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BIRDING TOURS WORLDWIDE

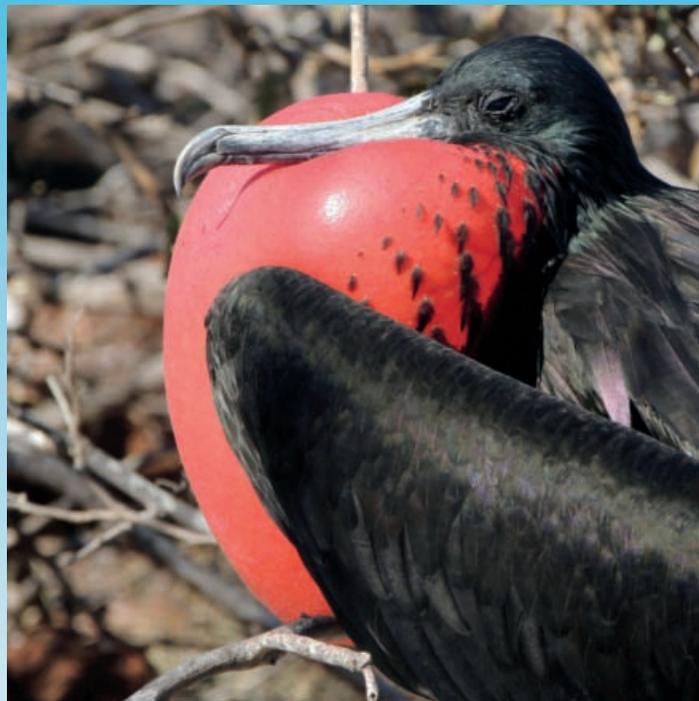
GALAPAGOS

If you're looking for the ultimate birding adventure, check out our two summer cruises to the "Enchanted Isles." You'll not only get to see amazing birds and other animals but can wiggle your toes in the sand...not a bad combo! On each tour—limited to just 14 participants—our Field Guide will be joined by a Galapagos naturalist-guide to maximize your small-group experience. Megan Edwards Crewe's report from last year's tour will give you a taste of what's in store.

For those interested in natural history, the Galapagos Islands are a wonderland. Every island is a revelation. The animals—though wild and unfettered—are so trusting as to seem tame. Our week's cruise brought us within arm's length of Galapagos Tortoises the size of coffee tables and whip-fast lava lizards. Albatrosses snoozed in the middle of paths. Mockingbirds investigated bare toes. Boobies stomped their way through our group. "Darwin's Finches" circled as if planning to land atop heads or arms or camera lenses. And everywhere, we could settle in for extended studies of plants or birds or insects or herps or fish, secure in the knowledge that they just wouldn't care that we were there.



From top: Red-billed Tropicbird by participant Kevin Heffernan; Magnificent Frigatebird by guide Megan Edwards Crewe; and Small Ground-Finch atop a Galapagos Tortoise by participant Liz West.

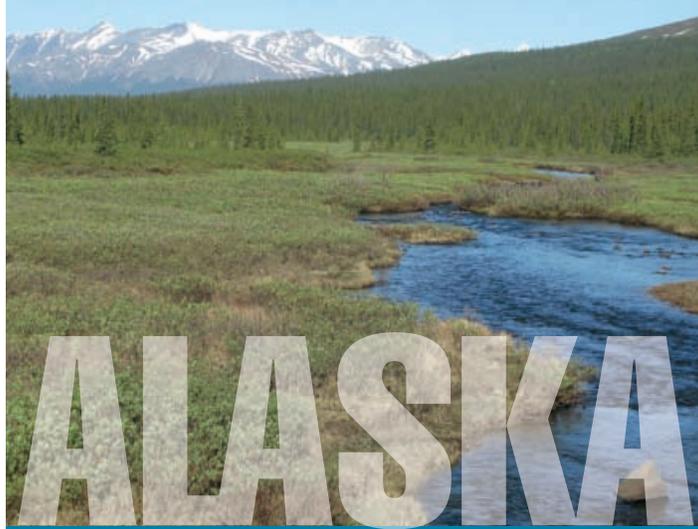


As you might expect in such a naturalist's paradise, there were many, many highlights. Waved Albatrosses called and bowed and clattered their beaks together, or brooded small chicks (which look surprisingly poodle-like, thanks to their curly feathers). Blue-footed Boobies whistled and grunted and solemnly displayed their extraordinary feet to each other. Well-camouflaged Short-eared Owls lurked among a whirling mass of Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels, waiting for an opportunity—and a one-eyed hunter gobbled its

Continued on page 10



Pomarine Jaeger



ALASKA



Red-legged Kittiwake



Bristle-thighed Curlew



Spruce Grouse



Humpback Whale fluking

Alaska represents North America's ultimate birding frontier. It is a prime place to go for a large number of species, such as King, Common, Spectacled, and Steller's eiders, Harlequin Duck, Gyrfalcon, Bristle-thighed Curlew, Aleutian Tern, Long-tailed, Parasitic, and Pomarine jaegers, Red-legged Kittiwake, Willow and Rock ptarmigans, Spruce Grouse, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Northern Hawk Owl, Slaty-backed Gull, Bluethroat, Northern Wheatear, Bohemian Waxwing, Eastern Yellow Wagtail, Arctic Warbler, Snow Bunting, and more.

Our grand tour takes us to mainland Alaska's finest birding sites and is conveniently divided into two parts if you have limited time. We visit the Pribilof Islands and beautiful Denali National Park on Part One, and Nome, Seward, and Barrow on Part Two. Whether you join us for one part or both this year, it will be an exciting birding trip to one of the wildest, most beautiful places on Earth!



Northern Hawk Owl



Spectacled Eiders

2015 Tours

Alaska I: May 29-June 6 (Part 1) and June 5-15 (Part 2) with Chris Benesh & Tom Johnson

Alaska II: June 5-13 (Part 1) and June 12-22 (Part 2) with Megan Edwards Crewe & Pepe Rojas



Denali

Photos by participant Spike Baker and guides Chris Benesh, Eric Hynes & Dave Stejskal



Bluethroat

"My overall Alaska tour experience was absolutely fantastic...I'm trying to think of constructive criticisms, but really, I can't come up with anything. The entire process from start to finish met or exceeded my expectations." C.D., Alaska

"In all, one of the top three trips of my life." K.F., Alaska

GUIDES

In Your Words and Ours

Phil Gregory (he's the one who's smiling) has a full year planned, from tours in Japan and Cambodia—where this photo was taken—to Ghana, Madagascar, and New Caledonia. Phil not only knows these areas—in the words of a recent participant—“like the back of his hand,” but has a “terrific sense of humor and is a pleasure to travel with.” Phil spends his time off helping his wife, Sue, at Cassowary House, their lodge in the far north of Queensland, Australia, where indeed cassowaries and their chicks wander the grounds.

Peter Burke has redesigned his Belize tour and is looking forward to guiding it in its new iteration. In addition to being an excellent guide—one past participant describes him as a “polished diamond”—Peter is an accomplished artist who has contributed to a number of field guides, including *Birds of Chile*, *Birds of Peru*, and the upcoming *Birds of Brazil* (with Bret Whitney) and *Birds of Northern Central America* (with Jesse Fagan). And last but not least, he's a very funny guy who is a lot of fun to travel with.

Several years ago **Richard Webster** designed and scouted a series of Colombia tours, which, with the help of Jesse Fagan, he continues to guide. Indeed, he'll be in Colombia for two of them this year and next—*The Cauca Valley, Western & Central Highlands* and *Santa Marta Escape*, where this picture was taken and where he'll continue to show participants lots of birds, both common and rare, and generously share his knowledge of them. Richard will round out his schedule with trips to Northern Peru and Bhutan.

Terry McEaney continues to guide our popular Ireland tours, spring and fall offered in alternate years, but he's not dressed for Ireland in this photo—taken with his wife, Karen, who joins him on most of his tours—but for winter in Yellowstone, where he leads winter and summer tours. Terry's a natural for both, being 100% Irish with an ebullient personality and an Irishman's love of story and song, and having served for years as chief ornithologist for Yellowstone National Park, a place he knows like the back of his hand.



Mitch Lysinger will join Dan Lane in June for the Central Peruvian Endemics tour to an extraordinarily scenic and endemic-rich area of Peru, but otherwise he'll be at home in Ecuador, guiding tours to the Southwest, both West and East slopes of the Andes, and Amazonia at Sacha and Shiripuno (in 2016) lodges—all of which are areas relatively easy to get to and loaded with fabulous birds. And seeing them with Mitch is a particular treat. Not only does he have what one participant describes as an “uncanny ability to spot cryptic birds even while traveling in the bus,” but he's charming and funny while doing it.

Participants on **Terry Stevenson's** tours usually comment on his knowledge, his birding skills, and his expert management of tour details, but many also remark on his ability as a storyteller. Terry's lived in Kenya for the better part of his life and he's traveled to every corner of the continent—and written field guides to many of them—and he is a font of information about Africa, full of good stories. But as you may have noticed lately, Terry's branching out, with tours to northern and southern India for several years now, and in 2015, a new tour to Hungary and Romania.

Jay VanderGaast has traveled far and wide birding around the globe, and we're delighted that he'll be putting all that experience to work on tours in 2015 and 2016. You'll be able to benefit from his vast know-how from Costa Rica and New Guinea to France, China, Bolivia, and, closer to home—Point Pelee. As a recent participant noted, “Jay is an excellent guide. His acute hearing and sight and genuine interest and caring resulted in our seeing many exquisite birds. He took great care of us from handling things at airports to choosing super restaurants.” Sounds like Jay to us!

Eric Hynes will be leading tours to three islands in 2015 and 2016—Jamaica, which he scouted last year, as well as Trinidad & Tobago and Puerto Rico—but he'll also be spending plenty of time birding the mainland, with trips to Colorado, Maine, and Brazil (in 2016). Eric has been described as “upbeat and engaging with great eyes and ears” and having “wide-ranging knowledge of the biology and behavior of the birds and other wildlife encountered on the tour.” One participant sums it all up nicely—“his insights made me want to learn more.”

FRESH FROM THE FIELD



Fairywrens, Crimson Rosellas, bowerbirds—we could only be in Oz, a land overflowing with beautiful and fascinating endemics. Just look at the birds pictured here: Blue-breasted Fairywren, bottom right, is one of twelve species in the genus *Malurus*, many with names like Superb, Splendid, and Purple-crowned, only suggesting their beauty; above the fairywren, a Striated Grasswren, in the same family as the fairywren but with a less outgoing personality; from left at top, two endemic Old World parrots, the fairly common—at least at O'Reilly's Guesthouse—Crimson Rosella and the Port Lincoln Parrot, and a pair of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos; and at middle left, a Golden Bowerbird, the smallest of Australia's bowerbirds. Watching this male at his bower, a double-towered structure built of twigs that can last for decades and is inherited by successive generations, was, according to guide John Coons, a highlight of this year's **Australia**, Part II. (Photos by participants Brian & Ginny Murphy and guide Chris Benesh)



Our **New Guinea & Australia** tour combines some of the most exciting birding in the world. From Papua New Guinea we have at far right a Ribbon-tailed Astrapia, one of those “how could it ever fly?” birds, and at near right, a Belford's Melidectes, a species guide Jay VanderGaast describes as “large, common, aggressive, obnoxious, but still pretty cool...” From Australia, a Regent Bowerbird, top middle, that like the



Australian King-Parrot posing with participant Susan McCarthy, is found at O'Reilly's where it has been known to use birders as perches. The Mareeba Rock-Wallaby, here with a youngster in her pouch, is a small kangaroo endemic to Northern Queensland, where it lives in groups of up to 100 individuals. (Photos by guide Jay VanderGaast)





The scenery on our **Chile** tour is outstanding, as you can see from this photo of our group heading to see the Diademed Sandpiper-Plover, one of the world's most sought-after birds—seeing an adult with young was a trip highlight. At left, Creamy-rumped Miner is another exciting high-Andean bird that the group saw extremely well. And below the miner, a pair of Andean



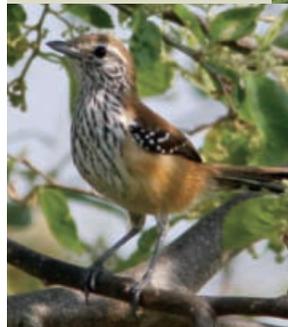
Geese, fairly common in Lauca National Park in Chile's far north according to guide Peter Burke—but lovely just the same. (Photos by participants Randy Siebert & Linda Nuttall and guide Peter Burke)



According to guide Terry Stevenson, our 2014 **South Africa** tour enjoyed great looks at virtually all of the region's endemic birds, including the Bald Ibis at top with its depth of color, a snappy little Cape Grassbird (at right) and Pink-headed Twinspot (a female below left). The Crested Guineafowl, with its bold hairdo, provides a nice contrast with our bald friend up top. (Photos by guide Jesse Fagan)



Our **Safari Brazil** tour hits a rich variety of habitats in the central part of the country—and a huge diversity of birds! That's a fabulous Crane Hawk in full wing at right, followed clockwise below it by Rufous-capped Spinetail, Saffron-billed Sparrow, Long-tailed Tyrant, and a female Rusty-backed Antwren—all in photos by guide Marcelo Padua.



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FRESH FROM THE FIELD



Top of the hit parade on Megan Edwards Crewe's **Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista** tour were the Sunbitterns (one below left) seen along two different streams as they crept along the rocky shores, sat on their eggs on mossy branches, and occasionally—just occasionally—flashed those gorgeous wings. Over twenty species of hummingbirds, including Snowcaps and this fancy Black-crested Coquette above, were also greatly enjoyed. This little Bright-rumped Attila, a forest species usually heard and not seen—or not seen well—posed nicely for its portrait. (Photos by participants Tony Quezon & Mike Crewe)



The Yellow Rail is one of the most difficult-to-see birds in North America, but the rice harvest along the Gulf Coast affords our **Louisiana: Yellow Rails & Crawfish Tails** tour a prime opportunity. We had great views of about ten birds flushing and flying out of rice fields (one at right). And banding efforts resulted in our seeing one up close in the hand. Above, guide Tom Johnson showing tour participants a Bachman's Sparrow, which just barely made it into the photo at upper right. (Photos by guides Dan Lane & Tom Johnson)



Our **Holiday at San Isidro, Ecuador** tour group, shown here on the lodge's new porch with guide Mitch Lysinger (at left), enjoyed a great time in a beautiful place over the Thanksgiving holiday. Just a few of the birds they saw include Long-tailed Sylph at top—the hummingbird feeders at San Isidro are a great place for this gorgeous hummer; White-bellied Antpitta, left below, one of several antpittas possible on the tour and one that has been habituated by the lodge staff to come to worms; and Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, a lovely visitor around the cabins at San Isidro. (Photos by participant Jody Gillespie)



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One of the regular highlights of our **Arizona Winter Specialties** tour is seeing thousands of wintering Sandhill Cranes and hearing the clamor of their constant bugling. Along the tour route, there are many other birds you can pretty much count on, like the cute Bridled Titmouse at right and the Burrowing Owl standing next to his burrow. The male Hooded Merganser, on the other hand, was something of a bonus. (Photos by guide Dave Stejskal)





Our Ireland tours combine birds, music, pubs—and lots of fun, or *craic* in Irish, and guide Terry McEneaney is happy, as you can see, to set the example on our **Ireland in Fall** tour. We also enjoyed traditional Irish music sessions on most nights, leaving the days to the many boreal migrants and coastal birds, like the Herring and Black-backed gulls and Great Cormorant pictured here. The Jackdaws are a common sight, though these two had taken up residence in the Rock of Cashel, one of Ireland's famous fortresses. (Photos by participant George Nixon and guides Terry & Karen McEneaney)



It's hard for some of us to imagine encountering a bird like this Indian Peafowl outside a zoo, but Terry Stevenson reports that at least 40 were seen in Nagarhole National Park during our **Southern India: Western Ghats Endemics** tour. There were, in addition, some great nocturnal species, including this Sri Lanka Frogmouth at right, which, although it sounds like it should be an island endemic, is also found in southern India. And though Black-rumped Flamebacks are common and widespread, how can you complain about seeing such a pretty woodpecker? (Photos by participant Becky Hansen)



While this may look like an ordinary way through the forest, it is in fact the very path used by Teddy Roosevelt during his expedition to chart the River of Doubt in April 1914. Today it serves as the main route between the airstrip and the Pousada Rio Roosevelt, where our group celebrated the 100th anniversary of Teddy's trip. In such a remote area, the birding can be terrific, with the likes of this Western Striolated Puffbird at top right, described by Bret and colleagues in July 2013, and Chestnut-eared Aracari. And check Bret's online triplist for the tour—**Brazil's Rio Roosevelt**—for some video of two other newly described species. (Photos by guide Bret Whitney)

FRESH FROM THE FIELD



Is it possible to see a gannet—any gannet—by itself? Certainly not during the nesting season. Indeed, this photo from our **New Zealand** tour of the Muriwai Cliffs loaded with nesting Australasian Gannets could stand as proof that gannets like company. Above are two endemics from a trip full of them, a Kaka in close-up, one of New Zealand's endemic parrots, and to the right, a Tui, called so by the Maori, but also sometimes referred to as “parsonbird” because its white neck feathers reminded settlers of a parson's white neck cloth. (Photos by participants David & Judy Smith)



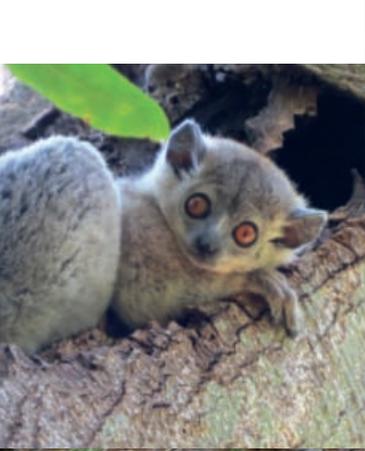
“A holiday tour to a fine lodge that offers great birds and good food,” is how guide John Rowlett describes his recent **Panama's Canopy Lodge** tour. A few of those birds pictured here: a Tody Motmot at lower right that sat for fifteen minutes not two meters away; at far right, an adult Spectacled Owl, sitting and calling for all to admire; and at top, Check-throated Antwren. Birds not pictured but well remembered include—among the hummers—several Snowcaps and a White-tipped Sicklebill hanging on the heliconia bracts, and a singing Black-crowned Antpitta, sitting not fifteen feet away. Be sure to check John's online triplist for some cool video of the antpitta. (Photos by participants Ed Hunter & Max Rodel and guide John Rowlett)



A variety of habitats makes for a variety of interesting bird species, and, as guide Willy Perez notes, such is the case on our **Northwestern Argentina** tour. A few of those birds shown here are two endemics—a bright-faced Tucuman Mountain-Finch (above right) and the handsome Salinas Monjita to the left of it—and from the Chaco, a Red-billed Scythebill, a possible split. (Photos by guide Willy Perez & Dave Stejskal)



If you look closely, you'll see feeding Blue-and-Yellow, Scarlet, and Red-and-green macaws pictured here—all the species of large macaws you can expect to see in the Peruvian Amazon. You cannot expect to see a Harpy Eagle; sightings are rare, but our **Peruvian Rainforests** group found this wonderful predator on their last morning in the rainforest and enjoyed great looks. Guide Pepe Rojas reports that it was one of the favorite moments of the trip. You can't help but think that the Long-tailed Potoo at far left is very satisfied with himself. (Photos by guide Pepe Rojas)



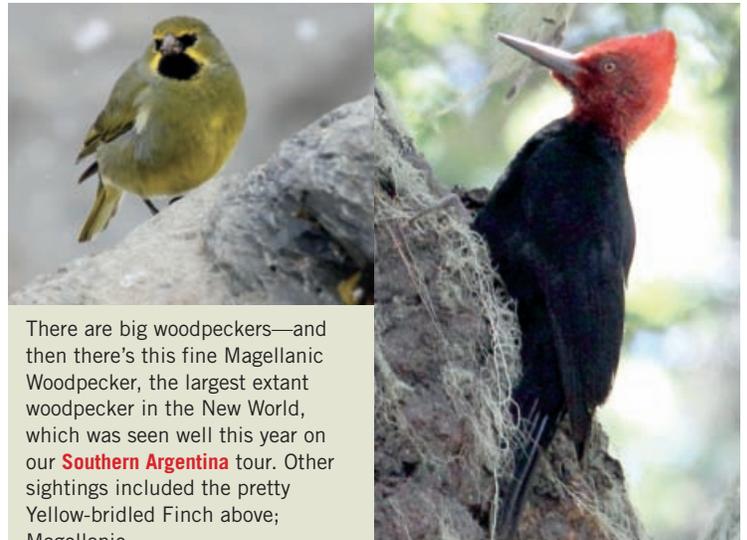
Schlegel's Asity, above, is a bird with star quality, and not surprisingly, it was the star of this year's **Madagascar, Mauritius & Reunion** tour according to guide Phil Gregory. Ground-rollers are restricted to Madagascar, and all five species, including this Long-tailed, were seen on the tour. And how can you talk about Madagascar and not mention lemurs? Here a White-footed Sportive Lemur, one of 24 lemur species seen on the tour. Be sure to check Phil's online list for the tour and listen to the audio clip of Indris calling. Pretty neat. (Photos by guide Phil Gregory)



Southeast Brazil—or **Spectacular Southeast Brazil** as our tour there is called—has a plethora of endemic birds and a whole bunch of just fantastic ones. Pictured here are three that are both endemic and fantastic: at top, a pretty Brazilian Ruby, one of well more than two-dozen hummers we usually see; below the hummer, a Saffron Toucanet, one of the most distinctive of the Atlantic Forest endemics; and a Green-headed Tanager, here in an unusual pose showing off his wings. (Photos by participant Kathy Brown)



Enjoying a spot of tea mid-morning is part of island life, and here participants on our **Sri Lanka** tour get into the swing of things—that's guide Megan Edwards Crewe third from left. Our group had wonderfully close encounters with these gorgeous Sri Lanka Blue-Magpies (wow!), huge maroon-and-blue magpies with bright red legs and bills that are endemic to the island. Crimson-backed Flameback is a snappy woodpecker that is not always easy to see. And be sure to check Megan's full online triplist for some nice audio and video clips—the White-throated Flowerpecker is a standout. (Photos by participant Rick Woodruff and guide Megan Edwards Crewe)



There are big woodpeckers—and then there's this fine Magellanic Woodpecker, the largest extant woodpecker in the New World, which was seen well this year on our **Southern Argentina** tour. Other sightings included the pretty Yellow-bridled Finch above; Magellanic Penguin, along with Gentoo and a surprise pair of Kings; and at far right, Warbling Doradito in the Argentine Pampas. (Photos by participant Dominic Sherony and guide Dave Stejskal)



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GALAPAGOS

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hapless prey nearly at our feet. A Flightless Cormorant panted on its seaweed nest. A sunning pair of Galapagos Penguins suddenly turned frisky, working hard at making baby penguins. A tiny Galapagos Rail sprinted across gaps in the ferns and mosses in the soggy highlands of Santa Cruz, then tiptoed out into the path. Red-billed Tropicbirds circled overhead again and again and again, trying to get just the right flight line to land at their nests. Huge-eyed Swallow-tailed Gulls drifted past on flashy wings. American Flamingoes floated like neon pink swans on a brackish pool—or snoozed one-legged along its shores. Male Great and Magnificent frigatebirds inflated their huge red gular “balloons,” doing their best to attract passing females.

The archipelago’s “finches” (now known to be tanagers) and mockingbirds are part of its fame, as ruminating on their differences is what led Darwin to his famous theory of natural selection. And we got to see plenty of those differences ourselves: all three ground-finches—including a very close Large Ground-Finch—on North Seymour our very first afternoon, a Woodpecker Finch prying bark off twigs, and a Vegetarian Finch stuffing itself on fruits on San Cristobal, swarms of Gray Warbler-Finches bouncing across the rocks on Espanola, a wing-shimmering male Common Cactus-Finch singing from a huge Opuntia cactus at the Charles Darwin Research Station, Small and Medium tree-finches sharing branches on Floreana. And the mockingbirds proved just as cooperative: an inquisitive San Cristobal Mockingbird atop a bush outside the cemetery, a gaggle of begging young Espanola Mockingbirds that followed us across the sands at Gardner Bay, at least 5 Floreana Mockingbirds (a significant portion of the world population) checking for tidbits on the rocky

coast of Champion, and many confiding Galapagos Mockingbirds on virtually every other island we visited.

But it wasn’t just the birds that dazzled. Glittering fishes swarmed around us in the seas. Bottlenose Dolphins leapt across our bow. We swam among herds of Pacific Green Turtles, and played tag with boisterous young Galapagos Sea Lions. We walked on ancient lava flows, marveled over delicate flowers and ferns thriving in cracks of blasted rock, chased more than one flitting butterfly or dragonfly (with cameras, of course), and admired many a setting sun or evening sky full of stars. And, of course, there were all those fabulous meals—and table decorations—that Ivan produced out of that tiny galley kitchen!

We had a trouble-free week in paradise. And thanks to our fine group of traveling companions, we had a wonderful time exploring it!

2015 Tours

June 13-23 with Willy Perez

July 11-21 with Jesse Fagan

For more information, please call our office or check our web site where you may download a complete itinerary.



From top left: Swallow-tailed Gull by guide Megan Edwards Crewe; Land Iguana by participant Liz West; Woodpecker Finch and Waved Albatross by guide Eric Hynes.



UPCOMING TOURS

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

April 2015

Rarely Visited Belize: Punta Gorda—March 28–April 5, 2015 with Peter Burke. A terrific introduction to (or continuation of!) your tropical birding, including some regional bird specialties.

Colorado Grouse I & II—April 1–11, 2015 with Chris Benesh & Tom Johnson and April 12–22, 2015 with Eric Hynes. A short tour to seek out the state's prairie-chicken and grouse species.

Hawaii—April 2–11, 2015 with Dan Lane & Megan Edwards Crewe. We'll visit three of the major islands—Oahu, Kauai, and Hawaii—giving us a chance to sample a great portion of the Hawaiian endemic birds and the seabird specialties.

Bahamas: Abaco, Andros, Eleuthera & Kirtland's Warbler—April 4–9, 2015 with Jesse Fagan. Small-group tour for four Bahamian endemics, several Caribbean endemics, a few early migrants, Kirtland's Warbler, and a sampling of West Indian butterflies; exciting birding at a relaxed pace.

Bhutan—April 4–22, 2015 with Richard Webster. Spellbinding birding amidst awe-inspiring landscapes on a journey through the lush forests and mountains of this "lost" Himalayan kingdom.

Texas Coast Migration Spectacle I & II—April 11–17, 2015 and April 18–27, 2015 with John Coons. The migration mecca of High Island plus specialties of the Big Thicket and myriad waterbirds and shorebirds.

Texas's Big Bend & Hill Country—April 18–27, 2015 with Chris Benesh & Tom Johnson. Colima and Golden-cheeked warblers, Montezuma Quail, and other southern borderland specialties in Texas's grand desert mountain landscapes.

Hungary & Romania: The Best of Eastern Europe—April 25–May 11, 2015 with Terry Stevenson & local guide. Fabulous birding in some of the most spectacular landscapes of Eastern Europe: the Danube Delta, Carpathian Mountains, Torda Gorge, Hortobagy, and Kiskunsag.

Birding Plus! Do the Charleston!: Spring in South Carolina—April 26–May 2, 2015 with Jesse Fagan. Combines spring migration and a touch of the mountains with lovely and historic Charleston, South Carolina.

Arizona Nightbirds & More I & II—April 30–May 4, 2015 and May 7–11, 2015 with Dave Stejskal & Tom Johnson (II). A short tour focused on this area's many owl and nightjar specialties.

May 2015

Birding Plus! Ireland in Spring: Birds, Traditional Music & Pubs—May 7–17, 2015 with Terry McEaney & Karen McEaney. The birds, culture, music, and pubs of this beautiful country in spring.

Arizona: Birding the Border I & II—May 8–17, 2015 with John Coons and May 15–24, 2015 with Dave Stejskal. One of the most exciting birding destinations in North America with a backdrop of spectacular mountain scenery.

Point Pelee Migration Spectacle—May 9–16, 2015 with Jay VanderGaast. Exciting migration birding at several premier hotspots on the Lake Erie shore.

Spring in Cape May—May 17–23, 2015 with Megan Edwards Crewe & Tom Johnson. Spring migration at one of the country's famed birding hotspots.

Maine: Birding Downeast—May 23–31, 2015 with Eric Hynes. A summer birding tour for warblers, boreal specialties, puffins, "lobstah," and more.

Uganda: Shoebill, Rift Endemics & Gorillas—May 23–June 12, 2015 with Jesse Fagan & local guide. The rare Shoebill and a wealth of other birds and many Central African specialties combined with opportunities to trek for Chimps and Mountain Gorillas.

Virginias' Warblers—May 27–31, 2015 with John Rowlett. Unsurpassed locale for breeding wood-warblers; cool, mountain climate in both beautiful states.

Alaska I—May 29–June 6, 2015 (Part 1) and June 5–15, 2015 (Part 2) with Chris Benesh & Tom Johnson. Survey birding tour in two parts: Part 1 to the Pribilofs and Denali; Part 2 to Nome, Seward, and Barrow.

Northern Arizona's Canyons & Condor—May 30–June 4, 2015 with John Coons. Mountain and high-desert birds of the eastern US amidst stunning scenery with California Condors at the Grand Canyon,

all guided by our own Flagstaff-based resident expert, John Coons.

Brazil's Rio Roosevelt: Birding the River of Doubt—May 31–June 13, 2015 with Bret Whitney. A birding adventure on the remote Rio Roosevelt—the River of Doubt—in the spirit of Teddy himself.

June 2015

Northern Ecuador: Andes, Cloudforest & Otavalo Market—June 4–14, 2015 with Willy Perez. Stunning landscapes and great birding from the central Highlands of the Quichuas down through the cloudforests of the Intag and Mindo valleys, full of unique dry-valley specialties and Choco endemics.

Borneo—June 4–21, 2015 with Dave Stejskal. Three prime areas in some of the Earth's richest forests while based in comfort right in the wild.

Alaska II—June 5–13, 2015 (Part 1) and June 12–22, 2015 (Part 2) with Megan Edwards Crewe & Pepe Rojas. Survey birding tour in two parts: Part 1 to the Pribilofs and Denali; Part 2 to Nome, Seward, and Barrow.

Central Peruvian Endemics: The High Andes—June 5–21, 2015 with Dan Lane & Mitch Lysinger. High Andean endemics of central Peru amidst extraordinarily scenic settings, including Huascaran National Park, Lake Junin, and the Carpish Mountains.

Montana: Yellowstone to Glacier—June 11–21, 2015 with Terry McEaney. Great western birding and wildlife combined with the scenery of Big Sky country.

Galapagos: An Intimate Look at Darwin's Islands I & II—June 13–23, 2015 with Willy Perez & local guide and July 11–21, 2015 with Jesse Fagan & local guide. A must for any naturalist and birder; small-group, broad coverage of the islands with plenty of time for the birds, exploring, and photography.

Rainforest & Savanna: Alta Floresta & the Northern Pantanal, Brazil—June 13–29, 2015 with Marcelo Padua. Pristine rainforest on the beautiful Rio Cristalino combined with the wilds of the Pantanal in search of Hyacinth Macaw, Harpy Eagle, Jabiru, Jaguar, and a large piece of the meaning of life.

Newfoundland & Nova Scotia—June 25–July 5, 2015 with Chris Benesh. A birding tour for boreal specialties, seabird colonies, and numerous breeding landbirds in the beautiful Canadian Maritimes.

Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge—June 26–July 5, 2015 with Willy Perez. One-site tour to one of the most comfortable lodges in western Amazonia with some of the birdiest canopy platforms anywhere.

Papua New Guinea—June 28–July 16, 2015 with Jay VanderGaast. Birds-of-paradise and bowerbirds are the crown jewels of one of the most remarkable bird faunas, set against a fascinating cultural backdrop far removed from our own.

July 2015

Kenya Highlights—July 1–19, 2015 with Terry Stevenson. Kenya's best birding and mammal viewing areas in less than 3 weeks. From Mt. Kenya to the arid north, Rift Valley lakes, Kakamega Forest and Masai Mara.

Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru—July 2–11, 2015 with Jesse Fagan. Southern Peru's east-slope, temperate birding at its best, featuring several endemics and scenic Andean puna; also Machu Picchu and great subtropical birding on and near lovely hotel grounds.

Spitsbergen & Svalbard Archipelago: A Cruise to the Norwegian Arctic—July 2–14, 2015 with John Coons. A high-arctic birding and wildlife adventure aboard a comfortable vessel for fantastic seabirds, marine mammals including Walrus and Polar Bear, and fabulous scenery.

Montane Ecuador: Cloudforests of the Andes—July 20–29, 2015 with Mitch Lysinger. Superb Andean subtropical birding on both East and West slopes.

Peru's Magnetic North: Spatuletails, Owlet Lodge & More—July 22–August 2, 2015 with Dan Lane & Pepe Rojas. A 12-day taste of northern Peru's east-slope Andes! Five nights at Long-whiskered Owlet Lodge; much time in the field, yet no camping.

Arizona's Second Spring I & II—July 25–August 3, 2015 with Megan Edwards Crewe and August 1–10, 2015 with John Coons & Tom Johnson. An ideal time for visiting one of the best birding regions in North America: great for local specialties and Mexican vagrants.

Iquitos, Peru: Canopy Walkways & Ancient Forests—August 1–12, 2015 with Pepe Rojas. Ten-day immersion in the most species-rich region of Amazonia, including the white-sand forests near Iquitos. River travel on the Amazon and Napo rivers, canopy access via the famed walkway at ACTS (Amazon Conservatory of Tropical Studies).



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