

fieldguides®

Birding Tours

North, East, South, and West with the Spring!

As we write this, spring has arrived and early migrants are trickling in, soon to be followed by floods of warblers, thrushes, flycatchers, brilliant tanagers and buntings, grosbeaks, and more. Spring keeps us hopeful.

Our Texas Coast Migration and Big Bend tours are in progress and Doug Gochfeld and Mitch Lysinger are on the lookout for birds from Central Florida to the Keys. In early May, guides John Coons, Dave Stejskal, and Tom Johnson will be busy with four Arizona tours. Tom will continue celebrating spring in Cape May, where he now lives, and later in the month, in Pennsylvania, where he grew up. And this is not yet to mention Jay VanderGaast's Point Pelee tour, Eric Hynes and Cory Gregory's Maine tour, or Doug, Eric, and Tom's Colorado Grouse tours. It's a birdy time of year for Field Guides, and we hope for you as well.

On the inside pages of this newsletter, you'll find a complete listing of our 2019 tours with dates and guides. We're planning about 140 advertised departures (as well as various private tours behind the scenes), including eight new tours and three others only offered every other year (*Nowhere But Northeast Brazil*, *Northern India: Birds, Tiger & the Taj Mahal*, and *Guatemala: Shade-Grown Birding*). New itineraries include two in Europe.

First, in May, *Birds of Britain* with Megan Crewe and Willy Perez, both of whom are now based in Britain; visiting England and Scotland with these two popular guides should be a blast. And in December, Godfried Schreur, who has co-led Field Guides Spain and Iceland tours to rave reviews, will join forces with

Jay VanderGaast for what looks like a fascinating trip to the Netherlands—*Holland in Winter: Birds & Art*. The tour is subtitled *Waterfowl Spectacle & Dutch Masters* as it combines some fantastic concentrations of waterfowl that winter here with famed Dutch art and culture.

New Mexico: Birding the Land of Enchantment in January for wintering species and residents will be guided by the

dynamic duo of Doug Gochfeld and Cory Gregory, and then in May, Eric Hynes and Mitch Lysinger will team up for *Idaho: Snake River to Sawtooths* for a week-long birding adventure in that beautiful state. Eric will also be expanding his Maine coverage to a September trip for seabirds and coastal migrants, *Maine in Fall*.

Bret Whitney, who's always finding new places to go—and in Brazil he's not likely to run out of them soon—has two new trips in the works that will take you up tributaries and into forests that



Spring Beauties: Blackburnian Warbler at top; Wood Thrush; and Roseate Spoonbill (Photos by participant Dennis Rabon and guides Doug Gochfeld & Eric Hynes)

few birders have ever visited, *Brazil: Minas Gerais & Tocantins — Blue-eyed Ground-Dove and Beyond* in May, and *Brazil: Roraima Adventure* in August. And finally, to round things out, *Emperor Penguins in the Weddell Sea: In Search of Antarctica's Most Iconic Bird* with Tom Johnson in November.

2019 TOURS

2019 looks to be a busy year for Field Guides, with 140 advertised departures to destinations around the globe. For full details of individual tours, including complete itineraries and triplists from past tours, visit our web site. And if you have any questions, please email us or call our Austin office. We look forward to seeing you in the field.



JANUARY 2019

Costa Rica: Birding the Edges Part I, the Deep South
Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge I
South Texas Rarities
Guyana I
Colombia: Bogota, the Magdalena Valley & Santa Marta
Thailand
Costa Rica: Birding the Edges Part II, the Far North
Nowhere but Northeast Brazil!
Jewels of Ecuador: Hummers, Tanagers & Antpittas I
Winter Japan: Cranes & Sea Eagles
NEW New Mexico: Birding the Land of Enchantment
Guyana II
Northern India

Jan 5-14
Jan 11-20
Jan 12-18
Jan 12-23
Jan 12-27
Jan 12-Feb 2
Jan 13-22
Jan 15-Feb 2
Jan 19-Feb 5
Jan 25-Feb 9
Jan 26-Feb 1
Jan 26-Feb 6
Jan 26-Feb 15

FEBRUARY 2019

Panama's Canopy Tower
Guatemala: Shade-grown Birding
Birds & Wines of Chile and Argentina
Cambodia: Angkor Temples & Vanishing Birds
Antarctica, the Falkland Islands & South Georgia
Owlberta: Alberta's Owls & More
Trinidad & Tobago I
Namibia & Botswana I
Colombia: Santa Marta Escape
Southeastern Ecuador:
Orange-throated Tanager & Foothill Specialties
Jamaica I
Borneo I

Feb 3-9
Feb 9-17
Feb 9-23
Feb 9-23
Feb 14-Mar 8
Feb 16-22
Feb 16-25
Feb 19-Mar 10
Feb 23-Mar 3

Feb 23-Mar 4
Feb 24-Mar 2
Feb 26-Mar 15

MARCH 2019

Western Panama: Chiriqui & Bocas del Toro
East Africa Highlights: Kenya & Tanzania I
Jamaica II
Southwestern Ecuador Specialties: Jocotoco Foundation Reserves
Mexico: Oaxaca
Spring in South Texas
Brazil Nutshell: Intervalles, Iguazu Falls & the Pantanal
Panama's Canopy Tower & Lodge
Israel Migration Magic
Costa Rica
Jewels of Ecuador: Hummers, Tanagers & Antpittas II
Puerto Rico
Ghana: Window Into West African Birding
Bahamas: Endemics & Kirtland's Warbler
Belize: Tropical Birding, Short and Sweet
Hawaii
Lesser Antilles
Guyana III

Mar 1-10
Mar 1-21
Mar 3-9
Mar 3-17
Mar 9-16
Mar 9-17
Mar 9-23
Mar 10-17
Mar 13-24
Mar 16-31
Mar 16-Apr 2
Mar 17-23
Mar 21-Apr 9
Mar 23-27
Mar 23-30
Mar 28-Apr 6
Mar 29-Apr 14
Mar 30-Apr 10

APRIL 2019

Colorado Grouse I
Bhutan
Texas Coast Migration Spectacle I
Colorado Grouse II
Northeast India: Eaglenest, Kaziranga & More
Texas Coast Migration Spectacle II
Texas's Big Bend & Hill Country
Beyond the Ports of Portugal: A Birds & Wine Tour
Florida
Hungary & Romania: The Best of Eastern Europe

Apr 6-16
Apr 6-25
Apr 13-19
Apr 13-23
Apr 19-May 7
Apr 20-26
Apr 20-29
Apr 23-May 4
Apr 27-May 5
Apr 27-May 13

MAY 2019

Arizona Nightbirds & More I
Spain: La Mancha, Coto Donana & Extremadura
Arizona Nightbirds & More II
Arizona: Birding the Border I
Point Pelee Migration Spectacle
NEW Birds of Britain
Spring in Cape May
NEW Idaho: Snake River to Sawtooths
Arizona: Birding the Border II
Pennsylvania's Warblers & More: from Cerulean Warbler
to Henslow's Sparrow
NEW Japan in Spring
Colombia: Medellin Escape
NEW Brazil: Minas Gerais & Tocantins
Alaska I - Part One (Pribilofs & Denali)
France's Loire Valley: Birds, Chateaux & Wine
Kenya Safari Spectacular

May 2-6
May 4-16
May 9-13
May 10-19
May 11-18
May 11-20
May 12-18
May 18-26
May 18-27

May 21-26
May 22-Jun 3
May 25-Jun 3
May 25-Jun 9
May 30-Jun 7
May 31-Jun 10
May 31-Jun 24

(Acorn Woodpecker by participant Paul Bisson)

Tom Johnson & local guide
 Willy Perez & local guide
 Chris Benesh
 Dave Stejskal & local guide
 Jesse Fagan & local guide
 Jay VanderGaast & Uthai Treesucon
 Tom Johnson & local guide
 Bret Whitney & Marcelo Barreiros
 Mitch Lysinger
 Phil Gregory
 Doug Gochfeld & Cory Gregory
 Megan Edwards Crewe & local guide
 Terry Stevenson & local guide

John Coons & local guide
 Jesse Fagan
 Marcelo Padua & Tom Johnson
 Phil Gregory & local guide
 Doug Gochfeld
 Jay VanderGaast
 Dan Lane & local guide
 Joe Grosel
 Cory Gregory & local guide

Mitch Lysinger
 Chris Benesh & local guide
 Megan Edwards Crewe & local guide

Jesse Fagan
 Terry Stevenson
 Eric Hynes & local guide
 Willy Perez
 Dan Lane & Cory Gregory
 Chris Benesh
 Marcelo Padua
 John Coons & local guide
 Doug Gochfeld & local guide
 Jay VanderGaast & local guide
 Willy Perez
 Tom Johnson
 Phil Gregory & local guide
 Jesse Fagan
 Dave Stejskal
 Chris Benesh
 Jesse Fagan
 Marcelo Barreiros

Doug Gochfeld
 Megan Edwards Crewe & local guide
 John Coons
 Tom Johnson & Cory Gregory
 Phil Gregory & local guide
 John Coons
 Chris Benesh
 Marcelo Padua & local guide
 Doug Gochfeld
 Terry Stevenson & local guide

Dave Stejskal
 Chris Benesh & Godfried Schreur
 Cory Gregory
 John Coons
 Jay VanderGaast
 Megan Edwards Crewe & Willy Perez
 Tom Johnson
 Eric Hynes & Mitch Lysinger
 Cory Gregory

Tom Johnson
 Phil Gregory
 Jesse Fagan & local guide
 Bret Whitney & Marcelo Barreiros
 Chris Benesh & Doug Gochfeld
 Megan Edwards Crewe & Marcelo Padua
 Terry Stevenson

JUNE 2019

Northern Arizona's Canyons and Condor
 Alaska II - Part One (Pribilofs & Denali)
 Alaska I - Part Two (Nome, Seward & Barrow)
 Galapagos: An Intimate Look at Darwin's Islands I
 Mongolia: The Gobi Desert, Steppe & Taiga
 Alaska II - Part Two (Nome, Seward & Barrow)
 Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru I
 Iceland
 Peru's Magnetic North: Spatuletails, Owllet Lodge & More
 Alta Floresta & the Pantanal, Brazil
 The Norwegian Arctic: Spitsbergen & the Svalbard Archipelago
 Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge II
 Newfoundland & Nova Scotia

Jun 1-6
 Jun 6-14
 Jun 6-16
 Jun 8-18
 Jun 8-27
 Jun 13-23
 Jun 14-23
 Jun 14-23
 Jun 22-Jul 3
 Jun 22-Jul 7
 Jun 25-Jul 7
 Jun 28-Jul 7
 Jun 30-Jul 10

John Coons & Micah Riegner
 Tom Johnson & Cory Gregory
 Chris Benesh & Doug Gochfeld
 Mitch Lysinger & local guide
 Phil Gregory & local guide
 Tom Johnson & Cory Gregory
 Dan Lane
 Godfried Schreur
 Dan Lane & Dave Stejskal
 Marcelo Padua & Marcelo Barreiros
 John Coons & Doug Gochfeld
 Mitch Lysinger
 Chris Benesh & Tom Johnson

JULY 2019

Papua New Guinea
 Galapagos: An Intimate Look at Darwin's Islands II
 Jaguar Spotting: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon I
 Wild Kenya: A Tented Camp Safari
 Cloudforests of Ecuador: All the Best of the Wild Northwest
 Borneo II
 Arizona's Second Spring I
 Jaguar Spotting: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon II
 Peruvian Rainforests of the Tambopata: Macaw Lick Extraordinaire

Jul 4-21
 Jul 6-16
 Jul 13-24
 Jul 13-28
 Jul 15-25
 Jul 16-Aug 2
 Jul 17-26
 Jul 20-31
 Jul 21-Aug 3

Jay VanderGaast
 Willy Perez & local guide
 Marcelo Barreiros
 Terry Stevenson
 Willy Perez
 Dave Stejskal & local guide
 John Coons
 Marcelo Padua
 Jesse Fagan

AUGUST 2019

Mountains of Manu, Peru I
NEW Brazil: Roraima Adventure
 Brazil: Great Rivers of the Amazon (Madeira-Tapajos)
 Mouth of the Amazon and Lower Rio Xingu
 Arizona's Second Spring II
 France: Camargue & Pyrenees
 Oregon: From the Coast to the Cascades
 Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus I

Aug 2-11
 Aug 2-13
 Aug 2-17
 Aug 2-17
 Aug 3-12
 Aug 31-Sep 10
 Aug 31-Sep 10
 Aug 31-Sep 14

Dan Lane & local guide
 Micah Riegner
 Bret Whitney & Tom Johnson
 Marcelo Padua & Megan Edwards Crewe
 Chris Benesh
 Megan Edwards Crewe & Marcelo Padua
 Cory Gregory & Doug Gochfeld
 Bret Whitney & Marcelo Barreiros

SEPTEMBER 2019

Slice of California: Seabirds to Sierra I
 Ethiopia
NEW Maine in Fall: Seabirds & Coastal Migrants
 Morocco
 Slice of California: Seabirds to Sierra II
 Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus II
 Fall for Cape May I
 Safari Brazil: The Pantanal & More
 Ecuador's Deep Northwestern Lowlands
 Alaska Fall Goldmine: Rarities on the Pribilofs I
 Fall For Cape May II

Sep 5-14
 Sep 6-26
 Sep 9-17
 Sep 9-25
 Sep 10-19
 Sep 15-29
 Sep 21-27
 Sep 21-Oct 6
 Sep 27-Oct 5
 Sep 28-Oct 6
 Sep 29-Oct 5

Tom Johnson & Micah Riegner
 Terry Stevenson & local guide
 Eric Hynes
 Jesse Fagan & local guide
 Chris Benesh & local guide
 Marcelo Barreiros & Dave Stejskal
 Cory Gregory & Micah Riegner
 Marcelo Padua & Dan Lane
 Willy Perez
 Doug Gochfeld
 Tom Johnson

OCTOBER 2019

South Africa
 Australia: Part One
 Alaska Fall Goldmine: Ross's Gulls in Barrow II
 New Guinea & Australia
 Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru II
 Brazil's Rio Roosevelt: Birding the River of Doubt
 Australia: Part Two
 Serra dos Tucanos, Brazil
 Louisiana: Yellow Rails & Crawfish Tails

Oct 3-25
 Oct 4-24
 Oct 5-11
 Oct 10-28
 Oct 11-20
 Oct 12-26
 Oct 22-Nov 6
 Oct 24-Nov 3
 Oct 31-Nov 4

Joe Grosel & Jesse Fagan
 Chris Benesh & Cory Gregory
 Doug Gochfeld
 Jay VanderGaast
 Dan Lane
 Bret Whitney & Marcelo Barreiros
 John Coons & Doug Gochfeld
 Marcelo Padua
 Dan Lane & Micah Riegner

NOVEMBER 2019

Colombia: Cali Escape
 Madagascar
 Namibia & Botswana II
 Colombia: Llanos & More
 Chile
NEW Emperor Penguins in the Weddell Sea:
 In search of Antarctica's Most Iconic Bird
 Holiday Mexico: Yucatan & Cozumel
 Holiday at San Isidro, Ecuador
 Thanksgiving in Jamaica
 Guyana IV

Nov 2-10
 Nov 2-24
 Nov 5-24
 Nov 10-18
 Nov 10-30
 Nov 15-28
 Nov 23-Dec 2
 Nov 23-Dec 2
 Nov 24-30
 Nov 30-Dec 11

Jesse Fagan & local guide
 Phil Gregory & local guide
 Terry Stevenson
 Dan Lane & local guide
 Willy Perez & local guide
 Tom Johnson
 Chris Benesh & local guide
 Mitch Lysinger
 Cory Gregory & local guide
 John Coons & local guide

DECEMBER 2019

NEW Holland: Birds & Art
 Christmas in Oaxaca
 Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista I
 Panama's Canopy Camp: Lowland Darien I
 Trinidad & Tobago II
 Arizona Winter Specialties
 Panama's Canopy Lodge: El Valle de Anton
 Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista II
 Holiday at Ecuador's Wildsumaco Lodge

Dec 1-8
 Dec 21-28
 Dec 21-29
 Dec 27-Jan 4
 Dec 27-Jan 5
 Dec 28-Jan 3
 Dec 28-Jan 4
 Dec 28-Jan 5
 Dec 28-Jan 7

Godfried Schreur & Jay VanderGaast
 Doug Gochfeld & Cory Gregory
 Dan Lane & local guide
 John Coons & local guide
 Tom Johnson & local guide
 Chris Benesh
 Jesse Fagan & Micah Riegner
 Megan Edwards Crewe & local guide
 Willy Perez

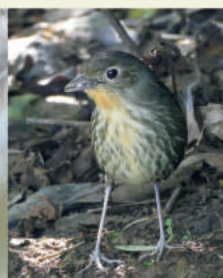


On this page, photos from three of our five Colombia tours, beginning here with Richard Webster's recent nine-day **Colombia: Medellin Escape**. Andean Cock-of-the-rock (top right) is always one of the highlights of this tour, and Richard reports that the group enjoyed cocks at point-blank range for longer than anyone wanted. (Oh, really!) Our group here is watching for Yellow-eared Parrots; with a population of around 1400 and only 200 breeding adults, it's a rare psittacid, but we were rewarded with repeated views of perched and flying birds. It's not unusual to see three-dozen or so tanagers on this trip (about the same for hummingbirds) and they include some real beauts like the Golden-crowned (far left) and the Golden, wallowing in bananas at a feeder. (Photos by participants Martin Selzer & L.C. Jackson and guide Richard Webster)



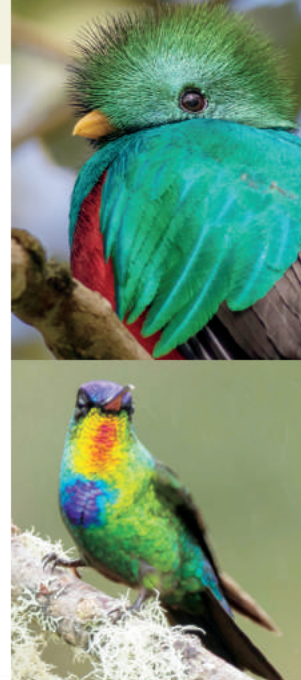
Lots of stunning birds on this, our second short Colombia tour, **Santa Marta Escape**, a visit to one of the most endemic-rich areas in the world with guides Richard Webster and Cory Gregory. Two of those endemics are pictured here—Santa Marta Brush-Finch, above right, and beside it, White-tailed Starfrontlet, a sparkling little hummer with an immaculate white tail. To the left, one of the more colorful among a colorful group, Blue-naped Chlorophonia; Black-capped Tanager; and Band-tailed Guan at El Dorado where they come to the cracked corn feeders. (Photos by participant Doug Bailey and guide Cory Gregory)

These folks are smiling because they've just seen a Recurve-billed Bushbird, a rare species rediscovered in 2004 and possible on our 16-day **Colombia: Bogota, the Magdalena Valley & Santa Marta** tour with Jesse Fagan (kneeling at right of the sign). Crested Ant-Tanager, at far right, is an endemic with a distinctive song; and to the left, two antpittas, Santa Marta Antpitta, formerly difficult to see before the mealworm revolution, and the tiny Rusty-breasted Antpitta. The beautiful Blue-throated Starfrontlet rounds out this slice of the 500-plus bird species recorded on the tour. (Photos by guide Jesse Fagan)





The birds—and people—pictured here and in the collage below are from our **Costa Rica: Birding the Edges** tours with Tom Johnson and Cory Gregory. Part One explores the southern reaches of the country, and there's a lot to see. Resplendent Quetzal, Costa Rica's best-known bird, put on a great show for the group, even posing for a close-up. Fiery-throated Hummingbird and Fiery-billed Aracari (both only in Costa Rica and Panama), with their jazzy good looks, are always among tour favorites. Rufous-winged Woodpecker is uncommon and often difficult to see, but not this year. Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush is another C.R./Panama endemic, and while lovely, it's fair to say that its beauty is in its song. (Photos by participants Kevin Heffernan & Karen Heffernan and guides Tom Johnson & Cory Gregory)



Part Two participants of **Costa Rica: Birding the Edges** enjoyed some splendid birding in the North. A few of their sightings included this tiny Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant, right above, its crown feathers partially raised; Bicolored Antbird, an ant-follower that is not always easy to see this well; Golden-hooded Tanager, most common in the Arenal region; and the widespread Broad-billed Motmot. (Photos by participants Jeanne Ryan & Kevin Heffernan and guide Cory Gregory)



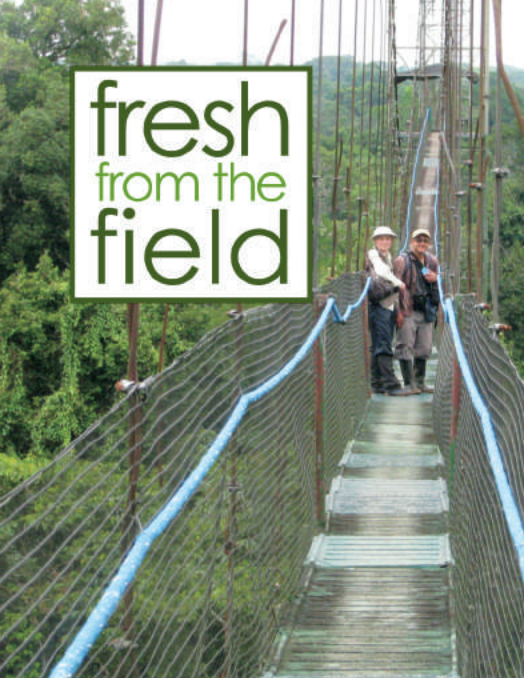
One of the many thrills on Jay VanderGaast's recent **Thailand** tour was seeing three Coral-billed Ground-Cuckoos (one at left) coming to a hide at Khao Yai, and Jay reports that the group had long looks at these amazing birds. At far right, one of Thailand's several broadbills, the Long-tailed, showing off here not so much his tail as his broad bill. Left of the broadbill, two of Thailand's many colorful flycatchers, Ultramarine at top and Hill-blue Flycatcher below it. Spot-breasted Parrotbill is an odd-looking fellow, its bill adapted for eating seeds in the reedbeds it inhabits. Kingfishers are plentiful on this tour, and the Banded, which occupies a monotypic genus, has to be one of the most attractive. (Photos by participants Paul Kittle & Greg Vassilopoulos and guide Jay VanderGaast)



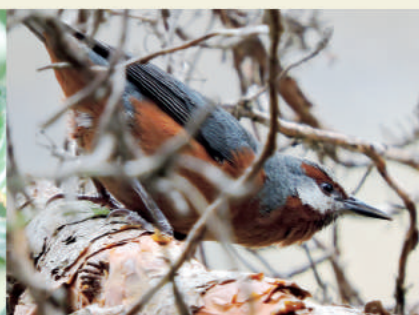
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fresh from the field



Willy Perez's recent **Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge** is the first of three Ecuador tours pictured here. One of the advantages of birding at Sacha is its system of towers and walkways that put you above the canopy, making it easier to see birds like the handsome Chestnut Woodpecker, top right, and the unbelievably patterned Paradise Tanager next to it. (That's Willy with a tour participant taking advantage of the vista.) The Scarlet Macaw at lower right was seen with six of its comrades at one of the parrot licks near Sacha, where over a dozen species of parakeets and parrots are possible. The little Wire-tailed Manakin was one of several manakin species seen, though maybe none so colorful as this one. (Photos by participant Miles Paul and guide Willy Perez)



Our **Jewels of Ecuador: Hummers, Tanagers & Antpittas** tour is a showcase of some of Ecuador's most beautiful birds, inhabitants of the forested slopes of the Ecuadorian Andes, birds like the two tanagers at left—Green-and-gold at top and Golden-eared below it—and the Violet-bellied Hummingbird, top right, seen on Willy Perez's January tour. We regularly record more than sixty species of each, and this is not to mention some very cool antpittas—ten plus—or all the other Ecuadorian jewels. Among the latter group count the big Amazonian Umbrellabird, right, with its inflatable neck wattle, just visible in the photo, and the Giant Conebill, a high-elevation specialist of Polylepis forest. (Photos by participant Elena Laborde and guide Willy Perez)



Willy Perez and his **Holiday at Ecuador's Wildsumaco Lodge** tour group (shown here on the lodge porch with a view of the Andes in the background) were delighted to welcome in the New Year with surprise Barred Parakeets—one at left—feeding in the fruiting Cecropia trees near the lodge. As Willy says, you never know what to expect. Other more predictable sights included the little Ochre-breasted Antpitta, which showed off nicely for the group, and the Gould's Jewelfront, which one never tires of seeing. (Photos by participants François Grenon & Gregg Recer and guide Willy Perez)



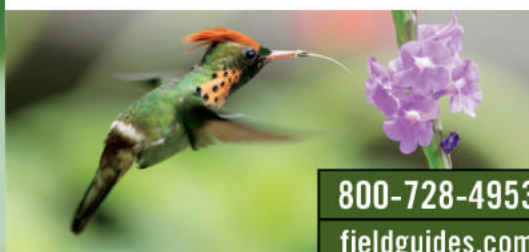
Guide Tom Johnson writes that his **Arizona Winter Specialties** tour over New Year saw a nice cross-section of wintering birds as well as some Mexican vagrants, including close views of Rufous-backed Robins (inset) eating fruit. Wintering birds included about five thousand Sandhill Cranes, a few shown here, as well as a huge (10,000 plus) flock of Yellow-headed Blackbirds near Tucson. Baird's Sparrows were thick in the grasslands and a Red-breasted Sapsucker paid a visit. (Photos by participant Jonathan Slifkin and guide Tom Johnson)



Guide Doug Gochfeld reports that the valley vagrants and specialties were all in attendance on his January **South Texas Rarities** tour (one of two this year). Among the former were this Blue Bunting, top left, and Rose-throated Becard, bottom right, which the group watched at "point blank" range for twenty minutes. Audubon's Oriole is an uncommon Valley resident, and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is one of the beauties of the Texas landscape. If you look closely at the Osprey at far left, you'll see it's carrying a rather large fish in its talons. (Photos by participant John Berry and guides Doug Gochfeld & Doug Hitchcox [Maine Audubon])



Megan Crewe and Marcelo Barreiros look like they're having a great time guiding our February **Trinidad & Tobago** tour, where the Scarlet Ibis roost won "best in show." Some other tour hits included the Masked Cardinal at left that Megan describes as practically climbing into the boat with the group at Caroni Swamp; a stunning male White Hawk perched at eye-level right beside the road; and plenty of Tufted Coquettes in the small flowers below the veranda at Asa Wright. And who can complain about graceful Red-billed Tropicbirds circling overhead on Little Tobago Island? (Photos by participant Lynn Hemink and guide Marcelo Barreiros)



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fresh from the field



Phil Gregory and his **Winter Japan** tour group enjoyed watching Large-billed Crows stealing fish from the much larger Steller's Sea-Eagles (one above in flight) on this year's tour—and check Phil's tour report on our website for a short video of the birds. Seeing a large portion of the world's population of Red-crowned Cranes (far left) dancing in the snow was another major highlight. Two fabulous Ring-necked Pheasants (one top middle) in a rice field and a Ural Owl napping in a roost hole were also special. (Photos by guide Phil Gregory)



The photos here are from our two spring **Jamaica** tours, one guided by Eric Hynes and the other by Tom Johnson. Both tours saw all the island's endemics, including this Crested Quail-Dove at right, often one of the more difficult to find. Jamaican Tody, left above, is probably the cutest of the bunch; Jamaican Oriole would have to be called a "near-endemic" as it's also found on a small island off the coast of Nicaragua; and the handsome Jamaican Blackbird is what Tom describes as "a blackbird of a different stripe" because of its many differences in both habit and habitat from other New World blackbirds. (Photos by guides Tom Johnson & Eric Hynes)



Field Guides offered two **Guyana: Wilderness Paradise** tours this winter, with another coming up next December, and these photos are from both tours (Dave Stejskal and Marcelo Barreiros on the first and Megan Edwards Crewe on the second). Blood-colored Woodpecker at far left, found only in the lowland coastal forests of northern South America, was one of the main targets. The poorly-known Rufous-winged Ground-Cuckoo, which contrary to the bird pictured here, spends most of its time on the ground, was a fortunate find for one tour. And Giant Anteater running in a savanna and a Guianan Cock-of-the-rock anywhere—it doesn't matter how many times you see them, they look like nothing you've seen before, except maybe a little like the Andean on page 4. (Photos by participant Benedict de Laender and guide Marcelo Barreiros)



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Three glorious owls—and a Pine Grosbeak! This could only be our **Owlberta: Alberta's Owls and More** tour, guided this year by Jay VanderGaast, who designed the tour, and John Coons. From left, a much sought-after Great Gray Owl, usually the bird of the trip—especially with looks like this; Great Horned Owl, the tour's sixth owl; the aforementioned Pine Grosbeak, a hefty bird often found at northern feeders in winter; and anchoring the right, a Snowy Owl, a beautiful sight and one of three Snowies seen on the tour. (Photos by participants Don Taves & Jonathan Slifkin)



From the evidence here, we can safely say that Megan Crewe's recent **Belize: Tropical Birding Short & Sweet** tour, though short in length, was sweet in birds. From left, Bat Falcon, super views of a perched bird; another raptor, a gorgeous Snail Kite, seen very close; a big pale-billed Woodpecker; and the wonderfully strange Boat-billed Heron, several of which were seen on boat trips along with cooperative Sungrebes and nesting Jabirus. (Photos by participant Max Rodel)



One of the hallmarks of our **Cambodia: Angkor Temples & Vanishing Birds** tour with Phil Gregory and Doug Gochfeld again this year was seeing some of Asia's critically endangered vultures, including this Red-headed at left; and though numbers were down this year, our group saw two. At right, one of the stone faces on the Bayon Temple at Angkor, where the tour spends three days. Above, we have Indochinese Barbet, one of several colorful barbets seen along the tour route, and Spot-billed Pelican, so-called because of the spots along its upper mandible; Cambodia is one of the last places in Southeast Asia where this species breeds in appreciable numbers. (Photos by participants Claudi Racionero & Linda Rudolph and guide Phil Gregory)



fresh from the field



Terry Stevenson's **East Africa Highlights** tour group—Terry and participants at left—was lucky enough to spend late January in Kenya and Tanzania, where they encountered 465 species of birds, 48 species of mammals, and some unforgettable landscapes. Among the birds, at Kakamega, a pretty Blue-headed Bee-eater about to devour a small butterfly; below it, a stately Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, one of seven owl species on the tour; Secretary-bird is a bird of prey seen only in the grasslands of sub-Saharan Africa; and Lion is certainly one of Africa's most quintessential mammals. (Photos by participants Craig Caldwell & Phoebe Fowler)



After a multi-year hiatus, our recent **Antarctica: Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia & the Falklands** tour with Tom Johnson and Bret Whitney proved to be as good as we'd hoped. We have here just a few glimpses from the group's visit to this great wilderness: the opportunity to cruise among some of the magnificent icebergs; watching thousands of seabirds from the ship, including the lovely Snowy Petrel, top right, an Antarctic specialist that breeds on the Antarctic Peninsula; a Wandering Albatross on its nest; Macaroni Penguins porpoising through the cold Antarctic waters; and going eye-to-eye with a Southern Elephant Seal. (Photos by participants Jean Rigden and guides Tom Johnson & Bret Whitney)

New Guides Update

A little over a year ago we introduced you to two new Field Guides, **Cory Gregory** and **Doug Gochfeld**, both of whom had already been working with us for some time as "guides in training," accompanying senior guides on tours around the world to get acquainted with the birds of new areas and hone the skills our guides need to manage our groups and tour logistics successfully. These guys are quick studies, and we're delighted to report they've been generating terrific reviews. This year they've taken on several trips of their own, Doug in Israel, for example, which he just inaugurated with great success, and Cory in Oregon, where he'll take two groups in September.

We continue to develop new guides, and we have two you'll be seeing a lot more of in the future. Perusing the 2019 schedule, you'll notice two fresh names in the guide column. One of these,

Marcelo Barreiros (check page 7 for a photo), is a young Brazilian who has been working with us over the past couple of years. After college, Marcelo worked in Manaus on Harpy Eagle conservation, where he gained experience in both the Amazon and Atlantic Forest regions, and since then, he's branched out broadly across Brazil. The other is **Micah Riegner**, based in Arizona but having spent considerable time in recent years in the Brazilian Amazon. Micah's finishing up a Master's program and will be joining our schedule full-time in June 2019 once his degree is completed. Both Marcelo and Micah are ace birders, of course, but just as importantly each is a generous guide with a ready laugh—a Field Guides kind of guide. We're very pleased to have them. They look forward to seeing you in the field, as do we all!

Upcoming TOURS

Below you'll find a partial listing of some of our tours from June through November. For numerous additional destinations in this period, visit our website.

JUNE

Rainforest & Savanna: Alta Floresta & the Northern Pantanal, Brazil—June 22-July 7, 2018 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.

Iceland—June 27-July 6, 2018 with Godfried Schreur. Seabird colonies, endemic landbirds, spectacular scenery, and high-latitude natural history.

Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge—June 29-July 8, 2018 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

Newfoundland & Nova Scotia—July 1-11, 2018 with Chris Benesh & Cory Gregory. Boreal specialties, seabird colonies, and numerous breeding landbirds in the beautiful Canadian Maritimes.

Jaguar Spotting in Brazil: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon I & II—July 9-20, 2018 with Marcelo Padua & John Coons and July 21-August 1, 2018 with Marcelo Barreiros & Jesse Fagan. This 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.

Arizona's Second Spring I & II—July 14-23, 2018 with Chris Benesh and August 4-13, 2018 with John Coons. An ideal time for visiting one of the best birding regions in North America: great for local specialties and Mexican vagrants.

Cloudforests of Ecuador: All the Best of the Wild Northwest—July 16-26, 2018 with Willy Perez. We'll be based at just two great lodges on Ecuador's west slope to experience a diversity of great birds and have the chance for a highlight mammal, Spectacled Bear.

AUGUST

Brazil's Mouth of the Amazon: Mexiana Island, the Lower Xingu & Carajas—August 2-17, 2018 with Marcelo Padua & Jay

VanderGaast. 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.

Peruvian Rainforests of the Tambopata: Macaw Lick Extraordinaire—August 6-16, 2018 with Jesse Fagan & local guide. Three-site tour to the most species-rich rainforest on Earth. Largest known macaw lick, canopy walkway and towers, eagles, and monkeys.

Oregon: From the Coast to the Cascades I & II—August 29-September 8, 2018 and September 8-18, 2018 with Cory Gregory. A new itinerary for specialties of the Pacific Northwest as we explore the beautiful coast and Cascade Mountains.

SEPTEMBER

Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus, Brazil I & II—September 1-15, 2018 and September 16-30, 2018 with Bret Whitney & Marcelo Barreiros. Bird the rainforests and rivers of the mighty Amazon and Negro in an unforgettable mix of forest hikes and live-aboard luxury.

France: Camargue & Pyrenees II—September 5-15, 2018 with Jay VanderGaast. Two of Europe's finest birding destinations combined in this wonderful eleven-day tour, with varied highlights and some great French food.

Slice of California: Seabirds to Sierra I & II—September 6-15, 2018 with Chris Benesh and September 11-20, 2018 with Tom Johnson. A diverse mix of West Coast specialties, montane species, and pelagics in rugged and scenic sites.

Bolivia's Avian Riches—September 7-23, 2018 ("Bountiful Beni: Bazillions of Birds" Extension) with Dan Lane. The special bird life of the Bolivian Andes; wonderful mountain scenery.

Ecuador's Shiripuno Lodge: Heartland of the Waorani—September 20-29, 2018 with Mitch Lysinger. A tour to Shiripuno Lodge, gateway to the Yasuni Biosphere Reserve in Ecuador's Amazon region.

Cape May Megan's Way I & II—September 22-28, 2018 and September 30-October 6, 2018 with Megan Edwards Crewe. See bird migration in action at one of the country's top migration hotspots.

Safari Brazil: The Pantanal & More—September 22-October 7, 2018 (Brazilian Merganser Extension) with Marcelo Padua & Dave Stejskal. The spectacular wetlands of the Pantanal, with Hyacinth Macaws and Jabirus, combine with the many specialties of Brazil's Planalto Central to make for the perfect first birding trip to Brazil.

Ecuador's Deep NW Lowlands—September 28-October 6, 2018 with Willy Perez. Seeking hard-to-find specialties of the Choco region.

OCTOBER

Northern Peru: Endemics Galore—October 3-21, 2018 with Dan Lane. Dry-season tour to one of the least-known and most endemic-rich areas of South America. Targets geographic specialties as it surveys the rich and diverse habitats of northern Peru, including some remote and beautiful wild areas; camping no longer necessary.

South Africa—October 4-26, 2018 with Terry Stevenson & Joe Grosel. Endemic-rich birding, spectacular landscapes, and a unique flora are the highlights of our energetic survey tour of this beautiful country.

Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru—October 5-14, 2018 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.

New Guinea & Australia—October 11-29, 2018 with Jay VanderGaast. A rich and diverse sampler of the best birding of New Guinea and Australia.

Northwestern Argentina: The Chaco, Cordoba & Northern Andes—October 13-31, 2018 with Willy Perez & local guide. Comprehensive tour of the many habitats of the diverse northwest; many specialty birds.

Spectacular Southeast Brazil—October 19-November 4, 2018 (Part I) and November 2-18, 2018 (Part II) with Bret Whitney & Marcelo Barreiros. The fantastic center of avian endemism in eastern Brazil, particularly well endowed with hummingbirds, cotingas, antbirds, and beautiful scenery. Part I: North of the Tropic; Part II: South of the Capricorn, plus an optional Iguazu Falls Extension.

Sri Lanka—October 26-November 12, 2018 with Megan Edwards Crewe & local guide. A two-week introduction to Asia's birds, including more than two-dozen species endemic to the island, with one of the country's foremost birders as a co-leader.

Namibia & Botswana—October 30-November 18, 2018 with Joe Grosel. Southwestern Africa's bird specialties, striking scenery, wilderness, and the famed game of Etosha and the Okavango Delta.

NOVEMBER

Louisiana: Yellow Rails & Crawfish Tails—November 1-5, 2018 with Dan Lane. Late-autumn tour on the Gulf Coast targeting Yellow Rails and other migrants and wintering species of the region.

Colombia: Cali Escape: Cloudforests of the Central & Western Andes—November 3-11, 2018 with Jesse Fagan & local guide. Cloudforests of two Colombian cordilleras and their rich assortment of hummingbirds

and tanagers are highlights of this escape across the Caribbean to tropical Colombia. Starting in Cali and exiting through Manizales and Bogota, we will use several good city hotels and one simple ecotourism lodge primarily to access Andean forests, but also dry woodland, marshes, and the paramo.

Madagascar—November 3-26, 2018 (Extension: Mauritius & Reunion) with Phil Gregory & local guide. In-depth coverage of the accessible parts of Madagascar: many endemic birds, striking lemurs, bizarre flora and chameleons, fascinating culture. Optional extension to the Indian Ocean islands of Mauritius and Reunion will add yet more endemics.

Serra dos Tucanos, Brazil—November 10-20, 2018 with Marcelo Padua. A short but rich immersion in the avifauna of the Atlantic Forest, based at one lovely site near Rio.

Colombia: The Llanos & More—November 11-21, 2018 with Jesse Fagan & local guide. A short but bird-rich small-group tour to the llanos of eastern Colombia for Crestless Curassow, Pale-headed Jacamar, and White-bearded Flycatcher, among others, plus several sites near the capital city of Bogota for a fine variety of endemics and specialties.

New Zealand—November 11-29, 2018 (Hauraki Gulf Pelagic Extension) with Dan Lane & local guide. Beautiful landscapes as a backdrop for nearly 50 endemic birds plus a great selection of seabirds.

Chile—November 11-December 1, 2018 with Willy Perez & local guide. Comprehensive survey tour of this visually spectacular and tourist-friendly country.

Holiday at San Isidro, Ecuador—November 17-26, 2018 with Mitch Lysinger. A bird-rich holiday escape based primarily at the very comfortable San Isidro Lodge.

Mexico: Yucatan & Cozumel—November 17-26, 2018 with Chris Benesh & local guide. A tour for the most interesting birds of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula amidst its attractive Mayan sites and only a short flight from the US.

Jamaica—November 18-24, 2018 with Jay VanderGaast & local guide. A quick adventure in search of Jamaica's 27 endemics and numerous regional specialties at Green Castle Estate.

Brazil's Cristalino Jungle Lodge—November 19-30, 2018 with Marcelo Padua. A week of exciting birding in climax rainforest on the beautiful Rio Cristalino while comfortably accommodated at the Cristalino Jungle Lodge.

Vietnam—November 24-December 14, 2018 with Dave Stejskal & Doug Gochfeld. Intriguing survey tour to bird-rich but poorly known Vietnam.

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Birding Tours

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 / fieldguides.com

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Two departures
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Marcelo Padua &
John Coons

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Jesse Fagan

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(Photos by participants
Rick Thompson & David & Judy Smith)