

# fieldguides®

## Birding Tours



A migrant Wilson's Warbler in Pennsylvania and a Dunlin in Utqiagvik (Barrow), Alaska by guide Tom Johnson and participant Pieter Poll.

## Spring Forward

**N**o matter the temperature outside, spring is in the air, even for those of us in the snowy North or the cold-challenged Midwest. In Virginia, as we write, the titmice are piping and other cavity nesters are vying for nesting sites, and before we know it, the Louisiana Waterthrushes and other early returnees will soon be on their way.

Of course, that whiff of spring can't help but bring with it thoughts of migration, of colorful warblers and thrushes, brilliant tanagers and buntings, arriving in droves along the Texas Coast or the north shore of the Great Lakes at Point Pelee, or returning to the well-worn mountains and river valleys of Pennsylvania or along the shoreline of Cape May; and eventually shorebirds by the dozens settling down to the hurried business of nest-building in the far tundra of Alaska. The prospect certainly gets the blood flowing and many of us scheming to set aside as much time as we can in April, May, and into June in the field. We'd love for you to join us on one of our spring forays, and on page 11 you'll find a list of tours with space available at the time of printing. There are several of interest in North America, and others to more far-flung destinations.

Inside you'll also find ten of our guides featured, along with our regular Fresh From the Field pages with short reports and some glorious photos from tours we've operated in the last several months. Our great people—both those in the field and in the office—are what make Field Guides what it is, and that standard is reflected in the post-tour comments we receive from all of you. You'll see that underscored inside. In the same comments, many of you note what an important part our office staff plays in guiding your overall tour experience. We take great pride in our Austin staff, many of whom have been with us for years, and we plan in

the months ahead to celebrate their contributions, as well, through your comments.

We have numerous new and returning itineraries on our 2019-2020 schedule, and while our new tours typically fill very quickly, we do have a few spaces on *Brazil: Roraima Adventure* in October with Micah Riegner and Tom Johnson and *Emperor Penguins in the Weddell Sea* with Tom Johnson. Our 2020 *Succinct Suriname*, *Central Mexico & Baja: Birds, Butterflies & Whales*, *Southern Africa Spectacular*, and *South Africa: Birds, Wines & Wildflowers* are tentatively full but have waitlists available, while 2020's *Taiwan* and *Canadian Rockies: Alberta* have a few spaces.

Finally, for a little enjoyable armchair birding or to get a feel for what a particular tour has to offer, have a look at some of our tour triplists, accessible from the tour pages on our web site. In addition to an annotated list of birds, mammals, and other interesting creatures encountered on a tour, each list mentions some of the tour highlights and includes photographs and sometimes video of a few of the great birds seen and the people seeing them, whether rare or common. Take a look, for example, at Bret Whitney's 2018 list for his *Brazil's Rio Roosevelt* tour ([fieldguides.com/TL1](http://fieldguides.com/TL1)); it has several fascinating videos of the habitats, tour accommodations, and the birding. Phil Gregory's 2018 *Madagascar* list ([fieldguides.com/TL2](http://fieldguides.com/TL2)); is another one to check; Phil's video of a pair of duetting White-breasted Mesites is incredible. The sight and sound of these birds—it's no wonder they were a trip favorite.

We invite you to join us in the field in 2019 for some seriously fun birding. And thanks to all of you who traveled with us in the past year. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!



# OUR GUIDES

## IN YOUR WORDS AND OURS

**Joe Grosel** is new to many Field Guides clients, though not to past participants on our South Africa tours, which he's been co-leading with Terry Stevenson for the past 6 years. We've heard many good things about him, including this, "Joe is an excellent guide: incredibly knowledgeable about natural history, the birds, the culture. He's funny, engaging, tireless, really cares about his clients' experience. I can't say enough about Joe's expertise both finding birds and managing a group. We had a wonderful time traveling with him." Joe will be branching out in 2019 and 2020 with trips to *Namibia & Botswana* and two new tours—*Southern Africa Spectacular: Kruger, Victoria Falls, Zambezi River & Chobe* and *South Africa: Birds, Wine, and Wildflowers*—as well as our regular South Africa route, with Jesse Fagan in 2019 and Megan Edwards Crewe in 2020. If you'd like to see Joe up close, have a look at Rose Ann Rowlett's video of her conversation with him and Terry Stevenson. You can access it from Joe's leader page on our web site.

"This choice was all about **Dave Stejskal!**" a participant on one of Dave's recent Arizona tours told us. "I birded with him 14 or so years ago, but my job got in the way of most trips. Now that I'm retired, I look for tours with former guides like Dave I particularly liked...Dave was the number one best feature. His knowledge of birds, their songs, habitats, and behavior is legendary." Pictured here, Dave in action in Vietnam, putting those skills honed over a lifetime of birding and thirty years of guiding to work—while remembering, we hope, one of the most valuable, which is not to land in the water. Dave will be busy in the next twelve months with an upcoming trip to Belize, three tours in South America—Peru, Brazil, and Suriname—and Hawaii and Arizona, followed by an early summer trip to Borneo.

**Bret Whitney** has a reputation of being one of the finest field birders around and the most knowledgeable about the birds of Brazil. "At this point, it is almost a privilege, not just a pleasure, to bird with Bret," a participant writes. "His profound knowledge of the birds we are finding is really amazing to see in action." It's certainly true that Bret possesses remarkable birding skills and remarkable experience, but it's important also that, as this evaluation goes on to note, Bret "has a knack of making you feel welcome and valued as a participant." Add to this a wonderful sense of humor, a talent for story-telling, and an ability to handle almost any situation that comes along (since he's probably been through it before), and you have a remarkable guide. In May, Bret will head to Minas Gerais and Tocantins, a rich region of Brazil not covered in our other tours. He'll follow this up with a series of river trips—the Madeira-Tapajós interfluvium, the Rio Negro, the Rio Roosevelt, and the upper Rio Negro, and he'll begin 2020 with a trip to Northeast Brazil.

What do tour participants say about **Jay VanderGaast**? Well, for example, "This was our second trip with Jay, who, in our opinion, is one of the top guides anywhere from any company." And while you couldn't ask for a better look at this Red-billed Streamertail Jay is feeding, even someone as talented as he is can't show you every bird this well. What he will do, though, is show you as many birds as possible and share with you his extensive knowledge of the birds you're seeing. And as importantly for your tour experience, he's a top-drawer guy, handles tour details seamlessly, and is a pleasure to travel with. Jay's upcoming schedule includes Thailand in 2020, Papua New Guinea, and Australia, plus owls in Alberta, Resplendent Quetzals and more in Costa Rica, migration in Point Pelee, and birds and art on a new tour to Holland he's co-leading with Godfried Schreur.

**Terry Stevenson** has spent the better part of his life in Kenya, and it goes without saying that he knows the birds and wildlife of East Africa extraordinarily well. Participants on his tours often remark on how much they learn from traveling with him, and what a rich experience it has been. "Magical" was the description of a recent tour, as well as that Terry was "entertaining, knowledgeable, and kind." Writing of Terry's new Wild Kenya tour, another participant noted that she had chosen the tour for several reasons, but primarily because it was led by Terry. "This tour exceeded all expectations. If you only had one opportunity to see Kenya, this is the tour to do. Every day was like an episode of the Discovery Channel or *National Geographic*." Terry will be reprising that tour in 2019, as well as his comprehensive Kenya tour and *East Africa Highlights*, which covers both Kenya and Tanzania. He'll also head off to Europe for a tour of Hungary and Romania, back to Africa for *Namibia & Botswana* and *Ethiopia*, and then in early 2020 it will be to Northern India.







"**Eric Hynes** is the consummate bird tour leader. He not only knows every bird by sight and sound, but has infinite patience and skill in ensuring all participants get a good view of the bird. A huge added bonus was his ability to teach entertainingly about not only the birds we were seeing, but the whole of Maine nature—everything from differential bird identification to environmental challenges in the state. He was invariably cheerful, upbeat, and warm with never an impatient or grumpy moment." It's hard to see how there's room for improvement, but while we agree wholeheartedly with everything this participant on Eric's most recent *Maine in Spring* tour says, we also know that Eric is someone who always seeks to learn more, to do more to improve his tours, and that is a bonus for those traveling with him—and it's true that we've never known Eric to be grumpy! He'll begin his 2019 tours in Jamaica, followed by a spring Idaho trip and fall in Maine. (Our fall tour reprises in 2020; *Maine in Spring* will be offered again in 2021.)



A participant on **John Coons's** *Texas Migration* tour writes, "John's ability to both hear and identify bird songs and then to locate the bird was amazing...his patience in making sure we all had good looks at birds, especially when one or two of us had difficulty locating them, resulted in our not missing anything!" These are the hallmarks of a great guide, but there's one other thing that this participant noted about John: "...his organization and efficiency resulted in a stress-free trip." John is indeed extraordinarily well organized, and yet he handles tour details so effortlessly and with such good cheer that you're rarely aware he's doing it. It's just one of the ways he ensures that his tour participants are having as much fun as he is, and it's this combination of personable and professional that, in the words of another recent participant, makes John a "national treasure" who "should be awarded a lifetime endowment!" During the rest of 2019 and early 2020 you'll find John in Panama, along the Texas Coast, in Arizona, cruising the Norwegian Arctic, and in Australia and Guyana.

**Mitch Lysinger** in action is a great example of what we mean at Field Guides by *Seriously Fun Birding*. Mitch is considered by everyone who travels with him to be a highly skilled birder with a deep knowledge of birds, Neotropical birds in particular. But invariably, he is also described as being a "delightful person" with a contagious sense of humor, as well as someone who manages group dynamics and tour logistics with aplomb. "I wanted to do another tour with Mitch Lysinger," is a comment we hear a lot, or "I'd heard terrific things about Mitch, and all my expectations were met" and "Mitch is terrific at anticipating people's needs." Opportunities to experience those qualities in 2019 and early 2020 include trips to Southeast Ecuador, Idaho, Galapagos, Ecuador's Sacha Lodge, his home base at San Isidro, Ecuador, and the Colombian Andes and Santa Marta.



Guide **Dan Lane** loves birds, of course...and also plays on words. Next time you're with him, listen carefully lest something subtle slip by! It's part of what makes traveling with Dan on tour fun, not only for participants but for his co-leaders. As a recent post-tour evaluation reported from a tour Dan and Tom Johnson co-led: "We had two fabulous guides who were excellent birders and fun guys. Plus they worked very well together and seemed to be having a good time with us and with each other." That of course is what we at Field Guides are about...yet behind it all is a vast knowledge of birds at your disposal, too, and Dan's a prime example—he's a deep fount of knowledge about birds in general and Neotropical birds in particular. In the coming year you can combine fun and some deep learning with Dan on tours as varied as *Peru's Magnetic North*, *Mountains of Manu*, and *Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga*, to *Safari Brazil*, Louisiana, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Oaxaca. Eyes and ears open!



**Phil Gregory** and his family have lived on three continents—and Phil's traveled to all the others; they presently reside in Queensland, Australia, at Cassowary House, a birding and nature lodge in the rainforest at Kuranda, which, among its many benefits, makes for a great yard list. Along with being a personable and knowledgeable guide, he has over the years conceived and designed a number of our popular Africa and Asia tours, including most recently Mongolia and Northeast India, and this year, Japan in Spring. Phil is often described by participants on his tours as being skilled at both finding birds and pointing out their whereabouts, and "expert with many interesting facts about the birds...as well as the culture of the country." Phil indeed has a wide experience of the world's birds and peoples, and participants on his tours profit from that deep knowledge and familiarity, not to mention his dry wit, for a lot of fun on tour. For the rest of 2019 and into 2020, you'll find Phil in Ghana, Northeast India, Japan, Mongolia, Madagascar, and Taiwan.



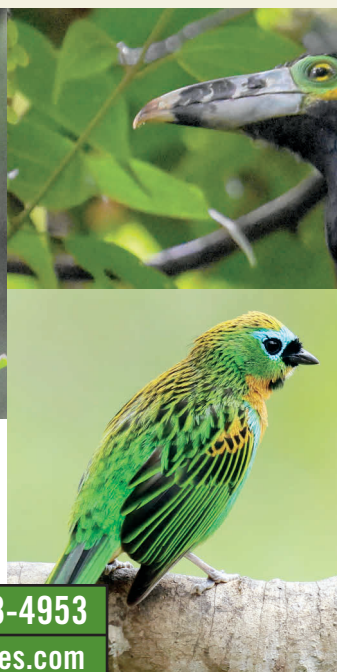
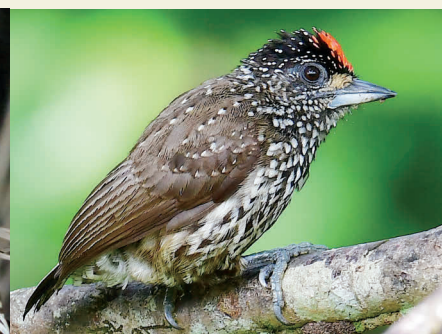
# fresh from the field



Black-hooded Antwren (top right), one of the world's rarest continental passerines, is endemic to a tiny area of southern Rio de Janeiro state where Bret Whitney and Marcelo Barreiros and their **Spectacular Southeast Brazil** tour group enjoyed excellent views of this male. The lovely Azure-shouldered Tanager at left was one of many tanagers—including the very rare Cherry-throated—seen well. Ochre-rumped Antbird is another handsome endemic antbird—there are so many of them in SE Brazil! The flashy Swallow-tailed Manakin (dare we say it—another endemic) posed nicely for his admirers. Our group from Part I is shown birding the highest-elevation road in Brazil in famous Itatiaia National Park. Marcelo Barreiros, at left in the photo, is putting a male Green-crowned Plovercrest in the scope! (Photos by participants Linda Rudolph and David & Judy Smith and guide Bret Whitney)



More sights from our fall Brazil tours: **Safari Brazil**, with Marcelo Padua and Dave Stejskal, included a stay in the spectacular wetlands of the Pantanal where the group saw these three Hyacinth Macaws. The bird's description hardly prepares you for the thrill of seeing such huge, vibrantly hued macaws so close. White-winged Nightjar, near right, is known from only a few sites, including Emas National Park, where we saw this one. Another colorful manakin, the Pin-tailed, showing its tail, though the tail would hardly be the first thing you'd notice; and an alert White-wedged Piculet. (Photos by participants Brian Stech & Sylvia Hanson)



These images from Marcelo Padua's **Serra dos Tucanos** tour, which visits just a slice of Southeast Brazil, tell us a lot about what a successful trip it was. The two flashy endemic tanagers—Brassy-breasted at near right and Rufous-headed above—are a sight to behold, especially when you see them this well. Spot-billed Toucanet is an Atlantic Forest endemic that, except for its bill, closely resembles its more northerly cousin, Gould's Toucanet. Rufous-tailed Antbird is an endemic from the region; it prefers higher elevations like Pico da Caledonia, a mountainous area the group visited. You'd hardly guess that it's normally a skulker. (Photos by participants Ted Kavanagh & Claudi Racionero)

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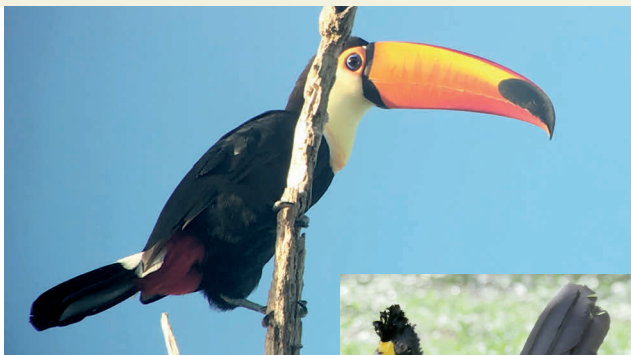


Giant Antshrike, far left, was a tour highlight for everyone on our recent **Bolivia** tour with guides Dan Lane and Micah Riegner. It's a big—or “shockingly huge” as Micah describes it in his tour report—antshrike the size of a Sharp-shinned Hawk, with a ferocious hooked bill and a jay-like crest! Black-hooded Sunbeam, at right, is one of the most sought-after Bolivian endemics; it has an iridescent turquoise rump, which is not pictured here but which contrasts nicely with its orange tail feathers. Bolivian Earthcreeper is a country endemic that somewhat resembles a Canyon Wren. Blue-banded Toucanet certainly adds color to the page—and to the forest. The group had excellent looks at this elegant bird. (Photos by participant Jose Padilla-Lopez and guides Dan Lane & Micah Riegner)



**Chile** is famous for its sublime landscapes, and from this shot of Willy Perez's recent tour group at El Yeso Reservoir above Santiago, you can see that its fame is well deserved. The country is also famous for its long, thin shape, which gives it a variety of habitats and an extensive coastline—and a diverse and distinctive birdlife, from King Penguins to hummingbirds like Chilean Woodstar and the Green-backed Firecrown pictured here, from secretive tapaculos (all seen well, Willy reports) to majestic Andean Condors, loads of pelagic birds, and a few owls, including this Rufous-legged shown staring down at the group. (Photos by participant Ian Harris and guide Willy Perez)

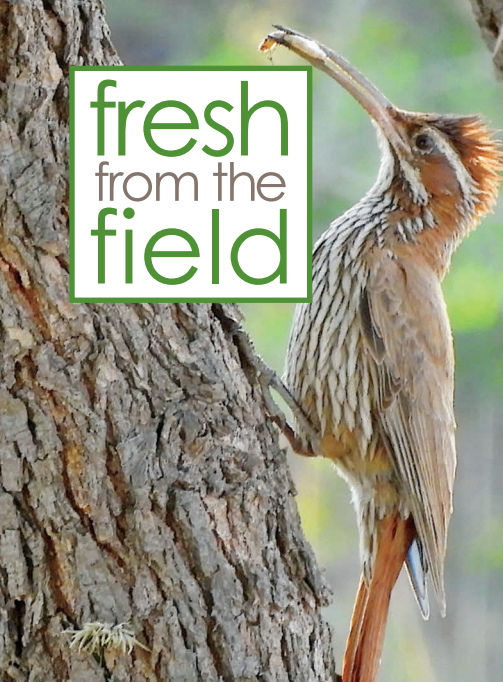
John Coons writes, “**Guyana** is a wonderful country with huge amounts of intact forest and very few people. Two things I really like.” It's a place where multiple species of macaws can be seen daily and big birds like Harpy Eagle and the Black Currassow pictured here from John's



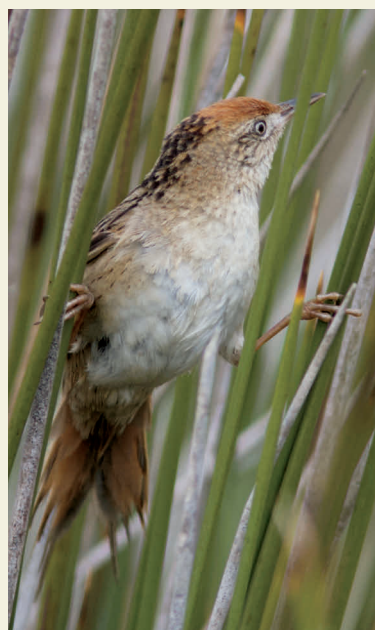
recent tour are, while not easy, seen regularly. Other birds the group enjoyed included woodpeckers: Blood-colored—endemic to the coast of the Guianas—and these fabulous Cream-colored Woodpeckers foraging along a branch, one of the highlights of the tour. The huge Toco Toucan with its bright orange beak is also a sight to behold; it's the largest beak relative to body size of all birds—Sword-billed Hummingbird's is the longest. And speaking of huge, or at least very large, check out the photo on page 3 of John with a White Witch Moth. (Photos by participant Querida Smith)



# fresh from the field



A few of the many great sightings from Willy Perez's October **Northwestern Argentina** tour are pictured here: From left, the wonderfully named and boldly patterned Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper carrying food in its bill; a perched and sunning Andean Condor, a bird you most often see in flight; Red-faced Guan with, below it, a Crested Gallito, a tour favorite that is often difficult to find; and a stunning Red-tailed Comet, among South America's most spectacular hummers and found on the dry slopes of the Andes, where you hear its jumbled, chattering song. (Photos by participant Brian Stech and guide Willy Perez)



We move now from the Northeast to Dave Stejskal and Tom Johnson's **Southern Argentina** tour, which as you can see had its own thrills, including a few not pictured here like Yellow Cardinal and White-bellied Seedsnipe. Those shown here include, from left, the limited-range and spritely little Bay-capped Wren-Spinetail; a group of three South American Painted-Snipe in flight; a much sought and rarely seen Dot-winged Crake; and a big, male Magellanic Woodpecker, a real prize. (Photos by participant Ken Havard)

Megan Edwards Crewe returned to **Cape May** this fall for two tours—it's a splendid place to enjoy fall migration, as the group here might attest. The Cape May Warbler at right is heading south, along with what Megan describes as "squadrons of Northern Parulas and hordes of American Redstarts...and a small number of other species" encountered during a rain-induced fallout. Ospreys were seen almost daily, with both migrants and local birds present. Seeing so many Black Skimmers, with a few others spread among them, was part of the fun. (Photos by participant Pam Pappone and guide Megan Edwards Crewe)



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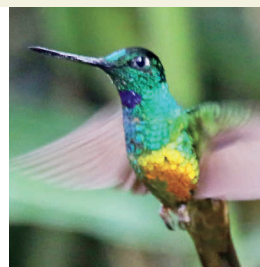




There are so many gorgeous hummingbirds on Jesse Fagan's **Colombia: Cali Escape** tour that it's a shame to only have space to show two of them, a beautiful Purple-bibbed Whitetip that was coming to the feeder at one of the lodges and an Empress Brilliant, a large hummingbird that is not always reliably seen. The Chestnut-crowned Antpitta above left was one of the favorites on the tour, in part because the group had such good looks at it and in part because it's hard not to love an antpitta, especially these days when they come out in the open on occasion to snatch a handout. The handsome Spot-breasted Woodpecker was one of nine woodpecker species seen. (Photos by participants Chris Wood & Becky Hansen)



Jesse Fagan's eleven-day **Colombia: Llanos & More** tour combines open-country birding in Colombia's Llanos with a taste of Andean birding near Bogota. A small selection from last November's tour includes: From left, Jabiru, an improbably huge and rather ungainly-looking stork, is one of the emblematic birds of the Llanos and was seen in good numbers; a Great Potoo, almost indistinguishable from its perch, seen at lunch; Golden-bellied Starfrontlet in flight, a show-stopper and tour favorite that was seen at the feeders at one of the lodges; and a pair of White-bearded Flycatchers, one of the specialties of the Llanos and found only in Colombia and Venezuela. (Photos by participants Margaret Kelch & George Sims and guide Jesse Fagan)

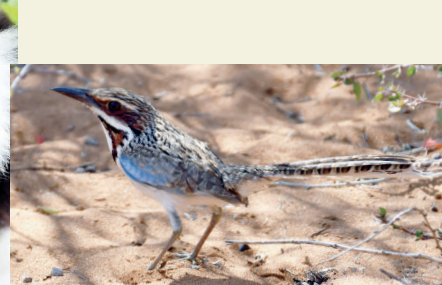
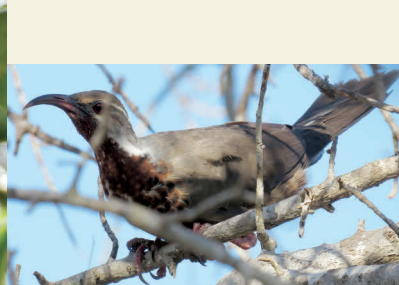


It's hard to imagine a better short birding adventure than looking for Yellow Rails and wintering birds in southern Louisiana on our **Louisiana: Yellow Rails & Crawfish Tails** tour—the first iteration with Dan Lane and Eric Hynes and the second with Dan and Chris Benesh. Both tours saw the hard-to-see Yellow Rail, but several other rails made appearances as well, including this Clapper at lower left. Other sights included wonderful views of Brown Pelicans, these Least Sandpipers among lots of other shorebirds, and a stately American Bittern rising from the rice fields. (Photos by participant Bill Parkin and guide Dan Lane)





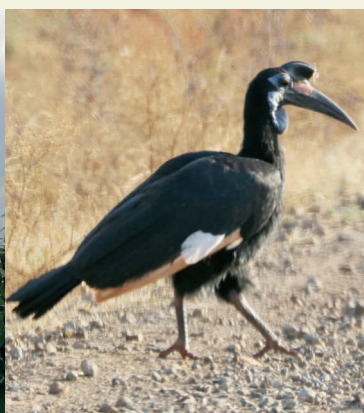
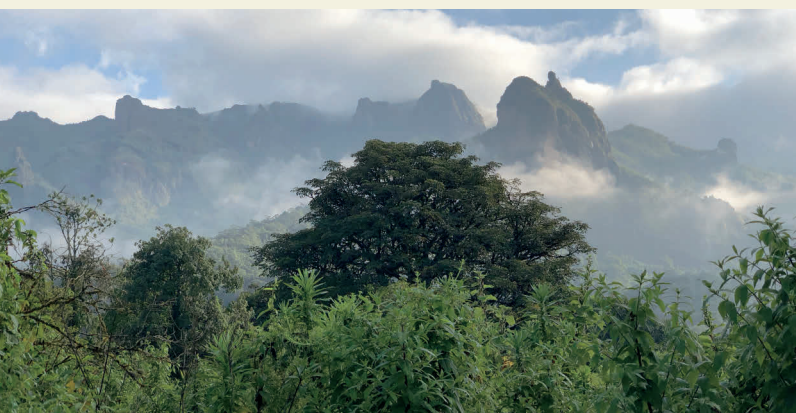
fresh  
from the  
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Phil Gregory and his **Madagascar** tour (that's Phil at right) enjoyed the many sights and sounds of this magical island. A few shown here from left: a female Cuckoo-Roller, a very special bird that's in its own order and monotypic family—check out Phil's video of the male on our web site; a Subdesert Mesite that froze and thought we couldn't see it; a very appealing Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur; and good looks at a rare Long-tailed Ground-Roller among five ground-rollers seen on the tour. (Photos by participant Linda Nuttall and guide Phil Gregory)



Jesse Fagan's **Morocco** tour is the second of five Africa tours shown here and on the facing page; among the birds and wildlife and grand desert landscapes, it's nice to take a break now and then for a post-Desert Sparrow celebration at the edge of the Sahara with a refreshing sip of mint tea—the sparrow itself at lower right. The group did well in seeing many quality larks, including the attractive Crested at far right. Tristram's Warbler is a local breeder in the high mountains of NW Africa. (Photos by guide Jesse Fagan)



The dramatic landscapes of Bale Mountains National Park served as the backdrop for many special sightings on Terry Stevenson's recent **Ethiopia** tour, including a total of seven Ethiopian Wolves. The impressive Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill, above, was another of the tour highlights; Blue-winged Goose, bottom right, is an Ethiopian endemic that was seen well in the highlands of the Bale Mountains. The group encountered Sacred Ibis at a number of wetlands along the tour route. (Photos by participant Tim Barnekov)







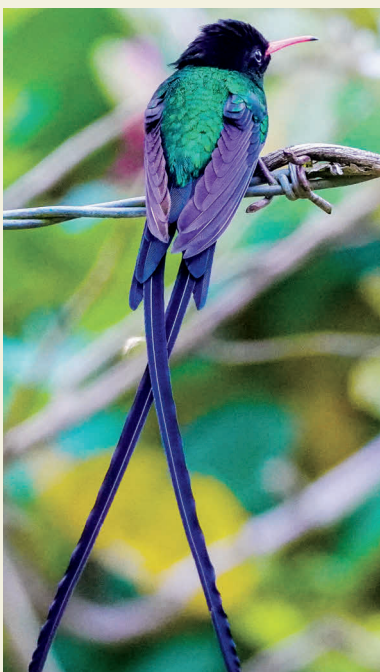
There is so much to see on our **Namibia & Botswana** tour, guided last fall by Joe Grosel. Near the top of the list, the many views of some of the great mammals of Africa, including this parade of Common Giraffes with African Elephants in the background,



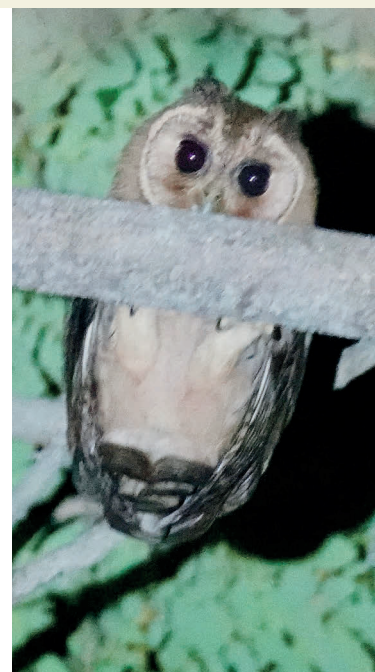
crossing the floodplain at Macatoo. Another highlight was seeing a pair of the very special Pel's Fishing-Owl, far left, in a dense riparian forest just after passing a group of bull elephants that had moved through the lodge a few hours earlier. The striking Double-banded Coursers were seen in Etosha; this gorgeous Lilac-breasted Roller couldn't help but be one of the favorite birds of the trip. (Photos by guide Joe Grosel)



With all the beautiful and striking birds and mammals to be seen on our **South Africa** tour, it might be hard to believe that the creature at right stole the show. But Terry Stevenson, who guided our recent tour with Joe Grosel, describes this Ground Pangolin as the best mammal sighting and a highlight of the trip. Though the Pangolin is rarely seen, especially in daylight, the happy group you see here (Joe on the right and Terry third from right—and in case you were wondering, that is indeed Rose Ann Rowlett, fifth from left, peeking out from the back) encountered it out feeding at 4:30 in the afternoon. A couple of the bird highlights included these two endemics—Cape Rockjumper, a close pair with two juveniles, and Cape Sugarbird feeding on protea, one of the specialties of the Cape floristic region of South Africa. (Photos by participants Cathy Douglas & Kathleen John)



It's not easy to skip over a Red-billed Streamertail when you're looking for photos of Jamaican birds. It's a simply amazing hummer that Jay VanderGaast describes as being common and seen daily on his recent **Jamaica** tour. The Red-billed's cousin, the Black-billed Streamertail, was also seen, as were all the island's other endemic birds. Black-billed Parrots can sometimes be difficult, but a big flock with Yellow-billed mixed in showed up and stayed close for an hour or so and allowed for scope views of the birds. This little Jamaican Owl was elusive on the group's first try, but an early morning foray found a calling bird that sat for some time looking down on the group and its relieved guide. (Photos by participants Jan Wood & Rick Woodruff and guide Jay VanderGaast)



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Check our web site for 2019 dates! 9



fresh  
from the  
field



**New Zealand** is a land of great beauty and many endemic birds and bird families, so it's no wonder we love to visit. Dan Lane's recent tour to the island had the good luck to spot this Australasian Bittern, at far left, that accommodatingly stuck its head up out of the cattails. North Island Saddleback, here with its face full of pollen, was recently split from South Island Saddleback, and both birds were seen by the group. South Island Wren is local and very hard to detect, with super-high-pitched vocalizations. It took a while to find, but was seen well. Boat trips and pelagics are a big part of this tour; here, a group of Salvin's Albatrosses among several other albatross species seen. (Photos by participant David Woods and guide Dan Lane)



Jay VanderGaast's **New Guinea & Australia** samples some of the best birding destinations in both countries. This year, the elusive Albert's Lyrebird, far left, was one of the group favorites. In addition to their long tail plumes, lyrebirds are known for their strong voices and their mimicry of other species—and of other non-avian sounds. This Lesser Bird-of-paradise was calling throughout the morning as the group watched, perching in the open and flying overhead a couple of times. Macleay's Honeyeater is an Australian endemic, seen best at Cassowary House, where the group also saw a male Southern Cassowary with three chicks that came almost within touching distance! Lastly, Tooth-billed Bowerbird is also known as the "stagemaker" because the male builds a display court with fresh, green leaves and then uses it to perform for the female. (Photos by participant Matthias Von den Steinen and guide Jay VanderGaast)



Pictured here, our recent **Vietnam** tour with Dave Stejskal and Doug Gochfeld in the north at Van Long Reserve looking for the Critically Endangered Delacour's Langur. The best way to see this beautiful primate is from a boat. Black-crowned Barwing, left above, is a handsome near-endemic (it was recently found in Laos) that is always a highlight; it's best seen in the highlands in the middle section of the country. The attractive White-rumped Shama, at left, is not always this easy to see; it has a rich voice and is often a mimic, which has made it popular as a cage bird in SE Asia. And finally, an excellent view of the very pretty Rufous-faced Warbler. (Photos by participant Myles McNally and guide Doug Gochfeld)

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Our group for Part I of our **Australia** tour spent much of October, along with Chris Benesh (fifth from right) and Doug Gochfeld (fourth from right), exploring southern Australia and the Outback. The birds they saw were many and varied, and included the mound-building Malleefowl, at right; it took some searching, but they found the bird along the side of a main trail. Below left, a Western Bristlebird, a rare skulker singing enthusiastically out in the open. And always a favorite, a little Superb Fairywren, this one about to devour a damselfly. There are nine species of these vividly colored little birds possible on Parts I and II combined. (Photos by guide Doug Gochfeld)



John Coons and Cory Gregory guided the second part of our **Australia** tour, which covers generally the more northern and eastern parts of the continent and offers an extension to Tasmania. There are a couple of birds pictured here and a couple of bird's heads— and something else. At left, a male Victoria's Riflebird that was calling and then displaying, highlighting the iridescent patch on its neck, and bottom left, a Yellow-throated Honeyeater, found only in Tasmania. The heads include that of a huge Papuan Frogmouth and a Southern Cassowary chick. The non-bird head is a beautifully marked Boyd's Forest Dragon, endemic to Queensland. (Photos by participant Jean Perata and guide Cory Gregory)



## A selection of upcoming 2019 tours with space available

### APRIL

- 6 *Bhutan* with Megan Edwards Crewe
- 20 *Northeast India* with Phil Gregory
- 27 *Hungary & Romania* with Terry Stevenson

### MAY

- 4 *Spain* with Chris Benesh & Godfried Schreur
- 9 *Arizona Nightbirds & More II* with Cory Gregory
- 11 *Point Pelee Migration* with Jay VanderGaast
- 12 *Spring in Cape May* with Tom Johnson
- 18 *Idaho: Snake River to Sawtooths* with Eric Hynes & Mitch Lysinger
- 21 *Japan in Spring* with Phil Gregory
- 21 *Pennsylvania's Warblers* with Tom Johnson
- 25 *Colombia: Medellin Escape* with Jesse Fagan
- 30 *Alaska I—Part One* (Pribilofs & Denali) with Chris Benesh & Doug Gochfeld
- 31 *France's Loire Valley* with Megan Edwards Crewe & Marcelo Padua
- 31 *Kenya Safari Spectacular* with Terry Stevenson

### JUNE

- 1 *Northern Arizona's Canyons & Condors* with John Coons & Micah Riegner
- 6 *Alaska II—Part One* (Pribilofs & Denali) with Tom Johnson & Cory Gregory
- 6 *Alaska I—Part Two* (Nome, Seward, and Utqiagvik—formerly Barrow) with Chris Benesh & Doug Gochfeld
- 7 *Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga I* with Dan Lane
- 8 *Galapagos* with Mitch Lysinger
- 8 *Mongolia* with Phil Gregory
- 12 *France's Loire Valley* with Megan Edwards Crewe & Marcelo Padua
- 15 *Peru's Magnetic North* with Dan Lane & Dave Stejskal
- 23 *Iceland II* with Godfried Schreur
- 30 *Newfoundland & Nova Scotia* with Chris Benesh

### JULY

- 2 *Papua New Guinea* with Jay VanderGaast
- 3 *Alta Floresta & the Northern Pantanal, Brazil* with Marcelo Padua & Marcelo Berreiros
- 13 *Wild Kenya* with Terry Stevenson
- 15 *Coudforests of Ecuador* with Willy Perez
- 16 *Borneo II* with Dave Stejskal
- 17 *Arizona's Second Spring* with John Coons

### AUGUST

- 2 *Brazil: The Mouth of the Mighty Amazon* with Marcelo Padua
- 31 *France: Camargue & Pyrenees* with Megan Crewe & Marcelo Padua

**See our website for complete information.**



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*Thanks to all of you who traveled with us in 2018!*

