

fieldguides®

Birding Tours

Greetings From Field Guides!

Summer is upon us. As we write this, the warm months of May and June are melting into July, which means for us at Field Guides that the Alaska tours are wrapping up, Bret Whitney is on the River of Doubt and John Coons is sailing in the Norwegian Arctic, Jesse Fagan is at Machu Picchu and Megan is in Borneo, the two Marcelos are in the Brazilian Pantanal, and Terry Stevenson is in Kenya's Maasai Mara. And, that's not even everyone. It also means that we are looking forward to tours to Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, Iceland, the Galapagos, the cloudforests of Ecuador, and the mountains of Manu, all of which sound very cool for the hot month of July. And of course, there will be much more to come for 2018.

Our fall schedule is chock full of worldwide birding adventures—France, Ethiopia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, and Argentina to name a few. Closer to home, there's Cape May, California, and Louisiana. If you have something a little more far-flung in mind, consider Jay VanderGaast's *New Guinea & Australia* tour for a combination of these two endemic-rich areas, or Dave Stejskal and Doug Gochfeld's *Vietnam* tour in November for some of Southeast Asia's rarest birds and mammals.

For those of you wanting to get away over the holidays, either to take advantage of time off from work or to escape the holiday hubbub, we have a number of inviting tours within relatively easy reach of most US cities—in just a day's travel, you can be birding somewhere wonderful. Panama, for instance, one of our favorite countries to bird in, where we have two tours—*Panama's Canopy Camp* to Darien Province with John Coons and *Panama's Canopy Lodge* to lovely El Valle de Anton with Chris Benesh. There's *Holiday Costa Rica* with Cory Gregory or *Holiday in Honduras* with Jesse Fagan or *Mexico: Oaxaca* with Tom Johnson and Dan Lane. So much to choose from. Closer to home, we have *Arizona's Winter Specialties* with Dave Stejskal, and not so close but still within easy reach, *Ecuador's Wildsumaco Lodge* with Willy Perez. Check our web site for full details.

In our May issue we included an update on guides Cory Gregory and Doug Gochfeld, two talented birders who joined Field Guides a couple



of years ago and who have received excellent reviews from tour participants and fellow guides alike. We also introduced two more new guides, Marcelo Barreiros, who has full schedules in 2018 and 2019 covering Brazil and Guyana, and Micah Riegner, who, having been along on a number of FG tours already, comes into our schedule full-time in June 2019 with trips to Brazil, the US, and Panama. In this issue, guide Richard Webster, who officially retired from guiding after the spring Bhutan tour he co-led with Megan, is the focus of John Rowlett's reflections on a bit of Richard's history with our company, including—among his numerous contributions—the new tours he developed for Field Guides to many areas around the world.



Join us for some seriously fun birding!

At top, Golden-fronted Leafbird from Vietnam; above, our recent Oaxaca tour group. (Photos by guide Cory Gregory and participant Greg Griffith)

A Field Guides Send-off to REW

Birder par excellence Richard Webster was hardly unknown to Field Guides during our first decade. For his reputation far exceeded the bounds of his regular birding routes and patches around San Diego and his irregular but inevitable extravaganzas through California with the state's finest birders. Besides, he had taken one of our tours to Darien, Panama, in 1992, after which Bret Whitney, one of the guides on that tour, noted that Richard, although he'd never been there, behaved like an accomplished leader, finding birds, getting participants on them, and admirably commenting on and explaining with great insight a range of natural phenomena from raiding army ant swarms to niche adaptation and mixed-species flocking in Neotropical birds.

But we never imagined that this California attorney—about whom the formidable, accolade-stingy Guy McCaskie gushed, “I’m telling you, Richard knows his birds at a glance!”—would abandon legal work and join us, in 1994, as a Field Guide. It didn’t hurt that his trial tour—to Bolivia—was with Rose Ann Rowlett. Since that eventful trip, Richard, whose bird name is Merlin, has guided more than 100 of our tours over the past quarter century. In addition to his regular tours to many countries in South America (where he developed our Colombia tours and, with Rose Ann, our Northern Peru tours), Africa (where he developed our Kenya-Tanzania and Ethiopia tours), and southeast Asia (where he developed our Bhutan tour and, with Rose Ann, our Borneo tour), Merlin became a valuable owner of the company and has served occasionally as pro-bono counsel for Field Guides, as well as interventionist and shrewd contributor to many company policies. His views on the theory of our business always prompt a second look.

Although Richard and Rose Ann began keeping house in San Diego between tours, the Grebe couldn’t abide, as she desperately lamented, “a mere two species vocalizing in my morning ‘chorus’—Anna’s Hummingbird and Mourning Dove!” Graciously, Richard gave up his home and they relocated to Portal, Arizona, where they happily reside today in a lovely renovated house with a proper morning chorus, Richard maintaining their extensive feeders and Rose Ann creating exquisite water features along the creek they share with bobcats, mountain lions, rattlesnakes, and a plethora of hummingbirds, to mention but a few of their iconic fauna.

In addition to his role as senior tour leader, Richard is the company’s technical papers curator. His study, which requires an off-set house to itself, is crammed with books and is the private library where ornithological papers go to rest—before being recycled on Richard’s tours and among those of us imbibing his knowledge. If you’ve missed his discourse on island formation in Amazonian rivers, you’ll just have to research the phenomenon yourself, as he continues to do daily regarding matters both ornithological and biogeographic. No, you won’t find out from him that he discovered and photographed a new species of flowerpecker in Borneo. But then that’s Richard.

Merlin’s reading and field research, his devotion to recording bird vocalizations (resulting in more than 7000 uploads to Xeno-canto), an occasional private tour, and organizing trips for Rose Ann will now have to sustain him, since he is retiring this year, no longer to guide



At top, Richard in Colombia; Richard and Rose Ann, above, in Colorado. (Photos by participant Greg Griffith and guide Eric Hynes)

advertised tours. It’s been my good fortune to have co-led memorable Field Guides tours with Richard—to southeastern Peru, southern Argentina, southeastern Brazil, northern Peru, and (in my photo-informed imagination) Bhutan. His ready avian knowledge, organizational flair, assiduity, and Merlin-like alacrity demonstrated on tours will now be the stuff of participants’ stories, save for perhaps an opportunity to catch him at home as he and Grebe share a stake-out or two with our Arizona tours that regularly drop in at Portal. Although his colleagues who have flourished in his presence can still share his self-deprecating wit at our annual business meetings in Portal, my imaginary trip to Bhutan may never be realized. Yet, as compensation, I recognize that Richard’s passion-in-progress, his study of migration and distribution of southern California birds, now has a more reasonable chance of attaining closure, an occasion whose pleasures—like those characterizing Merlin’s tours over the globe—we’ll all be able to share with him yet again. —John Rowlett

FIELD GUIDES TOURS IN YOUR WORDS

Our thanks to the hundreds among you who have recently sent us post-tour evaluations. We read every one and take your comments seriously. And we're pleased that, overwhelmingly, you report excellent tour experiences and interactions with our guides and Austin office staff. We'll keep working hard to earn your confidence this year and beyond. Here are just a few of your remarks.

Antarctica with Tom Johnson and Bret Whitney

"The best features were the opportunity to experience a night flight of Slender-billed Prions, thousands going in one direction; Black-browed Albatrosses by the hundreds cruising south to the Falklands; Wandering and Royal albatrosses circling the ship, showing us their extraordinary flight skills; seeing and hearing masses of King Penguins on their breeding grounds, seven species of penguins!—all of this with people who are equally appreciative...and then to have Tom Johnson and Bret Whitney as seasoned leaders was fantastic. Tom and Bret are fun, light-hearted, and truly into birds and wild places. Both of them are exceptional at finding birds and helping clients see them." —S.R.



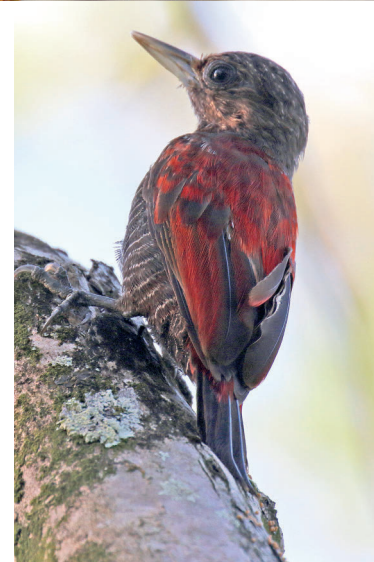
Nowhere But Northeast Brazil with Bret Whitney and Marcelo Barreiros

"What were my trip highlights? Not a hard one: the birds. I had great views of all the species I especially hoped to see (Lear's Macaw, Great Xenops, Araripe Manakin, Hooded Visorbearer) plus the unexpected and major highlight of Buff-fronted Owl. On my own, I'd never have got onto it, but both Bret and Marcelo picked up on faint calling, and carefully worked at it till we all had lovely views." —D.B.



Guyana with Dave Stejskal and Marcelo Barreiros

I was delighted with Guyana—it was so much more than I expected, and it was indeed magical. So much pristine forest, and the trip to Kaieteur Falls—which we had to ourselves—was amazing. The lodges were all comfortable and different. And of course, Dave and Marcelo were a pleasure to travel with. I am not a very good birder and really appreciated their efforts to help me see the skulky antbirds." —E.L.



Jewels of Ecuador with Willy Perez

"We saw a lot of birds—there were birds everywhere—but we had the time to enjoy them, while staying at nice lodges with good food. Transport was in a comfortable bus with enough space. I would give guide Willy Perez the highest score—he did an excellent job. He is happy when everybody is happy, and when someone has not seen a bird, he will search again...we saw so many birds, some unbelievably close." —B.L.

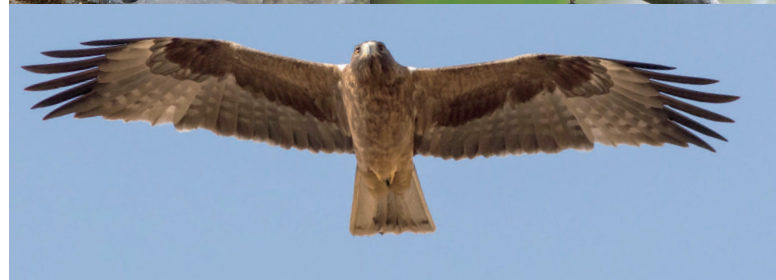
Borneo with Megan Edwards Crewe

"There were too many highlights to list here, but I will pick a few. The many endemics, especially the Whitehead's Broadbill. The plethora of wildlife, many primates, especially Orangutans and Proboscis Monkeys. A full-on view of the Clouded Leopard, not more than 30 feet from us, when it dashed across our trail. Wonderful accommodations and good food. Incredible beauty in the rainforest and on impressive Mount Kinabalu." —D.R.

Israel Migration Magic with Doug Gochfeld

"It's going to be hard to narrow the positive features of this trip down to a best-list, but here goes:

- The birds, the variety, the number, the views, and the birding venues, were the best. I saw 115 lifers. And I had more and better views of bird species I had seen before. The stream of migrating hawks, eagles, kites, vultures, storks, and other raptors was truly spectacular.
- The guides! Doug Gochfeld and Eran Banker, the local guide, are in my pantheon of top guides of all times! I saw so many birds because of them and enjoyed doing it! Super fun!
- Seeing a large slice of Israel and of the Negev was hugely fun and informative for me. The landscapes were awesome, often gorgeous.
- My life's horizons were expanded." —C.B.



Zodiac cruising in Antarctica; Hooded Visorbearer, NE Brazil; Blood-colored Woodpecker, Guyana; Golden-eared Tanager, Ecuador; Whitehead's Broadbill, Borneo; Booted Eagle, Israel. (Photos by participants Anne Ardillo, Steve Rannels, and Raymond Jeffers and guides Marcelo Barreiros, Doug Gochfeld, and Willy Perez)



Panama is a wonderful place to bird—just look at the photos on this page. From Jesse Fagan's March **Western Panama: Chiriqui & Bocas del Toro** tour, a Three-wattled Bellbird belting out his odd-sounding song—watching these birds in action was one of the many tour highlights in the highlands. Above the bellbird, a magnificent Red-billed Tropicbird soaring over its nesting site on Bird Island. Above, a male Golden-collared Manakin at a lek, and at left, a little Black-cheeked Warbler, a regional endemic. (Photos by guide Jesse Fagan)



Panama's Canopy Tower & Lodge combines two well-known Panama locations for a great week of birding. Guide John Coons writes that there were many highlights on this year's tour, including a very secretive Great Tinamou, a perched Gray-headed Kite, and a colorful Green Shrike-Vireo. And speaking of colorful, Keel-billed Toucan, at left, doesn't disappoint—it's exactly what you'd expect to see in the tropics. The Red-capped Manakin—if you notice his feet—looks as though he were caught mid dance step; Violet-bellied Hummingbirds, among many hummers, were spotted at the Tower feeders; and two Gray-bellied Night Monkeys peek out from their tree cavity. (Photos by participants Myles McNally & Stan Lilley)



Chris Benesh and his **Panama's Canopy Tower** tour group pictured here (Chris at left and local guide Alex Sanchez at right) spent several productive days in February enjoying the birds of Central Panama. According to Chris, the tour was especially good for raptors, with memorable looks at Slaty-backed Forest-Falcon—one left above—and Black Hawk-Eagle among others. The fancy Blue Cotinga was most accommodating, even emitting its short trill, which is not often heard. Pheasant Cuckoo is a bird not always seen and certainly not always seen this well. (Photos by guide Chris Benesh)



Maine this spring was awash in birds, and Eric Hynes and Cory Gregory and their **Maine in Spring** tour group did their best to see a whole bunch of them, both on the coast and inland in the western mountains. A few examples here include the Black-throated Blue Warbler at right, which, though a little overshadowed by a gorgeous Blackburnian that sang and sang, was no slouch, and, according to Eric, “came in so close we could almost reach out and touch him.” The little Blackpoll Warbler, a northern breeder, has the longest migration of any North American warbler. Purple Sandpiper, a regional specialty, was seen very well, and Saltmarsh Sparrow put on a great show. (Photos by guides Eric Hynes & Cory Gregory)



The White-tailed Hawk, at near right, is one magnificent raptor and in the US is found only in South Texas, where Chris Benesh and his **Spring in South Texas** tour group saw this one. Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl is another specialty of the area. The large Altamira Oriole is widespread in northern Middle America, but can be seen only in Texas within the US. Shorebirds like this Western Sandpiper, seen along the lower Texas Coast, are plentiful on this trip, with the added bonus of wintering Whooping Cranes. (Photos by guide Chris Benesh and participant Kurt Schwarz)



The wine was excellent, and so was the birding on our new **Beyond the Ports of Portugal** tours—two of them this spring—with Marcelo Padua and local guide Joao Tiago Tavares. A small selection of the birds shown here include the impressive Eurasian Griffon, above; to the right of the vulture, Pied Avocets flying above Black-tailed Godwits, visible in the bottom right-hand corner of the photo; and a handsome Red-legged Partridge wandering among the wildflowers. (Photos by participant Maureen Phair)



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Colorado National Monument is one of the sites we visit on our **Colorado Grouse** tours—here our second group with Eric Hynes and Doug Gochfeld (Tom Johnson and Ned Brinkley on the first tour)—while searching out the state's prairie-chicken and grouse species. The Greater Prairie-Chicken lek, with upwards of thirty dancing males, is always a highlight, as is seeing the not-always-reliable Dusky Grouse. The elusive White-tailed Ptarmigan, the smallest in the grouse family, was still mostly in its winter plumage. (Photos by guides Eric Hynes & Doug Gochfeld and participants Donna Pomeroy & Lewis Purinton)



It would be hard to pick a favorite from these, all seen on Marcelo Padua's recent **Brazil Nutshell: Intervals, Iguazu Falls & the Pantanal** tour, which visits three different areas and two major biomes in the country. From left, there's a pair of Hyacinth Macaws, the largest of the macaws, in the Pantanal; Zigzag Heron, which the group watched as it lifted its crest and walked up and down a branch; Guira Cuckoo; and Yellow-fronted Woodpecker, an endemic species restricted to the Atlantic forest biome. (Photos by participants Lois Wood & Jan Wood)



We wouldn't usually describe an African Elephant as "peeking," though this one seems to be doing just that at Terry Stevenson and his **Namibia & Botswana** tour group. The endemic Rockrunners (right of the elephant) were, according to Terry, "fantastic this year, with super long looks at about 6 in the Erongo Mountains." Bradfield's Hornbill was among the tour's six hornbill species, and an African Paradise-Flycatcher at its nest shows the bright blue skin around its eye, often overshadowed by the bird's flamboyant tail feathers. (Photos by participants Becky Hansen and the team of David & Judy Smith)



John Coons's **Texas Coast Migration** tours spend a week exploring the piney woods and the Texas Coast while enjoying the bounty of spring migration. This year's tours brought loads of warblers, including the two shown here—an outstanding Hooded at center, which can be difficult to see so well, and a much under-appreciated member of the family, a Worm-eating, cautiously poking its head out from the vegetation. This showy Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in full breeding regalia was found hunting in a pond on High Island by one group. An American Avocet shows its breeding colors with distinct peachy head and neck. (Photos by participants Holger Teichmann, Jim Sharples & Jim Philipson)



In March, Doug Gochfeld and a merry band of birders initiated our first **Israel Migration Magic** tour, which Doug described as “ten days of breathtaking scenery, good company, and of course, fantastic birds.” A few of those birds—and one mammal—shown here: the exotically named Nubian Ibex, a large goat classified as vulnerable by the IUCN; the Arabian endemic Green (or Little Green) Bee-eaters, adding more than a dash of color; a handsome Black-bellied Sandpiper in flight, showing off his signature belly; and a nice look at a Semicollared Flycatcher. (Photos by guide Doug Gochfeld and participant Seth Ausubel)



Hawaii is a state with many endemic birds whose names are difficult to say and nearly impossible to spell, but wonderful to see, and our recent tour there with Dan Lane and Chris Benesh enjoyed spotting many of them. At left, the Anianiau fills a niche similar to many of our North American wood-warblers, gleaning insects from under leaves and branches. The vibrant red Iiwi, with its bright orange-red sickle-shaped bill, is the iconic songbird of Hawaiian forests. And lastly we have the attractive Kaua'i Elepaio, a monarch flycatcher found on the island of Kauai. (Photos by participants Doug Clarke & Scott Harvell)



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The Mangrove Cuckoo, at right, a South Florida specialty, was high priority for many on our newly reinstated **Florida** tour in late April, including for guides Doug Gochfeld and Mitch Lysinger, a Florida native. And persistence paid off when a male cuckoo appeared on the last day of the tour and hopped around in front of the group for five minutes. At left, a nesting Anhinga seen at Sawgrass Lake Park along with Short-tailed Hawks, Swallow-tailed Kites, and baby gallinules. These Bridled Terns were seen at Fort Jefferson on the Dry Tortugas day trip. (Photos by guide Mitch Lysinger)



Mitch Lysinger reports that his inaugural **Southeast Ecuador: Orange-throated Tanager & Foothill Specialties** tour was a grand success.

"Not only did we find the tanager in all its glory early on, but we spent a marvelous week scouring the humid eastern foothills in search of many of their rare and fascinating species." A few of these include the Yellow-throated Tanager, above, that while not so rare as the Orange-throated, is certainly lovely to see. Also lovely to see were the more often heard-only Gray Tinamous trotting around at Copalinga. The Fork-tailed Woodnymph is one of two-dozen hummers seen. And finally, a view of one of the cabins at Yankuam Lodge, our home for several nights. (Photos by guide Mitch Lysinger and participant Tony Ward)



It looks like Jay VanderGaast and his **Costa Rica** tour group have spotted something interesting—maybe it's a pair of roosting Crested Owls—one at left with its crest raised. The owls were one of the tour highlights for Jay and his group this spring. The diminutive Snowcap, below left, was one of many hummers enjoyed, and Collared Redstart is a forest sprite, always a pleasure to see. (Photos by participants Tracey Bauder, Ken Harris, Chris Kilpatrick & Steve Kilpatrick)



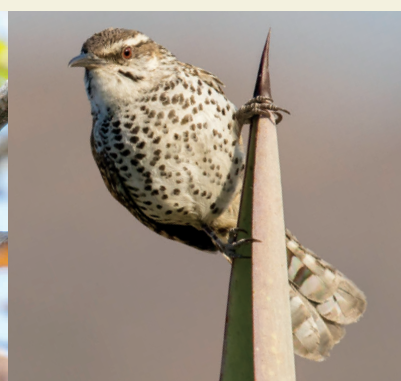
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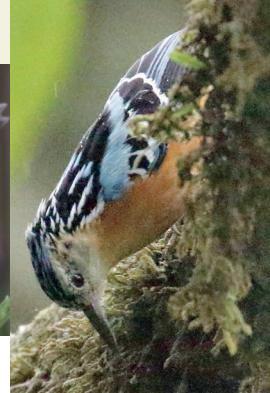
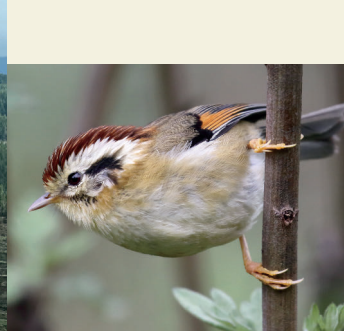
"Amazing vistas, gorgeous sunsets, a number of specialty birds, and an impressive selection of other critters..." is how Cory Gregory describes his **Texas's Big Bend & Hill Country** tour with Chris Benesh. Some of the other critters include these Mexican Free-tailed Bats streaming from their cave near Concan—it's estimated that there are 13 million of them! Among the birds, Golden-cheeked Warbler is a Hill Country specialty, the Painted Bunting is a knockout, and the Scissor-tailed is a very fancy flycatcher that is perhaps best appreciated when seen in flight. (Photos by guide Cory Gregory)



Scarlet-rumped Trogon, left, a forest species, is one of several stunning trogons seen on Dave Stejskal's recent **Borneo** tour. Watching Orangutans, the largest arboreal mammal, moving through the forest singly or in family groups is always a highlight, though this year a Long-tailed Porcupine caused a mammal stir as well. Blue-eared Kingfisher, seen along the Menenggul River, is one of a half-dozen or so kingfishers possible on the tour. Orange-bellied Flowerpecker is a little gem. (Photos by participants Brian Armstrong, Paul Bisson & Anders Paulsrud)



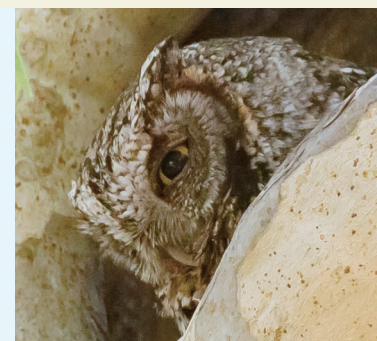
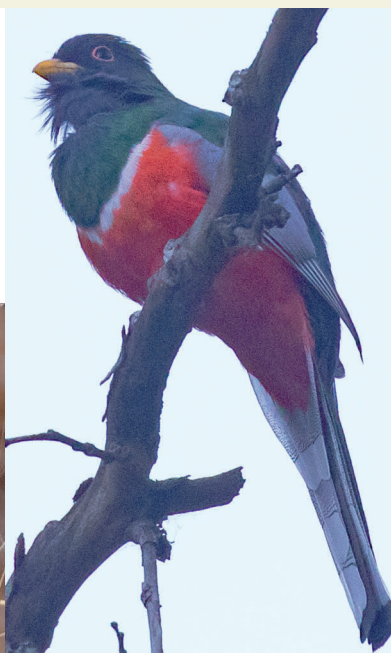
Oaxaca is loaded with endemics, and one of the most colorful, the Orange-breasted Bunting at far left, was a highlight for both our recent tours to the region (Dan Lane and Chris Benesh on I and Cory Gregory on II). Good looks at Lesser Roadrunner, some running but not beeping, were appreciated by all. Vireos are plentiful in Oaxaca, including three endemics—Golden, Dwarf, and Slaty—but Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo is one of the most colorful. Boucard's Wren is one of two endemic Oaxacan wrens. (Photos by guides Dan Lane and participants George Sims & Kirsten Tucker)



Bhutan is a beautiful and varied country, from its dramatic Himalayan vistas to more homely, rural scenes like the one here—and there are birds everywhere. Our recent tour group with Richard Webster and Megan Edwards Crewe, who will be taking the tour over from Richard in 2019, enjoyed outstanding views of many of Bhutan's most wanted birds, including this Beautiful Nuthatch, top right, and Fire-tailed Myzornis at left. It's hard not to love the little Rufous-winged Fulvetta, often seen in mixed-species flocks that pass through in waves. (Photos by guide Megan Edwards Crewe and participant Myles McNally)



Southeast Arizona has a greater variety of breeding birds than does any other area of comparable size in the US, and our two spring **Arizona: Birding the Border** tours—the first with John Coons and the second with Dave Stejskal—give us the possibility of seeing all of those breeders plus any visitors from further south. Pictured here, a few of the sights from John Coons's tour: Five-striped Sparrow, one of the most local of breeding birds; Elegant Trogon; Whiskered Screech-Owl at a nest hole; and the unforgettable Montezuma Quail. (Photos by participant Jeff Barnum)



Antarctic Shag (Photo by participant Jim Jackson)

Cruising with Field Guides

Looking over the 2019 schedule, you might notice that there are two new cruises on the agenda for next year. The first, **EMPEROR PENGUINS IN THE WEDDELL SEA: In Search of Antarctica's Most Iconic Bird**, November 15-28 with Tom Johnson, is a seabird quest in search of, as the title indicates, the magnificent Emperor Penguin, a bird seen by few birders. The other, **PETRELS, PENGUINS & ALBATROSSES: Cruising New Zealand's Subantarctic Islands**, November 10-December 2 with Doug Gochfeld, is a tour we ran a few years ago, though we've made some changes since then. It will explore the remote Subantarctics, home to perhaps the greatest diversity of seabirds in the world.

We will also be offering our regular Antarctica tour in 2019, **ANTARCTICA: Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia & the Falklands**, February 14-March 8 with Doug Gochfeld; and for a change in hemispheres, **SPITSBERGEN & SVALBARD ARCHIPELAGO: A Cruise to the Norwegian Arctic**, June 25-July 7 with John Coons and Doug Gochfeld.

Upcoming TOURS

Below is a partial listing of some of our tours from September through December. For numerous additional destinations during this period, visit our website.

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 & Marcelo Padua. 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.

Ethiopia: Endemic Birds & Ethiopian Wolf—September 7-27, 2018 (Lalibela Extension) with Terry Stevenson & local guide. 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.

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 with 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.

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



Gold-ringed Tanager, a striking Colombian endemic. (Photo by participant Steve Parrish)

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

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.

Spectacular Southeast Brazil—October 19-November 4, 2018 (Part I: North of the Tropic) with Bret Whitney. The fantastic center of avian endemism in eastern Brazil, particularly well endowed with hummingbirds, cotingas, antbirds, and beautiful scenery.

NOVEMBER

Colombia: Cali Escape: Cloud Forests of the Central & Western Andes—November 3-11, 2018 with Jesse Fagan & local guide. Cloud forests 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.

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.

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.

DECEMBER—HOLIDAY TOURS

Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista I—December 21-29, 2018 with Cory Gregory & local guide. One-site holiday tour based at the comfortable Rancho Naturalista Lodge, with excursions to other habitats on Costa Rica's bird-rich Caribbean slope.

Holiday in Honduras—December 21-29, 2018 with Jesse Fagan. A birding tour during the year-end holiday period based in several lovely and bird-rich settings.

Christmas in Oaxaca, Mexico—December 22-29, 2018 with Tom Johnson & Dan Lane. Superb birding with two dozen Mexican endemics and fascinating ruins while based in lovely Oaxaca City.

Panama's Canopy Camp: Lowland Darien—December 28, 2018-January 5, 2019 with John Coons & local guide. Tour to a remote part of Panama with many specialties seen nowhere else in Central America.

Arizona Winter Specialties—December 29, 2018-January 4, 2019 with Dave Stejskal. Exceptional winter birding on a short tour with numerous specialties and potential rarities.

Panama's Canopy Lodge: El Valle de Anton—December 29, 2018-January 5, 2019 with Chris Benesh & local guide. A superb introduction to Neotropical birds or a complement to your broader Middle American birding, all based at a charming lodge.

Ecuador's Wildsumaco Lodge—December 29, 2018-January 8, 2019 with Willy Perez. Exploring the riches of the eastern Andean foothills of northern Ecuador for numerous specialties at Wildsumaco Lodge.

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Birding Tours

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BRAZIL TOURS

A sample of our upcoming 2018-2019 Brazil Tours

Here are a few of our 23 Brazil departures in the Sep 2018-Dec 2019 period, and some of our folks who'll bring it all to life. From right, Bret Whitney with boatman extraordinaire Junior Fortes and guides Marcelo Barreiros, Micah Riegner, and (inset) Marcelo Padua. Join us for some exciting birding fun in this great country!

Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus, Brazil I & II—
September 1-15, 2018 and September 16-30, 2018 with Bret Whitney & Marcelo Barreiros

Nowhere but Northeast Brazil!—
January 15-February 1, 2019 (Southern Bahia Extension) with Bret Whitney and Marcelo Barreiros and February 19-March 8, 2019 with Marcelo Barreiros

Brazil Nutshell: Intervales, Iguazu Falls & the Pantanal—March 9-23, 2019 with Marcelo Padua

Brazil—Minas Gerais & Tocantins: Blue-eyed Ground-Dove and Beyond—
May 25-June 9, 2019 with Bret Whitney and Marcelo Barreiros

Rainforest & Savanna: Alta Floresta & the Northern Pantanal, Brazil—July 3-18, 2019 with Marcelo Padua and Marcelo Barreiros

Jaguar Spotting in Brazil: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon—July 20-31, 2019 with Marcelo Padua

For a complete listing of all our Brazil tours, please check our web site.

