

Naturalist Journeys & Caligo Ventures



© Willow Ptarmigan, Greg Smith

News

Vol. 2 Ed. 1

Cruises:



Awaken your inner explorer! This year we offer four different wildlife cruises to the Galapagos, the Amazon, Antarctica, and the Sea of Cortez. (pp. 1, 15)

NEW!

Capture great images of Trinidad's vibrant species. Join a photography tour or hire an expert photo guide at the Asa Wright Nature Centre (AWNC). (p. 13)



Caribbean Endemics:

Tours and Independent Birding Ventures to five endemic-rich islands! Discover Puerto Rico, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, St. Vincent, and Cuba. (pp. 7, 9)



This Thanksgiving:



Try something different! Join a Caligo Tour at Trinidad's AWNC and Tobago's Blue Waters Inn, a Ten-Day, Two-Island Classic Tour with expert guides. (pp. 2, 3)

Join Us Down Under!

Experience world-class scenery in New Zealand. Enjoy great food and wine, and find endemic birds with expert guides. Unforgettable! (p. 4)



Colombia:

The Hottest New Birding Destination! Colombia ranks #1 for most bird species on Earth. We offer two tours to safe and exciting areas! (p. 9)



Florida: Space Coast Festival

Jan. 17 – 24, 2016, from Orlando



Experience the best birding that northeast and central Florida have to offer and take part in the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival in Titusville. Search for wintering manatees and bird from a barrier island. Explore the St. Johns River estuary and Merritt Island. Spot Barred Owl, Florida Scrub-Jay, Bachman's Sparrow, and Red-cockaded Woodpecker in lush southern pine forests. Enjoy a mix of Festival field trips and workshops, plus private outings with guide, Dan Donaldson.

©Photos: Pg. 1: La Estrella Amazonica, International Expeditions; Masked Cardinal, Roger Neckles (RN); Palmchat, Adrian Binns; Ridgeway's Hawk, Rafael Campos-Rameriz (RCR); Maori Mask, Bud Ferguson (BF); Andean Emerald, Peg Abbott (PA); Royal Tern, PA; Blue-and-yellow Macaw, (PA); White-headed Woodpecker, Steve Wolfe (SW); California Quail, SW.

Wild Amazon: A River Cruise

March 25 – April 3, 2016, from Lima



Journey into the unparalleled biodiversity of the Amazon, home to 1,300+ bird species, 40,000 plant species, river dolphins, and primates. We choose a high-water time in order to reach the most remote areas.

Encounter rare wildlife from the luxury of your riverboat. Explore intriguing tributaries of the Pacaya-Samiria Reserve. Spot nearly a dozen primate species and an array of amazing birds, including macaws, Hoatzin, Horned Screamer, and Great Tinamou.

Discover riverbank villages, where, under the guidance of our naturalists, you are greeted like family and meet with a Shaman. Try kayaking and visit a local market.

California: Birding & Wildflowers

April 7 – 16, 2016, from San Diego



Discover famous birding sites from the Pacific to areas inland. Explore around San Diego, cross the mountains to the Salton Sea, and head on to iconic desert parks like Anza-Borrego Desert, Joshua Tree, and Death Valley. Cross California's southern tier in spring; this tour ends in Las Vegas.

See 200+ bird species, including migrant and resident seabirds, shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, and songbirds; view whales, Harbor Seal, California Sea Lion, and Desert Bighorn. Joshua Trees, other yuccas, and cacti are in full bloom.

Expert birder and naturalist, Mark Smith, leads our NEW California tour.



The Asa Wright Nature Centre

© Copper-rumped Hummingbird, Buck Snelson

Dressing Up the Old Lady



Asa Wright's former plantation home is 100 years old, and she requires care to maintain her health and shine. This past year, she has had a new roof, been painted inside and out, and has had her gorgeous wood floors treated and polished. Most recently, her famed verandah has been shored up from below, ensuring her longevity. New cushions adorn the verandah's furnishings, making AWNC's world-class birdwatching even more comfortable.

This summer, AWNC has selected bright tropical linens to place on brand-new beds, so you can sleep comfortably. Our larger rooms now have a Queen and a Twin bed. Additionally, several rooms have been painted, and staff members have installed shelving and improved lighting throughout, handy for organizing field gear. In the coming year, the Centre will start to refurbish rooms with more intensity; plans and permits for plumbing and electricity are underway.

©Photos: Pg. 2: Ruby Topaz, Dodie Logue (DL); AWNC Guide, PA; Little Cuckoo, Dave Ramlal (DR).

Top-Rate Guides



Our Centre naturalists and birding guides are experts.

They also *love* what they do. This September, our naturalists and guides participate in a week-long, professional development training session conducted by the National Association for Interpretation, and jointly funded by the U.S. Embassy and the U.S.-based Friends of Asa Wright. In addition to hands-on training for interpretive guides, there is a two-day session for Centre Hosts (all lodge staff: front desk, back office, dining room, kitchen, housekeeping, security, and maintenance). We're excited for the team building and professional development opportunities that this training offers, and for the polished experience it will offer our visitors.

As leaders in Trinidad's ecotourism, AWNC staff members have set up this workshop so other local, nature-based tour operators and community-based ecotourism organizations can take part in this Centre-hosted interactive workshop.

COMING SOON!



Join us and join in.

The Big Sit! AWNC
with Martyn Kenefick, T&T field guide Author
Saturday, October 10

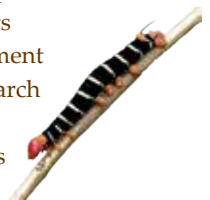
3rd Annual BIOBLITZ
Charlotteville, Tobago
October 24 - 25

Festival of Lights
Dwali, a Hindu Festival Celebrated by All
November, check for dates

Trinidad's Christmas Bird Count
December, check for dates

Friends of AWNC USA. Join today, and your contribution will help support AWNC to:

- Protect surrounding tropical rainforests and other critical habitats
- Enable habitat enhancement
- Engender scientific research
- Operate the Centre
- Upgrade visitor facilities
- Provide education
- Promote community conservation



USA Friends stay in touch through the monthly digital newsletter, *The Bellbird*.

**Contact Caligo Ventures
for information today!**

800.426.7781 · info@caligo.com



Trinidad & Tobago

© White-necked Jacobin, Buck Snelson

Best of Trinidad Tour



Discover Trinidad, geologically a part of South America, where birders experience more species than on any other Caribbean island. Caligo Ventures, the exclusive North American booking agent for Trinidad's famed Asa Wright Nature Centre, will get you there. Plus, when you travel with Caligo, you know that your travel benefits conservation; funds from your visit directly support the education and conservation mission of the non-profit AWNC. For over 40 years, the Centre's staff have proudly shared their island culture and hospitality while promoting nature.



Join us for an adventure to Trinidad!

Best of Trinidad Tours 2015:
 Oct. 22 – 29, Nov. 12 – 19, and
 Dec. 21 – 29 (Christmas Tour)

Best of Trinidad Tours 2016:
 Jan. 21 – 28, Feb. 5 – 12, March 25 – 31,
 April 5 – 12, May 12 – 19, and more!

Our Best of Trinidad tour pricing varies by season, starting at \$1695.

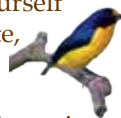
Caligo Ventures Tours



Caligo Ventures offers tours to Trinidad & Tobago every month of the year.

Birding in Trinidad has been described as the world's best introduction to birding in the Tropics, and because our guides live and work in Trinidad, they give you the local advantage. Our guides also know each step of the species' life cycle and where to find them in any given season. Using local guides allows us to offer you excellent pricing and value as you enjoy a hassle-free vacation.

Our Classic Ten-Day, Two-Island Tour explores both Trinidad and Tobago, while our eight-day Best of Trinidad tour includes a second lodge on Trinidad's scenic northeast coast, with a great place to see the endemic Trinidad Piping-Guan. On our longer option, choose lodgings on Tobago at the beachside Blue Waters Inn (BWI), or surround yourself by forest at the intimate, 10-room Cuffie River Nature Retreat (CUF). Find details and full itineraries online.



Trinidad is also a great gateway to Guyana, and these trips pair well with a visit to St. Vincent to see its magnificent parrot.

Our Classic!



Ten-Day, Two-Island Tours

Available 2015 Dates:

- Oct. 16 – 25 AWNC & CUF
- Nov. 6 – 15 AWNC & BWI
- Nov. 21 – 30 AWNC & BWI
- Dec. 4 – 13 AWNC & CUF
- Dec. 10 – 19 AWNC & BWI
- Dec. 30 – Jan. 8, 2016 AWNC & CUF

Available 2016 Dates:

- Jan. 9 – 18 AWNC & BWI
- Jan. 15 – 24 AWNC & CUF
- Jan. 28 – Feb. 6 AWNC & BWI
- Feb. 16 – 25 AWNC & CUF
- Feb. 19 – 28 AWNC & BWI
- Feb. 26 – March 6 AWNC & CUF
- March 4 – 13 AWNC & BWI
- March 11 – 20 AWNC & CUF
- March 26 – April 4 AWNC & BWI
- April 8 – 17 AWNC & CUF

And more! Turtle Season starts April 1.

Check caligo.com for details.

Tours Include: Lodgings, meals, airport transfers, inter-island flights, expert-guided outings, early-morning bird viewing from the verandah with guides, evening programs, and more.

Tour prices vary by season, starting at \$1995.

©Photos: Pg. 3: Female Crimson-crested Woodpecker, Mike Boyce (MB); Scarlet Ibis at Sunset, Buck Snelson (BS); Female Purple Honeycreeper, BS.



Exceptional Journeys

© Bengal Tigers, Avigit Sarkhel

Nature of New Zealand *Jan. 5 – 18, 2016, from Auckland*



New Zealand holds the scenic splendor of Alaska, yet is replete with endemic species.

Watch soaring Australian Gannets and other seabirds. Immerse yourself in the New Zealand rainforest. Observe rare Saddleback, Stitchbird, Whitehead, Red-crowned Parrot, and Takahe on Tiritiri Matanga Island.

Find iconic Brown Kiwi on a starlit walk on Stewart Island. Sense the spiritual significance of the Maori people. Seek rare Black Stilt and Banded Dotteral at Mt. Cook. Stay at gorgeous Arthur's Pass Wilderness Lodge. Witness immense numbers of shorebirds that appear like clouds at Miranda, including Knot, Far Eastern Curlew, South Island Pied Oystercatcher, and Eastern Bar-tailed Godwit. Even find four species of penguins!

Lodgings and dining are top-rate as we visit the North and South Islands on this grand adventure Down Under.



©Photos: Pg. 4: Kaka, BF; Group at Taj Mahal, PA; White-throated Kingfisher, PA.

India: Birds, Tigers, Taj! *Feb. 13 – 24, 2016, from New Delhi*



Discover the sights and sounds of wild India, including the markets and cultural sites of New Delhi.

Experience intimate views of Bengal Tigers at Ranthambore. Here, critical work is underway to protect these cats and a stunning mosaic of habitats, with lakes and castle ruins.

Take in the majestic Taj Mahal as it basks in dawn's ethereal glow.

Set out by rickshaw in search of Sarus and Common Cranes and water-loving birds at Bharatpur. Endemics like Jungle Owlet, Indian Courser, Yellow-wattled Lapwing, Indian Scops Owl, and Orange-headed Thrush are also found here.

Indulge on fine food at Chambal River Lodge before embarking by boat to discover endangered crocodilian Gharial, Indian Skimmer, and Bonelli's Eagle.

Our extension lets you explore the fabulous northeast, in foothills of the Himalayas at Manas National Park.

South India & Kanha NP *Nov. 30 – Dec. 11, 2016, from Kochi*



Immerse yourself in Southern India's dizzying array of endemic birds and mammals in the scenic Western Ghats, a renowned global biodiversity hotspot.

Spy Indian Pitta, Malabar Trogon, Red Spurfowl, and Gray-headed Bulbul in Thattakad Bird Sanctuary. See endemic mountain sheep and Nilgiri Tahr in Eravikulam National Park (NP), as well as birds like White-bellied Blue-Flycatcher, White-bellied Shortwing, Indian Blue Robin, Nilgiri Pipit, and Orange Flycatcher.

Spot Lion-tailed Macaque, Nilgiri Langur, Malabar Giant Flying Squirrel, and Stripe-necked Mongoose in Valparai. Then, find Painted Bush-Quail at Ooty and enjoy Jeep and boat safaris in Nagarhole NP.

Take an extension to Kanha NP for a Yellowstone-like experience. Bengal Tiger, Sloth Bear, Indian Guar, Indian Wild Dog, and Leopard are often seen. Superlative birding throughout!



New Frontiers

©Hoatzin, Greg Smith

Honduras: Hummingbirds & Specialties
Feb. 3 – 13, 2016, from Tegucigalpa



Want to see often secretive species in Honduras, such as the Spotted Rail? Are you addicted to hummingbirds? Honduras and its 42(!) species is the perfect cure.

From the diminutive Wine-throated Hummingbird to the 6 ½" Long-billed Hermit, you'll observe hundreds of color flashes as hummers feed at abundant highland wildflowers. This tour is timed to coincide with blooming *Salvia* flowers, nectar-rich natural feeders for hungry hummingbirds.

Search for the endemic and endangered Honduran Emerald. Plus, discover Honduras' special mix of toucans, motmots (7 species!), raptors, and more. Discover the fascinating geography of Honduras as we visit expansive Lago Yojoa, the impressive Western Highlands, La Tigre, and Pico Bonito National Parks, and Rio Santiago Nature Reserve. The tour ends in San Pedro Sula, letting you explore in detail.


This tour is led by Robert Gallardo, author of *Guide to the Birds of Honduras*.

© Photos: Pg. 5: Spotted Rail, Robert Gallardo (RG); Blue-crowned Chlorophonia, RG; Black-capped Donacobius, BF.

Honduras: Birding & Ruins
April 1 – 11, 2016, from San Pedro Sula



Discover Honduras, a fascinating country with abundant lakes, lush mountains, and the magnificent ruins of Copan, the "Paris of the Mayan world."

The 730+ bird species of Honduras includes the endemic Honduran Emerald, the iconic Resplendent Quetzal, Green Violet Ear,  Garnet-throated Hummingbird, Violet Saberwing, Blue-crowned Motmot, Green-throated Mountain Gem, Collared and Mountain Trogon, Unicolored Jay, Flame-colored Tanager, Barred Parakeet, and more. The country also hosts fascinating mammals like manatees, monkeys, tapirs, and peccaries.

Honduras: Butterflies & Birds
Sept. 17 – 25, 2016, from San Pedro Sula

Discover the delicate world of Honduras' 900+ butterflies. Take part in important census work to document butterfly diversity. Naturalist Journeys' Bob Behrstock joins Robert Gallardo to guide this special tour with birdwatching as well. Enjoy eight nights and two different lodges — more details soon!

Guyana: Grand Rainforests
Feb. 19 – Mar. 1, 2016, from Georgetown



Guyana is a place of pristine forests, still retaining a large portion of its original rainforest. It is quickly being discovered by birders and those keen to see Neotropical mammals.

Discover blackwater rivers stained dark with tannins that feed these untouched expanses of the Amazon. Listen and look for Red Howler Monkeys, tinamous, and motmots that provide the soundtrack; be vigilant for sightings of up to six species of wild cats! Yes, Jaguar is a possible sighting here!

Traverse treetops at the Atta Canopy Walkway for a bird's-eye view of elusive species. From this vantage, spot as many as 100 species of birds, as well as Black Spider Monkeys.

Voyage down to the Rupunnni River to search for Giant River Otters, scan the treetops for parrots and macaws, and scope the exposed riverbanks for Capybara and Black Caiman.

Additional departures:
March 21 – April 1, 2016
Oct. 1 – 12, 2016



© Golden-hooded Tanager, Peg Abbott

Belize Birding & Wildlife
Jan. 20 – 28, 2016, from Belize City

Costa Rica: Caribbean & Pacific
Jan. 23 – 30, 2016, from San Jose

Southern Costa Rica
Feb. 27 – March 8, 2016, from San Jose



Venture to the prized birding destination of Belize, where a kaleidoscope of birds awaits just a short flight away. A signature of this tour is time to enjoy wonderful food and lodges.

Indulge at the Lamanai Outpost Lodge, home to 400 bird species, and enjoy easy access to fourth-century Mayan ruins. Admire the towering Temple of the Jaguar while you spot Slaty-tailed Trogon, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, and White-whiskered Puffbird from the temple steps. Voyage through the New River Lagoon, spotting Boat-billed Heron, Gray-necked Wood Rail, and up to five species of kingfishers.

From Chan Chich Lodge's rainforest, explore the realm of 350+ bird species, including Ocellated Turkey, rare Ornate Hawk-Eagle, and Tody Motmot. At night, search for Common Potoo, Yucatan Nightjar, and Common Pauraque. Jaguars are regularly recorded here!

Additional departure:
 Jan. 29 – Feb. 6, 2016 (Host: Cave Creek Ranch)
 Feb. 11 – 21, 2016 (FULL)

Few places rival Costa Rica for biodiversity. Over a quarter of the country is protected lands, boasting 850 bird species and 200+ mammals.

Search La Selva Biological Station for Sungrebe, Agami Heron, Black-cheeked Woodpecker, and Great Tinamou. Traverse the Continental Divide, from lush lowland rainforest to misty cloud forest. Glide down a river looking for Sunbittern, Sungrebe, Green Ibis, Black-collared Hawk, Green Iguana, and Mantled Howler Monkey.

Relax at a mountain lodge where you can witness Emerald Toucanet and Collared Redstart in the wild Savegre Valley. Here Resplendent Quetzals nest and American Dipper feed in the rushing stream.

On our Pacific Extension, explore the forest canopy on an elevated sky bridge. Walk the trails of Carara National Park to find Scarlet Macaw, Fiery-billed Aracari, and Turquoise Cotinga. Experience a great crosssection of Costa Rica!

Additional Departure:
 Oct. 7 – 16, 2016 (New Fall Itinerary)

Explore a new part of Costa Rica as you travel south along the Pan American Highway, crossing the high Talamaca Mountains. Stay at two wonderful eco-lodges, the Wilson Botanical Gardens and the Esquinas Rainforest Lodge near Golfito. Spend several days in the Savegre Valley where we find Emerald Toucanet, Collared Trogon, Black Hawk-Eagle, Black Guan, and myriad hummingbirds. Trees are festooned with bromeliads as you walk along a rushing mountain stream.

Search for Costa Rican specialties, including Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher, the endemic Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager, Cerise-throated Hummingbird, and Peg-billed Finch.

Our popular guide, Willy Alfaro, is a bird, plant, and butterfly expert. He also is a gifted photography instructor.

©Photos: Pg.6: Summer Tanager, Tom Dove (TD); Collared Redstart, TD; Silver-throated Tanager, PA.

Caribbean Endemics

© Antillean-crested Hummingbird, David Smith

Jamaica: Island-Paced Birding

Jan. 25 – Feb. 1, 2016, from Montego Bay

Puerto Rico Birds & History

Feb. 25 – 29, 2016, from San Juan

Dominican Republic Birding

Feb. 29 – March 8, 2016, from Santo Domingo



Combine the pleasures of a relaxing Caribbean vacation with an in-depth exploration of Jamaica’s fantastic birds and nature. We explore this beautiful island on a no-hassle agenda, away from hyped tourist destinations. Discover Jamaica’s true nature — and friendly local people.

Seek out the island’s 28 endemic bird species, like the Jamaican Owl, Jamaican Mango, Jamaican Becard, and Jamaican Tody. Lush terrain from mountain to ocean create conditions for one of the highest species counts in the Caribbean. Explore the John Crow Mountains while listening for the flute-like call of the Rufous-throated Solitaire and the elusive Jamaican Blackbird. Take an optional float down Jamaica’s Rio Grande on bamboo rafts.

At Hotel Mockingbird Hill, an award winning eco-lodge, gaze upon panoramic mountain views and the Caribbean Sea, while enjoying special dining that features local foods. The tour also includes two nights at another lodge in the famed Cockpit Country.

Additional departure:
Feb. 22 – 29, 2016



Indulge in exotic birding without even needing a passport. Discover Puerto Rico, home to America’s only tropical forests, 17 endemic birds, and 400-year-old Old San Juan.

Search for the extremely endangered Puerto Rican Parrot and learn about local protection efforts. Immerse yourself in lush mountain forests, home to Elfin Woods Warbler. Spot localized and endangered species like the Yellow-shouldered Blackbird. Explore many habitats, including the Atlantic and southwestern coastlines, the western “haystack hills,” dry forests along the Caribbean, and a lush central mountain rainforest. Plus, relax at a seaside eco-lodge on the southern coast. Puerto Rico’s excellent road system allows us to explore with ease.

This short, five-day tour is designed to pair with our Dominican Republic Birding tour, February 29 – March 8, 2016.

Led by the expert and infectious enthusiastic guide, Gabriel Lugo, President of the Puerto Rican Ornithological Society.

Relax amid palms on white sandy beaches at several comfortable seaside eco-lodges on this biologically and geologically fascinating trip to the Dominican Republic.

Investigate the diverse Bahoruco Mountains for La Selle’s Thrush, Narrow-billed Tody, and Antillean Euphonia. Enjoy night birding in search of the endemic Ashy-faced Owl, Least Pauraque, and Hispaniolan Nightjar. Discover the island’s 32 endemic species, including Palmchat and the critically endangered Ridgeway’s Hawk.

Plus, photograph frogs, lizards, and butterflies found nowhere else in the world.

Led by Gabriel Lugo, president of the Puerto Rican Ornithological Society. This tour is designed to pair with our Puerto Rico Birds & History tour.

*With a group of 7 or more,
Caligo Venture’s senior guide
Rafael Campos-Ramirez joins as co-leader.*

©Photos: Pg.7: Jamaican Lizard Cuckoo, PA; Bananaquit, PA; Hispaniolan Lizard Cuckoo, RCR.



Tropical Americas

© Dusky Titi Monkeys, Greg Smith

Ecuador: The Andes & Mindo Dec. 3 – 12, 2015, from Quito



Experience Ecuador's amazing bird diversity, from the hummingbirds of Yanacocha to the cloud forests of Bella Vista, from the soaring peak of Antisana Volcano, to the endemic species of the Chocó region. Surround yourself with the scenic beauty of the Andes.

Our well-planned tour visits the east and west sides of two branches of the Andes, and key birding hotspots at Silanche, Milpe, Mindo, Guango, San Isidro, Papallacta Pass, and Antisana Volcano. Ecuador's cloud forests play host to hundreds of species; with frequent sightings of rarities such as Highland Tinamou, Greater Scythebill, and Bicolored Antbird. Colorful mountain-toucans and mixed flocks of tanagers brighten the day.



Search for Sword-billed Hummingbird, the only bird with a bill longer than its body. Observe fascinating social behaviors of both White-bearded and Club-winged Manakins. Get rare views of Giant and Yellow-breasted Antpittas; watch Andean Cock-of-the-Rock display on leks at a rural farm.

Take time to savor delightful eco-lodges, colorful markets, and warm Ecuadorian hospitality.

Additional departure: Dec. 1 – 9, 2016

Panama: Tower & Lodge March 22 – 30, 2016, from Panama City



Panama, a journey of the senses: every day afield portends excitement.

At the Canopy Tower, explore under the watchful eyes of Three-toed Sloth, Tamandua, and Black-breasted Puffbird. Enjoy sunrise coffee with toucans, Howler Monkeys, and parrots on the observation deck. Study a dozen species of hummingbirds. Explore legendary Pipeline Road, where scientists continue to uncover secrets of tropical science.

At Canopy Lodge, the wildlife show never ends. At highly active feeders, motmots, basilisk lizards, chachalacas, and aracarís are close at hand. Observe some of Panama's elusive species on daily field trips — ground-cuckoos and antbirds, mixed flocks of tanagers, and more!



*Additional departure: Panama: Green Season
July 10 - 16, 2016, from Panama City*

Enjoy our popular Tower and Lodge tour in the summer to take advantage of off-season savings. Summer rains ignite a burst of biodiversity.

©Photos: Chocó Toucan, PA; Red-capped Manakin, Bob Behrstock (BB) www.naturewideimages.com; Agami Heron, Lori Conrad. Pg. 9: Birding Colombia, PA; Santa Marta Brush-Finch, BB; Cuban Parrot, GS.

Panama: Wild Darién March 6 – 13, 2016, from Panama City

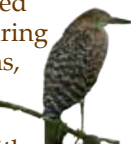


Renew yourself at a tropical tented camp in the legendary Darién region of Panama, a first-class avian crossroads.

Birders flock to Canopy Camp for the safari lifestyle and exciting finds: Spectacled Parrotlet, Beautiful Treerunner, Red-throated Caracara, Dusky-backed Jacamar, Green-naped Tanager, Viridian Dacnis, Black Oropendola, Keel-billed Toucan, and Blue-and-yellow Macaw. Several species of monkeys often appear near the camp.

Find elusive Fasciated, Bare-throated, and Rufescent Tiger-Herons, Agami Heron, and Pied Water-Tyrant, Orange-crowned Oriole, Black Antshrike, and Rufous-winged Antwren near Bayano Reservoir.

Plus, search for 25 species restricted to the Darién lowlands; be amazed by butterflies; and search for soaring Aplomado and Laughing Falcons, Ornate and Black-and-White Hawk-Eagles, and Slaty-backed Forest-Falcon. Color abounds with hummingbirds, Blue Cotinga, Golden-green Woodpecker, and more!





Breaking Boundaries

© Cuba, Peg Abbott

Colombia: The Andes Nov. 8 – 22, 2015, from Cali



Journey into the heart of Colombia, the world record holder for the most bird species!

Experience the biodiversity and high endemism of species in the Cauca and Magdalena River valleys. Scan the forest for Colombian Chachalaca, Grayish Piculet, Apical Flycatcher, and Dwarf Cuckoo.

Traverse the famed Montezuma Road in search of specialties like Crested Ant-Tanager, Multicolored Tanager, Munchique Wood Wren, Alto Pisonos Tapaculo, and numerous hummingbirds.

Explore Rio Blanco Reserve, home to endemic Cauca Guan, Chestnut Wood Quail, Stile's Tapaculo, impressive mixed flocks, and more.

Come along as we travel through the safe, rural areas of Colombia's Coffee Triangle, enjoying warm hospitality (and delicious coffee) along the way.

Additional departure:
November 2016, dates TBD

Colombia: Santa Marta March 14 – 20, 2016, from Barranquilla



The Caribbean side of Colombia at Santa Marta was one of the first areas opened to birders. Prized for spectacular scenery and national parks, Santa Marta hosts a third of Colombia's 1,800+ bird species!

Witness one of the world's highest densities of endemic birds in Sierra Nevada National Park. Close by, survey Tayrona National Park's forests for rare Blue-billed Curassow and more.

From your eco-lodge at El Dorado, see specialties like Brown-rumped Tapaculo, Black-cheeked Mountain-Tanager, White-tailed Starfrontlet, Black-backed Thornbill, Santa Marta Antpitta, and Santa Marta Parakeet.



Search along the coast for Sapphire-bellied Hummingbird, one of Colombia's rarest birds.

Watch Chestnut-winged Chachalaca at Isla Salamanca National Park, then relax in your lodgings at the Ecohabs in Tayrona National Park.

Cuba: People to People & Birding Feb. 18 – 27, 2016, from Miami



Venture behind the former Iron Curtain to Cuba, the Caribbean's largest island, home to 28 endemic bird species.

Explore varied landscapes as you meet local biologists and birders, and learn from local artists, musicians, and farmers. Admire the smallest bird on Earth, the tiny Bee Hummingbird, as well as Cuban Trogon, Great Lizard Cuckoo, and Cuban Tody.

Visit the Vinales Valley, Sierra de Escambray, the Bay of Pigs, and Zapata's wetlands. Plus, enjoy Havana's cuisine, cultural sites, and nightlife.

We partner with International Expeditions, Inc., which is authorized to operate, engage, organize, and conduct people-to-people travel to Cuba.

Additional departures:
Dec. 3 – 13, 2015 (FULL)
March 10 – 19, 2016 (FULL)
April 14 – 23, 2016
Dec. 1 – 10, 2016





Spring Migration!

© Blackburnian Warbler, Tom Dove

Dauphin Island: Migration April 18 – 24, 2016, from Mobile



Discover Dauphin Island, one of North America's top-four spring migration destinations! Of Alabama's 445 bird species, 95% have been seen here. This is where migrants first see land after crossing the Gulf; a critical rest and rejuvenation stop.

Spot neo-tropical migrants; 25+ species of warblers, including Swainson's, Worm-eating, Cape May, Prothonotary, and Kentucky; and view water, sea, and shorebirds, including Magnificent Frigatebird, Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Tricolored Heron, and Wilson's and Snowy Plovers.

Indulge in fresh seafood and visit prime birding spots. Take a ferry to Fort Morgan for a local history lesson. Then, cruise the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, rightfully called America's Amazon. You'll also explore a rare pitcher plant bog and search for Swallow-tailed Kite. Andrew Haffenden guides this tour.



TX High Island: Migration April 16 – 22, 2016, from Houston



Witness the unforgettable splendor of spring migration on Texas' High Island.

Experience a steady stream of migrants. Gasp if an intense "fall-out" occurs. Explore with ease as you walk on well-maintained trails and boardwalks into patches of coastal forest.

Enjoy colorful wading birds like Roseate Spoonbill, plus plentiful herons and egrets. Observe several species of terns, as well as Reddish Egrets displaying their comical hunting behavior.

Discover secretive Least and American Bitterns at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, as well as Clapper and King Rails. Strive for rare Yellow or Black Rails. Witness color and nesting behavior at a major heron and Roseate Spoonbill rookery. Explore Bolivar Flats, a Hemispheric Wetland and Shorebird Reserve, and spot thousands of shorebirds carpeting the mudflats.

Finally, time in southern pine forests gives us the opportunity for rarer species like Red-cockaded Woodpecker and possibly Bachman's Sparrow.

Ohio: Biggest Week in Birding May 9 – 15, 2016, from Cleveland

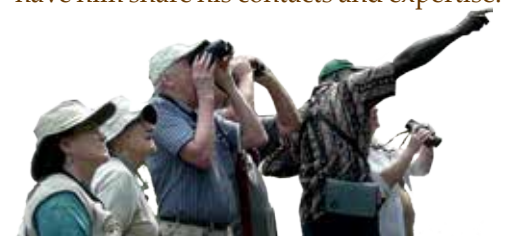


Experience the *Biggest Week in American Birding* on the teeming shores of Lake Erie. Each spring, migrating songbirds, shorebirds, waders, and raptors pass through by the thousands, en route to Canada.

Northwest Ohio, unofficially known as the Warbler Capital of the World, is home to 15 designated Globally Important Bird Areas. Over 325 species have been recorded here, with daily spring tallies reaching 120 species!

Enjoy a popular birding festival while an expert guide helps you avoid the crowds and find the best hot spots.

Our guide, Dan Donaldson, lives and works in the region. We are fortunate to have him share his contacts and expertise.



©Photos: Pg. 10: Cape May Warbler, PA; Cerulean Warbler, TD; Golden-winged Warbler, TD. Pg. 11: Green Jays, BB; Costa's Hummingbird, Lynn Feryus; Castalon Rd., PA.



© Hooded Warbler, Tom Dove

USA Birding Hotspots

South Texas Birding

Nov. 10 – 15, 2015, from McAllen

AZ: Sunshine & Saguaros

March 5 – 12, 2016, from Tucson

Texas: Big Bend & Davis Mtns.

April 23 – 30, 2016, from El Paso



Journey into the most exotic birding destination in North America: South Texas. Here, you'll admire the rainbow of subtropical species that extend north from Mexico.

Discover nearly 40 South Texas specialties, including Green Jay, Altamira Oriole, Hook-billed Kite, Plain Chachalaca, and Red-crowned Parrot. Visit prime sites including those of the World Birding Center.

Search for the endangered Aplomado Falcon, whose recovery began in 1985, and look for Coyote, Bobcat, and Nine-banded Armadillo.

Warm breezes greet you on this winter tour as we explore the Rio Grande Valley, Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Falcon State Park, and more.

We partner with local experts and friends from the Alamo Inn in McAllen for this special tour. Being local, they have the inside track on both the wildlife and dining!

Additional departures:
January 23 – 28, 2016
February 20 – 25, 2016

Escape winter to bask in the Southern Arizona desert sun, and be inspired by towering Saguaro forests. Here, the Sonoran Desert blooms with life.

Search Saguaro National Park for signature species of the desert, including Gilded Flicker, Harris' Hawk, Gila Woodpecker, and Gambel's Quail. Then venture to a remote site to look for Bendire's and LeConte's Thrashers.

Experience displays of arid-land plants from around the world at Boyce Thompson Arboretum, an oasis prized by wintering species. Visit Superstition State Park, famous for its exuberant wildflower bloom.

Experience American Indian arts and culture at the Heard Museum in Phoenix. Enjoy art, sculpture, birds, and blooms at several desert botanic gardens.

This relaxed-pace birding tour is an exceptional winter escape on which you can enjoy the local cuisine and scenic beauty of the Sonoran Desert.

Gaze upon the bold landscapes of Big Bend National Park, where rolling desert hills, rugged peaks, steep canyons, relict forests, and grasslands comprise the 800,000 glorious acres of this park.

Seek out the famous Colima Warbler, which nests only in the US in Big Bend's Chisos Mountains. Scan the skies for both Black and Gray Hawks, while Black-chinned, Broad-tailed, and Lucifer Hummingbirds perform courtship displays. Across a rugged mix of habitats, indulge in a thrilling mix of birds — the park has recorded almost 450 species.

Learn about the park's geology and fascinate in the complexity of desert landscapes.

Author, expert birder, and conservationist Woody Wheeler leads this tour.



Additional departure:
August 8 – 15, 2016, with Dodie Logue for Texas Monsoon Madness & Meteor Showers



© Polychrome Pass, Denali, Greg Smith

Northern Realms

Platte River Cranes

March 21 – 27, 2016, from Lincoln



Migrating Sandhill Cranes of Nebraska’s Platte River are one of the world’s greatest wildlife spectacles. Witness half-a-million cranes gracefully descend upon this 150-mile stretch of river — 80% of the world’s population.

The Sandhills bring with them the rare Whooping Crane and an armada of over ten-million ducks and geese, parading bright spring plumage.

Observe cranes up close in blinds at Audubon’s Rowe Sanctuary and watch the sunset as thousands call in flight. Enjoy time at a working family ranch near Calamus Reservoir to watch dancing Greater Prairie Chicken, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Bald Eagle, White Pelican, and abundant waterfowl.

Guides Ed and Sil Pembleton have over 30 years of experience on the Platte and work professionally in conservation.



©Photos: Pg. 12: Sandhill Crane Landing, GS; Three Grizzly Bears in Denali, GS; Horned Puffins, GS.

Alaska Birding w/ Nome

June 1 – 14, 2016, from Anchorage



Journey deep into Alaska’s scenic wilderness. More than any place in North America, Alaska retains its truly wild character.

Visit Nome, an arctic birder’s paradise, where we take advantage of nearly endless daylight. Viewing is at its peak as birds nest ahead of the short summer.

Explore Denali National Park and Seward, immersing yourself in signature Alaskan landscapes. Denali is renowned for mammals like Moose, Grizzly Bear, Arctic Fox, and Caribou; elusive Gray Wolf and Lynx are also here. Birds include Long-tailed Jaeger, Arctic Warbler, two species of ptarmigan, and a wonderful array of waterfowl. In Seward, cruise the Gulf of Alaska where Humpback Whale, dolphins, and Orca breach, and where puffins, murres, and cormorants nest on the Chiswell Islands of Kenai Fjords National Park.

Expert birder and photographer, Greg Smith, leads this tour.

Alaska Sampler w/ Homer

Aug. 1 – 9, 2016, from Anchorage



Alaska in August: a time for ripe berries, mammals in their prime, and birds. It is also a time of frenzied feeding before fall migration.

Explore Denali National Park as waterfowl gather in tundra ponds and Moose polish their antlers ahead of the rut. Cruise Kenai Fjords National Park to spot seabirds like puffins, shearwaters, jaegers, murres, and auklets. In a quiet cove, experience calving tidewater glaciers.

Venture to Homer, a scenic realm of mountains, where farmland and ocean collide. Enjoy a cruise to Halibut Cove and take an optional flight over active bear country (salmon runs and all!). By ending here, you can choose to extend your stay at a bear-viewing camp or lodge.

This is our classic Alaska Sampler trip: birds and wildlife, plus a uniquely Alaskan cultural and historical experience.

Mark Smith, a veteran Alaska guide who joins us for several tours this year, leads the August journey.



Indulge, Trinidad & Tobago-Style!

© Striated Heron, Narca Moore-Craig

Independent Birding Venture Packages



Embrace the freedom and flexibility of independent travel to a variety of destinations. Plan a trip for two, or a few! Custom tours for small groups available as well.

Find details on Caligo.com for three well-designed Independent Birding Venture (IBVs) options to Trinidad and Tobago: *Basic*, *Premium*, and *Birding Intensive*. Pick your pace, yet enjoy savings by sharing guided field trips with other independent travelers.

Wish to pursue other interests beyond a focus on birding? With a custom IBV, you can indulge in brilliant photography, investigate biodiversity, walk tranquil trails, or experience Trinidad's vibrant culture.

For Costa Rica, Belize, Jamaica, the USA, and Panama, we have set-itinerary or custom options built specifically for you.

Most IBVs are 7 to 10 days, but can be shortened or extended. Choose your lodges, pick your pace, set your budget, and call a Caligo Travel Planner to take care of all the details.

Trinidad's AWCN Lodge Stay (Trinis call this liming!)



Are you looking to relax on your vacation or pursue interests in addition to birding? Do you simply long for some time on AWCN's famed verandah? An AWCN Lodge Stay lets you relax and set the pace of your visit as you go. Explore the extensive grounds or choose field trips across Trinidad. Unpack once, unwind, and enjoy the charismatic species of Trinidad — some even at arm's length from the verandah! Plan a trip for two, or a few! Custom Tours for small groups (private or for the organization) are available as well.

Celebrations

The Asa Wright Nature Centre is the perfect place to celebrate life's milestones. Many couples find the quiet trails and endless views to be the perfect place to celebrate a birthday or an anniversary. And AWCN is the perfect place to gather your family to celebrate a wedding, a reunion, or just to spend some valuable time together, set against the exciting backdrop of birds and nature.

- In the region? Add T&T to another Caribbean trip or even Guyana.

A Photographers Delight



We now have an expert guide ready to work with visiting photographers. Capture that perfect shot with Roger Neckles, an award-winning Trinidadian photographer, whose work has been featured in magazines such as *National Geographic*, *Audubon*, and *Natural History*. Whether you're an amateur or a semi-pro, Roger's inside knowledge of where to go and where to focus can make all the difference in the world. Photographers move at a different pace than birders; we finally have an expert available for you!



In addition to his personal guiding (subject to availability), Roger has scheduled two photography tours this winter. If there is interest, we will schedule more. Enjoy five days of instruction in the field during a week-long stay. Field trips from the Centre include the scenic Blanchisseuse Road and both sunset and day-time boat trips to find Scarlet Ibis — a most sought-after species!

Photo Tours:

Nov. 16 – 22, 2015

March 28 – April 3, 2016

©Photos: Pg. 13: Trinidad Piping Guan, DR; AWCN swimmers, PA; Tropical Skimmer, BS.



New USA Tours!

© Yellowstone Falls, Greg Smith

Oregon: Birding & Landscapes
 May 14 – 21, 2016, from Portland



Picture the scenic beauty of Oregon: the towering coniferous forests and rocky coastline, sagebrush country, and vast Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Discover up to 200 bird species with expert guide and Oregon resident, Mark Smith, who leads this tour.

Additional departure:
 May 28 – June 4, 2016

© Ferruginous Hawk, GS

Fall Yellowstone & Grand Teton
 Sept. 22 – 29, 2016, from Jackson



Discover the crisp air, scarce crowds and incredible wildlife of Yellowstone in the fall. Follow the Snake River to Yellowstone Lake, Canyon, Old Faithful, the Lamar Valley, and Mammoth Hot Springs. Spot mammals in their prime, from Bison to bugling bull Elk. River Otter, raptors on the wing, possible wolf sightings, fall color, and perhaps the first snowfall — a naturalist or photographer's dream!

© Bighorn Sheep, PA

South Carolina: Southern Charm!
 Oct. 18 – 23, 2016, from Charleston



From Charleston to Savannah, enjoy southern birding, history, and charm. Visit Caw Caw Interpretive Center to see alligators, rails, spoonbills, ibis, and Wood Stork. Explore Folly Island and its expansive beaches. Spot White and Glossy Ibis, Anhinga, and Black-crowned Night-Heron en route to Savannah, where the grand finale is a tour of Savannah NWR.

© Black-billed Cuckoo, TD

Minnesota: Boundary Waters
 Sept. 10 – 16, 2016, from Duluth



Enjoy a leisurely week in nature and good company at Bearskin Lodge, nestled between Lake Superior and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Set your own pace as you relax in cozy cabins, take in lake vistas, spot boreal birds, canoe the Boundary Waters, and relax by a crackling campfire.

© Barred Owl, GS

Blue Ridge: Hiking & Birds
 Oct. 9 – 16, 2016, from Asheville



Delight in North Carolina's stunning autumn colors along the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway. Hike Grandfather Mountain, Chimney Rock, and Craggy Dome, while you search for signs of Black Bear, Bobcat, and birds. Plus, enjoy plucky bluegrass music and local artwork. Discover why this region has inspired artists and naturalists for centuries.

© Blue Ridge Hikers, PA

Louisiana: Rails & Festival Birding
 Oct. 15 – 22, 2016, from Lafayette



Join us for a most unusual birding event: Louisiana's Yellow Rails and Rice Festival. See up to four kinds of rails, bird from a working combine harvester, enjoy energizing Cajun music, and indulge in Cajun delicacies. Plus, spot Roseate Spoonbill, Crested Caracara, over 25 warblers, Painted Bunting, plovers, and whistling-ducks. What a wild trip, with Andrew Haffenden!

© Roseate Spoonbill, TD



© Cheetah, Peg Abbott

New International Tours

Brazil Pantanal: Jaguars!
July 16 – 30, 2016, from Sao Paulo



Venture into one of the world's best wildlife hotspots: Brazil's famed Pantanal. Here, a wilderness road heads deep into a grassland and wetland realm (ten times the size of the Everglades!), where rare species like Hyacinth Macaw, Giant Anteater, Giant Otter, and even Jaguar are found! Charming ranches provide accommodations. Join an extension to see Maned Wolf.

© Jaguar, PA

Botswana: Safari & Birding
Sept. 5 – 14, 2016, from Maun



Embark on a true African safari. Enjoy the mobility of a tented-camp and the luxury of campfires under the stars. This tour is fantastic for both birds and mammals: Lion, Zebra, Elephant, Sarus Cranes, Scops Owl, colorful kingfishers, bee-eaters, and more. This remarkable journey is rare: life is simple and our schedule is dictated by nature's rhythms.

© Elephants, PA

Madagascar: The 8th Continent!
Nov. 17 – 27, 2016, from Antananarivo



Visit the "8th Continent" and explore the infamously unique island of Madagascar. Discover 130+ endemic bird species, 102 lemur species, and 300 endemic reptiles. Be amazed at Ground-Roller, Vanga, Mesite, Cuckoo Roller, Asitie, and Couas. Enjoy lemurs and chameleons of all sizes and shapes from Indri to mouse lemurs, and from Parson's Giant Chameleons to miniature Brookesias. What a trip, with Peg Abbott!

© Ring-tailed Lemur, Bob Ashley / Chiricahua Desert Museum

Amazing Antarctica: 18-Day Cruise
Aboard Akademick Sergey Vavilov
Nov. 19 – Dec. 6, 2016, from Punta Arenas, depart Ushuaia



Journey into the ice for an adventure beyond words. Witness colonies of Magellanic, Rockhopper, Adelie, Chinstrap, Gentoo, and Macaroni Penguins. Visit the Falklands, last southern outpost of civilization. Experience South Georgia's wildlife and King Penguins; explore an old whaling camp in Shackleton's footsteps. Experience icebergs; Elephant, Weddell, and Leopard Seals; whales, southern-sea albatrosses, and more.

\$1000 early booking discount, call today! © Chinstrap Penguins, GS

Australia: Western Highlights
Sept. 18 – Oct. 2, 2016, from Melbourne/Darwin



Explore Australia's unique western side, taking in the flora and bird life of the Southwest's heath and tall forests including several notable endemics. Explore the Kimberly's dramatic rock features, flora, fauna, and endemic birds, and witness the return of thousands of Asian and some American shorebirds in Broome. In Kakadu on our pre-tour extension, desert landscapes, rock art, and wildlife intrigue. A post-tour invites you to enjoy wildlife in wine country at Adelaide and Kangaroo Island.

© Splendid Fairy Wren, Greg Smith

Galapagos: World Heritage Site
Jan. 15 – 22, 2017, from Quito



There is no place like the Galapagos; animals are extraordinary and tame, and many are found nowhere else on Earth. Embark on a week-long cruise and find three species of Boobies: Red, Blue-footed, and Masked, Flightless Cormorant, Galapagos Penguin, Swallow-tailed Gull, both Magnificent and Great Frigatebirds, and Red-billed Tropicbird, plus Marine and Land Iguanas and giant tortoises.

© Land Iguana, GS



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 When it Comes to Your Fall 2015 / 2016 Travel Adventures, We Can Help!**

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