorgeous throat in evidence; a very cute Rufous-naped Wren on the hotel grounds; and an endemic—to Costa Rica and western Panama—Collared Redstart, foraging not far from where three Resplendent Quetzals were seen. (Photos by participants Bob Sprague & Sandy Paci)





Some spectacular sights from Phil Gregory's **Winter Japan** tour: at far left, the immense Steller's Sea-Eagle, one of the world's mega-birds; two owls—the magnificent Blakiston's Fish-Owl above, seen extremely well this year according to Phil, and a roosting Ural Owl; among several crane species, this vagrant white Siberian Crane, shown here with a Hooded; and towering over all, snow-capped Mount Fuji. (Photos by guide Phil Gregory)

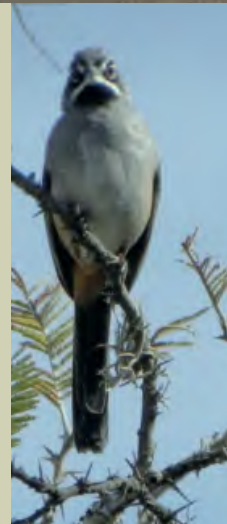
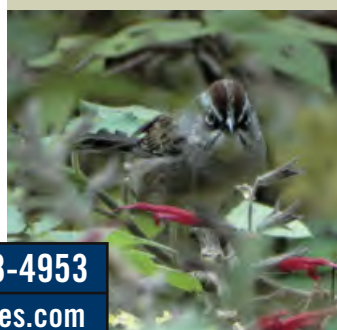


It's easy to sing the praises of Ecuador's birds, especially when you can see them with guide Willy Perez, shown here with his recent **Jewels of Ecuador** group and a hard-to-miss giant Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager. More moderately sized jewels from the tour include the Flame-faced Tanager above left; next to the tanager, an Ecuadorian Hillstar, a high-altitude hummingbird; and the not always easy to see Lanceolated Monklet. (Photos by guide Willy Perez and participant Peter Relson)



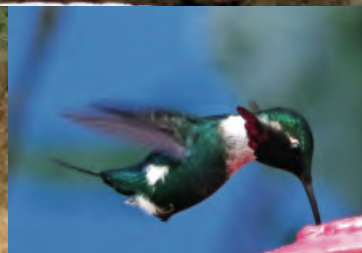
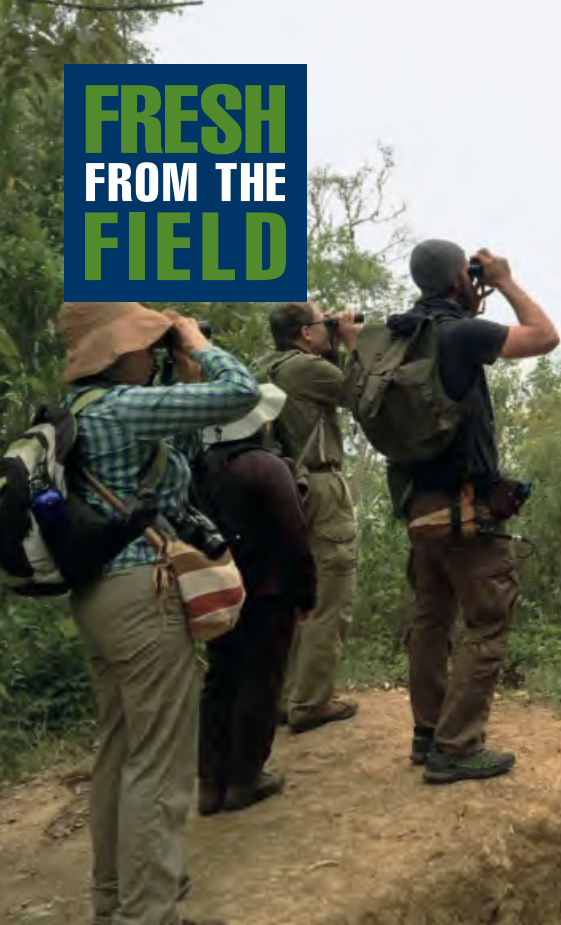
Yes, there are colorful birds on our **Oaxaca** tour—think Red Warbler or Orange-breasted Bunting, both of which were much admired on Dan Lane's recent tour to the area—but the two sparrows shown here, the Oaxaca at left and the Bridled, are worth a look as well. Both possess a subtle beauty, and perhaps more importantly,

both are Oaxacan endemics. The pre-Columbian Zapotec culture is also a feature of the tour, and above, the ball court at Monte Alban, one of the ruins we'll visit, and a photo of our group touring the site. (Photos by guide Dan Lane)



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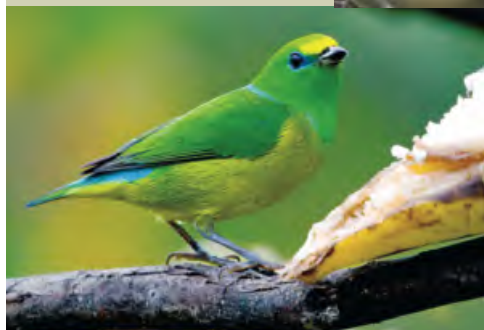
FRESH FROM THE FIELD



Even from behind, it's possible to identify guide Jesse Fagan by an unmistakable field mark—he's usually the tallest one in any group, except when he's birding with guides Tom Johnson or Dave Stejskal. Here, Jesse and tour participants on the recent **Colombia: Bogota, The Magdalena Valley & Santa Marta** tour are birding near the Recurve-billed Bushbird reserve, where they did in fact see the bushbird, as well as many other species along the tour route—it's Colombia, after all!—including the four shown here. From left, the endemic Beautiful Woodpecker; Santa Marta Antbird, another Colombian endemic; Groove-billed Toucanet; and a little, moth-like Gorgeted Woodstar. (Photos by participants Kathy Brown & Marshall Dahl)



These five beauties are but a tiny sampling of the three-hundred-plus species usually seen on our ten-day **Colombia: Santa Marta Escape** tour. From top left, a headshot of one of the Band-tailed Guans that guide Richard Webster reports were conspicuous at the El Dorado Reserve; the rare and erratic Black-backed Thornbill, one of the prizes of the tour; the endemic Black-cheeked Mountain-Tanager; Blue-naped Chlorophonia, a wonderful mix of green and yellow with blue highlights; and standout Green Violetear—the ears are part of agonistic displays as birds seek to dominate food sources. (Photos by guide Richard Webster and participants Linda Rudolph & Myles McNally)



Paradise Jacamars, above, can best be appreciated in paradise, and if the Amazon rainforest guide Dan Lane and his group birded on our **Holiday in Peru: Iquitos** tour is not paradise, it's pretty darn close to it, with antbirds that included the fancy White-plumed and gifts of not one but two Fiery Topaz hummers and two Nocturnal Curassows on Christmas night. A male White-headed Marsh-Tyrant, at right, perched nicely for our group on a grassy island in the Napo, and Black-fronted Nunbirds were seen often along the forest edge. Charlie the Capybara provided a friendly face on our return to our lodgings. (Photos by guide Dan Lane)



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NEW TOURS FOR 2017

Continued from page 1

Pennsylvania's Warblers & More: From Cerulean Warbler to Henslow's Sparrow, May 23-27 with Tom Johnson

This exciting new itinerary continues the tradition of our long-popular *Virginias' Warblers* tour, shifting our route about 100 miles north to focus on the incredible diversity of warblers, vireos, flycatchers, sparrows, and other species breeding in Pennsylvania, guide Tom Johnson's home state and stomping grounds!



Henslow's Sparrow and Cerulean Warbler (Photos by guide Tom Johnson)

Amur Falcon and Siberian Rubythroat (Photos by guide Dave Stejskal)

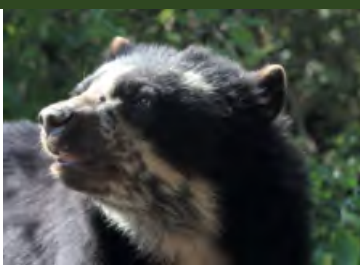


Mongolia: The Gobi Desert, Steppe & Taiga, June 1-18 with Phil Gregory

Mongolia is one of the hottest birding areas in Asia, and this new itinerary will visit some of its best birding sites as we venture through splendid landscapes from the vast treeless steppe dotted with lakes and marshes to Siberian taiga forest, mountain slopes, and impressive sand dunes. The resident highlights include Saker and Amur falcons, Upland Buzzard, Pallas's Fish-Eagle, Siberian Rubythroat, Black-billed Capercaillie, Mongolian (Henderson's) Ground-Jay, Altai Snowcock, and Swan Goose, and these will be joined by a number of Palearctic migrants.

Cloudforests of Ecuador: All the Best of the Wild Northwest, June 29-July 9 with Willy Perez

This new itinerary will explore the lush habitats of northwestern Ecuador in search of a fantastic array of birds and wildlife, including a variety of antpittas, the amazing Long-wattled Umbrellabird, and we even have a good chance of seeing Spectacled Bear.



Spectacled Bear and Long-wattled Umbrellabird (Photos by guide Richard Webster and participant John Drummond)



Brazil's Remote Rio Tapajos, September 30-October 11 with Bret Whitney & John Coons

Bret Whitney and John Coons will take you adventure-birding in a beautiful, pristine region of Amazonia on one of Brazil's greatest rivers.

This beautifully appointed, fully air-conditioned floating lodge will be our headquarters for the whole tour! (Photo by guide Bret Whitney)

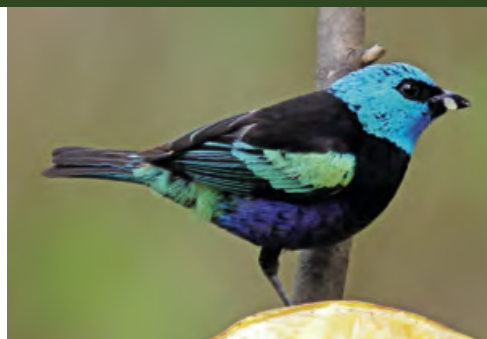
Papua New Guinea & New Britain in Style, October 4-20 with Phil Gregory

A bevy of great birds while based at some wonderful lodges. A few of the possibilities include everything from loads of birds-of-paradise (including the fabulous Twelve-wired) to Victoria Crowned-Pigeon, Fly River Grassbird, Campbell's Fairywren, Black-headed Paradise-Kingfisher, Blue-eyed Cockatoo, and New Britain Boobook.



Victoria's Crowned-Pigeon and Blyth's Hornbills (Photos by guides Phil Gregory & Dave Stejskal)

Blue-necked Tanager and Red-ruffed Fruitcrow (Photos by participant Greg Griffith)



Colombia: Cali Escape, November 18-27 with Richard Webster

Cloudforests of two Colombian cordilleras and their rich assortment of hummingbirds and tanagers are the features of this Thanksgiving escape across the Caribbean to tropical Colombia. Highlights include Multicolored Tanager (among many tanagers), White-tailed Hillstar, Rainbow-bearded Thornbill, and Golden-plumed Parakeet.



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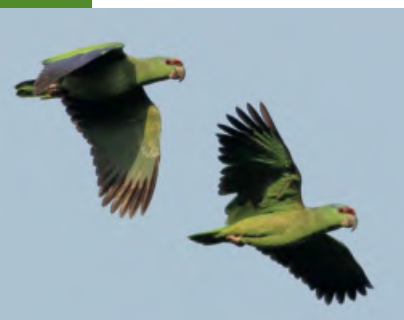
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CONSERVATION Field Guides contributes to the following conservation organizations: The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, BirdLife International, World Land Trust, American Bird Conservancy



2017 Schedule Inside



RIO NEGRO PARADISE, BRAZIL

Great Boat, Great Birding

It's no accident that our tour to Manaus, Brazil is titled Rio Negro Paradise. We're based on the river itself on our fantastic boat—and the birding is terrific. Guides Marcelo Padua and Dave Stejskal will be joining forces for the **September 3-17, 2016** tour, a two-week getaway easily reached via a five-hour flight from Miami. Why not join us to bird some of the world's most amazing forests?

From top left: Our comfortable river accommodations; Festive Parrots overhead; Guianan Cock-of-the-rock; Brazilian Bare-faced Tamarin; and Rufous Potoo (Photos by guide Richard Webster and participant Cameron Rutt)

