

ITINERARY

NOWHERE BUT NORTHEAST BRAZIL

I. January 15-February 1, 2019

II. February 19-March 8, 2019

Bahia Brazil Birding Getaway

I. January 31-February 7, 2019

II. March 7-14, 2019



The fabulous Indigo Macaw is just one of the many regional and endemic species we'll find on this tour. One of the highlights will be visiting the nesting colony in a wonderful red-sandstone canyon. Photograph by guide Marcelo Barreiros.

We include here information for those interested in the 2019 *Field Guides Nowhere But Northeast Brazil* 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
- 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 reference list
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing 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

"Northeast Brazil" is a really big piece of turf. Geographically, it covers all of that chunk sticking out into the Atlantic but biogeographically, and specifically in terms of bird distributions, it casts an even greater compass. Thus, from the states

of Ceara and Pernambuco thence far to the south and west, where biomes range from humid Atlantic Forest through *caatinga* and *cerrado* woodland to the edges of Amazonia, there are one heckuva lot of endemic birds, some of them among the most endangered species on the continent, many of them among the most range-restricted in the world.

Would you like to see them all? You bet you would! That's why we pioneered birding tourism in Northeast Brazil more than twenty years ago and why we're continuing to expand our (your!) horizons there. Let's start with White-collared Kite, Lear's (Indigo) Macaw, Hooded Visorbearer, Pygmy Nightjar, Great Xenops, Silvery-cheeked Antshrike, Sincora Antwren, Fringe-backed Fire-eye, Diamantina Tapaculo, Araripe Manakin, Seven-colored Tanager, and White-throated Seedeater among hundreds of others (main tour), and then we'll offer a southern Bahia extension to take on Hook-billed Hermit, Black-capped Screech-Owl, White-winged Potoo, Banded Cotinga, Slender Antbird, Narrow-billed Antwren, Rio de Janeiro Antbird, Band-tailed and Bahia Antwrens, Striated Softtail, Pink-legged Graveteiro, Bahia Spinetail, and Bahia Tyrannulet.

The main tour (18 days) includes the states of Pernambuco, Alagoas, Ceara, and northern Bahia to end in Salvador. The special post-tour extension (one week) concentrates on southern coastal and interior Bahia. So, next January, grab your bin's and pack some light clothes (don't forget your flip-flops) and leave Old Man Winter at your doorstep to join Bret and Marcelo for a fabulous journey through Northeast Brazil.



The Sincora Antwren is found in a small area in the Chapada Diamantina. We'll spend time tracking down these endemics and many more! Photograph by guide Bret Whitney.

About the Pace & Purpose: We will cover a large region in Brazil's arid and semi-arid Northeast. This calls for two- and three-night stays (plus a couple of one-nighters), with a few flights and lengthy drives between stops. Transportation will be in comfortable, air-conditioned vans to maneuver on narrow, dirt roads, or in a much larger, air-conditioned bus with reclining seats and large windows where access to birding spots is relatively easier.

Departures will be bright and early almost every morning. We will be able to break mid-day for a rest or dip in the pool on some non-travel days. On a couple of the days in more humid forest in Pernambuco and Alagoas and on the extension in southern Bahia, where habitats are more densely wooded and there are more species of birds, we will have long days with a sack lunch in the field, and arrival back at the hotel may be after dark. These days keep you on your feet and looking through your binoculars for lots of hours, hiking some strenuous sections of trails, and they are usually among the favorite days of the tour for most participants. **We have highlighted them in green in the itinerary, below, to call special attention to them (just one of the days at Boa Nova on the Southern Bahia Extension is of this nature; the other is quite easy).**

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.



About the Birding Areas

Here is some information that will allow an understanding of the type of habitat and general terrain we will visit on each segment of the tour.

Atlantic Forest—For millennia, oceanic trade winds have brushed the face of the coastal forests and the uplifted Borborema Plateau in eastern Pernambuco and Alagoas. Moisture from the trades has permitted the historical maintenance of enclaves of humid forest that just a few miles to the west, in the rainshadow of the hills, give way to arid *caatinga*. In some scarcely birded reserves in eastern Pernambuco and at the Murici Reserve in Alagoas, we are privileged to enter this exceedingly rare habitat as we seek encounters with some of the most endangered species of birds in all of South America. We'll do considerable slow walking through these forests, in mostly hilly terrain.

Ceara Uplands—The state of Ceara (capital Fortaleza) is situated in one of the most generally arid regions of the northeast. The severe dry season, which begins in about July and usually endures to December, typically has broken by the time our birding begins. We will concentrate on two upland areas of Ceara: the Serra de Baturite, a short distance inland from the coast, and the Chapada do Araripe, in the far south. Habitat in these places is similar, mainly semi-deciduous forest; most of the trees are essentially evergreen. Birding will be along easy trails and roadsides with occasional scrambles into the woods for views of more secretive species.

Caatinga—Most of the interior of Brazil's Northeast is dominated by seasonally arid woodland and scrub called *caatinga*, or "white forest," by the Tupi Indians because it is so pale and dry for much of the year. *Caatinga* is one of the least-birded but most highly distinctive biomes in South America, and it is found only in the "outback" of Northeastern Brazil. Unfortunately, it is also one of the most highly disturbed biomes on the continent, owing to its generally fragile nature (growing on generally flat ground and easily cleared and burned) and a long history of human occupation. Several different classes of *caatinga* have been defined, based on plant species composition, abundance of trees or shrubs, and other factors; virtually none of the natural *caatinga*, which was a tall, deciduous forest, exists today. We will penetrate the

caatinga several times on our tour route. Birding in the *caatinga* is not difficult, as the ground is mostly level and easy to walk, and birds are usually easy to see well (once you find them, that is!).

Chapada Diamantina—This fabled area is a geologically spectacular region of butte-like mountain blocks and deep valleys in the interior of the huge state of Bahia. It has obviously experienced a complex paleoclimatic history, and today its towering escarpments are flanked with semi-humid forest that harbors a unique mixture of birds from southeastern Brazil and northeastern dry forest, while outliers of *cerrado* more typical of the Brazilian Plateau far to the southwest cap the upper slopes and summits. Only a few of these remote summits have been explored biologically; one of them holds an amazing fifty-plus species of strange, endemic plants. But a short distance from the base of the Chapada Diamantina, *caatinga* once again dominates the landscape. You will find your second wind in the little town of Lençóis and the chic and charming *pousada* we call home for three nights. This beautiful region—and its wonderful birds, especially the Hooded Visorbearer and Sincora Antwren—is not to be missed. Most tour participants find it a surprising revelation that such a place exists in Brazil.



This male Hooded Visorbearer, from our 2016 tour, performed a stretch and yawn after remaining on its song perch for several minutes as we stood by in awe! Photo by guide Bret Whitney.

Southern Bahia Extension—In the humid Atlantic Forest habitats near the state's southern coast and also in the more mountainous interior near Boa Nova, the Pernambucan/Alagoan endemics are replaced by a quite different set of birds more typical of southeastern Brazil. The more coastal forests we'll bird near the town of Porto Seguro lie within the largest region of lowland Atlantic Forest remaining anywhere. Most of the terrain is flat, very sandy ground. We'll also take a peek into mangroves to find a few specialties. One day we'll drive through vast plantations of cacao where we'll seek the strange Pink-legged Graveteiro and the mountains of the Serra de Ouricana above the town of Boa Nova. Two birdy days there will get us into *mata-de-cipo* (vine forest) and beautiful, natural "cactus gardens" and also humid montane forest, where we'll hike significantly uphill to reach appropriate elevations for several rare birds with (we hope!) multiple mixed-species flocks along the way.

Itinerary for Nowhere But Northeast Brazil

Please Note! *Because flight schedules in Brazil often change several times in a year, it is not possible to guarantee that we'll be able to operate this tour in precisely the order we describe in the day-by-day itinerary, below. We will, however, monitor the situation and make arrangements for the best possible outcome.*

Days 1-2, Tue-Wed, 15-16 Jan or 19-20 Feb. Recife, Alagoas; drive to Uniao dos Palmares. Flights depart from your home on Tuesday and arrive in Recife Wednesday morning, after connecting through and clearing Customs in São Paulo, Brasília, or Manaus. **If you are already in Brazil, please arrive in Recife, at the airport, no later than 10:30 a.m on Day 2. If you opt to arrive a day or two ahead of the tour start date and Field Guides books your accommodation, we'll arrange to pick you up at a predetermined hour for the trip to the airport.**

Once we have everybody together, we'll depart the airport for the 1.5-hour transfer to our hotel in interior Alagoas state. Weather permitting, we will make our first birding stop along a road en route to the hotel. Thus, you should be dressed appropriately, meaning comfortable walking shoes and lightweight clothing, binoculars and sunscreen at hand (no bugs to worry about, no muddy trails, no scope needed). We'll probably do a birding walk of less than ¼ mile on easy footing—it's a delightful introduction to racking up the lifers! Goodies we could pick up here include Tawny Piculet and Smoky-fronted Tody-Flycatcher.

Our hotel is set in a hill with old second-growth on all sides, which makes for some interesting birding right out the door. It also puts us in position for very important birding at the Murici Reserve, about two hours away via dirt roads winding through vast plantations of sugarcane. Night of Day 2 near Uniao dos Palmares.

Day 3, Thu, 17 Jan or 21 Feb. Murici area. The Murici Ecological Reserve is itself highly endangered as the forest is steadily cut back and the interior steadily desiccates. Our two mornings at Murici will see us up absurdly early, toting sack lunches for a long day on foot as we search for some of the rarest birds in South America. Access to Murici is by steep, narrow, dirt roads that are nearly impassable if wet, even in 4WD vehicles, so keep your fingers crossed for sunny weather (this is a generally dry time of year, but the weather on this planet is not what it used to be). Here is but a partial list of birds we may encounter in this area (a good number of which we will also have a chance for in the coming days in Pernambuco): White-collared Kite, Mantled Hawk (both very rare), Red-shouldered Macaw, Jandaya and Plain parakeets, Golden-spangled Piculet (endemic subspecies *pernambucensis*), Pinto's Spinetail, Alagoas Foliage-gleaner (extremely rare; we saw one well on the 2007 tour but it apparently has not been seen at Murici since and is now probably extinct), Alagoas Antwren (*Myrmotherula snowi*; extremely rare, now known exclusively from this patch of forest where perhaps only a couple of individuals survive), White-backed Fire-eye (endemic subspecies *pernambucensis*), Scalloped Antbird (this is probably the best place to see it anywhere), Black-cheeked Gnateater (endemic subspecies *nigrifrons*), Smoky-fronted Tody-Flycatcher, White-winged Cotinga, Black-headed Berryeater (rare), Buff-throated Purpletuff (rare, isolated subspecies *leucopyga*), Sharpbill, the spectacular (and endangered) Seven-colored Tanager, Chestnut-bellied Euphonia, and Black-throated Grosbeak. Night near Uniao dos Palmares.



Pinto's Spinetail occurs in a very small area in the states of Alagoas and Pernambuco. We'll look for it in the Murici Ecological Reserve. Photograph by guide Marcelo Padua.

Day 4, Fri, 18 Jan or 22 Feb. Early drive to and birding at Frei Caneca Reserve, Pernambuco. After another drive through miles of sugar cane fields on muddy roads to reach the Frei Caneca Reserve, we'll continue the search for some of northeastern Brazil's rarest species, including Long-tailed Woodnymph (this is the single most reliable place for it; **the hike to the stream where we usually see this hummer is super-steep and takes an hour or so, which is the only reason this day is boldfaced in green**), the highly endangered Alagoas Foliage-gleaner (thought to be probably extinct), Orange-bellied Antwren, Willis's Antbird (endemic subspecies *sabinoi*), Alagoas Tyrannulet (now quite rare), and Yellow-faced Siskin. Let's hope for dry weather because rain can make the hilly, muddy roads impassable. On the 2007 tour, the truly unimaginable happened, and we were treated to a fantastic view of the ultra-rare White-collared Kite (*Leptodon forbesi*). It is known from about 4 specimens, and had been seen alive by only about six people, all Brazilian researchers. We managed only to hear the bird in 2008, but again connected perfectly in 2009 and again in 2010, 2011, twice(!) in 2012, and more recently in 2015 and 2017!

This afternoon, we'll drive east to the coast to our fantastic hotel on the beach. Night in Tamandare.

Day 5, Sat, 19 Jan or 23 Feb. Tamandare area. A productive morning of birding near Tamandare could produce, among many other birds, Jandaya Parakeet, Golden-tailed Parrotlet (often just high fly-overs, but we have a habit of

getting lucky), White-shouldered Antshrike (endemic subspecies *distans*), Pinto's Spinetail, and the obscure Forbes's Blackbird, which has a small population in this region. White-collared Kite is also possible here, and scan carefully for White-winged Cotingas perched on tall treetops early in the morning. Night in Tamandare.

Day 6, Sun, 20 Jan or 24 Feb. Tamandare to Recife; flight to Fortaleza and drive to Serra de Baturite. Following some early morning birding, we'll hightail it to the capital city of Recife to catch a flight north to Fortaleza, capital city of Ceara state. Our destination this afternoon is the Serra de Baturite, a mountain-like island of forest on the edge of the vast *caatinga*. The drive is about three hours, so with a couple of birding/rest stops, we'll make it to our hotel for dinner. The hotel is right in the midst of excellent birding habitat. Night in the Serra de Baturite.

Day 7, Mon, 21 Jan or 25 Feb. Birding the Serra de Baturite. After a rousing breakfast, we'll walk out the door and start seeing birds! Weather will probably be cool and just slightly misty, but better take along an umbrella, at least, in case precip gets a bit heavier as we walk up the cobblestone driveway through beautiful forest. The Serra de Baturite is an isolated range of hills that grabs the moisture-laden trade-winds wafting in off the Atlantic. It is covered with a semi-humid, mostly evergreen woodland that supports a mix of endemic and widespread species of birds. Among these are some that are currently considered to be subspecies (named below) but which, by merit of their widely disjunct distributions (endemic to Northeast Brazil), distinctive plumages, and poorly known habits, are candidates for elevation to full-species status in the future. Foremost among the rarities is the Buff-breasted Tody-Tyrant, known only from a few scattered hilltops in northeastern Brazil. Other interesting birds we hope to find today include Spot-winged Wood-Quail, Gray-breasted Parakeet (recently elevated to species status when split from Maroon-faced, *P. leucotis*), Planalto Hermit, Swallow-tailed Hummingbird, Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, Gould's Toucanet, Blond-crested Woodpecker, Ochraceous Piculet, Little Woodpecker, Wing-banded and Pale-legged horneros, the elegant Gray-headed Spinetail, Ochre-cheeked Spinetail, Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser, Variable Antshrike, White-fringed Antwren, Rufous ("Ceara or Caatinga") Gnatcatcher (subspecies *cearae*), Short-tailed Antthrush, Planalto Tyrannulet, Cliff (Swallow) Flycatcher (*Hirundinea ferruginea bellicosa*), Band-tailed Manakin, the beautiful Red-necked Tanager, and Purple-throated Euphonia. Night in the Serra de Baturite.



Comb Ducks and Black-necked Stilts are among the wetland birds we'll look for on our way from Baturite to Crato.

Photograph by guide Marcelo Padua.

Day 8, Tue, 22 Jan or 26 Feb. Baturite to Crato. We'll have this early morning to go for any species that may have eluded us yesterday, then pack up for the all-day drive south through the state of Ceara to the town of Crato, gateway to the Chapada do Araripe National Forest. We are traversing one of the most impoverished regions of Brazil, where life is hard for people and wildlife alike. Most areas are overrun with goats (the only animals that can survive without extraordinary care) that eat almost everything from the roots up, and water is scarce and ephemeral. If seasonal rains have been sufficient to establish ponds along the road, we may see a nice variety of ducks, perhaps including Southern Pochard and Masked and Comb ducks. We'll also make a few impromptu stops where we're sure to see a passle of lifers on this, our first, swing through the *caatinga*.

We'll roll into Crato late this afternoon. Our little hotel is set on a mountainside with pretty good birding on the grounds. Night in Crato.

Day 9, Wed, 23 Jan or 27 Feb. Birding the Chapada do Araripe. These are sure to be days spiked with anticipation as we seek some of the most distinctive, yet least-known, of northeastern Brazil's endemic birds. First on the list is the recently described Araripe Manakin, a close relative of the Helmeted Manakin. Recognizing it is not really a problem, because the adult males, at least, are certainly among the most distinctively plumaged of all the manakins. It's about six inches long, and is mostly snow-white, with black wings and tail and a startlingly scarlet crest, nape, and mantle! (*You can view a nice video from the 2016 tour on the Field Guides Facebook page under the "videos" tab.*) We'll also begin the

search in earnest for the Great Xenops. *Megaxenops* is indeed an unforgettable bird, with its bright rufous plumage, bizarre, pinkish bill, interesting behavior, and arresting vocalizations. In the same woodland of the chapada we will also look for Tawny Piculet, Caatinga Antwren (*Herpsilochmus sellowi*, described new to science by Bret and Brazilian colleagues in October 2000), the local and endemic White-browed Antpitta (*Hyllopezus ochroleucus*, from which the Speckle-breasted Antpitta [*H. nattereri*] was split), Gray Elaenia, Green-backed Becard, Pale-bellied Tyrant-Manakin, the striking White-naped Jay, Moustached Wren, Rufous-bellied and Pale-breasted thrushes, Gray-eyed Greenlet (*Hylophilus amaurocephalus*, recently split from Rufous-crowned; the ones here have dark eyes!), and Flavescent Warbler. We'll probably have a picnic dinner this evening, which will give us a chance for Rufous Nightjar and Common Potoo. Night in Crato.



The Great Xenops is a very interesting inhabitant of the caatinga.
Photograph by guide Marcelo Padua.

Day 10, Thu, 24 Jan or 28 Feb. Crato to Petrolina, Pernambuco. Following an early morning's birding at Chapada do Araripe, we'll settle in for the drive to Petrolina in southwest Pernambuco. We will make a few stops along the way, at one of which we have an excellent chance of seeing the Red-shouldered Spinetail. This enigmatic bird, sole member of the genus *Gyalophylax* (recently subsumed in catch-all *Synallaxis*) is known to the scientific world mainly from a few old specimens. We've learned the spinetail's haunt and habit, however, so we are unlikely to be "sans spinetail" for long. The unusual White-naped Xenopsaris has also proven to be regular in the area, and we've had good luck finding Ash-throated Casiornis here as well. As twilight settles, Least Nighthawks take to the skies and the chirps of the tiny Pygmy Nightjar issue forth from rocky *caatinga* scrub. We'll make a special effort to see these small nightjars well; they are both really beautiful birds. Night in Petrolina.

Day 11, Fri, 25 Jan or 1 Mar. Petrolina area. Petrolina is situated on the north bank of the great Rio Sao Francisco, one of the major geographic features of northeastern Brazil. This is the heart of the driest, scrubbiest *caatinga*. This fragile habitat, so easily cleared, burned and overgrazed, was one of the most distinctive biomes in South America; today, almost none

remains in a natural state. Remnant patches of *caatinga* near Petrolina will, however, be our main destination as we look for Cactus Parakeet, Spot-backed Puffbird, Spotted Piculet, Narrow-billed Woodcreeper, Black-bellied Antwren, Stripe-backed Antbird, Mouse-colored Tyrannulet, Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant, Campo Suiriri, both Greater and Lesser wagtail-tyrants, Long-billed Wren, Tropical Gnatcatcher, White-throated Seedeater, and Red-cowled Cardinal among others. Many of these might have been seen at earlier *caatinga* stops as well. Night in Petrolina.

Day 12, Sat, 26 Jan or 2 Mar. Petrolina to Canudos, Bahia: Lear's Macaws! Ready for another interesting day? Good! We'll start birding a mix of marsh and open country near Joazeiro, Bahia, where we will hope to do as well as we did last year, picking up multiple Stripe-backed Bitterns, and a fine variety of waders and other birds on a fine early morning. We'll then settle in for several hours of travel, making our way ever eastward toward the Raso da Catarina. Very fortunately for us, this long haul has just been completely paved and it goes like a breeze!

The remote, red-rock escarpment of the Raso harbors the only population of the Lear's (Indigo) Macaw. This magnificent blue macaw is one of the rarest birds in the world, and its continued existence is highly endangered. Recent censusing by Brazilian ornithologists has revealed that fewer than 800 individuals remain in the wild, and that they may not be reproducing sufficiently to safely maintain even this number, although promising news came in recently that 2014 was a banner year for the macaws, with more chicks than usual being fed by adults in nests early in the year. Furthermore, the macaw's special habitat is very limited in extent and is only lightly protected. *If you would like to read Bret's entertaining story of the quest for the Lear's Macaw on the 1996 Field Guides tour, go to our website, click on the News tab along the top row, then type the following into the search bar (located in the left side of the window under "Search News Posts"): "NE Brazil: Last Chance Pickup". The story is presented in two parts and is dated March 18th, 2009.*

Now for some GREAT news! Starting in 2016, we will be privileged to have access to the remote canyons where Lear's Macaws raise their young on high, inaccessible ledges. The birds will probably have active nests in late January (wow!). We'll spend the night in the historic town of Canudos to be in position for a visit to the Raso tomorrow. The little hotel here is simple and clean, and serves us well for this very important venue. Night in Canudos.

Day 13, Sun, 27 Jan or 3 Mar. The Raso de Catarina; Canudos to Catu. After a super-early breakfast, we'll fit ourselves into 4WD vehicles for the only slightly jarring journey into the Raso de Catarina. Anticipation will be running max-high as we approach the red-rock cliffs that are the last stronghold of the Lear's Macaw. With luck, we'll arrive as the birds are beginning to become active for the day, their unique voices echoing through the canyons as they stretch their wings in preparation for the long, daily flight to feeding areas. Being here is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to commune with Lear's Macaws right in their living room, one very few naturalists have experienced. We'll probably see Blue-crowned Parakeets, Turquoise-fronted Parrots, and perhaps Bat Falcon here as well.

After lunch back in Canudos, we'll pack up and continue east, making a couple of important birding stops in hopes of Pectoral Antwren and Stripe-breasted Starthroat. Keep an eye open for Red-legged Seriemas stalking the surrounding grasslands and White Monjitas on the fences. We're ardently praying that the paving of this section of the highway that was well along in January, 2017, has been completed, but if it has not, expect significantly slower going as we make our way to the town of Catu, where we'll be close to good habitat for the rare Fringe-backed Fire-eye. Night in Catu.



*We will spend time in some of the most spectacular landscapes in Brazil when we bird the Chapada Diamantina.
Photograph by guide Bret Whitney.*

Day 14, Mon, 28 Jan or 4 Mar. The Fringe-backed Fire-eye; westward to Chapada Diamantina. We'll hit the trail early for the endangered Fringe-backed Fire-eye and good views of some other birds while we're at it, such as Sooretama Slaty-Antshrike and, with great luck, Band-tailed Antwren (both relatively easy on the southern Bahia extension). Our first glimpse of the Chapada Diamantina, a geologically spectacular region of butte-like escarpments and deep valleys, comes late this afternoon in the form of a distant blue wall on the westward horizon. As we near the escarpment, the land begins to rise dramatically, and our southward route traverses several impressive rivers and streams on beautiful stone bridges. Time permitting, we'll make a stop to look for Diamantina Tapaculo in a spot that has been very productive for us. We'll then continue our way our way west to the plateau region around the quaint little town of Mucuge, rolling in around dusk, just right and ready for happy hour. This long afternoon of travel will put us in position for a stellar morning of birding tomorrow! Night Mucuge.

Day 15, Tue, 29 Jan or 5 Mar. Chapada Diamantina: Mucuge. This region of ancient uplift today supports a somewhat more humid, evergreen forest on the seaward (eastern) flank, and a mosaic of soils and habitat types farther west. This morning will find us birding a variety of *cerrado* formations (fire-adapted savanna scrublands) in search of Collared Crescentchest, Gray-backed Tachuri, Rufous-sided Pygmy-Tyrant, White-banded Tanager, and Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch.

After lunch and check-out at the pousada, we'll swing back east and north to the colonial town of Lencois. Lencois dates from the late 1800s, when thousands of miners, lured by an abundance of diamonds, settled this remote area. There are still diamonds to be found today, but mining this area has been outlawed and Lencois's attraction has shifted to one of a relaxed little tourist town, with narrow, cobblestone streets and lots of quaint shops and restaurants at the edge of Chapada Diamantina National Park. Our *pousada* here is an especially charming and relaxing place, with a nice swimming pool and a great restaurant—you're going to love it! Night in Lencois.

Day 16, Wed, 30 Jan or 6 Mar. Chapada Diamantina: Lencois. We'll devote this day to birding a variety of habitats in the Chapada Diamantina. This is the seldom-birded home of the rare and beautiful Hooded Visorbearer. It occurs only in this small area of interior Bahia. Even more restricted in range is the Sincora Antwren, described to science only in May, 2007 although we've been showing it to tour groups pretty much continuously since Bret first recognized it as a species undescribed to science in 1994. It is a close relative of widespread Black-bellied and Rusty-backed antwrens. Another specialty of these "serras" (isolated grassy and rocky hills) is the Pale-throated Serra-Finch or just plain Serra Finch (*Embernagra longicauda*; this poor bird's English name has been a mess in recent years). As we search for these birds, scan the rocky ledges above the valleys for the strange Rock Cavy (*Kerodon rupestris*, the only member of its genus), a guinea-pig-like rodent the size of a marmot, endemic to Bahia and northern Minas Gerais.

This region of Bahia is also excellent for the enigmatic Broad-tipped Hermit, the ornate Frilled Coquette, and the brilliant Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, adult males of which have to be seen to be believed. The abundance of hummers in this region fluctuates considerably with the abundance of flowers. There will be lots of other birds these days as well (Scarlet-throated Tanager, often scarce, is perhaps most likely here); many of them *cerrado* (Brazilian planalto) species here near the eastern edges of their ranges. Highlights among that list include species we sought yesterday, near Mucuge, and White-eared Puffbird and Stripe-tailed Yellow-Finch. We'll also have a natural-classroom "Elaenia identification workshop," often being able to compare multiple individuals of Yellow-bellied, Highland, Lesser, and Plain-crested (and sometimes also Large) in a single morning! We will also bird in the humid forest near Lencois that may net us Blue-crowned Trogon, White-bibbed Antbird, and a Rufous Gnateater of a form different from those we'll have seen earlier in the tour. Night in Lencois.

Day 17, Thu, 31 Jan or 7 Mar. Lencois to Salvador and home. After a final morning of birding and lunch, we'll transfer to the Lencois airport for our direct flight to Salvador, zooming over that long stretch of highway we traversed a few days ago on the way out here. Those not joining the extension can depart Salvador the evening of January 31 or March 7 after 6:00pm to Miami, arriving early February 1 or March 8 into the US for homeward connections. Those joining the SOUTHERN BAHIA EXTENSION, and anyone who has come in to Salvador to join the extension, will enjoy a delicious dinner this evening in beautiful old Salvador. Alternatively -- for those folks not participating in the extension -- you are invited to come to dinner with us this evening (no charge). If you would like to take advantage of this offer, we will book you a room for the extra-night in Salvador (or you could book your own), and you will depart for home anytime February 1 or March 8.

Day 18, Fri, 1 Feb or 8 Mar. Arrival in Miami. Flights arrive in Miami this morning, connecting to homebound flights. *Uma boa viagem para todos!*

SOUTHERN BAHIA EXTENSION

Day 1, Thu, 31 Jan or 7 Mar. Folks continuing on the **Southern Bahia Extension**, and anyone arriving today just to join the extension, will spend this night in Salvador.

Day 2, Fri, 1 Feb or 8 Mar. Salvador to Boa Nova: All Saints Bay and the Pink-legged Graveteiro. After an early but well-appointed breakfast, we'll transfer to the ferry landing to make the 45-minute crossing of Bahia Todos os Santos (All Saints Bay) to bird humid forest late this morning where there is a good chance of finding Eastern Striped Manakin and several other species.

Our plan this afternoon is to push westward through southern Bahia to enter a very different, more humid region on dark, fertile soils where almost all of the forest has been converted to growing cacao, bananas, and other crops. Cacao was introduced into southern Bahia from the Brazilian Amazon in 1746, and cultivating it is the economic base for almost everyone in the region to this day. Planting cacao has resulted in the total clearance of the forest understory beneath a somewhat thinned canopy of tall, native trees and, nowadays, planted *Erythrina* and other species. Thus, all lowland birds dependent on native forest understory have disappeared from this region (a subset persists on the few and

scattered hilltops over about 500m elevation), but the circumstance of cacao requiring shade for maturation has had the positive corollary of providing a tenuous maintenance of at least some of the canopy avifauna, the most illustrious member of which is the Pink-legged Graveteiro.

A “graveteiro” is a “twig-gatherer,” which Bret and Brazilian colleagues introduced in the formal description of *Acrobatornis fonsecai* in 1996. The Pink-legged Graveteiro is one of the most distinctive species of furnariids—the Ovenbird family—which is saying a lot. DNA analysis has confirmed that it is most closely related to the Orange-fronted Plushcrown of upper Amazonia, and the even farther disjunct Ecuadorian and Double-banded graytails. This odd little bird, black-and-gray as adult and rufous-and-buff as juvenile, with stout, bright-pink legs and bill, hangs on in the canopy of native trees shading the cacao plantations in southern Bahia. It is a highly acrobatic forager (hence the genus name), deftly scaling along the undersides of thin branches as it searches for insect prey with mixed-species flocks. We'll make a point of seeing it well and learning of its interesting nesting habits. Other birds to watch for during our birding stops include the handsome Golden-capped Parakeet and Green-headed Tanager.

This will be a long day with an after-dark arrival in the little town of Boa Nova, where a new, birder-friendly pousada has become available, affording accommodation and great meals in the midst of several critically important birding venues. Night in Boa Nova.



The Rufous-headed Tanager is a specialty of the Bahia area.
Photograph by participant Fred Dalbey.

Days 3-4, Sat-Sun, 2-3 Feb or 9-10 Mar. Boa Nova National Park. The region of southeastern Bahia that we will be birding is a transition zone where the southern rim of the *caatinga* meets the western fringe of the humid Atlantic Forest. There is a remarkable assemblage of birds here, including an impressive concentration of rare antbirds. Unfortunately, most of this unique habitat, called *mata-de-cipo* ("vine forest") has been cleared, and our birding will be in remnant patches of forest and dry woodland—but the great news is that the region was declared Boa Nova National Park in June 2010! Formal protection of these habitats and increasing visits from people like us are sure to help preserve them into the future.

Among the special antbirds we hope to locate are the handsome Silvery-cheeked and Rufous-winged antshrikes, the peculiar Narrow-billed Antwren, the rare and little-known Rio de Janeiro Antbird, and the ultra-rare Slender Antbird. From the Atlantic Forest element of the avifauna, which is more typical of

southeastern Brazil, we may see such species as Crescent-chested Puffbird, Black-billed Scythebill, Striated Softtail, White-collared Foliage-gleaner, Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper, Pallid Spinetail, Tufted Antshrike, Spot-breasted Antwren, Ferruginous and Scaled antbirds, Pin-tailed and Swallow-tailed manakins, Drab-breasted Bamboo-Tyrant, the rare and beautiful Fork-tailed Tody-Tyrant, Sharpbill, and Gilt-edged and Rufous-headed tanagers among numerous others. We will also concentrate on finding the challenging Bahia Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes beckeri*), described in May 1995, and the handsome Bahia Spinetail (*Synallaxis whitneyi*) named by Brazilian ornithologists in honor of your trusty guide -- although the name recently changed to *Synallaxis cinerea*, as Bret and Fernando Pacheco pointed out that *cinerea* has nomenclatural priority.

We may actually start one day around a marsh in hopes of finding Blackish Rail, the Southern Pochard, and possibly Masked Duck. The surrounding area will also give us quite a nice selection of *caatinga* birds, perhaps including Pygmy Nightjar, Caatinga Cacholote, Rufous-fronted Thornbird, Barred Anshrike (endemic, red-eyed subspecies *capistratus*), White Monjita, Yellowish Pipit, and Grassland Yellow-Finch. We'll also dedicate one early evening to a giant snipe hunt, we mean a real Giant Snipe hunt (check out the video of our success on the 2016 tour online triplist)! These will be full and active birding days—there is a lot to see! Nights in Boa Nova.

Day 5, Mon, 4 Feb or 11 Mar. Boa Nova to Porto Seguro. “Easier said than done!” This day will probably unfold like this: Great morning of birding; early lunch and a prolonged siesta; mid-late afternoon drive to the town of Vitoria da Conquista; early evening flight to Salvador; a couple of hours of lay-over before connecting to the coastal town of Porto Seguro, with arrival around midnight. Although this is far from an ideal slate of events, it is the most efficient available (short of paying many thousands of dollars for charter air services)! We'll just have to endure it, trying to get a reasonable amount of sleep in two widely separated chunks. Our hotel in Porto Seguro is spacious and comfortable. Night in Porto Seguro.

Day 6, Tue, 5 Feb or 12 Mar. Porto Seguro. Birding sandy-soil forests near town this morning will give us an excellent chance of seeing the very local Bahia Antwren (true *Herpsilochmus pileatus*), Band-tailed Antwren, White-winged Cotinga, and the stunning Brazilian Tanager. With great luck, we could also come up with the little-known Hook-billed Hermit, Racket-tailed Coquette, Ringed Woodpecker (Atlantic Forest endemic subspecies *tinnunculus*), Red-billed Scythebill (little-known, nominate *trochilrostris* restricted to these coastal forests of southern Bahia), and the ultra-rare Banded Cotinga. Other birds to work on include Least Pygmy-Owl, Golden-spangled Piculet (nominate *exilis*), Sooretama Slaty-Antshrike, White-flanked Antwren (endemic Atlantic Forest subspecies *luctuosa* in the process of being formally split, probably to be called “Silvery-flanked Antwren”), Black-capped and White-eyed foliage-gleaners, Rufous-throated and White-chinned sapphires, Turquoise Tanager (endemic *brasiliensis* soon to be split and probably called “White-bellied Tanager”), and Opal-rumped Tanager (endemic *cyanomelaena* soon to be split and probably called “Silvery-breasted Tanager”).

Following a sunset checklist session at the reserve, we'll go for the mysterious White-winged Potoo. This population is the nominate form, very similar to the recently discovered and soon-to-be-split Amazonian/Guianan birds. The type specimen (original skin upon which the name *Nyctibius leucopterus* was based) was taken in southern Bahia in 1816. There were no additional records in the Atlantic Forest until Bret and Brazilian colleagues rediscovered it at the Una Biological Reserve some 300 kilometers north of Porto Seguro on 1 November 1999. In February 2009, Bret found a White-winged Potoo at the reserves we will visit near Porto Seguro, and the bird was still there and was seen well on our recent tours. It's a mighty rare bird, but we'll certainly give it a solid try, and we may be able to throw the light on some other night birds in the hunt, perhaps including Black-capped Screech-Owl. Night in Porto Seguro.

Day 7, Wed, 6 Feb or 13 Mar. Porto Seguro to Sao Paulo. We will have this full morning to continue scouring the treetops for rare cotingas and the understory for hermits and antwrens before lunch at noon, an hour or so to clean up and pack at the hotel, and getting to the airport for our mid-afternoon flight to Sao Paulo. Time permitting this afternoon, we'll bird some mangroves where we'll look for Plain-bellied Emerald, Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant, Tropical Mockingbird (endemic subspecies *antelinus*), Bicolored Conebill, and a variety of herons and shorebirds.

Uma boa viagem para todos!

Day 8, Thu, 7 Feb or 14 Mar. Arrival in Miami and home. You'll arrive in Miami early this morning, allowing for leisurely homeward connections.

About Your Guides

Tour I (with Bret Whitney & Marcelo Barreiros); Tour II (Marcelo Barreiros)

Bret Whitney must be *at least* half Brazilian by now. It all began when he was born, birding in the Wild Midwest, mostly in Indiana, where he was narrowly overlooked by his high school baseball team and did, in fact, graduate from Earlham College. He is known for his ability to identify birds by their calls and songs, which has led to his stumbling onto multiple species new to science. Bret is one of the founders of Field Guides, a Research Associate of the Museum of Natural Science at Louisiana State University, an Associate of the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell, 2004 recipient of the ABA's Ludlow Griscom award, and an eternal optimist about everything except Ivory-billed Woodpeckers. Bret guides most of our Brazil tours and, with Brazilian colleagues; he is supposed to be producing a series of regional field guides to the birds of Brazil. When not on tour, “the Kite” attempts to stay in shape with irregular bike rides, by leaning over pool tables, and by hefting kegs of Live Oak Pilz and dumping 35-lb sacks of spicy crawfish, corn, and potatoes onto old doors covered with newspapers so his family and friends can pig out at his crawfish boils. Oh yes, and by stirring cauldrons of Brazilian *moqueca* and playing lots of rowdy *blowball* at the Field Guides business meeting, excellent for the c-v pump and eye-mouth coordination.

*“This was a wonderful tour! **Bret Whitney** has such amazing hearing and knowledge—he is like a bird maestro, and he shares so much as the tour unfolds. The different habitats and cities were amazing, beautiful, and with opportunities to learn about the country and culture while birding. We had amazing views of the birds, with the endemics really showing well...and Bret is so much fun to travel with. D.F., Nowhere But Northeast Brazil*

You can view overly serious stories about Bret in the December 2003 issue of *Popular Science* magazine and at www.discoverychannel.ca (click on Video, then “Daily Planet”, then “The Show” and find the video archive for 5 May 2005: “Name that Tune”).

Marcelo Barreiros is a native of Sao Paulo, Brazil, who became fascinated with birds when he entered college in 2005, graduating with a degree in biology in 2009. He then moved to Manaus to work with conservation of Harpy Eagles and other large forest raptors, monitoring nests in both the Amazon and the Atlantic Forest regions. Today, Marcelo's depth of expertise in finding and identifying even the rarest species in has earned him an outstanding reputation among the leading fieldmen in Amazonia and, increasingly, all of Brazil. He and his wife have recently (2015) moved back to Sao Paulo to be closer to family and the wonderful beaches and Atlantic Forest. Marcelo is a friendly, generous guide with an even temperament and ready laugh, who truly enjoys showing birds to tour participants. His English is good and improving with study and increased experience with foreign birders.

“Marcelo Barreiros has eyes like a hawk, and helped me find several birds I was having trouble finding. I would be happy to travel with him again”. J.B. Heart of Chile.

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/guides> for complete tour schedules for both Bret and Marcelo; just click on their photos.

Financial Information

FEE: \$7475 (Tour I); **\$6775** (Tour II) from Recife and ending in Salvador (includes flights within Brazil)
FEE FOR EXTENSION: \$2150 (extension fee the same for both tours; includes flights within Brazil)
DEPOSIT: \$750 (Tour I); **\$675** (Tour II)
FINAL PAYMENT DUE: September 17, 2018 (Tour I); October 22, 2018 (Tour II)
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$850 for main tour; \$400 for extension (fees the same for both tours)
LIMIT: 12 (Tour I); **8** (Tour II)

SPECIAL NOTE: For 2019, at least, we are offering a second departure of the same itinerary, including the post-tour Southern Bahia Extension. The dates immediately follow those of the first tour. Guides for the first tour will be Bret Whitney and Marcelo Barreiros, with a group of 12 participants. The second tour will be led by Marcelo Barreiros with a group of 8 participants. The second tour will benefit by Marcelo's having lots of fresh stake-outs from the first tour, and it is also somewhat less expensive, due to lower cost of smaller or fewer vehicles at some of the tour venues, and the fact that we will not need to cover a second guide's airfare and caipirinhas. Final bird lists for the two tours are going to be quite similar, and excellent, of course!

Other Things You Need to Know

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

DOCUMENTS: A current passport is necessary for US citizens to enter Brazil. In addition, you will need a visa to enter Brazil. Our office will forward you visa application instructions.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Brazilian 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: 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.

VACCINATIONS: Yellow fever is widespread in many parts of Brazil, and we recommend all travelers to Brazil be vaccinated against the disease. Please check www.cdc.gov/travel/contentYellowFeverBrazil.aspx for the current CDC information and consult with your physician about whether the vaccine is appropriate for you (there are contraindications for some individuals).

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is \$7475 (Tour I); or \$6775 (Tour II) for one person in double occupancy from Recife and ending in Salvador. It includes all lodging from Day 2 (January 16 or February 20) through Day 16 (January 30 or March 6), all meals from lunch on Day 2 through dinner on Day 17, flights within Brazil, all ground transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above tour fee does not include your airfare to and from Brazil, 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 main tour is \$850* (Tour I & II).

The fee for the **Southern Bahia Extension** is \$2150 (Tour I & II) for one person in double occupancy from **Salvador**. It includes all lodging from Day 1 (January 31 or March 7) through Day 7 (February 6 or March 13—day rooms only), all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through lunch on Day 7, flights within Brazil, all ground transportation, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling, plenty of water and meal service, and the guide services of the tour leader(s)

The above extension fee does not include your airfare to Salvador (if you are not on the main tour) and from Sao Paulo, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement for the extension** is \$400* (Tour I & II).

* 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 \$750** (Tour I); or \$675 (Tour II) 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 September 17, 2018** (Tour I); **October 22, 2018** (Tour II). **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 fees (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 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, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights), 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 <https://fieldguides.com/travelinsurance.html> 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.

5/18 BW

5/18 RK; peg