

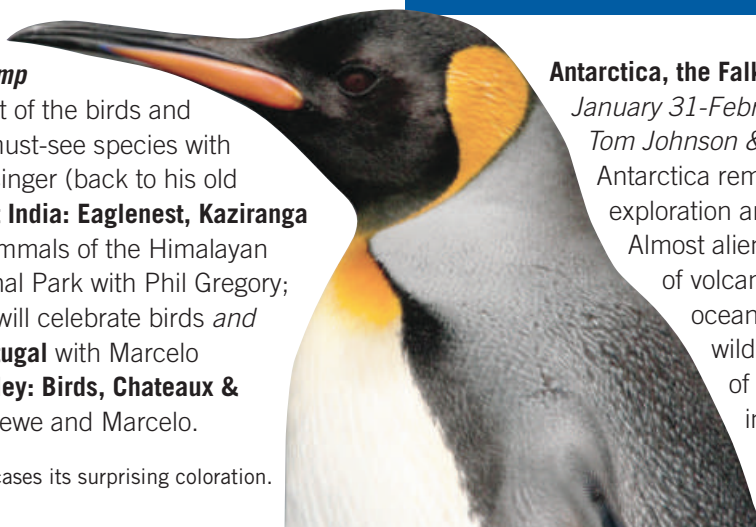
### Coming in 2018

Ecuador (3 tours), Antarctica, Israel, Kenya II,  
Florida, N.E. India, two new Birds & Wine

The peaks and forested foothills near the Se La Pass, an area we'll visit on our new Northeast India tour (Photo by guide Phil Gregory; see page 11 for details)

In our last newsletter, we featured new tours for 2017; in this issue we'll continue with new 2018 tours. These include three new Ecuador tours—that small country has a great deal to offer, including Field Guides Mitch Lysinger and Willie Perez—**Southeast Ecuador: Orange-throated Tanager & Foothill Specialties** and **Ecuador's Deep Northwest Lowlands** for hard-to-find specialties and **Amazonian Ecuador: Napo Wildlife Center** for a fresh view of the eastern lowlands; **Antarctica, the Falklands & South Georgia** with the dream team of Tom Johnson and Bret Whitney; **Israel: Spring Migration Spectacle** with Doug Gochfeld; Terry Stevenson's new **Wild Kenya: A Tented Camp Safari**, to get us into the midst of the birds and wildlife; **Florida** for its many must-see species with Doug Gochfeld and Mitch Lysinger (back to his old stomping grounds); **Northeast India: Eaglenest, Kaziranga & More**, for the birds and mammals of the Himalayan foothills and Kaziranga National Park with Phil Gregory; and two European tours that will celebrate birds and wine, **Beyond the Ports of Portugal** with Marcelo Padua and **France's Loire Valley: Birds, Chateaux & Wine** with Megan Edwards Crewe and Marcelo.

A close up of a King Penguin showcases its surprising coloration. (Photo by guide Chris Benesh)



A listing of dates and guides for these trips begins below and continues to page 11; full details are not yet complete for every tour, but will be posted on our web site when they are, so check back often.

In addition to these new tours, we also have two new guides, Cory Gregory and Doug Gochfeld, we're excited about. Turn to pages 2 and 3 for short bios of each and for Peggy Watson's account of how we at Field Guides find and train new guides.

*And from all of us at Field Guides, good birding in 2017!*

#### Antarctica, the Falklands & South Georgia

January 31-February 21, 2018 with  
Tom Johnson & Bret Whitney

Antarctica remains the ultimate frontier for exploration and discovery on our planet.

Almost alien in immensity, it is a continent of volcanoes, glaciers, islands, and oceans. It is the most elemental wilderness, where the naked might of Nature assaults the senses as in no other place on Earth.

*Continued on page 11*

# Field Guides Transitions

Peggy Watson

**transition** noun. 1. the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another  
*mid-16th century: from French, or from Latin transitio(n-), from transire 'go across.'*



**R**ecently I experienced a transition, from the more than full-time job of running the business of Field Guides, to quieter, more contemplative part-time work on special projects, scheduling, and financial oversight. I have both embraced and mourned my new state. I cherry picked the best parts of my previous job and jettisoned the rest (how cool is that!). And working from home is lovely; no commute and I have birds and other wildlife to distract me from my computer screen. But to “transire” left behind the day-to-day contact with clients that I treasured. So, in a effort to stay connected, I’ll reach out to you from time to time with the odd (in more ways than one) missive.

A special project I’ve recently been involved with and enjoyed immensely also has to do with transition—new guide recruitment and development. It occurred to me that some of you won’t have had a chance to encounter one of our “guides in training” and probably don’t know the lengths we go to vetting, choosing, and training the guides we will be entrusting you to in the future. We recently added Doug Gochfeld and Cory Gregory to our staff, and we have a few others in the pipeline.

Most of the time a potential guide comes to our attention when a staff guide meets someone who seems to have the right stuff. Typically, we have the candidate “go along” on a tour, not serving as the primary guide. It is an opportunity not only to assess their ability to interact with participants and their field skills, but also for them to see firsthand what guiding a tour is all about! Years ago my son wanted me to fork over thousands of dollars for culinary school, which I agreed to do IF he would work in a restaurant kitchen for a month. Disaster was averted and money saved, he’s now a hydro-geologist. Nothing like a bit of time in the kitchen!



Peggy, a few years ago at one of our annual FG gatherings (with Jan Pierson in back and Terry McEneaney, Megan Edwards Crewe, and John Coons), and below, at the new dinosaur exhibit at Big Bend National Park! You can see that even in semi-retirement, Peggy’s still tangling with dragons.

If all goes well the next step is for the candidate to do similar “go along” trips with as many different staff leaders as possible. After each trip, we get input from the staff leader and clients and work with the candidate to smooth out any kinks. We try to choose tours that new guides might lead if they pass muster, so the investment serves a dual purpose. And it is quite an investment, as we pay a stipend to the candidate in addition to expenses.

At this stage in the process, the candidate is invited to our annual Field Guides gathering to meet and interact with the rest of the staff. We are more than a team—we are like family and it is important that new members are a good fit.

Once the vetting process is complete and we have decided to move forward, the candidate “transitions” to a new state; he or she is officially hired, qualifying for benefits like health and disability insurance, and our Scheduling Committee works with the guide to develop a schedule of tours. The first year the candidate is on salary and will only co-lead with senior staff leaders or go along on a tour to learn the area. The goal is to introduce them to as many clients as possible and to learn the trips they will be moving into (another transition!) as a primary leader. We continue to mentor the new guide, offering support and guidance.

While all guides have their own style, there is still the Field Guides standard to maintain. Senior staff will often step away from a popular tour to make way for new guides to give them an opportunity to develop their own reputation and following. We are all invested, financially and emotionally, in the new guide’s success! Whew, it takes a lot of time, effort, and a degree of good luck to find and train the best Field Guide! But you—our clients and friends—are worth it.



# Two New Field Guides

**DOUG GOCHFELD** made the jump from a fascination with trains, planes, and automobiles—typical of many seven-year-olds—to an avid interest in birds after a close encounter with a Steller's Jay. He spent his youth scouring the urban landscape of New York City for birds with his father.

His first birding job was as a migration counter at the legendary Cape May Bird Observatory, where his love of and interest in the dynamics of migration (of anything with wings really, insects included!) was cemented. From 2006 to 2016, he worked with birds from New Hampshire to Arizona, and from Suriname to Israel. He has also spent time guiding in Alaska, mainly on St. Paul Island in the Pribilofs.

Doug's strongest interests are in bird migration, vagrancy, and overall patterns of distribution. Shorebirds and seabirds (and any other long-distance migrants) hold a special place in his heart, and he has done intensive work studying the breeding and wintering ecology of Hudsonian Godwits in Alaska and Semipalmated Sandpipers in Suriname and Brazil.

In addition to being on the New York State Avian Records Committee, Doug is also passionate about spreading the gospel of birding and the outdoors, and to this end he participates in youth and urban birding initiatives and has guided at birding festivals across the



The classic pose, Doug in Australia with a friendly Australian King-Parrot and releasing a European Honey-Buzzard in Eilat, Israel.



country. His writing and photographs have been published in a myriad of venues.

He has co-led Field Guides groups to Alaska, Trinidad, Panama, Cape May, Arizona, New Guinea, Vietnam, and Newfoundland/Nova Scotia and has a busy and wide-ranging schedule for 2017—from the US, Puerto Rico, and Mexico to New Guinea, Southeast Asia, and Madagascar. Check our website for a complete list.

*"Doug Gochfeld was presented to me as a 'guide in training.' He did an outstanding job, backed up Jay wonderfully, and was always there for all of us. My view is that he's about done with the training!" C. H., New Guinea & Australia*

**CORY GREGORY** began learning about birds on flashcards when he was three years old, but it wasn't until the ripe age of ten that things started getting serious. Since then, he has traveled to Central and South America, Australia, and all 50 states to try to get his fill of birding (but it hasn't worked yet!).

Cory earned a B.S. in zoology in Michigan, where he also worked for Whitefish Point Bird Observatory for several seasons. He then ventured to Iowa State University, where he earned a M.S. studying Long-billed Curlews in Nebraska. As an avid shorebird ecologist, he has handled more than 2000 shorebirds of more than 30 species.

After finishing school, Cory worked for several organizations as a shorebird ecologist and guided on St. Paul Island in the Pribilofs for the 2014 and 2015 seasons. It was on St. Paul that he stumbled on his first North American record when a Pallas's Rosefinch made an unexpected appearance. Cory is currently based in Missouri where, when not on tour, he pursues his interest in birds, butterflies, and dragonflies with abandon.



Cory on our recent Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru.



He has co-led Field Guides groups to Arizona, Cape May, Texas, Peru, and Australia and will be keeping up the pace in 2017—from the US and Canada to Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, and Peru. Check our website for a complete list.

*"Cory impressed me in being able to recognize—in an instant—birds he'd never seen before and then getting the scope on the birds right away. We also enjoyed his wry sense of humor." H.B., Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru*

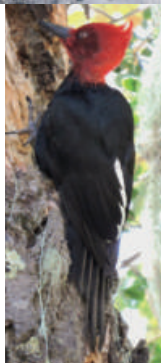
*"Cory Gregory was a fount of information and has a great sense of humor. Hard to believe he is a 'newbie' to Field Guides tour leading. I would go on another trip with him in a heartbeat." A.G., Cape May Megan's Way*



# FRESH FROM THE FIELD



Willy Perez's recent **Chile** tour saw all of what Willy refers to as the "Magellantics" (plover, woodpecker, penguin, tapaculo)—that's the Magellanic Woodpecker at right, the largest of its genus (*Campephilus*) in South America. You can see that our group has found an excellent way to enjoy their pelagic, where three species of albatross, including a couple of Royals, await. The Peruvian Pelicans above are excited about something that probably involves food; the little Thorn-tailed Rayadito, top right, is one of the tour's personality birds—an ovenbird trying to be a creeper and a chickadee at the same time; and the beautiful Andean Hillstar is a hummer of the Altiplano, where it endures the occasional freezing temperatures by going into torpor. (Photos by guide Willy Perez and participants Bernie Grossman & Daphne Gemmill)



When a bird's name is also in a tour's name, you know it's one to see, and the participants on Dan Lane and Dave Stejskal's **Louisiana: Yellow Rails & Crawfish Tails** this past fall were not disappointed, with nine Yellow Rails, some quite close as you can see from the bird above. There's much else to see on the tour as well, including piney woods birds such as the Bachman's Sparrow that Dave is pointing out to the group, and a Nelson's Sparrow that came in for a close look. (Photos by guide Dan Lane and participant Ken Allen)



Marcelo Padua's **Safari Brazil: The Pantanal & More** tour visits three important habitats in central Brazil, and here we have a sample of a few of the possibilities our recent tour enjoyed: a Tropical Screech-Owl peeking out from amidst the foliage; below the owl, an Ocelot in the Pantanal—Jaguar is also possible on the tour, as is the rare Maned Wolf; and a cute Spix's Spinetail seen in the Caraca area—the monastery where we stay in Caraca shown below, where dazzling tanagers, most notably Gilt-edged and Brassy-breasted, move through the gardens. (Photos by participants Marshall Dahl & Bill Parkin)



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**Australia** is vast, so our tours there are in two parts; Part I covers much of the south and the Outback, where John Coons and Tom Johnson and their tour enjoyed some very good birding, a few of the results of their efforts shown here: from top left, an attractive Yellow-plumed Honeyeater; a Square-tailed Kite, which circled the group for several minutes; a very cute Rufous-crowned Emuwren, the smallest of the emuwrens and not always this easy to see; and a Western Bowerbird that seems to be organizing some of the green and white objects decorating his bower. (Photos by participants Charlotte Byers & Bill Byers)

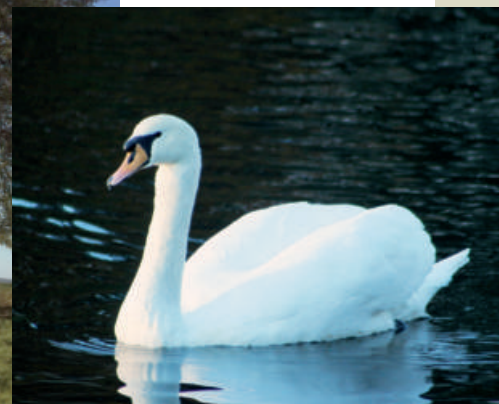


The second part of our **Australia** tour—this past fall with Chris Benesh and Cory Gregory—ranges from the Top End to Queensland and then on to Tasmania. The Albert's Lyrebird at right was a highlight for the group, who not only saw the bird but watched it as it fed, climbed up in a tangle, and began to sing. Lyrebirds, of course, mimic the sounds of other birds and animals, but are also known to mimic almost any other sound. Below the Lyrebird, a gleaming male Golden Bowerbird, a bird that makes up for its small size by building the biggest bower of any bowerbird, and a Superb Fairywren, another bird with a fitting name. (Photos by guides Chris Benesh & Cory Gregory and participant Charlotte Byers)



Terry and Karen McEneaney's **Ireland: Birds, Traditional Music & Pubs** tours—this fall trip—seek not just the birds, but the music and pub camaraderie so integral to Irish culture. At left, a traditional Irish music session at Tossey's Cottage, owned by one of Terry's cousins and the highlight of the many "sessuns" the group enjoyed throughout the tour. Terry reports that when folks heard that he and Karen were in the area, more than sixty of his relatives and friends showed up to join in the fun. At lower left, our group visits Navan Fort, or Emain Macha, the site

during the Iron and Bronze ages of a huge, Druid-like wooden temple. And a pretty Mute Swan, a bird that enlivened almost every day of the tour. (Photos by guide Karen McEneaney and participant Mary Lou Barritt)





# FRESH FROM THE FIELD



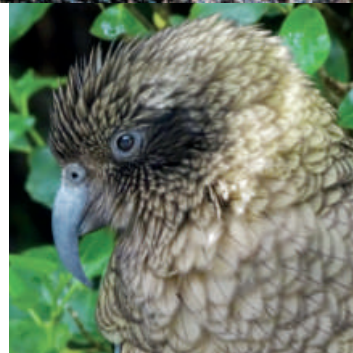
We don't have a photo of the endemic Salinas Monjita that Willy Perez and Jesse Fagan's recent **Northwest Argentina** tour group voted bird of the trip, but the next best thing might be seeing the group itself, here with Jesse, having just seen the bird. At far left, a handsome Spot-winged Falconet; next to the falconet, a pretty Yellow-striped Brushfinch—the group was lucky enough to see a pair of these endemic birds singing and nestbuilding. And that's a Strange-tailed Tyrant, a bird whose name says it all, at top right. (Photos by guides Jesse Fagan & Willy Perez)



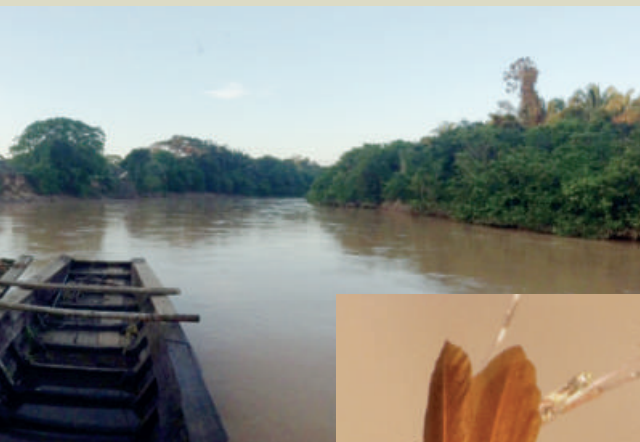
This was a banner year for lemurs on Phil Gregory's **Madagascar** tour, with a very good range of species *and* some special ones, including wonderful encounters with a troop of Indri—one at right—on the hotel grounds; hearing them sing their haunting and evocative song each morning was magical. One of the stars of the bird show was this endemic Long-tailed Ground-Roller, below the Indri. After a longish wait at the nest, this rare and localized Yellow-bellied Asity appeared, and preened and called to make amends for the group's wait. The Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk was seen near its nest as well. (Photos by guide Phil Gregory and participant Sheila Vince)



New Zealand is a land of dramatic beauty, and because it is an island—or islands—it has many endemic forms—including some forty-five species of endemic landbirds. Shown here at right from Dan Lane's recent **New Zealand** tour, one of the most recognizable of those endemic birds, a Kea—charismatic and approachable, it is the only alpine parrot. Below the Kea, a Tui, another endemic that's much in evidence throughout the tour route. The Little Penguins, or Little Blue Penguins, above, are the smallest penguins, weighing an average of only three to three-and-a-half pounds and fairly widespread in New Zealand and Australia. (Photos by guide Dan Lane and participant Gregg Recer)







If you're birding the Colombian llanos with Jesse Fagan on his **Colombia: Llanos & More** tour, which visits the very different habitats of the Bogota highlands and the seasonally flooded eastern grasslands, an early morning boat trip on the Rio Ariporo is part of the fun of seeing these famed wetlands and their many birds. The Black Inca, left, is a local Colombian endemic of the highlands, while the Rusty-backed Spinetail can be seen, though not always this well, in the llanos. (Photos by guide Andres Trujillo)



For many of us birds are not the first thing that comes to mind when we hear the name Vietnam, not until you've birded there, at least. **Vietnam** is home to one of the richest avifaunas of any Southeast Asian country; a scattering of representatives from Dave Stejskal and Doug Gochfeld's recent tour there includes at top left, a very lovely Black-throated Sunbird—this is the endemic race of Black-throated, *Aethopyga saturata johnsi*; Blythe's Paradise-Flycatcher, seen well at Cat Tien National Park, one of the richest sites of the tour; and below the sunbird, a Clicking Shrike-Babbler showing its black hooked bill. (Photos by guide Doug Gochfeld)



Jay VanderGaast was joined by Doug Gochfeld (who seems to have been everywhere this fall!) for our popular **New Guinea & Australia** tour, a trip that divides its time between the two regions. In Papua New Guinea, our tour had excellent looks at this male Lesser Bird-of-paradise, bottom left, and another New Guinea endemic, the amazing Wattled Ploughbill, with its stylish pink wattles. Though it also occurs in New Guinea, the Papuan Frogmouth, bottom right, was seen this year in Australia. Both the Eastern Spinebill, middle below, and the Superb Fairywren are Australian endemics, and though the fairywren is fairly commonly seen, it can't help but delight its viewers. (Photos by guide Doug Gochfeld and participant Chuck Holliday)



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# FRESH FROM THE FIELD



Terry Stevenson and his tour group, shown at left searching for the endemic Yellow-rumped Eremomela at South Africa's Goegap Reserve, recorded 483 bird species on our recent **South Africa** tour, in spite of unusual weather. The Cape Grassbird, far left, and the Cape Sugarbird, left, are two of South Africa's endemics; the Lilac-breasted Roller is widespread in sub-Saharan Africa but so pretty, it is always a favorite. The tour includes a pelagic trip out of Cape Town, which Terry reports saw five species of albatross, gorgeous Cape Petrels, Black-bellied Storm-Petrels, and more. The mammals were also a highlight—this is Africa after all—with Spotted Hyaena, Leopard, loads of Burchell's Zebras, and an amazing 23 White Rhinos, the largest species of rhinoceros. (Photos by participants Sally Marrone & David Becher)



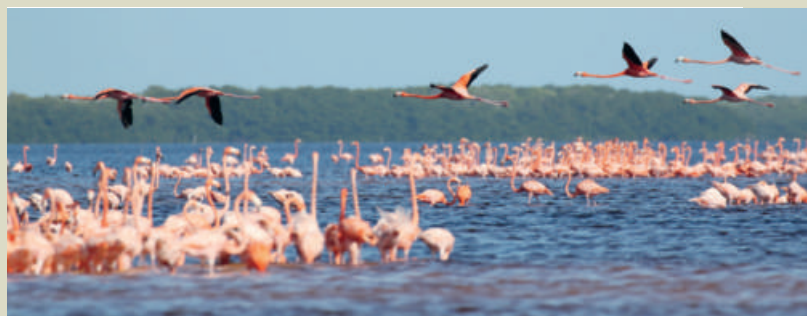
There's so much to see in **Spectacular Southeast Brazil** that our tours are split into two parts to give complete coverage of such an important area for birds. This year Tom Johnson joined Bret Whitney for Part 1 of the tour, and they saw some wonderful birds. To wit, the Shrike-like Cotinga (Brazilian Laniisoma) at right, a hard-to-see bird that the group not only saw well, but observed singing; the endemic Spotted Bamboowren, below left; and saving the best for last—though not the best photo—the Cherry-throated Tanager, rediscovered in 1996 and known from but two fragments of native foothill forest in southern Espirito Santo, where fewer than two-dozen birds appear to be holding their own. (Photos by guides Bret Whitney and Tom Johnson)



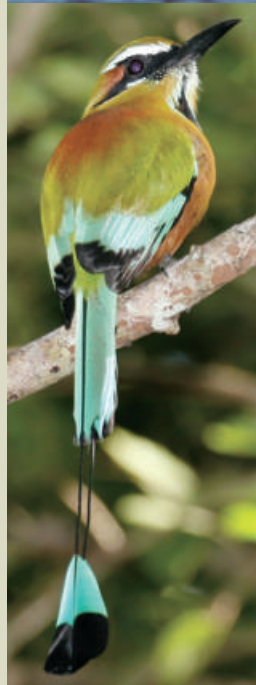
More beauties from **Southeast Brazil**, these from Part II with Bret joined by Marcelo Padua; Part II runs south from Sao Paulo through the gaucho country of Rio Grande do Sul. At top right, a Giant Antshrike, or at least his head; the antshrike measures more than a foot long, but despite its size, it can be difficult to locate. Next up, a highly prized Black-backed Tanager; the Restinga Tyrannulet looks like he's found a tasty bite—eating well like the true Brazilian he is; and a handsome male Hooded Berryeater, another endemic that is more often heard than seen. (Photos by guide Bret Whitney)



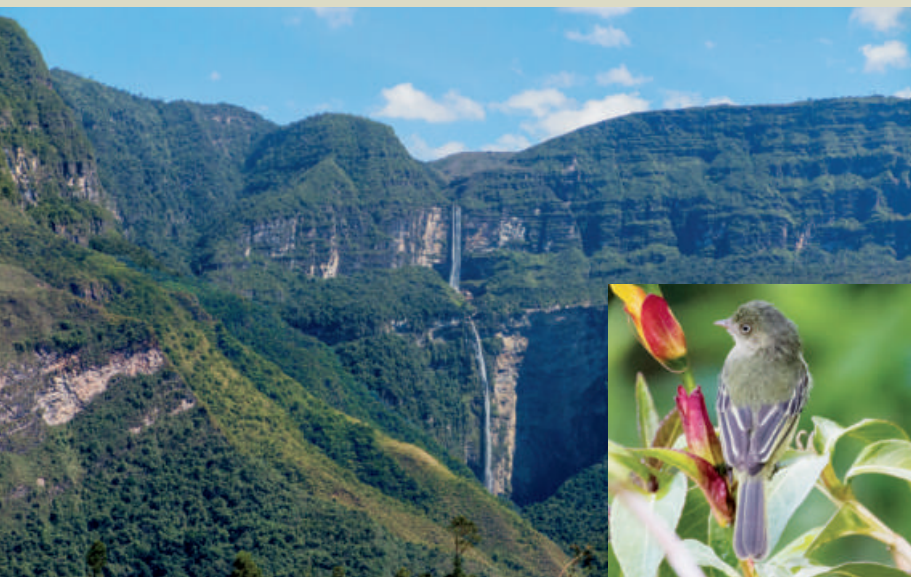




Megan Crewe writes that she and her **Sri Lanka** group saw all of the island's endemic bird species, including this Sri Lanka Gray Hornbill, shown below, and—though not a bird, still an amazing creature and well worth noting—the Purple-faced Leaf Monkey beside it, on Megan's recent tour. It's always fun to get a good look at an owl, take this roosting Brown Wood-Owl at top right, for instance, or the endemic Serendib Scops-Owl the group found after a bit of a hike. The close Indian Pitta above was also nice, as was having such a lovely bird common throughout the tour as a reminder, in case you needed it, that you're not in Kansas anymore. (Photos by participant Merrill Lester)



One of the joys of a visit to Mexico with Chris Benesh on his **Yucatan & Cozumel** tour—besides the magnificent Mayan temples, the distinctive food, and the endemic birds—is the sight of hundreds of colorful American Flamingos at the lagoons of Celestun. The charming Cozumel Vireo, at right above, is one of the two endemic bird species possible on the island of Cozumel, where we spend a day-and-a-half before heading to the mainland. The Turquoise-browed Motmot ranges from the Yucatan to Costa Rica, and is not only flashy but fairly easy to see, which makes it a popular bird all round. (Photos by guide Chris Benesh)



The Golden-tailed Sapphire at left is just one of many hummingbirds to be seen on Richard Webster's **Northern Peru** tour, hummers that take your breath away, like Long-tailed Sylph and Chestnut-breasted Coronet and Marvelous Spatuletail; and though the spatuletail isn't pictured this year, it was one of the highlights of the tour. The scenery on this trip is another highlight, as you might surmise from this picture of Gocta Falls, one of the 20 highest falls in the world according to Richard. The Mishana Tyrannulet, discovered just 15 years ago, is not easy to find and hard to see well, though this photograph appears to belie the latter. (Photos by guide Richard Webster)



Amazonian Ecuador is a wonderful place to visit, and Field Guides offers two—three as of 2018—different tours there. The photos here are from Mitch Lysinger's recent **Shirpuno Lodge: Heartland of the Waorani** tour, the newest and arguably the wildest of the three lodges we visit. Above left, a stunning and quite rare Black-faced Hawk—getting scope views of a perched bird was a real treat for the tour; to the right of the hawk, a nice Ladder-tailed Nightjar, perched quietly on a limb overhanging the river; and to add a dash of color, a little Poison Dart Frog. (Photos by participant Steve Parrish)

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# UPCOMING TOURS

For details, please contact our office or check our website.

## May 2017

**Birding Plus/Irish Spring: Birds, Traditional Music & Pubs**—May 4-14, 2017 with Terry McEaney & Karen McEaney. The birds, culture, music, and pubs of this beautiful country in spring.

**Arizona: Birding the Border I & II**—May 5-14, 2017 with John Coons or May 12-21, 2017 with Dave Stejskal. One of the most exciting destinations in North America with a backdrop of spectacular mountain scenery.

**Ethiopia: Endemic Birds & Ethiopian Wolf**—May 5-25, 2017 (Lalibela Extension) with Richard Webster. A remarkable journey through a remarkable land, from Rift Valley lakes to the Bale Mountains and south for Prince Ruspoli's Turaco and the strange Stresemann's Bush-Crow.

**Point Pelee Migration Spectacle I & II**—May 6-13, 2017 or May 13-20, 2017 with Jay VanderGaast. Exciting migration birding at several premier hotspots on the Lake Erie shore.

**Spain: La Mancha, Coto Donana & Extremadura**—May 6-18, 2017 with Chris Benesh & Godfried Schreur. To La Mancha, famous Coto Donana, Extremadura, and the Gredos Mountains for some of Europe's best birding.

**Spring in Cape May**—May 14-20, 2017 with Tom Johnson & Doug Gochfeld. Spring migration at one of the country's famed birding hotspots.

**NEW/Pennsylvania's Warblers & More: From Cerulean Warbler to Henslow's Sparrow**—May 23-28, 2017 with Tom Johnson & Doug Gochfeld. A new tour at the peak of eastern spring birding, focusing on a delightful array of warblers as well as other songbirds.

**Maine: Birding Downeast**—May 27-June 4, 2017 with Eric Hynes & Cory Gregory. A late-spring tour for warblers, boreal specialties, puffins, "lobstah," and more.

**Alaska I**—May 30-June 7, 2017 (Part I) and June 6-16, 2017 (Part II) with Chris Benesh & Tom Johnson. Survey in two parts: Part I to the Pribilofs and Denali; Part II to Nome, Seward, and Barrow.

## March and April Tours *(with space available at time of printing)*

**Colombia: Santa Marta Escape**—March 4-12, 2017 with Richard Webster & local guide  
**Brazil Nutshell: Intervalles, Iguazu Falls & the Pantanal I**—March 4-18, 2017 with Marcelo Padua

**Puerto Rico**—March 11-17, 2017 with Tom Johnson & Doug Gochfeld  
**Costa Rica**—March 19-April 3, 2017 with Jay VanderGaast & Corey Gregory  
**Jewels of Ecuador: Hummers, Tanagers & Antipittas**—March 21-April 7, 2017 with Willy Perez

**Bahamas: Endemics & Kirtland's Warbler**—April 1-7, 2017 with Jesse Fagan  
**NEW/Belize: Tropical Birding, Short & Sweet**—April 1-8, 2017 with Megan Edwards Crewe

**Bhutan**—April 8-27, 2017 with Richard Webster

**Do the Charleston!: Spring in South Carolina**—April 23-29, 2017 with Jesse Fagan

## June 2017

**NEW/Mongolia: The Gobi Desert, Steppe & Taiga**—June 1-18, 2017 with Phil Gregory. A new tour to an exciting birding destination in the heart of Asia, with lots of specialties and some fantastic landscapes.

**Kenya Safari Spectacular**—June 2-26, 2017 with Terry Stevenson. Unsurpassed in its combined wealth of bird life and mammal spectacle; includes Mt. Kenya, the arid north, Rift Valley lakes, Kakamega Forest and the far west, Masai Mara, Tsavo and the Taita Hills, and the coast. Time-saving internal flights.

**Northern Arizona's Canyons & Condor**—June 3-8, 2017 with John Coons. The mountain and high-desert birds of the western US amidst stunning scenery with California Condors at the Grand Canyon, all guided by our own Flagstaff-based resident expert, John Coons.

**Alaska II**—June 6-14, 2017 (Part I) and June 13-23, 2017 (Part II) with Megan Edwards Crewe & Doug Gochfeld. Survey in two parts: Part I to the Pribilofs and Denali; Part II to Nome, Seward, and Barrow.

**Borneo II**—June 6-23, 2017 with Dave Stejskal & local guide. Three prime areas in some of Earth's richest forests while based in comfort right in the wild.

**Montana: Yellowstone-Glacier Loop**—June 8-18, 2017 with Terry McEaney. Great western birding and wildlife amidst the scenery of Big Sky country.

**Brazil's Rio Roosevelt: Birding the River of Doubt**—June 9-23, 2017 with Bret Whitney. A birding adventure on the remote Rio Roosevelt in the spirit of Teddy himself, as we search for bushbirds, ant swarms, up to 10 species described to science only in 2013, and, of course, the unknown.

**Galapagos: An Intimate Look at Darwin's Islands I & II**—June 10-20, 2017 with Jesse Fagan & local guide and July 8-18, 2017

with Willy Perez & local guide. A must for any naturalist and birder; small-group, broad coverage of the islands with plenty of time for the birds, exploring, and photography.

**Spitsbergen & Svalbard Archipelago: A Cruise to the Norwegian Arctic**—June 19-29, 2017 with John Coons. A high-arctic adventure aboard a comfortable vessel for fantastic seabirds, marine mammals including Walrus and Polar Bear, and fabulous scenery.

**Iceland**—June 20-29, 2017 with Eric Hynes & Godfried Schreur. Seabird colonies, endemic landbirds, spectacular scenery, and high-latitude natural history.

**Rainforest & Savanna: Alta Floresta & the Northern Pantanal, Brazil**—June 23-July 9, 2017 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.

**NEW/Cloudforests of Ecuador: All the Best of the Wild Northwest**—June 29-July 9, 2017 with Willy Perez. We'll be based at just two comfortable lodges on Ecuador's west slope to experience a diversity of great birds and have the opportunity for a highlight mammal, Spectacled Bear.

**Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge**—June 30-July 9, 2017 with Mitch Lysinger & local guide. One-site tour to one of the most comfortable lodges in western Amazonia with some of the birdiest canopy platforms anywhere.

## July 2017

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

**Newfoundland & Nova Scotia**—

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

**Papua New Guinea**—July 2-20, 2017 with Jay VanderGaast & Doug Gochfeld. Birds-of-paradise and bowerbirds are the crown jewels of one of the most remarkable bird faunas, set against a fascinating cultural backdrop far removed from our own.

**Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru I & II**—July 7-16, 2017 with Jesse Fagan and August 3-12, 2017 with Jesse Fagan & Cory Gregory. Southern Peru's east-slope, temperate birding at its best featuring several endemics and scenic Andean puna; also Machu Picchu and great subtropical birding on and near lovely hotel grounds.

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

**Peru's Magnetic North: Spatuletails, Owllet Lodge & More**—July 15-26, 2017 with Dan Lane & Jesse Fagan. A 12-day taste of northern Peru's east-slope Andes! Five nights at Owllet Lodge; much time in the field, yet no camping.

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

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

## August 2017

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

**Brazil's Mouth of the Amazon: Mexiana Island, the Lower Xingu & Carajas**—August 4-19, 2017 with Marcelo Padua & Dave Stejskal. New two-week tour through diverse habitats around the mouth of the mighty Rio Amazonas as we seek most of the endemics of lower Amazonia.



# Coming in 2018 *Continued from page 1*

## **Southeast Ecuador: Orange-throated Tanager & Foothill Specialties**

*February 24-March 5, 2018 with Mitch Lysinger*

This new Ecuador tour will feature a visit to the far Southeast foothills along the Peruvian border to search out some of the special bird species of the outlying ridges. First and foremost we will be after the very local and dazzling Orange-throated Tanager. We plan to stay at two well-known lodges in the region with good food and the best birding, and a healthy list of foothill specialties, mixed flocks, and colorful tanagers are also on the bill.

## **Israel: Spring Migration Spectacle**

*March 14-25, 2018 with Doug Gochfeld*

With this new offering we'll have the chance to witness the great spectacle of huge numbers of birds moving northward from Africa around the eastern end of the Mediterranean into Europe and western Asia. There should be buzzards, eagles, and kites galore—and much, much, more.

## **Northeast India: Eaglenest, Kaziranga & More**

*April 21-May 5, 2018 with Phil Gregory*

Phil Gregory describes Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, which includes a 90-kilometer road through untouched Himalayan forest, as “the most outstanding destination I’ve been to in recent years.” Indian Rhinos—great, silvery, prehistoric beasts seen at close range—are a highlight at Kaziranga. A few of the birds include Himalayan Monal, Snow Partridge, Greater and Lesser Adjutants, Grandala, Rufous-necked Hornbill, Himalayan Cutia, Gold-naped Finch, and Spotted Elachura.

## **Beyond the Ports of Portugal: A Birds & Wine Tour**

*April 23-May 5, 2018 with Marcelo Padua*

Marcelo is expanding his *Birds & Wine* concept to the Old World, where he and his wife, Ana, will be based for a couple of years. This exciting itinerary will savor Portugal's incredible diversity of habitats that influence birds and grapes! We'll visit, among others, the famous port regions of the Douro Valley and the Alentejo Region where wines are prepared in the ancient Roman way, Vinho de Talha. The birds will rival the wines for our attention, from Great Bustards and Black-bellied Sandgrouse to the Iberian Imperial, Golden, and Bonelli's eagles of the Guardiana Valley, and we won't have to travel great distances to see an amazing diversity.

## **Florida**

*April 28-May 5, 2018 with Doug Gochfeld & Mitch Lysinger*

A fresh itinerary for those South and Central Florida specialties you've been wanting to see, from Mangrove Cuckoo, Antillean Nighthawk, Black-whiskered Vireo, Masked Booby, and Brown Noddy to Florida Scrub-Jay, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow, Short-tailed Hawk—plus much more!

## **France's Loire Valley: Birds, Chateaux & Wine**

*June 2-10, 2018 with Megan Edwards Crewe & Marcelo Padua*

The Loire, one of the few wild rivers of western Europe, has carved diverse habitats from the central French countryside. Open water to mature riparian forest are home to scores of birds and other wildlife—there is even a chance of Wild Boar! In addition to the natural history we will feast on gourmet meals, sample the wares at local wineries, and visit a majestic chateaux.



Steppe Eagle (Israel)



Rufous-necked Hornbill (India)



Great Bustards (Portugal)



Blue-browed Tanager (Southeast Ecuador)



Sapayoa (NW Ecuador)

*Photos by: Doug Gochfeld, Phil Gregory, L. Nemeth-Boka, John Rowlett, and Don Taves*

## **Amazonian Ecuador: Napo Wildlife Center**

*June 29-July 8, 2018 with Mitch Lysinger*

A northern summer opportunity to visit the incredibly rich Yasuni Biosphere Reserve while based on the south side of the Rio Napo in eastern Ecuador's lowlands. We'll have canopy platforms and clay licks to explore, and a simply wonderful and amazing diversity of rainforest birds and wildlife on this new itinerary.

## **Wild Kenya: A Tented Camp Safari**

*July 14-29, 2018 with Terry Stevenson*

A delightful shorter itinerary designed to stay primarily in three tented camps, giving us a chance for the more traditional safari birding and wildlife experience (and to wake up right in the middle of it all!) under Terry's expert guidance.

## **Ecuador's Deep Northwest Lowlands**

*September 28-October 6 with Willy Perez*

By popular demand, we've created a new tour to the wilds of Northwest Ecuador to seek out many of the region's rare and exciting Choco endemics. Based out of two remote lodges right in the heart of prime lowland habitats—the comfort might surprise you!—we'll delve head first into this endemic-rich region. The list of targets is a long one, but for starters, how about Choco Poorwill, Scarlet-breasted Dacnis, Five-colored Barbet, Rose-faced Parrot, Sapayoa, and Blue-whiskered Tanager? We look forward to seeing you there!





**FIELD GUIDES INCORPORATED**

9433 Bee Cave Road / Building 1, Suite 150 / Austin, TX 78733  
800-728-4953 / 512-263-7295 / fax: 512-263-0117  
fieldguides@fieldguides.com / www.fieldguides.com

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*Thanks to all of you who traveled with us in 2016!*

