



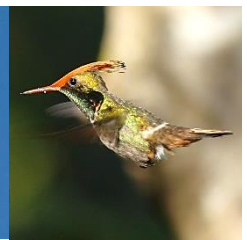
# Birding Tours for 2015

(Released 2-Dec-14; version 1.1)

*Welcome to our adventure birding calendar for the coming year! We offer a handful of carefully crafted itineraries timed for optimal birding at some of the best destinations in North America (and beyond!).*

*We have some exciting changes in store for the New Year. First of all, you have told us that you like to minimize your time spent repacking and moving around, and we have responded by lengthening several tours to allow us more consecutive nights in our favorite locations. Also, we will continue to raise the industry bar for our commitment to high-level service by running every tour with a minimum of 2 guides. Finally, we have expanded our commitment to conservation by kicking off a series of worldwide Woodpecker Conservation Tours, starting with exciting new trips to Malaysian **Borneo** and the Caribbean islands of **Jamaica & Guadeloupe!***

*As always, we will seek to enhance your experience by specializing in small groups, with most of our domestic tours taking a maximum of 6 participants and traveling in one vehicle, where everyone gets a window seat. Come celebrate birds and birding with us in 2015!*



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## January 14–24, 2015: Pico Bonito & Guanaja in Northern HONDURAS

*SCOUTING TRIP to Pico Bonito National Park and Guanaja Island.*

[Subscribe to our email list](#) so you will receive the announcement of our first official tour to Honduras in 2016!

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## February 1–10, 2015: Winter in the PACIFIC NORTHWEST

*One of our most heralded tours, visiting NW Washington & SW British Columbia, including Skagit Valley and Boundary Bay.*

Key Bird Species: Over 30 different waterfowl species, including dozens of Long-tailed and Harlequin ducks, 100s of Trumpeter Swans, and up to 20,000 Snow Geese; Yellow-billed Loon, Rhinoceros Auklet, and dozens of Marbled Murrelets; Snowy and Short-eared owls; Gyrfalcon and 100s of Bald Eagles; Northern Shrike, Northwestern Crow, Pacific Wren, and Varied Thrush.

Other Highlights: Huge rafts of arctic-nesting loons and sea ducks; more Bald Eagles than you can count (seriously!); the chance for multiple Gyrfalcons and Snowy Owls; winter rarities such as Arctic Loon, Blue Jay, Brambling, or Common Redpoll; scenic ferry-birding, old-growth temperate rainforests, and superb local seafood.

Guides: Steve Shunk & Olympic Peninsula specialist, Carolyn Wilcox

**\$3,860 single, \$3,320 double**, from Seattle. Includes 3 nights in B.C. and 6 nights in Washington. Maximum of 8 participants.

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Trumpeter Swan

## February 23–March 3, 2015: Spring in Pacific MEXICO—Nayarit to Jalisco

*San Blas coast and highlands, Nayarit; forests and scrublands of Cabo Corrientes, Jalisco.*

**Key Bird Species:** West Mexican and Rufous-bellied chachalacas; Red-billed Pigeon; Colima Pygmy-Owl; Cinnamon Hummingbird; Squirrel Cuckoo; Bare-throated Tiger-Heron; Boat-billed Heron; Blue-footed Booby; Northern Jacana; Collared Forest-Falcon; Citreoline Trogon; Russet-crowned Motmot; Golden-cheeked Woodpecker; Pale-billed Woodpecker; Military Macaw; Mexican Parrotlet; Orange-fronted Parakeet; Masked Tityra; Golden Vireo; Black-throated Magpie-Jay; San Blas Jay; Happy Wren; Blue Mockingbird; Stripe-headed Sparrow; Rosy

Thrush-Tanager; Rusty-crowned Ground-Sparrow; Red-crowned Ant-Tanager; Orange-breasted Bunting; Black-vented Oriole; and Scrub Euphonia.

**Other Highlights:** Evening boat ride up the Rio San Cristobal for birds, crocodiles, and more; sunsets over Matanchen Bay; many west-Mexican endemic bird species; lounging at Rancho Primavera, with magpie-jays, caciques, and saltators at the feeders; Mottled Owl and Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl calling outside your window; fresh Pacific seafood, cold cervezas, and warm Mexican hospitality.

**Guides:** Steve Shunk & Carolyn Wilcox (plus local guides)

*\$3,335 single, \$2,935 double, from Puerto Vallarta. Includes 4 nights in San Blas & 4 nights in El Tuito.*



Lilac-crowned Parrot



Black-throated  
Magpie-Jay

## March 23–31, 2015: Volcanoes of COSTA RICA

*PRIVATE TOUR to three National Parks in Costa Rica's central highlands.*

[Subscribe to our email list](#) so you will receive the first announcement of our 2016 inaugural tour to Costa Rica!

## April 7–17 & April 18–28, 2015: Southern FLORIDA Spring Migration

*Two identical tours to the Gulf and Atlantic coasts, including Everglades, Florida Keys, and Dry Tortugas.*

**Key Bird Species:** Masked and Brown boobies; Magnificent Frigatebird; Wood Stork; Swallow-tailed Kite; Snail Kite; Short-tailed Hawk; Purple Swamphen; Limpkin; Sooty and Roseate terns; Brown Noddy; White-crowned Pigeon; Nanday and White-winged parakeets; Mangrove Cuckoo; Red-cockaded Woodpecker; Gray Kingbird; Black-whiskered Vireo; Florida Scrub-Jay; Red-whiskered Bulbul; Common Myna; Bachman's Sparrow; Shiny Cowbird; and up to 20 warbler species.

**Other Highlights:** Amazing boardwalk birding at Corkscrew Swamp and Everglades National Park; private tram-tour at Sanibel Island's Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge; the continent's best concentration of established exotic species; full day at the Dry Tortugas—by seaplane (a mere 45-minute hop from Key West!); fresh Gulf seafood and all the Key Lime Pie you can eat.

**Guides:** Steve Shunk & Christine Elder

*\$4,950 single, \$4,230 double, from Miami. Includes 1 night in Fort Lauderdale and 3 nights each in Naples, Homestead, and Key West.*



Masked Booby



Red-whiskered Bulbul

## May 14–26, 2015: Spring on the Islands of SICILY

*The onset of breeding season and peak of spring migration, exploring the smaller islands off the Sicilian Coast; includes visits to the Pelagie, Egadi, and Aeolian islands!*

**Key Bird Species:** Marbled Duck; European Storm-Petrel; Yelkouan and Scopoli's shearwaters; European Flamingo; White Stork; Purple Swamphen; Audouin's Gull; Sicilian Rock Partridge; European Scops Owl; European Honey Buzzard; Booted and Bonelli's eagles; Eurasian Hobby; Egyptian Vulture; Lanner; Eurasian Nightjar; Hoopoe; European Bee-eater; Great Spotted Woodpecker; Red-rumped Swallow; Woodchat Shrike; Sicilian Long-tailed Tit; and Etna Crossbill.

**Other Highlights:** Raptor migration across the Straits of Messina; extraordinary ferry rides to tiny Mediterranean islands; exploring Mt. Etna's varied habitats; the fiery volcano at Stromboli; archaeological ruins of Sicily's many conquering civilizations; wonderful Sicilian hospitality; and—truly—the best food in the world!

**Guides:** Steve Shunk and Italy's top birder, Andrea Corso

*Cost TBA. Includes 4 nights in Custonaci, 3 nights on Pantelleria, 2 nights on Stromboli; and 3 nights at Mt Etna.*



Audouin's Gull



Sardinian Warbler

## June 10–14 & July 8–12, 2015: Central OREGON's Woodpecker Wonderland

*2 separate trips to Oregon's Cascade Mountains & High Desert—home of Paradise Birding!*

**Key Bird Species:** Barrow's Goldeneye, Sooty Grouse, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Vaux's Swift, Calliope Hummingbird, 11 woodpecker species, up to 10 flycatchers, Cassin's Vireo, Pinyon Jay, American Dipper, Mountain Bluebird, Hermit and MacGillivray's warblers, Green-tailed Towhee, Western Tanager, and Lazuli Bunting.

**Other Highlights:** The stunning Cascade volcanic skyline, with 6 peaks over 9,000 feet; North America's highest concentration of nesting woodpeckers; superb Northwest beer, wine, and cuisine; Christine's famous homemade, locally sourced, picnic lunches; Steve and Chuck guiding on their home turf!

**Guides:** Steve Shunk plus one guide TBA.

*Cost TBA, from Redmond, Oregon. Includes 4 nights in Sisters.*



Lewis's Woodpecker

## June 24–July 5, 2015: Northern ALBERTA's Boreal Forest & Rocky Mountains

*Cold Lake, Lac la Biche, and Lesser Slave Lake in the boreal forest and Jasper National Park.*

**Key Bird Species:** Harlequin Duck; White-winged Scoter; Ruffed Grouse; White-tailed Ptarmigan; Common Loon; Red-necked Grebe; Bonaparte's Gull; Common Tern; Black Swift; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; American Three-toed Woodpecker; Great Crested Flycatcher; Blue Jay; Boreal Chickadee; Sedge Wren; American Dipper; and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch; plus up to 20 different sparrows and 23 warblers.

**Other Highlights:** Exploring the expansive boreal forest, with its amazing breeding bird diversity; Jasper's Rocky Mountains, with hanging glaciers, bears, moose, and mountain goats; glorious, territorial songbirds in full breeding plumage.

**Guides:** Steve Shunk and California naturalist, David Wimpfheimer

*\$5,160 single, \$4,250 double, from Edmonton. First night in Edmonton; 3 nights each in Cold Lake and Slave Lake; 4 nights in Jasper.*

*NOTE: This tour is operated in cooperation with Buena Vista Audubon Society of northern San Diego County.*



White-tailed Ptarmigan

## August 3–16, 2015: Southeastern ARIZONA Monsoon Summer

*Sonoran Desert valleys, uplands, and “sky island” mountain ranges.*

Key Bird Species: Montezuma Quail; up to a dozen hummingbird species; Elegant Trogon; Arizona Woodpecker; Gilded Flicker; Plumbeous Vireo; Greater Pewee; Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher; Mexican Jay; Red-faced Warbler; Painted Redstart; Hepatic Tanager; Rufous-winged Sparrow; Yellow-eyed Junco; and Varied Bunting.

Other Highlights: Dense concentrations of hummingbirds; many Sierra Madrean specialty birds; up to 20 different flycatchers; late-summer butterflies, dragonflies, and wildflowers; awesome monsoon thunderstorms and sunsets.

Guides: Steve Shunk plus one guide TBA.

*Cost TBA, from Tucson. Includes 1 night in Tucson, and then 3 nights each in Tubac, Patagonia, Sierra Vista, and Portal.*



Berylline Hummingbird

## WOODPECKER CONSERVATION TOUR

### September 22–October 12, 2015: Malaysian BORNEO—NEW TOUR

*The Malaysian state of Sabah, in northeastern Borneo*

Woodpeckers of Conservation Concern: **Buff-necked Woodpecker, Great Slaty Woodpecker, Olive-backed Woodpecker**

Key Bird Species: We will focus on obtaining excellent behavioral observations of the three woodpeckers above, but there are many additional bird highlights in Sabah, just a few of which may include: Great Argus; Storm’s Stork; Bornean Falconet (among up to 29 additional raptors); Pink-necked Green Pigeon; Bornean Ground Cuckoo; Mantanani Scops Owl; Edible-nest Swiftlet; Whiskered Treeswift; Whitehead’s Trogon; Stork-billed Kingfisher (among 9 other kingfishers); Rhinoceros Hornbill (among 7 other hornbills); Bornean Barbet (among 8 other

barbets); up to 16 possible woodpeckers; Whitehead’s Broadbill (among 7 other broadbills); Scarlet Minivet; Bornean Whistler; Greater Racket-tailed Drongo; Asian Paradise Flycatcher; Bornean Treepie; up to 23 bulbul species; Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler (among up to 25 additional babbler); Mountain Black-eye; Sunda Whistling-Thrush; Crimson Sunbird; Spectacled Spiderhunter; and Forest Wagtail.

Other Highlights: Up to 9 primate species, including Orang Utan and the endemic Proboscis Monkey; the chance for some very rare mammal species, such as Bornean

Pygmy Elephant and Clouded Leopard; the world’s largest flower, the Rafflesia; insects that will blow your mind, like the 22-inch-long stick insect; endangered green and hawksbill sea turtles; the awe-inspiring “sky island” of Mount Kinabalu, the highest mountain in Southeastern Asia (13,435 feet); the experience of wandering through virgin tropical rainforest with expert local guides

Guides: Steve Shunk and other local and U.S. guides.

*Cost TBA, from Kota Kinabalu. Itinerary TBA.*

*NOTE: We will only take 6 birders on this adventurous tour!*



Dwarf Kingfisher



Orang Utan



Whiskered Treeswift

**WOODPECKER CONSERVATION TOUR****Nov 1–14, 2015: Caribbean Endemics of JAMAICA & GUADELOUPE—NEW TOUR***Amazing bird diversity on two fascinating Caribbean islands!*Woodpecker of Conservation Concern: **Guadeloupe Woodpecker**

Key Bird Species: Together, Jamaica and Guadeloupe support over 225 regularly occurring bird species, with master island lists of 324 and 273, respectively. Among these, we could easily see over 55 island and regional endemics on this trip! Major highlights will include: Scaly-naped Pigeon; Crested and Bridled quail-doves; Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo; Antillean Palm-Swift; Jamaican Mango; Purple-throated Carib; Antillean Crested Hummingbird; Red-billed Streamertail; Jamaican Tody; Jamaican and Guadeloupe woodpeckers; Black-billed and Yellow-billed parrots; Caribbean Elaenia; Sad Flycatcher; Jamaican Becard; Blue Mountain Vireo; White-eyed, Spectacled, and Forest thrush; Scaly-breasted Thrasher; Brown Trembler; Arrowhead and Plumbeous warblers; Orangequit; Lesser Antillean Bullfinch; Jamaican Spindalis; Lesser Antillean Saltator; and Antillean Euphonia.

Other Highlights: Dozens of endemic vascular plants, and many endemic fauna, way beyond the birds; the magnificent Blue Mountains of Jamaica; excellent looks at the threatened Guadeloupe Woodpecker; ferry rides to small, idyllic Caribbean islets; delicious Creole and French cuisine; fresh tropical fruits with nearly every meal (and in your rum drinks, if you so desire!); and the warm island hospitality of our local hosts and guides.

Guides: Steve Shunk and local guides

*Cost TBA, from Miami. Includes 7 nights in Jamaica and in 6 nights in Guadeloupe.*

Grande Terre  
Guadeloupe

Jamaican Tody

Antillean Crested  
Hummingbird**December 1–14, 2015: Northern PERU Endemic Paradise—NEW TOUR***Lima area, plus Lambayeque, Cajamarca, Amazonas, and San Martin, covering both sides of the Andes Mountains.*

Key Bird Species: White-winged Guan; Torrent Duck; Cocoi Heron; Inca Tern; Humboldt Penguin; Peruvian Thick-knee; Black-faced Ibis; Paint-billed Crike; Andean Condor; Pearl Kite; Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle; Savannah Hawk; Croaking Ground-Dove; Speckle-faced Parrot; Pacific Parrotlet; Long-whiskered Owllet; Oilbird; Fork-tailed Palm-Swift; up to 50 possible hummingbird species (including Long-tailed Sylph; Sword-billed Hummingbird; Rufous-crested Coquette; Chestnut-breasted Coronet; Booted Rackettail; and the incomparable Marvelous Spatuletail!); Golden-headed Quetzal; Bluish-fronted Jacamar; Gilded Barbet; Yellow-tufted and Scarlet-backed woodpeckers; Pacific Hornero; Collared Antshrike; Chestnut-crowned Antpitta; Elegant Crescentchest; Torrent Tyrannulet; Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant; Lulu's Tody-Flycatcher; Tumbes Tyrant; Peruvian Plantcutter; Andean Cock-of-the-Rock; White-tailed Jay; Black-capped Donacobius; Peruvian Meadowlark; and astounding 50+ possible tanagers!

Other Highlights: Outstanding local guides and well-managed nature preserves; the thrill of watching huge swarms of exotic equatorial hummingbirds; more than a dozen possible endemic birds of Northern Peru; rainbows of tanagers filling the trees like holiday ornaments; more than 20 possible BIRD FAMILIES that don't even exist in North America!

Guides: Steve Shunk and expert Peruvian native, Wilson Diaz, plus local guides.

*Cost TBA, from Lima. Includes 2 nights each in 4 locations, 3 nights 2 locations.*

**NOTE: See below for Machu Picchu Extension!**

White-winged  
GuanGolden-tailed  
Sapphire

Pearl Kite

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**December 15–18, 2015: Southern PERU'S MACHU PICCHU Extension—NEW TOUR**

*Cuzco area, plus the spectacular Sacred Valley of the Incas in the high Andes of Southern Peru*

Key Bird Species: Several hummingbird species that we cannot see on the previous trip, including Giant Hummingbird, Great Sapphirewing, and Shining Sunbeam; plus, Parodi's Hemispingus; Ocellated Piculet; Andean Flicker; Highland Motmot; Andean Cock-of-the-Rock; Masked Fruiteater; Creamy-crested Spinetail; and Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch.

Guides: Steve Shunk and expert Peruvian native Wilson Diaz, plus local guides.

*Cost TBA, from Lima. Includes 3 nights in Cuzco.*



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**REGISTRATION DETAILS FOR ALL TOURS**

Pre-register to hold your space for any tour by returning a \$95 deposit with the registration materials found at [this link](#).

All dates and prices are subject to change. Contact us for information on special groups, private tours, or custom itineraries.

NOTE: Domestic tours with "TBA" listed for the cost can often be estimated at \$350/day, single, and \$300/day, double.

*For information on any Paradise Birding program, visit our website at*

**[www.paradisebirding.com](http://www.paradisebirding.com)**

