

fieldguides®

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

OUR 2015 SCHEDULE

It's time once again to preview our new schedule for the coming year. 2015 looks to be a very full one, with 135 advertised and private departures (we can organize that special trip for your group!) to destinations all around the globe. On the schedule are dozens of long-running and popular itineraries, as well as reprises of new tours being inaugurated in 2014 (*Northern Ecuador—Costa Rica: Birding the Edges—Panama's Canopy Camp: Lowland Darien—Maine: Birding Downeast—Guyana: Wilderness Paradise—Spring in Cape May*). We expect virtually all of this year's new tours to have operated full, and we expect the same of the four exciting new 2015 trips listed below—after all, we birders love a little novelty! We look forward to seeing you in the field. —*From all of us at Field Guides, good birding!*

Abra Malaga, Peru by guide Rose Ann Rowlett

New tours for 2015

Holiday Southern Peru

with Jesse Fagan & Chris Benesh

An escape over the Thanksgiving break to great birding sites south from Lima to Arequipa, Lake Titicaca, and Cusco—it promises to be coastal and Andean birding at its best. Lots of endemics and Peruvian near-endemics. Expected climate: cool to very cool birds!

November 21-December 3, 2015

Hungary & Romania

with Terry Stevenson & Lajos Nemeth-Boka

This tour features fabulous birding in some of the least spoiled and most spectacular landscapes of Eastern Europe. Among our destinations will be Hortobagy, the Carpathian Mountains, and the incredible Danube. Terry Stevenson and regional expert Lajos Nemeth-Boka are really jazzed about this one. April 25-May 11, 2015



Black-breasted Hillstar



Great Bustard

Colombia: Llanos & More

with Jesse Fagan & local guide

A new itinerary to combine the rich birding sites around Bogota (including Chingaza and Chicaque national parks) with a trip to the llanos (the expansive grassland plains) of eastern Colombia for Crestless Curassow, Pale-headed Jacamar, and White-bearded Flycatcher, among many others. October 31-November 12, 2015



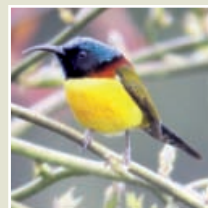
White-bearded Flycatcher

China: Yunnan Province

with Dave Stejskal & Jesper Hornskov

Dave and Jesper (who's based in China and co-led our previous tours with Dave here) are teaming up again, this time to visit China's biologically richest province, Yunnan. The word means 'south of the cloudy mountains,' and the province links the diversity hotspots of the Himalayas with the teeming riches of Southeast Asia's forests. It's an outstanding destination either as a pleasant introduction to the region or as a rare biogeographical kick for the seasoned connoisseur.

October 31-November 21, 2015



Green-tailed Sunbird

2014 ~ Our 30th Year of Birding Tours

Also in this issue: 2/2015 Schedule • 5/Upcoming Tours • 6/Fresh From The Field • 11/World Birding Rally and Field Guides in the Movies

2015 TOURS

January 2015

Yellowstone in Winter	Jan 3-11	Terry McEneaney & Karen McEneaney
Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge I	Jan 9-18	Willy Perez
Winter Japan: Cranes & Sea Eagles	Jan 9-24	Phil Gregory
Costa Rica: Birding the Edges Part I—The Deep South	Jan 10-18	Jay VanderGaast
Colombia: Bogota, the Magdalena Valley & Santa Marta	Jan 12-28	Jesse Fagan
Nowhere but Northeast Brazil!	Jan 13-30	Bret Whitney & Marcelo Padua
South Texas Rarities I	Jan 17-23	Chris Benesh
Mexico: Oaxaca	Jan 17-24	Pepe Rojas
Costa Rica: Birding the Edges Part II—The Far North	Jan 17-26	Jay VanderGaast
Jewels of Ecuador: Hummers, Tanagers & Antpittas	Jan 17-Feb 3	Willy Perez
East Africa Highlights: Kenya & Tanzania	Jan 17-Feb 6	Terry Stevenson
Thailand	Jan 17-Feb 7	Dave Stejskal
Panama's Canopy Tower I	Jan 19-25	John Coons
South Texas Rarities II	Jan 24-30	Chris Benesh
Panama's Canopy Camp: Lowland Darien I	Jan 24-Feb 1	John Coons
Trinidad & Tobago I	Jan 30-Feb 8	Eric Hynes
Guyana: Wilderness Paradise	Jan 31-Feb 11	Megan Edwards Crewe

"Field Guides remains my first choice for travel. You combine a customer-oriented office with outstanding tours and a group of leaders that is second to none." M.S., Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus, Brazil

"I appreciated the wide range of info John Coons offered—over and beyond his expertise on birds—and his warmth, stories, and humor." R.C., Panama's Canopy Tower

February 2015

Cambodia	Feb 7-20	Phil Gregory
Colombia: The Cauca Valley, Western & Central Andes	Feb 7-22	Richard Webster
Panama's Canopy Tower II	Feb 8-14	John Rowlett
Guatemala: Shade-grown Birding	Feb 12-21	Jesse Fagan
Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge II	Feb 13-22	Dan Lane
Best of the Pacific Northwest	Feb 14-19	Terry McEneaney
Birds & Wines of Chile and Argentina	Feb 14-28	Marcelo Padua & John Coons
Northern India	Feb 16-Mar 10	Terry Stevenson
Panama's Canopy Tower III	Feb 21-27	Chris Benesh
Philippines	Feb 28-Mar 23	Dave Stejskal

March 2015

Ecuador: Rainforest & Andes I	Mar 1-15	Willy Perez
Ethiopia	Mar 6-26	Richard Webster
Southwestern Ecuador Specialties: Jocotoco Foundation Reserves	Mar 7-21	Mitch Lysinger
Brazil Nutshell: Intervalles, Iguazu Falls & the Pantanal	Mar 7-21	Marcelo Padua & Pepe Rojas
Costa Rica	Mar 7-22	Jay VanderGaast
Dominican Republic	Mar 14-21	Jesse Fagan
Spring in South Texas	Mar 14-22	Chris Benesh
Borneo I	Mar 15-Apr 1	Rose Ann Rowlett
Ecuador's Wildsumaco Lodge	Mar 19-29	Willy Perez
Puerto Rico	Mar 21-27	Eric Hynes
Ghana	Mar 21-Apr 7	Phil Gregory
Belize	Mar 28-Apr 3	Peter Burke & Jesse Fagan

"Willy Perez has a gift with people... he was able to please everyone, even though we were all quite different in attitude and expectation. He really made the tour for my husband and me." R. & C.G., Ecuador: Rainforest & Andes

April 2015

Colorado Grouse I	Apr 1-11	Chris Benesh
Hawaii	Apr 2-11	Dan Lane & Megan Edwards Crewe
Bhutan	Apr 3-22	Richard Webster
Bahamas: Abaco, Eleuthera, Andros & the Kirtland's Warbler	Apr 4-11	Jesse Fagan
Texas Coast Migration Spectacle I	Apr 11-17	John Coons
Colorado Grouse II	Apr 12-22	Eric Hynes
Texas Coast Migration Spectacle II	Apr 18-24	John Coons
Texas's Big Bend & Hill Country	Apr 18-27	Chris Benesh
BIRDING PLUS Scotland: Famous Grouse in the Land of Whisky	Apr 18-May 1	John Rowlett
BIRDING PLUS Do the Charleston! Spring in South Carolina & Northern Georgia	Apr 25-May 2	Jesse Fagan & Dan Lane
NEW Hungary & Romania	Apr 25-May 11	Terry Stevenson
Arizona Nightbirds & More I	Apr 30-May 4	Dave Stejskal

“Both Bret Whitney and Marcelo Padua seem to live and love their work, and we as group members reap the rewards of their passion for the birds of Brazil.” K.L., Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus, Brazil

May 2015

Spain: La Mancha, Coto Donana & Extremadura	May 2-14	Chris Benesh & Willy Perez
Arizona Nightbirds & More II	May 7-11	Dave Stejskal
BIRDING PLUS Ireland in Spring	May 7-17	Terry McEneaney & Karen McEneaney
Arizona: Birding the Border I	May 8-17	John Coons
Point Pelee Migration Spectacle	May 9-16	Peter Burke
Arizona: Birding the Border II	May 15-24	Dave Stejskal
Spring in Cape May	May 17-23	Megan Edwards Crewe
Uganda: Shoebill, Rift Endemics & Gorillas	May 23-Jun 13	Jesse Fagan
Virginias' Warblers	May 27-31	John Rowlett
Alaska I—Part One (Pribilofs & Denali)	May 29-Jun 6	Chris Benesh
Northern Arizona's Canyons & Condor	May 30-Jun 4	John Coons
Maine	May 30-Jun 7	Eric Hynes
Brazil's Rio Roosevelt: Birding the River of Doubt	May 31-Jun 13	Bret Whitney

June 2015

Northern Ecuador: Andes & Otavalo Market	Jun 4-14	Willy Perez
Borneo II	Jun 4-21	Dave Stejskal
Alaska II—Part One (Pribilofs & Denali)	Jun 5-13	Megan Edwards Crewe & Pepe Rojas
Alaska I—Part Two (Nome, Seward & Barrow)	Jun 5-15	Chris Benesh
Central Peruvian Endemics: The High Andes	Jun 5-21	Dan Lane & Mitch Lysinger
Montana: Yellowstone to Glacier	Jun 6-16	Terry McEneaney
Alaska II—Part Two (Nome, Seward & Barrow)	Jun 12-22	Megan Edwards Crewe & Pepe Rojas
Galapagos: An Intimate Look at Darwin's Islands I	Jun 13-23	Willy Perez
Rainforest & Savanna: Alta Floresta & the Pantanal, Brazil	Jun 13-29	Marcelo Padua
Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge III	Jun 26-Jul 5	Willy Perez
Newfoundland & Nova Scotia	Jun 26-Jul 6	Chris Benesh
The Norwegian Arctic: Spitsbergen & the Svalbard Archipelago	Jun 30-Jul 12	John Coons

July 2015

Kenya Highlights	Jul 1-19	Terry Stevenson
Papua New Guinea	Jul 5-23	Jay VanderGaast
Galapagos: An Intimate Look at Darwin's Islands II	Jul 11-21	Jesse Fagan
Montane Ecuador: Cloudforests of the Andes	Jul 20-29	Mitch Lysinger
Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru	Jul 21-30	Jesse Fagan
Peru's Magnetic North: Spatuletails, Owlet Lodge & More	Jul 22-Aug 2	Dan Lane & Pepe Rojas
Arizona's Second Spring I	Jul 25-Aug 3	Chris Benesh

“Megan Edwards Crewe and Jay VanderGaast took great care of us...in addition to locating and identifying the birds, mammals, and other natural delights, they brought us places I wouldn't have known to go on my own. Field Guides is a great way to experience a new region.” C. D., Costa Rica

Continued on page 4

2015 TOURS

August 2015

Arizona's Second Spring II
 Jaguar Spotting: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon
 Iquitos, Peru: Canopy Walkways & Ancient Forests
 Kenya Safari Spectacular
 Slice of California: Seabirds to Sierra
 France: Camargue & Pyrenees
 New Caledonia, Fiji & Vanuatu

Aug 1-10 John Coons
 Aug 1-12 Marcelo Padua
 Aug 1-12 Pepe Rojas
 Aug 28-Sep 24 Terry Stevenson
 Aug 29-Sep 7 Chris Benesh
 Aug 29-Sep 8 Megan Edwards Crewe
 Aug 31-Sep 18 Phil Gregory

September 2015

Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus, Brazil I
 Ecuador: Rainforest & Andes II
 Morocco
 Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus, Brazil II
 Mountains of Manu, Peru
 Ecuador's Shiripuno Lodge: Heartland of the Waorani
 Serra dos Tucanos, Brazil
 Cape May Megan's Way

Sep 5-19 Bret Whitney & Dan Lane
 Sep 6-20 Willy Perez
 Sep 7-24 Jesse Fagan
 Sep 13-27 Marcelo Padua & Rose Ann Rowlett
 Sep 19-Oct 4 Pepe Rojas
 Sep 25-Oct 4 Willy Perez & Dave Stejskal
 Sep 26-Oct 6 John Rowlett
 Sep 27-Oct 3 Megan Edwards Crewe

"Jesse Fagan is an excellent guide: great attitude, lots of fun, expert at bird findings, nice with group management. Always concerned and positive."

M.D., Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru

October 2015

Australia—Part One
 Barrow: Search for Ross's Gull
 Peruvian Rainforests of the Tambopata
 South Africa
 Safari Brazil: The Pantanal & More
 Australia—Part Two
 Chile
 Louisiana: Yellow Rails & Crawfish Tails
 New Guinea & Australia
 Spectacular Southeast Brazil: North of the Tropic
NEW Colombia: Llanos & More
NEW China: Yunnan Province

Oct 1-22 Chris Benesh
 Oct 2-6 Dave Stejskal & Dan Lane
 Oct 3-16 Pepe Rojas
 Oct 8-31 Terry Stevenson
 Oct 10-25 Marcelo Padua
 Oct 20-Nov 4 John Coons & Eric Hynes
 Oct 25-Nov 14 Peter Burke
 Oct 29-Nov 2 Dan Lane
 Oct 29-Nov 16 Jay VanderGaast
 Oct 30-Nov 15 Bret Whitney & Pepe Rojas
 Oct 31-Nov 12 Jesse Fagan
 Oct 31-Nov 21 Dave Stejskal & Jesper Hornskov

"This was a fabulous trip! The entire experience was just amazing!! Dave Stejskal has great skills as a guide—a fabulous ear, the ability to get folks on the birds, patience, and a great sense of humor." D.F., Thailand

November 2015

Northern Peru: Endemics Galore
 Madagascar, Mauritius & Reunion
 New Zealand
 Namibia & Botswana
 Spectacular Southeast Brazil: South of the Capricorn
 Holiday at San Isidro, Ecuador
NEW Holiday Southern Peru

Nov 1-21 Richard Webster & Willy Perez
 Nov 7-Dec 3 Phil Gregory
 Nov 8-26 Dan Lane
 Nov 10-29 Terry Stevenson
 Nov 13-29 Bret Whitney & Marcelo Padua
 Nov 21-30 Mitch Lysinger
 Nov 21-Dec 3 Jesse Fagan & Chris Benesh

December 2015

Holiday Iquitos, Peru: Canopy Walkways & Ancient Forests
 Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista I
 Panama's Canopy Camp: Lowland Darien II
 Arizona Winter Specialties
 Panama's Canopy Lodge: El Valle de Anton
 Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista II
 Trinidad & Tobago II
 Holiday at Ecuador's Wildsumaco Lodge
 Holiday Colombia: Santa Marta Escape

Dec 19-30 Pepe Rojas & Dan Lane
 Dec 20-28 Dave Stejskal
 Dec 26-Jan 3 John Rowlett
 Dec 27-Jan 2 Chris Benesh
 Dec 27-Jan 3 John Coons
 Dec 27-Jan 4 Jesse Fagan
 Dec 27-Jan 5 TBA
 Dec 29-Jan 8 Willy Perez
 Dec 29-Jan 8 Richard Webster

"Thanks to Pepe Rojas and Dan Lane for their expertise and their empathy for others. I appreciate their easy-going approach that made things run smoothly and was a source of fun and joy. And thanks for always adjusting the scope to my height." W.M., Iquitos, Peru

UPCOMING TOURS

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

2014 tours beginning after June 26 that are fully subscribed at the time of printing are not listed.

North America

Arizona's Second Spring—July 26-August 4, 2014 (I) with John Coons and August 2-11, 2014 (II) with Chris Benesh. An ideal time for visiting one of the best birding regions in North America: great for local specialties and Mexican vagrants.

Cape May Megan's Way—September 28-October 4, 2014 with Megan Edwards Crewe. See bird migration in action at one of the country's top migration hotspots.

Barrow, Alaska: Search for Ross's Gull—October 3-7, 2014 with Eric Hynes. A short sojourn to 71 degrees North latitude, the US's northernmost point, for the legendary Ross's Gull, loons, eiders, and possibly even Polar Bear and Ivory Gull.

Louisiana: Yellow Rails & Crawfish Tails—October 23-27, 2014 with Dan Lane. Late-autumn birding tour on the Gulf Coast targeting Yellow Rails and other migrants and wintering species of the region.

South America

Northern Ecuador: Andes, Cloudforests & Otavalo Market—June 5-15 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.

Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge—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.

Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru—July 4-13, 2014 with Dan Lane. 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—July 5-15, 2014 (II) with Megan Edwards 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.

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

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.

Bolivia's Avian Riches—September 6-21, 2014 ("Bountiful Beni: Bazillions of Birds" Extension) with Dan Lane & Pepe Rojas. Tour for the special bird life of the Bolivian Andes; wonderful mountain scenery.

Ecuador: Rainforest & Andes—September 7-21, 2014 with Rose Ann Rowlett. 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.

Ecuador's Shiripuno Lodge: Heartland of the Waorani—September 26-October 5, 2014 with Mitch Lysinger & Willy Perez. A new tour to Shiripuno Lodge, gateway to the Yasuni Biosphere Reserve in Ecuador's Amazon region.

Peruvian Rainforests of the Tambopata: Macaw Lick Extraordinaire—October 4-17, 2014 with Pepe Rojas. Three-site tour to the most species-rich rainforest on Earth. Largest known macaw lick, canopy walkway and towers, eagles, and monkeys.

Safari Brazil: The Pantanal & More—October 11-26, 2014 (Brazilian Merganser Extension) with Marcelo Padua & Jesse Fagan. The spectacular wetlands of the Pantanal, with Hyacinth Macaws and Jabirus, combine with the many specialties of Brazil's Planalto Central to make for the perfect first birding trip to Brazil.

Northwestern Argentina: The Chaco, Cordoba & Northern Andes—October 15-November 2, 2014 (Rincon del Socorro Extension) with Dave Stejskal & Willy Perez. Comprehensive birding tour of the many habitats of the diverse northwest; many specialty birds.

Chile—October 26-November 15, 2014 with Peter Burke & Ricardo Matus. Comprehensive survey tour of this visually spectacular and tourist-friendly country.

Spectacular Southeast Brazil—October 31-November 16, 2014 with Bret Whitney & Jay VanderGaast (Part I) and November 14-30, 2014 (Iguazu Falls Extension) with Bret Whitney & Marcelo Padua (Part II). Prepare to be blown away, two times over, in the center of avian endemism in eastern Brazil; particularly well endowed with hummingbirds, cotingas, antbirds, and beautiful scenery. Part I: North of the Tropic; Part II: South of the Capricorn. The Iguazu Falls Extension features an amazing landscape with additional great birding.

Southern Argentina: The Pampas, Patagonia & Tierra del Fuego—November 1-18, 2014 with Dave Stejskal & local guide. Superb springtime birding tour through southern South America amid stark and spectacular landscapes.

Northern Peru: Endemics Galore—November 2-22, 2014 with Richard Webster & Pepe Rojas. Dry-season tour to one of the least-known and most endemic-rich areas of South America. Targets geographic specialties as it surveys the rich and diverse habitats of northern Peru, including some remote and beautiful wild areas.

Europe & Africa

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.

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

Kenya Safari Spectacular—August 29-September 25, 2014 with Terry Stevenson. Unsurpassed in its combined wealth of bird life and mammal spectacle; includes the coast. Time-saving internal flights.

Morocco—September 8-25, 2014 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.

South Africa—October 9-November 1, 2014 with Terry Stevenson & Joe Grosel. Endemic-rich birding, spectacular landscapes, and a unique flora are the highlights of our energetic survey tour of this beautiful country.

Birding Plus/Ireland in Fall: Birds, Traditional Music & Pubs—November 6-16, 2014 with Terry McEaney & Karen McEaney. The birds, culture, music, and pubs of this beautiful country in fall.

Madagascar, Mauritius & Reunion—November 8-December 4, 2014 (Masoala Peninsula Extension) with Phil Gregory. In-depth coverage of the accessible parts of Madagascar: many endemic birds, striking lemurs, bizarre flora and chameleons, fascinating culture. Mauritius and Reunion provide an additional bevy of rare and interesting endemics.

Asia & Australasia

Papua New Guinea—July 6-24 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.

New Caledonia, Fiji & Vanuatu—September 1-19, 2014 with Phil Gregory. Island endemics and tropical Pacific specialties abound on this tour to three highlight destinations.

New Guinea & Australia—October 1-19, 2014 with Jay VanderGaast. A rich and diverse sampler of the best birding of New Guinea and Australia.

Australia—October 2-23, 2014 with Chris Benesh & second guide (Part I) and October 21-November 5, 2014 (Tasmania Extension) with John Coons & Eric Hynes (Part II). 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.

Sri Lanka—October 31-November 17, 2014 with Megan Edwards Crewe & local guide. A two-week introduction to Asia's birds, including more than two-dozen species endemic to the island, with one of the country's foremost birders as a co-leader.

New Zealand—November 9-27, 2014 (Hauraki Gulf Pelagic Extension) with Dan Lane & local guide. Beautiful landscapes as a backdrop for nearly 50 endemic birds plus a great selection of seabirds.

Southern India: Western Ghats Endemics—November 16-December 7, 2014 with Terry Stevenson & local guide. Journey from the mammal-rich lowlands of Nagarhole to the endemic-rich mountains of the Western Ghats.

Holiday Tours

Holiday at San Isidro, Ecuador—November 22-December 1, 2014 with Mitch Lysinger. A bird-rich holiday escape based primarily at the very comfortable San Isidro Lodge.

Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista—December 20-28, 2014 with Megan Edwards Crewe & local guide. One-site holiday tour based at the comfortable Rancho Naturalista Lodge, with excursions to other habitats on Costa Rica's bird-rich Caribbean slope.

Iquitos, Peru: Canopy Walkways & Ancient Forests—December 20-31, 2014 with Pepe Rojas & Dan Lane. An immersion in the most species-rich region of Amazonia, including the white-sand forests near Iquitos. River travel on the Amazon and Napo rivers, canopy access via the famed walkway at ACTS (Amazon Conservatory of Tropical Studies).

Arizona Winter Specialties—December 27, 2014-January 2, 2015 with Dave Stejskal. Exceptional winter birding on a short tour with numerous specialties and potential rarities.

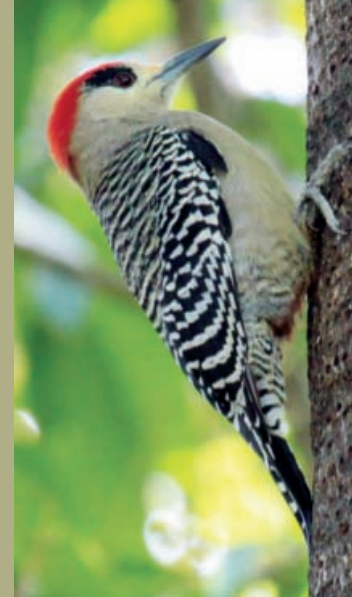
Panama's Canopy Lodge: El Valle de Anton—December 27, 2014-January 3, 2015 with John Rowlett & local guide. A superb introduction to Neotropical birds or a complement to your broader Middle American birding, all based at a charming lodge.

Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista—December 27, 2014-January 4, 2015 with Chris Benesh & local guide. One-site holiday tour based at the comfortable Rancho Naturalista Lodge, with excursions to other habitats on Costa Rica's bird-rich Caribbean slope.

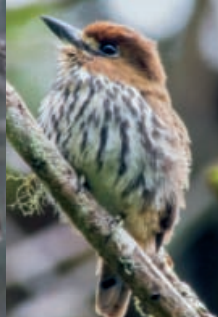
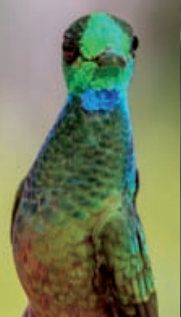
Trinidad & Tobago—December 27, 2014-January 5, 2015 with guide TBA. Wonderful introductory birding tour to South America's riches, including bellbirds, toucans, manakins, and motmots.

Holiday in Honduras: The Lodge at Pico Bonito—December 29, 2014-January 3, 2015 with Jesse Fagan & local guide. A holiday birding tour over New Year's based in a lovely and bird-rich setting at The Lodge at Pico Bonito.

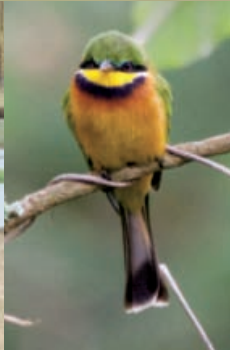
FRESH FROM THE FIELD



For the past few years, the migrant Kirtland's Warbler has been featured on Jesse Fagan's **Bahamas: Abaco, Eleuthera & Kirtland's Warbler** tour, where the warbler winters. Bahama Yellowthroat, on the other hand, another lovely warbler shown at top left, doesn't get around much. It's endemic to the islands, while the Cuban Parrot and West Indian Woodpecker are restricted to just Cuba and the Bahamas. (Photos by guide Jesse Fagan)



Colombia's amazing Andes are the focus of our **Colombia: The Cauca Valley, Western & Central Andes** tour, which zigs and zags its way across the Cauca Valley from Cali to Medellin, seeing some wonderful birds along the way. Among them this year were the Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia at top, an obvious aesthetic highlight; the gorgeous Green-crowned Brilliant and Bearded Helmetcrest (two of more than forty hummers on the tour); and the widespread but seldom seen Lanceolated Monklet, above right. (Photos by guide Richard Webster)



Terry Stevenson's **East Africa Highlights: Kenya & Tanzania** tour recorded just under 500 species of birds and more than 50 of mammals and spent a little time visiting the locals, in this case a Masai village in Tanzania. The White Rhinos, above left, have just stepped out of a mud bath; the Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, center, is a bird you want to see again and again, which fortunately is possible along the tour route; and it's easy to see why the Helmeted Guineafowl was a tour favorite. (Photos by participant Fred Dalbey & guide Terry Stevenson)





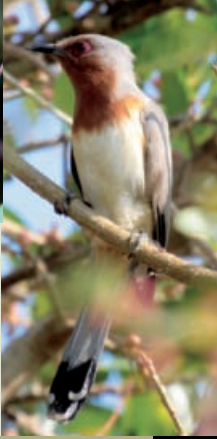
The Giant Ibis (at right) could hardly be described as a handsome bird, but it is a rare one and, with the exception of a small population in Laos, **Cambodia** is the last place to see it, and perhaps as importantly, to hear at dawn its evocative bugling duet. White-rumped Falcon is another range-restricted species seen well on the tour, as guide Phil Gregory's photo at left confirms. There were many other highlights, and to top them all off, four days at or near the temple complex at the sublime Angkor Wat. (Photos by guide Phil Gregory & participant Joyce Takamine)



A Santa Marta endemic, the gorgeous Black-cheeked Mountain-Tanager at top is just one of 33 endemics seen on our **Colombia: Bogota, the Magdalena Valley & Santa Marta** tour,



though the tanager might win the beauty contest. Recurve-billed Bushbird (center) is also a bird of limited range and usually not seen this well; indeed it went unseen from 1965 to 2004! The Dwarf Cuckoo at right was one of four cuckoos on the tour and another highlight. (Photos by guide Jesse Fagan)



Mitch Lysinger, reporting on his **Holiday at San Isidro** tour, commented on the great looks his group had of Giant Conebill in the high elevation Polylepis forests near Papallacta Pass, and the photo at upper left backs him up. The other three species pictured here—Speckled Hummingbird above (the runt at the feeders), the splendid Green Violetear (near left), and



the is-it-for-real Andean Cock-of-the-rock—are a few of Mitch's tenants at San Isidro and are likely to put in an appearance there. (Photos by participant Don Taves)



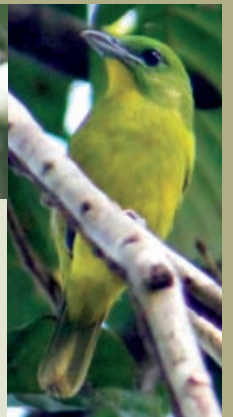
the is-it-for-real Andean Cock-of-the-rock—are a few of Mitch's tenants at San Isidro and are likely to put in an appearance there. (Photos by participant Don Taves)



On a trip like our **Panama's Canopy Tower**, which is popping with birds, it's nice sometimes to take a break, as



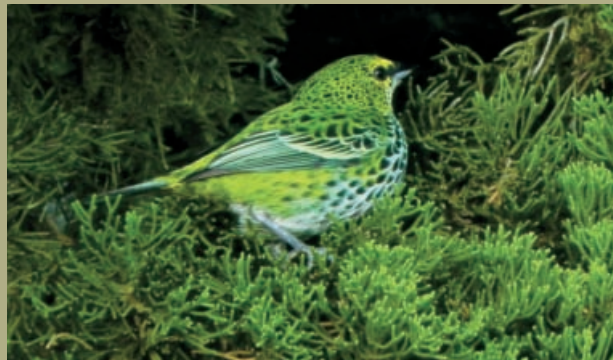
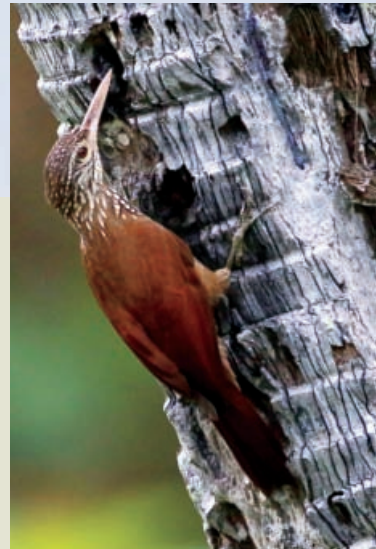
these two participants are doing, especially while sitting in a tropical forest. The pretty American Pygmy Kingfisher (above) is one of four species of kingfisher seen on the tour—if you don't count our Kingfisher, John Coons, who guided the tour. Such a good look at Green Shrike-Vireo (right) is not easy to come by. (Photos by Lena Senko)



FRESH FROM THE FIELD



While participants on our new **Guyana: Wilderness Paradise** tour were watching a perched Harpy Eagle devour a sloth in a tree above them, a fearless Red-throated Caracara showed up and chased the eagle away, though not without his supper. That's a highlight only possible in such a wild place. There were many other birds to enjoy as well, including the Crested Doradito at left and the Straight-billed Woodcreeper to the right. (Photos by participant Rick Woodruff)

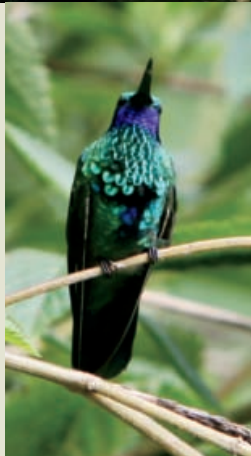


Jay VanderGaast's new **Costa Rica: Birding the Edges** tour enjoyed an excellent first run this year. It's divided into two parts—the Deep South, where the colorful Speckled Tanager (at top) was seen, and the Far North, where duetting songs of Prong-billed Barbets (above right) are a characteristic sound. The little Olivaceous Piculet, busy here at a nest hole, was seen on both tours. What better way to start off the New Year? (Photos by guide Jay VanderGaast)

How to choose a few images for Dave Stejskal's January **Thailand** tour—an impossible task, but here are four: Malayan Banded-Pitta (above right); Gould's Frogmouth (above left); Scarlet-faced Liocichla (left); and White-bellied Redstart. This is not to mention the Siamese Fireback, Silver Pheasant, and Coral-billed Ground-Cuckoo; all the kingfishers, hornbills, broadbills, and babbler; the woodpeckers, flycatchers, treepies, and laughingthrushes that make this tour so memorable. And of course Uthai, Dave's co-leader, and Wat and his support crew. (Photos by participant George Sims)



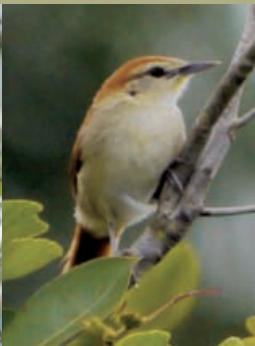
A pair of Spectacled Bears (one at left) made a surprise appearance this year on our **Jewels of Ecuador** tour. Jewels is our most comprehensive Ecuador tour, birding both the north and south of the country and the east and west slopes of the Andes. Three of the more expected sightings included, from above left, Masked Trogon, Toucan Barbet, and Sparkling Violetear, just one of more than sixty hummers recorded on the tour. (Photos by participants Diane Drobka & Roy Giles)



One of the hallmarks of our **Best of the Pacific Northwest** tour is large concentrations of wintering species. Guide Terry McEaney, seated at right with his group, estimated more than 44,000 Snow Geese, a few of them seen here in Terry's photo, and among them a rare "blue morph" Ross's Goose (good spotting!). But it wasn't all geese. There were 2000 Trumpeter Swans, 200 Red-breasted Mergansers, 700 Red-throated Loons, 300 Bald Eagles, and many others. (Group photo by participant Karen Davidheiser)



The birding this year on our second run of the **Birds & Wines of Chile and Argentina** tour was simply spectacular, reports guide Marcelo Padua, and the wine was pretty good, too, if we can trust the smiling group having lunch at the Santa Rita winery, whose cellars are pictured above them. And among those birds were, for sheer grandeur in flight, a Mountain Caracara, and for personality, a not-so-flashy Patagonian Canastero, a southern Argentina endemic hard to find in dry scrubland. (Photos by guide Marcelo Padua)



Nowhere But Northeast Brazil is a tour full of rare and endemic birds found nowhere else; pictured here are just three of them. Above left is a female Pectoral Antwren; a pretty Ash-throated Casiornis is in the middle; and to the right, an as yet undescribed species of spintail. Combine these more muted examples with the many flashy endemics—think Indigo Macaw or Red-necked Tanager—and you can see how the tour earned its name. (Photos by participants David & Judy Smith)



There's rarely a dull moment in the rainforest—if you know what to look for, as participant Jason Leifester's photos from our recent **Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge** tour will attest. Above right is a fantastic Scarlet Macaw perched near the clay lick where we saw a number of other Psittacids, including hundreds of Cobalt-winged Parakeets. To the left, a scarce Chestnut-capped Puffbird, and above, a Snail Kite in an acrobatic pose as he tries to pick an apple snail from its shell.



FRESH FROM THE FIELD



Panama's Canopy Camp, with good forest just outside its comfortable safari tents, is a great place to go birding, as John Coons, at center above with camp staff Domi and Jenn, and his tour group discovered on our inaugural tour. Among the many birds they saw were these three good-looking ones: a blue Blue Dacnis at far left; the Chestnut-mandibled form of Black-mandibled Toucan, top center; and White-tailed Trogon, near left. (Photos by participant Magnus Persmark)



Terry Stevenson reports "fabulous daytime views" of Pel's Fishing-Owl (above) in the Okavango Delta of Botswana on our recent **Namibia & Botswana** tour. Namibia birds included the Woodland Kingfisher at right and the Pale Chanting-Goshawks above the kingfisher. Not pictured are any of the mammals, of which there were many including Spotted Hyena, a resting Leopard, five Lions, and five big bull elephants. (Photos by participants Daphne Gemmill & Linda Riehl)



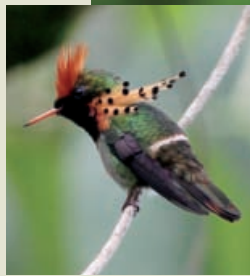
The news from South Texas this year was that the Hook-billed Kites, gone missing in recent years, have returned, and our **South Texas Rarities** tour enjoyed good looks at several birds. White-collared Seedeater, above left, was more cooperative on the first tour, though seen on both, as were Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, here in flight. Green Parakeets, below, have become fairly common, though watching them and other Psittacids come to roost can be quite impressive. (Photos by participants Mahlon Hale & Bob Keener)



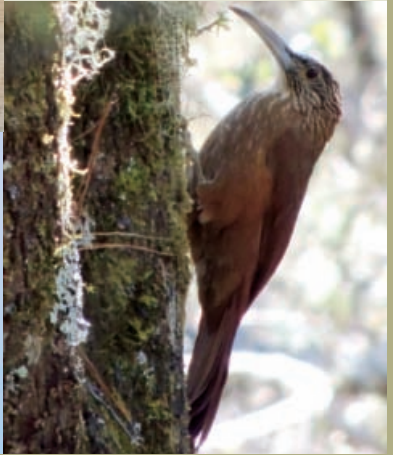
At far left, the Field Guides South Pole expedition crew—no, wait a minute, it's our **Yellowstone in Winter** group! Steam vents, bubbling mudpots, geysers...all were backdrop for fun birding amidst amazing scenery. At left, folks pop out of the top of a tracked vehicle for a look and a pic; above, Barrow's Goldeneyes take advantage of the river kept open by the geothermal activity. (Photos by guide Terry McEaney)



Birding from the balcony at Asa Wright on our **Trinidad & Tobago** tour was excellent this year and included good looks at such gems as the Tufted Coquette, bottom right, and the young male Purple Honeycreeper (above the coquette); the dappled green and purple plumage marks it as an immature. Close or sustained looks at Red-billed Tropicbird (above) in Tobago and another, not so fancy but quite dazzling hummer, the Copper-rumped at left, helped round out the show. (Photos by guide Eric Hynes)



With its high concentration of Mexican endemics and its ancient culture, **Oaxaca** is irresistible. Our recent tour there saw many of the endemic birds, including Gray-breasted Woodpecker at lower left. Among non-endemic highlights were four Strong-billed Woodcreepers (one below) chasing one another as the group watched and a visit to a Zapotec village where Abigail Mendoza kindly demonstrated her weaving skills. (Photos by guide Megan Edwards Crewe)



Coming Soon World Birding Challenge—May 2014

Dan Lane, Jesse Fagan, and Fernando Angulo brought home the trophy in December, winning the *World Birding Challenge* with an impressive 457 species in the weeklong event staged in southern Peru and raising over \$1600 for BirdLife International. In May, Field Guides will defend the title in the third *World Birding Challenge* in northern Peru. We will be represented by Rose Ann Rowlett, Richard Webster, Marcelo Padua, and (hang on to your hats!) Terry Stevenson! Of course, with Rose Ann and Richard on board—who have been guiding our Northern Peru tour for almost 20 years now—we expect to be competitive. Marcelo and Terry are new to Peru but are studying hard and will contribute that FG energy and humor for which they are well known.

The team is again birding for conservation bucks and we encourage FOFG (friends of Field Guides) to contribute either per species (they will be aiming for over 600!) seen or a dollar amount. Especially those of you who have traveled with these guides in the past are encouraged to show your support! All donations generated will be directed to the BirdLife affiliate in Peru, Apeco. Apeco works to preserve and protect the habitat in northern Peru of the iconic hummingbird, the Marvelous Spatuletail *Loddigesia mirabilis*, a Peruvian endemic listed as endangered on the current Red List. With its wonderfully extravagant spatulate tail and male courtship dances, this superb hummingbird is a flagship species for the forests in the higher part of the micro-watersheds of the Tilancha and Cruzhuayco rivers. The Apeco campaign supports a community reserve, the Private Conservation Area of Tilancha, by raising its profile and encouraging the creation of reciprocal agreements for watershed conservation between users and land owners.

Call Peggy Watson at our office to make a pledge or email her at pwatson@fieldguides.com. Marcelo will be posting updates from the challenge on Facebook and we'll make sure you get those notifications as well as a post-challenge report.



Rose Ann Rowlett



Richard Webster



Marcelo Padua



Terry Stevenson

FIELD GUIDES in the Movies

Having heard about a new birding film, guide Marcelo Padua discovered the trailer for the upcoming *A Birder's Guide to Everything*. What should appear displayed at left in the background 42 seconds in? One of our Field Guides catalogs with participant Kevin Heffernan's beautiful Powerful Woodpecker image! Kudos to Kevin for a great pic that caught their eye. This is a fun movie about birding and coming of age. You can see the trailer at <http://tinyurl.com/mccgsyy>

World Birding Rally Follow-up

Guides Jesse Fagan and Dan Lane are featured in action during the December 2013 World Birding Rally Challenge in Peru in an entertaining episode of host James Currie's Nikon Birding Adventures TV series. It's the "Motmot" and "Barbet" having a great time for a week with fellow Team Field Guides member Fernando Angulo as they go from the Amazonian lowlands to famed Machu Picchu aiming for the first-place trophy. The episode runs just under 22 minutes, with the first three or so introducing the event. See it at <http://tinyurl.com/n4dps3s>

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

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

AUSTRALIA

New Guinea & Australia

October 1-19, 2014 with Jay VanderGaast

Australia

Part I—October 2-23, 2014 with Chris Benesh & second guide. Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, southwest Australia, and Alice Springs

Part II—October 21-November 5, 2014 (Tasmania Extension) with John Coons & Eric Hynes. Darwin to Queensland, Cairns, Atherton Tableland, Outback Queensland, and O'Reilly's Guest House

fieldguides®

BIRDING TOURS WORLDWIDE

Simpson's Gap in the
Macdonnell Range by
guide Chris Benesh