We include here information for those interested in the 2014 Field Guides Colombia: The Cauca Valley, Western & Central Andes tour:

- a general introduction to the tour
- a description of the birding areas to be visited on the tour
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day’s birding outings

Those who register for the tour will be sent this additional material:

- an annotated list of the birds recorded on a previous year’s Field Guides trip to the area, with comments by guide(s) on notable species or sightings (may be downloaded from our web site)
- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a copy of a previous year's list of birds seen
- a reference list
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

Trying to come up with fresh adjectives to describe the birding in the country with the world’s longest list is not easy. "Juicy" is really obvious, but it is also right on target. This tour is going to be fun, visiting some birdy places with really juicy birds, many of them endemics in remote regions of the Western and Central Andes. While "remote" suggests hardship, and there are some simple lodges and the challenges of birding in rainy regions, there is also ease and comfort—our gateways are cities of millions served by major international airlines, and other good birding areas are located close to major cities with good facilities. And good birds are not always remote birds—one recently-described species, the Chestnut-capped Piha, occurs just four hours from Medellin, one of the gateways, and one of the classiest endemics of Colombia, the Red-bellied Grackle, occurs in the hills above Jardin, should we not see it at the Piha reserve. It is also a list that is still growing, with Antioquia Wren described from the Cauca Valley since we started the tour.
Colombia is well known to Field Guides clients for many things, particularly the juxtaposition of the length of its checklist with the magnitude of its internal troubles over the 20 years since our last tour offerings to this beautiful land. But Colombia has been mending, and we have returned to this diverse and rich country with two tours that seek many of its range-restricted and threatened species, and a third that is an easier subset (Santa Marta). Those tours have gone well, and we will continue to offer an approach that focuses on multiple thorough offerings rather than hoping to skim the best in a single visit to Colombia, just the way we do not try to cover Ecuador, Peru, or Brazil with a single itinerary. Our other major tour goes from Bogota to Santa Marta, and is designed for as little overlap in specialties as possible; “Santa Marta Escape” is a subset of that tour aimed at folks wanting a quick getaway who are not interested in the longer program.

And while political and military changes have been occurring, there has also been a steady growth in Colombian ornithology and the establishment of many private nature reserves to complement the public ones, all making locating many of the special birds more practical. Colombia has not had time to catch up to the ecotourism standards of its neighbors, and so be forewarned that while birding in Colombia is fun and feasible, there are a few more rough edges (discussed below) than on comparable tours. All of our trips will have local support from our in-country operators both before and during the tour. As for the Colombians you will meet, the biggest puzzle will be how things could have gone so wrong because so many Colombians are warm, engaging people, happy to see foreign tourists, although not yet inured to them.

In Colombia, the Andes are split into three long, north-south running cordillera separated by two deep valleys carrying the Rio Cauca and the Rio Magdalena. The valley of the Rio Cauca separates the Western and Central Andes and, in comparison with the valley of the Rio Magdalena, is narrow and slightly higher. The floor and lower slopes of the Cauca Valley are in a modest rainshadow in between the very wet Central Andes and the exceedingly wet Western Andes, the west slope of which is in the Choco, one of the five wettest areas in the world.

With a couple of exceptions, we are not really that interested in the Cauca Valley in the sense of the lowest, driest areas, as compared with the Andean slopes well above the valley floor. However, the valley will very much be a part of this tour, as we cross and re-cross it, and travel along 300 kms of its length, repeatedly seeing the effects of this biogeographic barrier.

This tour is not inexpensive. Colombia is not inexpensive in general, and furthermore several lodges are raising funds for conservation through their prices. Plus, these lodges are small, which, along with vehicle sizes and forest birding, makes a small group variously necessary to a good idea: You are getting a small group experience to special places and birds.

About the Physical Requirements & Pace: There are no major difficulties with this tour, but there are a number of points that need to be considered carefully to determine if this tour is right for you. Some of this relates to basic facts about Colombia: The tourist infrastructure is early in its re-birth after two decades of security problems, and habitat destruction endemic to this planet means it can be a long way between spots where threatened, endemic birds are to be found.

At two places we will stay at reserve lodges that are new but simple and small, with private facilities; singles cannot be guaranteed (and are unlikely). At another spot, it is truly a farmhouse (and the farm animals are right outside; bring ear plugs), improved for tourists, with shared facilities and very simple features (again, singles not guaranteed). We have two nights at a simple lodge with some shared facilities, and one night at another reserve lodge that is more like a simple hotel (private facilities, plenty of rooms). Hotels in larger cities are good, and all higher-elevation places have hot water. In many ways it is like visiting neighboring countries 15 or 20 years ago, which was perfectly acceptable traveling and great birding.
The food is good, and during our tours individual health was fine. At the lodges (over half of our days), the menu will be fixed. While vegetarian fare is available, it isn't diverse, either. At restaurants in the larger cities and hotels, the usual choices are available. Breakfasts are a weak point; good early breakfasts are one of the last things to evolve in the ecotourism world. Overall, the foregoing is overly negative; there is plenty of food, and tasty food, over this trip.

The focus will be on the endemics, although at times we will pursue the widespread because in a country in which two subspecies of Gray-breasted Wood-Wren can be found within a kilometer of each other, not just once, but twice, even the widespread becomes very interesting. And we will generally look at the widespread species because we like looking at birds and that is often what is in front of us. Still, this is just to say that these trips are new and special, and while this trip is not a radical departure from our general tours, it is like others in which there is an emphasis, as opposed to being a general survey trip.

This tour involves a moderate amount of driving, although less than our Bogota to Santa Marta tour. Still, a fingernail length on the map is, in the Andes, a half day of driving. The countryside is interesting, and while the environment is generally greatly disturbed, in comparison with many countries there are actually fewer areas that are devastated: There are large trees or riparian corridors or patches of substantial secondary growth. Of course, the shift to sun coffee (as opposed to shade-grown coffee) has been extensive in the last two decades—another piece in the environmental puzzle that has not been favorable to birds. The pros and cons are that when we travel, that is really all we do—little roadside birding, few stops to check out birds; and when we bird, we are birding on trails and tracks as close to the wild as we can be, escaping from the bustle of roadside and cities. And on the subject of transportation, the ability to hop onto a horse, or to allow yourself to be pushed up onto a horse (and then stay on it; they don't give tourists broncos) may be useful to make it to one area, depending on road conditions. The path we ride is an abandoned road with a gentle gradient; there is nothing technical about the riding, but we may ride for two hours and we may be riding in the rain. If you are over about 100 kg (220 lbs), please let us know in advance so we can make sure to find a "super mule"! (We used 4WD on the road recently, but we can't promise that we won't be back on the horses in 2014 if the road deteriorates again.) (At three locations, we use 4WD vehicles to get to the lodge and/or the habitat; these are not SUVs, these are old Willys or "coffee jeeps," and we must climb in and out of the back, and hang on, somewhat more like hanging onto a bronco.)

If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don’t hesitate to contact our office; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with one of the guides.

SPECIAL NOTE: This tour will be limited to just SIX participants, which means, of course, that it costs more than tours with larger limits. We realize that the price of a tour always matters, especially when a recession is an actuality or a recent constraint, but we maintain the small limit for several reasons. First, several of our lodges have very few rooms, and while we certainly can't promise singles, we would very much like to avoid triples. Second, comfort in the vehicles matters on a trip long in miles and days, and we would like to preserve an open seat or two in our bus and also reduce crowding when we use multiple 4WD vehicles on several segments of the tour. Third, a smaller group makes the birding easier. So when you see similar, less expensive itineraries with tour limits of 8, 9, and 10, please remember that there’s a good reason that our tour is more expensive.

About the Birding Areas

The Reserva Natural de las Aves Arrierito Antioquena: Anori—Located at 5300 feet (1600m) at the very northern tip of the Central Andes north of Medellin, the reserve protects a patch of middle-elevation forest that is reached on foot from the lodge. Access is primarily by one excellent trail that gains two hundred meters in elevation, first through tall-stature montane forest, then through more stunted trees on a ridgeline. Perhaps the primary species is the Chestnut-capped Piha (the Arrierito Antioquena), only described a decade ago and first found in this area. Two other recently described species also occur in the reserve: Parker’s Antbird and Stiles’ Tapaculo. Described long ago, and also quite local, are four other endemics: White-mantled Barbet, Black-and-gold and Multicolored tanagers, and Red-bellied Grackle. Also on the list of undescripta are Indigo Flowerpiercer and Purplish-mantled Tanager, both of which occur in Ecuador but are seldom seen there and which are typical of the montane Choco region, but also wrap around the northern end of the Western Andes as far east as these wet foothills of the Central Andes. With such a list of mouth-watering birds (giving "juicy" a rest), some of the more widespread species that would ordinarily get top billing seem more ordinary: Moustached Puffbird, Ochre-breasted Antpitta, Chestnut-crowned Gnatatear, Golden-winged Manakin, Rufous-naped Greenlet, and Sooty-headed Wren. Chestnut Wood-Quail may be heard (a better chance later), and we can dream of simply hearing a Black Tinamou (Vulnerable), let alone seeing it. For a change of pace, a Golden-winged Warbler among the more common Blackburnian and Canada warblers would be fun! A group of Colombian ornithologists has been working at documenting the avifauna of this and fifteen other patches of forest in the area (Cuervo, Andres et al. Orn. Neo. 19: 495-
516), and, beyond the new species, remarkable discoveries have been made, such as Cinnamon Scrreech-Owl a thousand kilometers farther north than its known range (probably not accessible for our tour, but you get the idea of the specialness of the area). During our breaks back at ProAves lodge, the feeders will occupy our attention, with a few tanagers eating fruit and a host of hungry hummingbirds, particularly including Green-crowned Woodnymph, Andean Emerald, Steely-vented Hummingbird, and Green-crowned Brilliant, with the occasional addition, such as Western Emerald.

Jardin and the Reserva Natural de las Aves Loro Orejimarillo—We will use a very nice country hotel above the mountain resort town of Jardin as our base to visit the Yellow-eared Parrot reserve. The reserve is on a ridge above town, and requires 4WD to reach. We will need to be up at 10,000 feet (3000m) early in order to maximize our chances for the Yellow-eared Parrot (Critically Endangered), which commutes from roost sites to feeding areas. This parrot, which resembles a small macaw, has been the subject of recent conservation efforts that have increased its population through nest boxes and education efforts aimed in part at preserving the wax palms (heavily used in religious ceremonies on Palm Sunday) on which the species is partly dependent. The population is now around 1000 in Colombia, and it is almost certainly extirpated from Ecuador. The sooner and better our success with the parrot, the more birding we can do in the forest patches down the mountain, where other species of interest include Black-billed Mountain-Toucan, Ocellated Tapaculo, Chestnut-crested Cotinga (difficult), the richardsoni form of Citrine Warbler, Golden-fronted Redstart (Whitestar), and Tanager Finch (skulking). The recently described Munchique Wood-Wren occurs here, but in very low numbers, and we will work hard at trying to locate one. Dusky Starfrontlet has been reported here, but not often, and not (yet!) by us. We will have information from local contacts on the best current spots for the parrot, and the locations in which to search for other specialties. Warning: This can be a very wet spot!

Rio Blanco Reserve: Manizales—Reached by 4WD above the university town of Manizales, this is a gem (switching the vocabulary slightly from gustatory words to a more avaricious set). Although some of the lower slopes are forested, we are likely to concentrate on the upper part, around 8700 feet (2600m). However, concentration is difficult at 8700 feet because the reserve HQ is ringed with hummingbird feeders, and 50 hummingbirds at once on a drizzling day is absorbing, especially for photographers. Buff-tailed Coronets are common and unfortunately have recently come to dominate the scene, but there are usually also Tourmaline Sunangels, Speckled Hummingbirds, Green Violetears, Fawn-breasted Brilliants, and Long-tailed Sylphs, with a few Collared and Bronzy incas and White-bellied Woodstars; careful looking can reveal rarities such as Purple-throated Woodstar, or a Sword-billed-out in the garden.

But walking up the track from the HQ offers much more in the forest, including such scarce and local Andean specialties as Tyrannine Woodcreeper, Flammulated Treehunter, Dusky Piha, Black-collared Jay, Masked Saltator, and White-capped Tanager. Rio Blanco has started an antpitta feeding program, and free worms may entice Brown-banded (endemic, Endangered) and Chestnut-crowned antpititas; Chestnut-naped, Slate-crowned, and the near-endemic Bicolored were rarely so enticed until great progress was made in 2012, but we may still have to look for them the semi-old-fashioned way, by entering the forest with a recording (and if the worms have been coming too easily, we may need to do the same for all of them). Throughout this, we will be listening and looking hard for Rusty-faced Parrot (local population velezi) (Vulnerable). Other interesting birds include Tawny-bellied Hermit, Black-billed Mountain-Toucan, Rufous-crowned Tody-Tyrant, Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant, Rufous-breasted and Handsome flycatchers, Black-billed Peppershrike, and Golden-fronted Redstart. Plus, there are plenty of tanagers, like three species of Hemispingus and Buff-breasted and Lacrimose mountain-tanagers. We should have time to visit a park or two on the outskirts of Manizales, Grayish Piculet being one species of particular interest, although we have a better chance later.

Los Nevados—We will spend at least a morning around 12,000 feet (3600m) in a tiny portion of the huge Los Nevados National Park in the Central Andes. In treeline forest and scrub we will hope for, but not expect, the endemic Rufous-
fronted Parakeet, which has been seen here (but not by your guide, who is 0 for 4, but the conditions were not quite right, meaning his companions were not sharp-eyed enough, like they will be this time!). In this habitat we will hope for any of several erratic hummingbirds, such as Black-thighed (especially difficult) and Golden-breasted pufflegs, Viridian Metaltail, and Rainbow-bearded Thornbill, dig out a Paramo Tapaculo, and look for the small mixed flocks that can include Black-backed Bush-Tanager and several mountain-tanagers. Moving higher into the paramo in places dominated by the fuzzy-leaved composite Espeletia, the particular quarry is Bearded Helmetcrest (O. g. stubelii); other species here are more widespread, such as Andean Duck, Thick-billed Cinclodes, Andean Tit-Spinetail, Many-striped Canastero (the bright subspecies quindiana), Tawny Antpitta, Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant, and Sedge (Grass) Wren.

Otun-Quimbaya Reserve: Pereira—We are going to an abandoned ash-tree plantation to be knee-deep in Cauca Guans (Endangered) and Red-ruffed Fruitcrows? Of course we promise nothing, but all signs point to this being a great place to see both of these special species (an endangered cracid of limited distribution and a widespread spectacular that is an E-ticket bird). Although there is great habitat up to treeline, it is the accessible lower elevations (6300 feet; 1900m) here that will be the focus, looking for such endemics as Chestnut Wood-Quail (Near-Threatened; always tough, but common enough here that they can occasionally be seen crossing the track), Bar-crested Antshrike, Multicolored Tanager, and Crested Ant-Tanager. Plus, there are Moustached Antpittas out there, and, from mist-netting evidence, Hooded Antpitta is not uncommon (Vulnerable; no recordings available). Other fun birds: Sickle-winged Guan, Bronze-winged Parrot, Greenish Puffleg, Strong-billed Woodcreeper, Uniform Antshrike, Rufous-breasted Flycatcher, Bronze-olive Pygmy-Tyrant, Chestnut-breasted Wren, Black-billed Peppershrike, Yellow-throated Brush-Finch, and Yellow-bellied Siskin. The clearings have some appealing birds, from Scrub and Flame-rumped tanagers to Black-winged Saltator. And if it is small, orange, and striped, it is a wonderful Blackburnian Warbler! Our lodging here is in the park, offering plenty of rooms with private facilities and birds just out the door.

Montane Choco—We would love to go to some known locales and reserves further south in the Western Andes. But there are areas of Colombia that are still known to be dangerous and others that are marginal, including the Colorful Puffleg reserve (sigh), Cerro Munchique, and areas close to the Ecuadorian border. Our contacts in Colombia have suggested, and we have visited, some safe areas west of Jardín and Pereira. Be forewarned that one of the mountain ridges of the area translates as "Umbrella Mountain" and that this steep terrain is one of the wettest areas on Earth, with all of its correlates, such as mud.

We will first visit RNA Las Tangaras, the new ProAves reserve west of Jardín, and then the Pueblo Rico area, where 4WD takes us around a mountain to a tiny community where a young family has converted their farmhouse into a simple, comfortable base at the edge of a spectacular mountain wilderness. An old track covers a couple thousand meters of elevation on forested Cerro Montezuma, which is at the base of Cerro Tatama, a National Park. We will access the forest by horse (riding uphill from 4700 feet/1400m to walk back down from around 6700 feet/2000m), unless, as in 2012, the track is sufficient for a strong 4WD. It can be wet; it probably will be wet. The accommodations and food will be very simple. But Cerro Montezuma was described by two folks as "an incredible place to bird" and "the best place in highland Choco," and that is how we have found it, and Las Tangaras is nearly as good. The bird lists of both areas are replete with two species of Bangsia tanagers (Gold-ringed and Black-and-gold) and Black Solitaires; other species of interest include Cloud-forest Pygmy-Owl (we were lucky once), Orange-breasted and Scaled fruiteaters, Oliveveous Piha, an undescribed tapaculo plus Narino and Choco, Beautiful Jay, Buffy Tuftedcheek, Fulvous-dotted (Star-chested) Treerunner, Uniform Treehunter, Purplish-mantled Tanager, Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager,
Indigo Flowerpiercer, Yellow-collared Chlorophonia, and a nice selection of hummingbirds (White-tailed Hillstar, Brown Inca, Empress Brilliant, Violet-tailed Sylph). On our first visit we looked for Choco Vireo and did not find it, but we have connected with it on our latest forays.

**Itinerary for Colombia: The Cauca Valley, Western & Central Andes**

**Day 1, Sat, 8 Feb. Arrival in Cali.** Flights on several international carriers are available to Cali; check with your tour manager for the best flight available from your home. You will be picked up at the airport (it is essential that we have your flight information if you have not booked through us) and transferred to our hotel (Hotel Guadalajara) a half hour to the north, in the community of Buga.

**Day 2, Sun, 9 Feb. Laguna de Sonso (Buga Marshes) to Pueblo Rico and Cerro Montezuma.** We will start the morning near Buga, which lies on the floor of the Cauca Valley in between the Western and Central Cordillera of the Andes. The Cauca River flows north through the “Buga Marshes,” overflow areas of the river that are too wet to reclaim, and we will bird here for the first portion of the morning, perhaps also visiting a small reserve with dry woodland on the nearby slopes. Then we’ll head for Pueblo Rico, a small town in the Western Andes, where we will take 4WD vehicles to the base of Cerro Montezuma. Night at a small, rustic lodge (a family farm that has been converted into facilities for visiting birders), the simplest of the trip (shared facilities, limited privacy in some cases).

**Day 3, Mon, 10 Feb. Cerro Montezuma.** We’ll have all day to spend on this forested mountain, and we will go as high as possible, which depends on road conditions (the track is periodically repaired and becomes passable for 4WD vehicles); if we cannot use 4WD, then we will at least reach middle elevations by horseback. Night at the small, rustic lodge at Cerro Montezuma.

**Day 4, Tue, 11 Feb. To Otún-Quimbaya.** We’ll have another morning to reach the forests above our lodgings and then walk down, birding. After lunch at the lodge, we’ll return to Pueblo Rico and then drive east to Pereira and then into the foothills of the Central Andes. A good lodge (private facilities) will be our home. Night at Otun-Quimbaya.

**Day 5, Wed, 12 Feb. Otún-Quimbaya to Manizales.** Our birding this morning will be in the lower reaches of this large reserve, where we will walk along a seldom-driven track, starting from our lodge, occasionally venturing into the forest in pursuit of a skulker. We will then make an afternoon drive to Manizales, where we will spend the night in a nice city hotel.

**Day 6, Thu, 13 Feb. Los Nevados National Park; Rio Blanco.** This morning we’ll take a highway out of Manizales and branch off into an edge of the vast Los Nevados National Park; we will check treeline forest and scrub, and then wonderful *Espeletia* paramo, with tanagers and hummingbirds—including Bearded Helmetcrest—among the best represented families. There’s also a nice assortment of paramo species for which we’ll be looking. In the afternoon we will return to Manizales and then head into the town’s watershed reserve, Rio Blanco. We’ll spend the nights of Days 6 and 7 in a simple lodging (shared facilities for some), reducing the commute time to town, giving ourselves a chance for a couple of nightbirds, and, above all, giving us the flexibility to bird this rich area around whatever the weather throws at us. Night at Rio Blanco Reserve.

**Day 7, Fri, 14 Feb. Rio Blanco Reserve.** We will have a full day and a few hours on adjoining days at the wonderful Rio Blanco reserve in the Central Andes above Manizales, hoping to see antpittas being fed, enjoying the spectacular hummingbird feeders and garden, and birding the little-traveled tracks for mixed flocks. Night and meals at Rio Blanco Reserve.

**Day 8, Sat, 15 Feb. Rio Blanco to Reserva Natural de las Aves Las Tangaras.** We’ll have a couple of hours to try for whatever we still need at Rio Blanco. Then it is Onward, for a substantial travel day along the Cauca Valley and then in the late afternoon crossing to the west side of the Western Andes, ending at one of ProAves' newer lodges. Night at Las Tangaras.

**Day 9, Sun, 16 Feb. RNA Las Tangaras.** We will have a full day to visit the reserve, which is located a half-hour by 4WD from the lodge. Patches of forest along the road are excellent for many birds of the montane Choco, but we will concentrate on a good, level trail that has already been constructed in the mossy forest, and try any newer trails as well. Night at Las Tangaras.
Days 10-11, Mon-Tue, 17-18 Feb. To Jardin and the Reserva Natural de las Aves Loro Orejimarillo. After another morning birding at Las Tangaras, we’ll make the drive to Jardin, located in a basin on the east side of the western Andes a few hours from Las Tangaras. We’ll end the day at a nice hotel in the Western Andes, hopefully having time to enjoy Andean Cocks-of-the-rock at a lek near town. On Day 11 Yellow-eared Parrot is the special goal, for which we will take 4WD to the preserve edge, birding a small pass at dawn and then drive back down the road, returning to our hotel in the late afternoon. Nights at Hotel Hacienda Balandu.

Day 12, Wed, 19 Feb. Jardín to Medellín. Depending on local advice, we will direct our attention to any of a number of forest patches near town or even down in the Cauca Valley in pursuit of whatever we are missing. In the afternoon we will head east into the Central Andes to spend the night in one of Colombia’s largest and most striking cities, Medellín.

Day 13, Thu, 20 Feb. To Reserva Natural de las Aves Arrierito Antioquena. To take advantage of morning hours, we will start in a small park on the outskirts of Medellín, looking for Red-bellied Grackle and perhaps Stiles' Tapaculo. We will drive north toward Anori later this morning, ending up at the ProAves Chestnut-capped Piha reserve (Reserva Natural de las Aves Arrierito Antioqueno) in time for lunch and birding there in the afternoon. We’ll settle in for our three-night stay at RNA Arrierito.

Days 14-15, Fri-Sat, 21-22 Feb. RNA Arrierito. We’ll have two full days for birding on foot in the reserve and by short drives along the road. Nights and meals at RNA Arrierito.

Day 16, Sun, 23 Feb. To Medellín. After a final morning of birding, we will have to leave after lunch for the Medellín airport, at Rio Negro on the outskirts. We anticipate most folks will be leaving in the morning of the next day, and we have a small, comfortable hotel near the airport to make departures flexible and easy.

Day 17, Mon, 24 Feb. Flights home. We will head to the airport early for flights home. Vaya bien!
About Your Guide

Richard Webster and his partner, Rose Ann Rowlett, live between tours in a refurbished home in Portal, Arizona, where they reside at the sufferance of the true masters of the place, the clan of Acorn Woodpeckers that has just recruited a couple of additional heavies. Richard claims that his heart is in the American tropics, oscillating rapidly between the Andes and Amazonia, but his increasingly frequent and enthusiastic journeys to other continents betray his love for birds and birding everywhere. A much-neglected manuscript on southern California's birds is receiving more attention as he reduces his tour schedule. Tour participants comment frequently on Richard's wide-ranging knowledge of birds (toward which end he stimulates the international economy by buying many more books, journals, and papers than he could ever read), and they appreciate his eager willingness to share that knowledge. He stays in shape by chasing away the cows, which are the cost of preferring open range that allows the deer and peccaries to roam freely in the absence of fences. Current preoccupations are still a recurring drought and playing with the trail camera that reveals the Gray Foxes, Black Bears, Bobcats, and Mountain Lions that traverse the yard as they sleep.

Richard visited Colombia three times in the 1970s, now just deep background, and much more relevantly, spent eight weeks in Colombia in 2009, including scouting this tour, and has guided seven Field Guides Colombia tours in 2010-2013.

Visit http://fieldguides.com/guides for Richard's complete tour schedule; just click on his photo.

Financial Information

**FEE:** $6975 from Cali

**AIREFARE:** $596.90 Miami to Cali and return from Medellin (fare on Avianca as of June 2013; subject to change.)

**DEPOSIT:** $700 per person

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE:** October 11, 2013

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional):** $350 [Note: singles are not guaranteed and will be unlikely the nights we stay at Leopoldina’s (Days 2 and 3), Rio Blanco (Days 6 and 7), RNA Las Tangaras (Days 8 and 9), and RNA Arrierito (Days 13, 14, and 15)]

**LIMIT:** 6

Other Things You Need to Know

**TOUR MANAGER:** The manager for this tour is Maggie Burnett. Maggie will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her!

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** At two places we will stay at reserve lodges that are new but simple and small, with private facilities; singles cannot be guaranteed (and are unlikely). At another spot, it is truly a farmhouse (and the farm animals are right outside; bring ear plugs), improved for tourists, with shared facilities and very simple features (again, singles not guaranteed). We have two nights at a simple lodge with some private and some shared facilities, and one night at another reserve lodge that is more like a simple hotel (private facilities, plenty of rooms). Hotels in larger cities are good, and all higher-elevation places have hot water. In many ways it is like visiting neighboring countries 15 or 20 years ago, which was perfectly acceptable traveling and great birding.

The food is good, and during recent trips individual health was fine. At the four lodges the menu will be fixed. While vegetarian fare is available, it isn't diverse, either. At restaurants in the larger cities and hotels, the usual choices are available. Breakfasts are a weak point; good early breakfasts are one of the last things to evolve in the ecotourism world. Overall, the foregoing is overly negative; there is plenty of tasty food on this trip.

**A NOTE ON ALTITUDE:** We will have one day of birding at 10,000 feet and at least a morning at 13,000 feet. We will take our time at the higher elevations.

“This was an excellent trip. The best features were an amazing country, incredible coordination of complex logistics, a high percentage of target birds seen, and guide Richard Webster's homework and leadership. We enjoyed his company and expertise...Richard’s leadership role was outstanding in all respects.”  F.G. & S.C., Colombia: The Cauca Valley, Western & Central Andes
DOCUMENTS: A current passport valid six months beyond the date of your return is necessary for US citizens to enter Colombia. If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Colombian consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. Some countries require a blank page for their stamp and as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: Please note that the tour begins in Cali and ends in Medellin. There are direct flights to Cali from Miami and connections via Panama City or Bogota from other US cities. You may plan to arrive at any time on Day 1. On Day 16, we will drive to the Medellin (Rio Negro) airport for the night, assuming international flights out the following day (most leave between 8:00 and 11:00 in the morning) (if you wish to book something out the night of Day 16, make sure to consult with the office for any flight before 7:00 p.m.).

Field Guides is a full service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees. Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.

LUGGAGE: Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client’s responsibility.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The tour fee is $6975 for one person in double occupancy from Cali. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 16, all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through breakfast on Day 17, all ground transportation, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling and meal service, and the guide services of the tour leader.

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Colombia, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The single supplement for the tour is $350; singles are not available all nights. If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, complete the Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a deposit of $700 per person. If registering by phone, a deposit must be received within fourteen days, or the space will be released. Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or by October 11, 2013. We will bill you for the final payment at either 120 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later. Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

SMOKING: Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. If you smoke, please be sensitive to the group and refrain from smoking at meals, in vehicles, and in proximity to the group on trails and elsewhere.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Refund of deposit and payment, less $100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 120 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 119 and 70 days before the departure date,
50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable.

This policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of the insurance is not refundable so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airlines restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

**TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer any refund when cancellation occurs within 70 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 70 to 119 days prior to departure (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of $50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

US and Canadian citizens will receive from us a brochure regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, 24-hour accident protection, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance when making final payment for the tour, pre-existing conditions are covered. The CSA brochure includes a contact number; you may also purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at [www.fieldguides.com/travelinsurance.htm](http://www.fieldguides.com/travelinsurance.htm) and clicking the link to CSA. Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the reverse side of the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. Field Guides Incorporated accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner’s risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

**THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.**

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