

fieldguides®

APRIL 2017

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



Bret Whitney's **Nowhere But Northeast Brazil** tour group at the remote Raso da Catarina, a vast series of redrock canyons that are the breeding grounds of Lear's (Indigo) Macaws, waiting for the birds to become active. It's a once-in-a-lifetime chance to commune with Lear's Macaws right in their living room, and one very few naturalists have experienced. (Photo by guide Bret Whitney)

It's already time to look to next year! In this issue we are excited to bring you our 2018 schedule, featuring a rich diversity of birding itineraries to far-flung destinations as well as closer to home. Listed on pages 2-3 you'll find 133 advertised tours, though we have additional, unlisted departures of popular tours "waiting in the wings" should our advertised dates fill early, as often is the case. Our 2018 efforts will also include numerous private tours that various among you are arranging for your group of 6 or more. We look forward to all of these trips next year!

Novelty is always fun, and there are 12 cool new tours in 2018: **Florida** for its many must-see birds from Snail Kite to Mangrove Cuckoo; **Oregon** for exciting and scenic Pacific NW birding; **Southeast Ecuador: Orange-throated Tanager & Foothill Specialties** and **Ecuador's Deep NW Lowlands**, each for hard-to-find avian specialties; **Amazonian Ecuador: Napo Wildlife Center** providing a fresh view of the eastern lowlands; **The Heart of Chile** for a shorter trip that

concentrates on the Central region; **Antarctica, the Falklands & South Georgia** for an amazing combo of seabirds, marine mammals, and landscapes; **Israel: Spring Migration Spectacle** to observe the northward mass movement of raptors and numerous other species; **Wild Kenya: A Tented Camp Safari** to get us right in the middle of the birds and wildlife; **Northeast India: Eaglenest, Kaziranga & More** for very diverse birding at two well-known destinations in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam; and two "Birding Plus" itineraries for all you birder/oenophiles in **Beyond the Ports of Portugal: A Birds & Wine Tour** and **France's Loire Valley: Birds, Chateaux & Wine**.

There are many fantastic birds and destinations to share with you, and we'll delight in seeing reports from these various tours. What will mean the most to us are the quality of your experience and the success of our service, in the field and from our Austin office. Here's to the best of each in the year ahead.

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

2018 TOURS

2018 looks to be a busy year for Field Guides, with 133 advertised departures to destinations around the globe. For full details of individual tours, including complete itineraries and triplists from past tours, visit our web site. And if you have any questions, please email us or call our Austin office. We look forward to seeing you in the field.



Bugling Sarus Cranes on our Northern India tour; see page 6 for more India photos. (Photo by participant Becky Hansen)

JANUARY 2018

Costa Rica: Birding the Edges - Part I
Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge
South Texas Rarities
Guyana I
Colombia: Bogota, the Magdalena Valley, and Santa Marta
East Africa Highlights: Kenya & Tanzania I
Thailand
Costa Rica: Birding the Edges - Part II
Jewels of Ecuador: Hummers, Tanagers & Antpittas I
Winter Japan: Cranes & Sea Eagles
Guyana II
New/The Heart of Chile
New/Antarctica, the Falkland Islands & South Georgia Cruise

Jan 6-15
Jan 12-21
Jan 13-19
Jan 13-24
Jan 13-28
Jan 13-Feb 2
Jan 13-Feb 3
Jan 14-23
Jan 20-Feb 6
Jan 26-Feb 10
Jan 27-Feb 7
Jan 27-Feb 10
Jan 31-Feb 21

FEBRUARY 2018

Colombia: Medellin Escape
Panama's Canopy Tower
Cambodia: Angkor Temples & Vanishing Birds
Owlberta: Alberta's Owls & More
Trinidad & Tobago I
Mexico: Oaxaca
New/SE Ecuador: Orange-throated Tanager & Foothill Specialties
Jamaica I
Borneo I
Namibia & Botswana

Feb 3-12
Feb 4-10
Feb 10-24
Feb 17-23
Feb 17-26
Feb 24-Mar 3
Feb 24-Mar 5
Feb 25-Mar 3
Feb 27-Mar 16
Feb 27-Mar 18

MARCH 2018

Belize: Tropical Birding, Short and Sweet
Brazil Nutshell: Intervalles, Iguazu Falls & the Pantanal
Jamaica II
Southwestern Ecuador Specialties: Jocotoco Foundation Reserves
Spring in South Texas
Colombia: Santa Marta Escape
Costa Rica
Panama's Canopy Tower & Lodge
New/Israel: Spring Migration Spectacle
Puerto Rico
Jewels of Ecuador: Hummers, Tanagers & Antpittas II
Western Panama: Chiriqui & Bocas del Toro
Hawaii
Ghana: Window Into West African Birding
Bahamas: Endemics & Kirtland's Warbler

Mar 3-10
Mar 3-17
Mar 4-10
Mar 4-18
Mar 10-18
Mar 10-18
Mar 10-25
Mar 11-18
Mar 14-25
Mar 17-23
Mar 17-Apr 3
Mar 18-27
Mar 29-Apr 7
Mar 29-Apr 17
Mar 31-Apr 6

APRIL 2018

Colorado Grouse I
Bhutan
Texas Coast Migration Spectacle I
Colorado Grouse II
New/Northeast India: Eaglenest, Kaziranga & More
Texas Coast Migration Spectacle II
Texas's Big Bend & Hill Country
Hungary & Romania: The Best of Eastern Europe
Do the Charleston! Spring in South Carolina & Northern Georgia
New/Beyond the Ports of Portugal: A Birds and Wine Tour
New/Florida

Apr 7-17
Apr 7-26
Apr 14-20
Apr 14-24
Apr 20-May 8
Apr 21-27
Apr 21-30
Apr 21-May 7
Apr 22-28
Apr 23-May 5
Apr 28-May 5

MAY 2018

Arizona Nightbirds & More I
Point Pelee Migration Spectacle
Spain: La Mancha, Coto Donana & Extremadura
Classical Greece
Arizona Nightbirds & More II
Arizona: Birding the Border I
Spring in Cape May
Arizona: Birding the Border II
Uganda: Shoebill, Rift Endemics & Gorillas
Pennsylvania's Warblers & More
Maine
Alaska I - Part One (Pribilofs & Denali)
Central Peruvian Endemics: The High Andes
Mongolia: The Gobi Desert, Steppe & Taiga

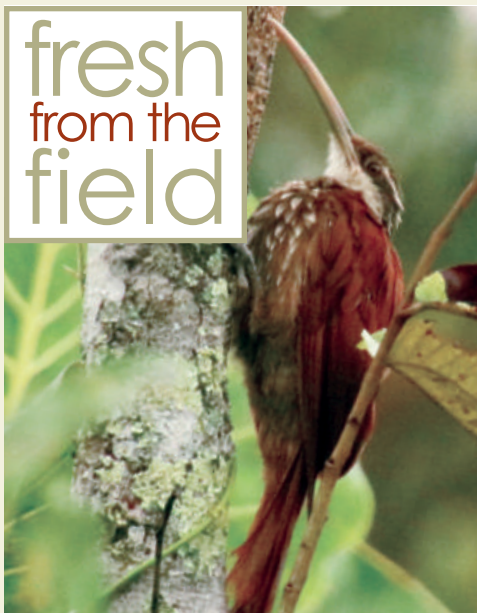
May 3-7
May 5-12
May 5-17
May 5-19
May 10-14
May 11-20
May 13-19
May 19-28
May 19-Jun 8
May 22-27
May 26-Jun 3
May 31-Jun 8
May 31-Jun 16
May 31-Jun 17

JUNE 2018

Kenya Safari Spectacular
Northern Arizona's Canyons and Condor
New/France's Loire Valley: Birds, Chateaux & Wine
Alaska II - Part One (Pribilofs & Denali)
Alaska I - Part Two (Nome, Seward & Barrow)

Jun 1-25
Jun 2-7
Jun 2-10
Jun 7-15
Jun 7-17

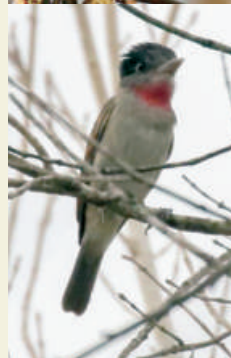
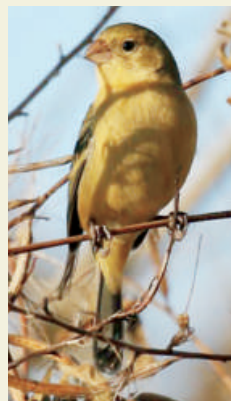
Tom Johnson & Cory Gregory Willy Perez & local guide Chris Benesh Dave Stejskal & local guide Jesse Fagan & local guide Terry Stevenson Jay VanderGaast & Uthai Treesucon Tom Johnson & Cory Gregory Willy Perez Phil Gregory Megan Edwards Crewe & local guide Marcelo Padua & Marcelo Barreiros Tom Johnson & Bret Whitney	JUNE 2018 <i>continued</i> Brazil's Rio Roosevelt: Birding the River of Doubt Alaska II - Part Two (Nome, Seward & Barrow) Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru Alta Floresta & the Pantanal, Brazil Peru's Magnetic North: Spatuletails, Owllet Lodge & More The Norwegian Arctic: Spitsbergen & the Svalbard Archipelago Borneo II New Amazonian Ecuador: Napo Wildlife Center	Jun 9-23 Jun 14-24 Jun 15-24 Jun 22-Jul 8 Jun 23-Jul 4 Jun 26-Jul 8 Jun 26-Jul 13 Jun 29-Jul 8	Bret Whitney Tom Johnson & Cory Gregory Jesse Fagan Marcelo Padua & Marcelo Barreiros Dan Lane & Jesse Fagan John Coons & local guide Megan Edwards Crewe & local guide Mitch Lysinger & local guide
Richard Webster & local guide Chris Benesh & local guide Phil Gregory & Doug Gochfeld Jay VanderGaast & John Coons Megan Edwards Crewe & local guide Chris Benesh & Cory Gregory Mitch Lysinger Eric Hynes & local guide Dave Stejskal & local guide Terry Stevenson	JULY 2018 Newfoundland & Nova Scotia Papua New Guinea Iceland Galapagos: An Intimate Look at Darwin's Islands Jaguar Spotting: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon I New Wild Kenya: A Tented Camp Safari Cloudforests of Ecuador: All the Best of the Wild NW Arizona's Second Spring I Jaguar Spotting: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon II Mountains of Manu, Peru	Jul 1-11 Jul 1-19 Jul 6-15 Jul 7-17 Jul 14-25 Jul 14-29 Jul 16-26 Jul 21-30 Jul 21-Aug 1 Jul 29-Aug 7	Chris Benesh & Cory Gregory Jay VanderGaast & Doug Gochfeld Godfried Schreur Willy Perez & local guide Marcelo Padua & John Coons Terry Stevenson Willy Perez Chris Benesh Marcelo Barreiros & Jesse Fagan Dan Lane
Megan Edwards Crewe Marcelo Padua & Marcelo Barreiros Tom Johnson & local guide Willy Perez Chris Benesh Richard Webster & local guide Jay VanderGaast & local guide John Coons & local guide Doug Gochfeld & local guide Tom Johnson & Cory Gregory Mitch Lysinger Jesse Fagan Dan Lane Phil Gregory & local guide Jesse Fagan	AUGUST 2018 Brazil's Mouth of the Amazon and Lower Rio Xingu Arizona's Second Spring II Peruvian Rainforests of the Tambopata	Aug 3-18 Aug 4-13 Aug 6-19	Marcelo Padua & Jay VanderGaast John Coons Jesse Fagan & local guide
Tom Johnson & Cory Gregory Richard Webster & Megan Edwards Crewe John Coons Eric Hynes & Doug Gochfeld Phil Gregory & local guide John Coons Chris Benesh & Cory Gregory Terry Stevenson & local guide Jesse Fagan Marcelo Padua & Godfried Schreur Doug Gochfeld & Mitch Lysinger	SEPTEMBER 2018 France: Camargue & Pyrenees Slice of California: Seabirds to Sierra I Bolivia's Avian Riches Ethiopia Slice of California: Seabirds to Sierra II New Oregon Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus, Brazil Morocco Ecuador's Shiripuno Lodge: Heartland of the Waorani Cape May Megan's Way I Safari Brazil: The Pantanal & More New Ecuador's Deep NW Lowlands Remote Rio Tapajos, Brazil	Sep 1-11 Sep 6-15 Sep 7-23 Sep 7-27 Sep 8-17 Sep 8-17 Sep 8-22 Sep 10-26 Sep 20-29 Sep 22-28 Sep 22-Oct 7 Sep 28-Oct 6 Sep 29-Oct 10	Megan Edwards Crewe & Godfried Schreur Chris Benesh Dan Lane Terry Stevenson & Dave Stejskal Tom Johnson Cory Gregory Bret Whitney & Marcelo Barreiros Jesse Fagan & Godfried Schreur Mitch Lysinger Megan Edwards Crewe Marcelo Padua & Marcelo Barreiros Willy Perez Bret Whitney
Tom Johnson Jay VanderGaast Godfried Schreur & Chris Benesh Megan Edwards Crewe & local guide Dave Stejskal John Coons Tom Johnson & Doug Gochfeld Dave Stejskal Jesse Fagan Tom Johnson Eric Hynes & Cory Gregory Chris Benesh & Doug Gochfeld Dan Lane & Dave Stejskal Phil Gregory & local guide	OCTOBER 2018 Northern Peru: Endemics Galore Australia - Part One South Africa New Guinea & Australia Colombia: Llanos & More Northwestern Argentina Colombia: Cali Escape Australia - Part Two Spectacular SE Brazil, Part One: North of the Tropic Sri Lanka Southern Argentina	Oct 3-21 Oct 5-25 Oct 7-27 Oct 11-29 Oct 13-23 Oct 13-31 Oct 22-31 Oct 23-Nov 7 Oct 26-Nov 11 Oct 26-Nov 12 Oct 30-Nov 15	Dan Lane Chris Benesh & Doug Gochfeld Terry Stevenson & Joe Grosel Jay VanderGaast Jesse Fagan & local guide Willy Perez & Cory Gregory Jesse Fagan & local guide John Coons Bret Whitney & Marcelo Barreiros Megan Edwards Crewe & local guide Dave Stejskal & Tom Johnson
Terry Stevenson John Coons Megan Edwards Crewe & Marcelo Padua Tom Johnson & Cory Gregory Chris Benesh & Doug Gochfeld	NOVEMBER 2018 Louisiana: Yellow Rails & Crawfish Tails Birding Plus Ireland in Fall Brazil's Cristalino Jungle Lodge Madagascar Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru II Spectacular SE Brazil, Part Two: South of the Capricorn Serra dos Tucanos, Brazil New Zealand Chile Holiday at San Isidro, Ecuador Holiday Mexico: Yucatan & Cozumel Vietnam	Nov 1-5 Nov 1-11 Nov 1-12 Nov 3-25 Nov 9-18 Nov 9-25 Nov 10-20 Nov 11-29 Nov 11-Dec 1 Nov 17-26 Nov 17-26 Nov 24-Dec 14	Dan Lane Terry McEneaney & Godfried Schreur Marcelo Padua Phil Gregory Jesse Fagan Bret Whitney & Marcelo Barreiros Marcelo Padua Dan Lane & local guide Willy Perez & local guide Mitch Lysinger Chris Benesh & Cory Gregory Dave Stejskal & Doug Gochfeld
	DECEMBER 2018 Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista I Christmas in Oaxaca Panama's Canopy Camp: Lowland Darien Trinidad & Tobago II Arizona Winter Specialties Panama's Canopy Lodge: El Valle de Anton Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista II Holiday at Ecuador's Wildsumaco Lodge	Dec 21-29 Dec 22-29 Dec 28-Jan 5 Dec 28-Jan 6 Dec 29-Jan 4 Dec 29-Jan 5 Dec 29-Jan 6 Dec 29-Jan 8	Cory Gregory & local guide Tom Johnson & Dan Lane John Coons & local guide Doug Gochfeld & local guide Dave Stejskal Chris Benesh & local guide Megan Edwards Crewe & local guide Willy Perez



Spend a week with Willy Perez (or Mitch Lysinger) at **Ecuador's Sacha Lodge** and you'll experience an Amazonian rainforest packed with avian treasures—plus a plethora of other wildlife. On Willy's recent tour there, the Scarlet Macaws above (among 4 macaw species seen) put on quite a show when they came to drink at the clay lick. The colors are just amazing! The Ladder-tailed Nightjar, to the right of the macaws, is so well camouflaged it's easy to miss, while in contrast, the outlandish Hoatzin is more of an *in your face* bird. The Long-billed Woodcreeper, left, was seen by the group from the lodge dining room, which is why you hear the guides always saying, "Bring your binoculars to meals." (Photos by guide Willy Perez and participant Kathleen John)



Tom Johnson writes that his recent **Trinidad & Tobago** tour enjoyed the full suite of marquee species the islands are known for, including a few pictured here, all of them dazzling. For starters, at top left, a Red-billed Tropicbird in graceful flight; Blue-backed Manakin, at least five of which came in to feed on fruit trees in the Tobago highlands; the little, almost clown-like Tufted Coquette; and the simply stunning male Purple Honeycreeper, one of those common birds you never tire of. (Photos by guide Tom Johnson and participants Dixie Mills & François Grenon)



With its good Mexican food, occasional Mexican vagrants, and numerous resident species that—within the US—are found only in the region, South Texas is a satisfying place to bird. Shown here, some evidence of that (though sadly, no food) from Chris Benesh's recent **South Texas Rarities** tour: a White-collared Seedeater, top left, and a Green Kingfisher, top right. The Rose-throated Becard, left, is known to breed in Texas but is rarely seen there, and the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron is a fine bird no matter where you see it. (Photos by guide Chris Benesh and participant Karen Lintala)



Seeing wintering Sandhill Cranes, especially huge concentrations of them, is always a highlight of our **Arizona Winter Specialties** tour, but this year the tour got a little extra sparkle in the form of the Streak-backed Oriole at left, a visitor from Mexico the group saw in Portal, which, come to think of it, is not much of a flight from Mexico. This was a good year for Ferruginous Hawks, with about a dozen seen on our recent tour, including the dark morph above. (Photos by guide Chris Benesh and participant Dan Ellison)





The group shown here—Dave Stejskal and Jay VanderGaast's recent **Thailand** tour (that's Jay in front with the scope)—is viewing a Siamese Fireback, one of the several fancy pheasants possible on our tour, and also Thailand's national bird. The Fireback was a little slow showing up this year, but persistence paid off. Other features of the trip include many groups unfamiliar to us in the New World, such as hornbills, broadbills, pittas, and more, some quite beautiful as you can see from the Blue Pitta at top left and the Scarlet Minivet below it, and some with a more subtle charm, like this Silver-breasted Broadbill, right. (Photos by guide Dave Stejskal and participants Randy Siebert & Reggie David)



White-tipped Sicklebill feeding at a Heliconia flower and a scope view of a tiny male Green Thornbill; a pair of Orange-bellied Trogons hovering to pluck fruit from a tree; a Tody Motmot sitting patiently as we watched it in the scope—what could be finer than spending the

New Year at **Panama's Canopy Lodge** with John Coons (shown here with local guide Danilo Rodriguez)? The very, very rosy Rosy Thrush-Tanager, top right, usually a difficult bird to see well, was one of a pair that perched in the open; there were several impressive Lineated Woodpeckers, top left, and the Barred Puffbird—one of three puffbird species seen—posed nicely. (Photos by participant Howard Patterson)



New guide Cory Gregory joined Dan Lane for this February's **Oaxaca, Mexico** tour, a combination of impressive ruins, distinctive food, a variety of habitats, and a number of endemic birds. The boldly-colored Slaty Vireo below was, along with the Dwarf, one of two endemic vireos seen well. Other bird sights enjoyed along the way included a Plain-capped Starthroat feeding a fledged youngster; a hovering White-tailed Kite against the bluest sky at Monte Alban, one of the ruin sites we visit; and a standout Red Warbler, another Mexican endemic and a trip favorite. (Photos by guides Dan Lane & Cory Gregory)





Guides Jay VanderGaast and Chris Benesh and their group completed our inaugural **Owlberta: Alberta's Owls & More** tour, which targets owls and winter specialties of this Canadian province, and here we have photos (compliments of participant Pieter Poll) of three of the six owl species the group spotted. At left, a hunting Great Gray Owl—which inhabits northern regions around the globe and is sometimes called the Ghost of the North; at bottom left, a Snowy Owl; and lastly, a Northern Hawk Owl.



These happy people were part of Willy Perez's recent **Jewels of Ecuador: Hummers, Tanagers & Antpittas** tour, and they're smiling because they're in Ecuador's Tandayapa Valley, a hummingbird heaven with the likes of the Sparkling Violetear at far right. Other birds the group enjoyed were the Lanceolated Monklet, above, a tiny bird that is often difficult to see, and this White-bellied Antpitta, one of the antpitta species found at San Isidro on the East Slope of Ecuador's Andes. (Photos by guide Willy Perez and participants Charm Peterman, Pete Peterman & Benedict De Laender)

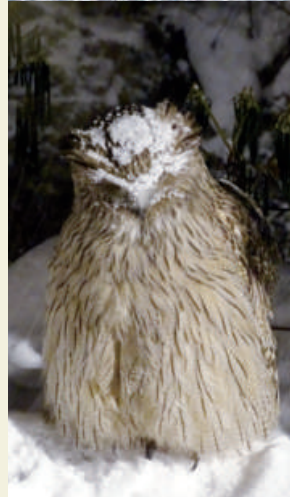
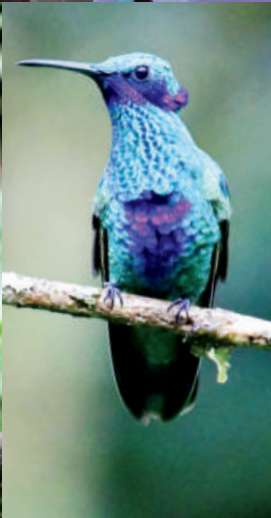


Terry Stevenson's **Northern India** tour combines Tigers and the Taj Mahal with many outstanding birds. In addition to seeing four Tigers at Ranthambhore and visiting the incomparable Taj Mahal, other highlights this year were bugling Sarus Cranes at Bharatpur (see page 2 for a photo), huge birds that stand as high as six feet (water levels were good this year at the park and in addition to the cranes, there were hundreds of other waterbirds), showy Kalij Pheasants, which allowed for very good looks, and Ibisbill, below left. (Photos by participant Becky Hansen)

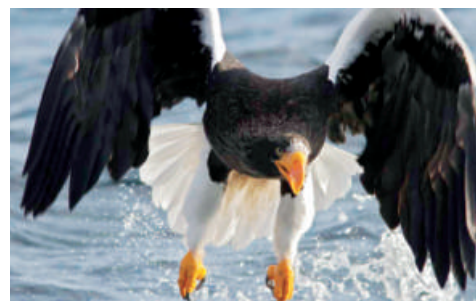


Willy Perez's **Ecuador's Wildsumaco Lodge** tour, scheduled over the New Year, tallied almost three-dozen hummingbird species over the course of the tour, but the real standouts, according to Willy, were the male Wire-crested Thorntails—one at left—which is not to take anything away from the others, hummers like this Golden-tailed Sapphire, above right. Many other fine birds were seen as well: Red-headed Barbet, above left, (as well as Gilded Barbet, one of the favorite birds of the trip) and Spotted Nightingale-Thrush, a widespread species that is often difficult to see well. (Photos by participant Myles McNally)





Like the India trip, Phil Gregory's **Winter Japan: Cranes & Sea Eagles** tour enjoyed crane spectacles; the favorite of the six crane species seen was Red-crowned, an iconic bird in Japan and a delight to see dancing on snow. The imposing Steller's Sea-Eagle, below, 110 of them, gave close views, as did the Blakiston's Fish-Owl, left, which sat for 45 minutes on a snowy evening. The Snow Monkeys, or Japanese Macaques, were another tour highlight, not just because they are such appealing creatures, but because we have the opportunity to watch them bathing in the warm waters of the hot springs. (Photos by guide Phil Gregory and participant Ken Havard)



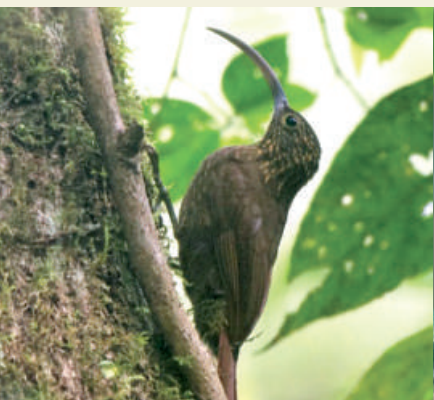
Megan Edwards Crewe's two recent **Guyana: Wilderness Paradise** tours varied some, as you would expect, in what each group saw, but both saw many wonderful birds characteristic of such a wild country. The Harpy Eagle, a juvenile shown here at bottom right, was seen by all, as was the always reliable Kaieteur Falls. The cock-of-the-rock below is the Guianan, one of two species in the genus, and the one that can be seen in Guyana (and for comparison, the other, the more widely distributed Andean, is pictured on page 8); next to it, a Caica Parrot. But the star of any trip to Guyana is the place itself, a true wilderness where much travel is still by river, and that's Megan and tour participant Marshall Dahl heading somewhere birdy. (Photos by participants Ann Urlanda, Linda Nuttall & Tom Hammond)



800-728-4953
fieldguides.com



Known as the Three Brothers, this distinctive formation is a landmark found in the Chapada Diamantina, a geologically spectacular region of butte-like escarpments and deep valleys that Bret Whitney and his group visit on our **Nowhere But Northeast Brazil** tour. It's also home to many endemics, including two shown here—a simply dazzling Hooded Visorbearer feeding at flowers, and Sincora Antwren, which was described to science only a few years ago, though it was recognized as a new species by Bret in the last century. With only 500 breeding pairs surviving, the Lear's (Indigo) Macaws are a rare sight indeed, and a lovely one as you can see from their photo above. (Photos by guides Bret Whitney & Marcelo Barreiros and participant Robin LaFortune)

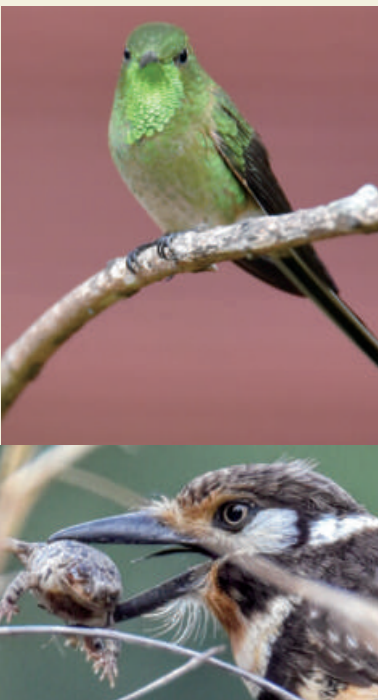


"How many cock-of-the-rock photos are too many?" Richard Webster asks in his **Colombia: Medellin Escape** tour report, where this cock (below), an Andean, is from (and check page 7 for its cousin, the Guianan). There's little doubt the group had great looks. White-mantled Barbet, left, is a Colombian endemic, seen here feeding in fruiting cecropia trees. Beautiful Woodpecker is another endemic—endemics are hard to avoid in Colombia—and this is the way you hope to see it. (Photos by guide Richard Webster)



Tom Johnson, joined by Cory Gregory, had a great time this past January in **Costa Rica: Birding the Edges**. Sights included many lovely tanagers, including this Emerald above. The Brown-billed Scythebill, left of the tanager, was a tour favorite, in part because it was seen so well. Speaking of seen well, Emerald Toucanets at banana feeders make for close viewing that allows you to pick up all the detail in the bird's amazing face. Fiery-throated Hummingbird really sparkles when seen in the right light. (Photos by guides Tom Johnson & Cory Gregory)

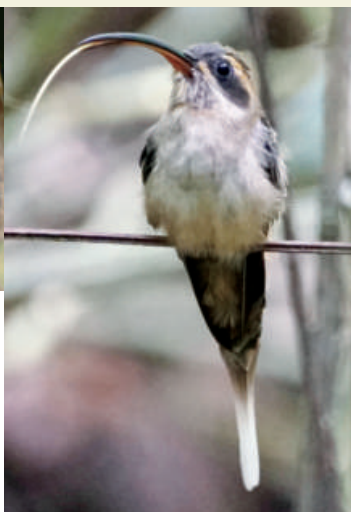




Forty-five species of hummingbirds, among them the regal Black-tailed Trainbearer above—that's one thing to love about Jesse Fagan's recent **Colombia: Bogota, the Magdalena Valley & Santa Marta** tour, but there's much more: Bogota Rail (above right), a local endemic seen super well this year; Russet-throated Puffbird making a meal of a large toad; and a very fine looking Saffron-headed Parrot. (Photos by participant Jose Padilla-Lopez)



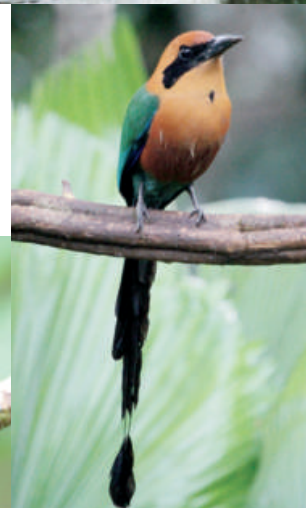
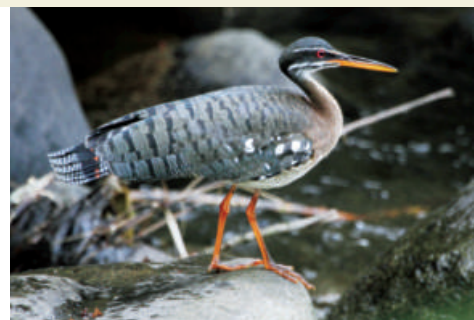
Doug Gochfeld joined Phil Gregory this year for **Cambodia: Angkor Temples & Vanishing Birds**, a tour Phil designed that visits, and birds, Angkor Wat as well as a good cross section of Cambodia. The Critically Endangered Bengal Florican, above left, gave the group good views, including this close flyby of a male transitioning into breeding plumage; right of the florican, Greater Adjutants, huge, Jabiru-sized storks, at a nest; a pretty Blue-throated Flycatcher for color; and Doug (at back) and a couple of tour participants getting ready to go after those adjutants. (Photos by guides Phil Gregory & Doug Gochfeld)



Visiting **Panama's Canopy Tower** with a guide like Chris Benesh is a rewarding experience, as you can see from these photos of this year's trip. Restricted to Panama and Colombia, Golden-collared Manakin, above, performs one of the more elaborate dances at his lek; the Long-billed Hermit looks even longer billed with its tongue out—maybe it should be called Long-tongued Hermit; Black-throated Trogon is certainly one of the prettiest of the trogons; and a fuzzy, juvenile Spectacled Owl. (Photos by guide Chris Benesh and participant Paul Demkovich)



Our two **Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista** tours are always popular—who doesn't want to celebrate Christmas or New Year's with a Resplendent Quetzal?—and our most recent tours with Megan Edwards Crewe and Jesse Fagan were no exception. A few of the birds enjoyed included: Sunbittern, a wonderful sight and a bird you don't always see this well; a Green-breasted Mango, one of twenty or so hummers—including White-tipped Sicklebill for one group and Snowcap for both—fanning out his distinctive rusty maroon tail; and a sharp-looking Rufous Motmot. (Photos by participants Sheila Pera & Mike Crewe)



800-728-4953
fieldguides.com

Upcoming TOURS

For details, please contact our
office or check our web site.

July 2017

East Africa Highlights: Kenya & Tanzania—July 1-21, 2017 with Terry Stevenson. Combines the richest birding and mammal spots in Kenya and northern Tanzania: Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, Great Rift Valley, Kakamega Forest, and more. An impressive diversity of habitats, many with spectacular scenery.

Newfoundland & Nova Scotia—July 2-12, 2017 with Chris Benesh & Cory Gregory. Boreal specialties, seabird colonies, and numerous breeding landbirds in the beautiful Canadian Maritimes.

Papua New Guinea—July 6-23, 2017 with Jay VanderGaast & Doug Gochfeld. 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.

Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru I & II—July 7-16, 2017 with Jesse Fagan and August 3-12, 2017 with Jesse Fagan & Cory Gregory. 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.

Galapagos: An Intimate Look at Darwin's Islands II—July 8-18, 2017 with Willy Perez & local guide. A must for any naturalist and birder; small-group, broad coverage of the islands with plenty of time for the birds, exploring, and photography.

Jaguar Spotting: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon—July 9-20, 2017 with Marcelo Padua. This short but action-packed Brazil tour features the Pantanal at its best, a nice taste of southern Amazonian birds, and excellent chances of seeing a Jaguar.

Peru's Magnetic North: Spatuletails, Owlet Lodge & More—July 15-26, 2017 with Dan Lane & Jesse Fagan. A 12-day taste of northern Peru's east-slope Andes! Five nights at Owlet Lodge; much time in the field.

Arizona's Second Spring I & II—July 22-31, 2017 with John Coons & Cory Gregory and July 29-August 7, 2017 with Chris Benesh. An ideal time for visiting one of the best birding regions in North America: great for local specialties and Mexican vagrants.



A stunning Reddish Hermit that blends perfectly with the flowers he's feeding on. (Photo by participant Rick Woodruff)

Iquitos, Peru: Canopy Walkways & Ancient Forests—July 25-August 5, 2017 with Dan Lane. Two-week immersion in one of the most species-rich regions of Amazonia, including the white-sand forests near Iquitos.

August 2017

Great Rivers of the Amazon II: Birding the Madeira-Tapajos Interfluvium—August 1-16, 2017 with Bret Whitney & Tom Johnson. Live-aboard luxury on an adventurous tour through the lower Madeira-Tapajos interfluvium of central Amazonian Brazil; be ready for the unexpected!

Brazil's Mouth of the Amazon: Mexiana Island, the Lower Xingu & Carajas—August 5-20, 2017 with Marcelo Padua & Dave Stejskal. Two-week tour through diverse habitats around the mouth of the mighty Rio Amazonas as we seek most of the endemics of lower Amazonia.

September 2017

France: Camargue & Pyrenees I & II—September 2-12, 2017 with Megan Edwards Crewe & Marcelo Padua and September 6-16, 2017 with Jay VanderGaast. Two of Europe's finest birding destinations combined in this wonderful eleven-day tour, with varied highlights and some great French food.

Ecuador: Rainforest & Andes—September 3-17, 2017 with Willy Perez. Highlights of the best of Ecuador's rainforest birding at Sacha Lodge combined with two exciting destinations in the Andes, the Mindo/Tandayapa area and San Isidro.

Slice of California: Seabirds to Sierra I & II—September 7-16, 2017 with Chris Benesh and September 12-21, 2017 with Tom Johnson. A diverse mix of West Coast specialties, montane species, and pelagics in rugged and scenic sites.

Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus, Brazil—September 9-23, 2017 with Bret Whitney & Dan Lane. Bird the rainforests and rivers of the mighty Amazon and Negro in an unforgettable mix of forest hikes and live-aboard luxury.

Morocco—September 11-27, 2017 with Jesse Fagan. Endemic, rare, and specialty birds from coastal wetlands and towering cliffs to the Atlas Mountains and the northwest corner of the Sahara.

NEW/Papua New Guinea & New Britain in Style—September 16-October 3, 2017 with Phil Gregory. A new itinerary to explore the endemic birds and specialties of New Britain in addition to numerous highlights on the main island of New Guinea itself.

Ecuador's Shiripuno Lodge: Heartland of the Waorani—September 21-30, 2017 with Mitch Lysinger. A tour to Shiripuno Lodge, gateway to the Yasuni Biosphere Reserve in Ecuador's Amazon region.

Cape May Megan's Way—September 23-29, 2017 with Megan Edwards Crewe. See bird migration in action at one of the country's top migration hotspots.

Safari Brazil: The Pantanal & More—September 23-October 8, 2017 (Brazilian Merganser Extension) with Marcelo Padua & Willy Perez. The spectacular wetlands of the Pantanal, with Hyacinth Macaws and Jabirus, combine with the many specialties of Brazil's Planalto Central to make for the perfect first birding trip to Brazil.

Alaska Fall Goldmine: Ross's Gulls in Barrow & Rarities on St Paul—September 30-October 9, 2017 with Tom Johnson & Doug Gochfeld. A cool-weather fall adventure to the far north. We'll start with a treasure hunt for Asian migrants (and American ones too!) on St. Paul Island in the Bering Sea before spending several days at Barrow above 71 degrees North latitude, the US's northernmost point, looking for the legendary Ross's Gull, loons, eiders, and possibly even Polar Bear and Ivory Gull.

NEW/Brazil's Remote Rio Tapajos—September 30-October 11, 2017 with Bret Whitney & John Coons. Nine days of explorations on the upper reaches of a major tributary of the Amazon based on a luxurious floating hotel.

October 2017

Australia—October 9-29, 2017 (Part I) with Chris Benesh & Jesse Fagan and October 27-November 11, 2017 (Part II; Tasmania Extension) with John Coons & Tom Johnson. In two parts for those with limited time. Part I covers the environs of Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, southwest Australia, and Alice Springs. Part II begins in Darwin and continues to Queensland (Cairns, Atherton Tableland, Outback Queensland, and O'Reilly's Guest House). Both parts combine for a complete birding tour of Australia.

Namibia & Botswana—October 10-29, 2017 with Terry Stevenson. Southwestern Africa's bird specialties, striking scenery, wilderness, and the famed game of Etosha and the Okavango Delta.

Peruvian Rainforests of the Tambopata: Macaw Lick Extraordinaire—October 12-23, 2017 with Dave Stejskal. Three-site tour to the most species-rich rainforest on Earth. Largest known macaw lick, canopy walkway and towers, eagles, and monkeys.

Serra dos Tucanos, Brazil—October 23-November 2, 2017 with Marcelo Padua. A short but rich immersion in the avifauna of the Atlantic Forest, based at one lovely site near Rio.

Louisiana: Yellow Rails & Crawfish Tails—October 26-30, 2017 with Dan Lane & Cory Gregory. Late-autumn tour on the Gulf Coast targeting Yellow Rails and other migrants and wintering species of the region.

Great Rivers of the Amazon I: Exploring the Rio Aripuana—October 27-November 11, 2017 with Bret Whitney. A rarissimo opportunity to bird the magnificent yet poorly known Aripuana River, including several sites never visited by ornithologists.

New Guinea & Australia—October 27-November 14, 2017 with Jay VanderGaast. A rich and diverse sampler of the best birding of New Guinea and Australia.

FIELD GUIDES TOURS IN YOUR WORDS

Our thanks to the hundreds among you who have sent us post-tour evaluations recently. We read every one and take your comments seriously. And we're pleased that, overwhelmingly, you report excellent tour experiences and interactions with our guides and Austin office staff. We'll keep working hard to earn your kudos this year and beyond. Below are a few of your recent remarks.

Winter Japan: Dancing Cranes & Spectacular Sea-Eagles

with Phil Gregory

"The Snow Monkeys in the hot springs. The Red-crowned Cranes jumping and bowing and posturing as they landed. The largest owl in the world guarding his fish pond with snow building up on his head. Phil, the kind and patient guide who helped me see my 4000th lifer. The driver, Jun, who not only kept us safe on snowy roads but was also good at finding new birds. And the lovely sweet people on our tour." —M.C.

Guyana: Wilderness Paradise

with Megan Edwards Crewe

"The Harpy Eagle at the nest was incredible! The Guianan Cock-of-the-rock lek was an experience to remember. The night owling was a fun adventure. The boat trips along the rivers of Guyana...were teeming with birds and wildlife, and Kaieteur Falls...is a spectacle to be seen and enjoyed. The Orange-breasted Falcons perched beside the falls didn't hurt any either." —L.N.

Costa Rica: Birding the Edges

with Tom Johnson and Cory Gregory

"There were so many excellent features of the tour—the fabulous colors of a dizzying array of birds and the guides patiently and carefully showing them to us. The boat rides were great, as was the open field birding... Trail birding was more difficult for us, but that was well balanced with opportunities at feeding stations, where the birds were, so to speak, sitting ducks." —P.S.

Thailand

with Dave Stejskal and Jay VanderGaast

"Thailand has beautiful parks, fantastic bird diversity, excellent food, and pleasant weather. Our guides, Dave and Jay, were the best in knowing the birds and introducing us to them. We loved this adventure!" —J.K.

Jewels of Ecuador: Hummers, Tanagers & Antpittas

with Willy Perez

"You can see a lot of birds—there were birds everywhere—but you have the time to enjoy them, while staying at nice lodges with good food. Transport is in a comfortable bus, and there is enough space to bring what gear you need. And having Willy as your guide—for me it is easy to give him the highest score." —B.L.

Trinidad & Tobago

with Tom Johnson

"In Trinidad, we saw dozens of Bananaquits, gorgeous Green Honeycreepers, nearby bonking bellbirds, and scores of Scarlet Ibis, Oilbirds, and Red-footed Boobies; we saw Red-billed Tropicbirds being harassed by Magnificent Frigatebirds, Blue-backed Manakins and Red-legged Honeycreepers like ornaments on a tree, and enough antbird skulkers and cryptic flycatchers to hone our birding skills. And our guide, Tom Johnson, has all the knowledge and bird-finding skills, and in addition, a warm and engaging personality." —J.R.



From the top: Our Winter Japan group after watching the Snow Monkeys; one of our Guyana groups (with John Coons) birding along the river; from Costa Rica: Birding the Edges, a Fiery-billed Aracari tossing back a piece of fruit; a Coppersmith Barbet emerging from a roost hole in Thailand; a Long-tailed Sylph feeding on an Abutilon flower on one of our Jewels tours; Scarlet Ibis coming in to roost in Trinidad. (Photos by guides Tom Johnson & Phil Gregory and participants Peter Relson, Daphne Gemmill & Reggie David)

fieldguides®

Birding Tours Worldwide

FIELD GUIDES INCORPORATED

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

snapshots from recent tours

A lot of birds, a lot of fun...



(Photos by guides Cory Gregory & Mitch Lysinger and participants Daphne Gemmill, Bonnie Schwartz, Bob Sprague & Amy Levengood)



fieldguides®
Birding Tours Worldwide