

Nature Vacations for 2010

(Updated 15-Jan-10)



Welcome to our latest 2010 adventure calendar. We offer a handful of carefully crafted itineraries timed for optimal birding at some of the best destinations in the West (and beyond!). Below, you will find basic listings of our upcoming tours, with prices listed for both single and double occupancy.

NOTE: All prices and dates are subject to change, so please visit our web site for complete details, and call or email with additional questions. We look forward to hearing from you!

February 10–14: Wallowa Winter Wonderland ... ONLY TWO SPACES REMAINING

Northeastern Oregon's Columbia Plateau & Wallowa Valley, visiting the Columbia River Gorge, Wallowa River and Mountains, and the rolling prairies of Wallowa County. Large wintering concentrations of a few special species surrounded by some of the most spectacular scenery in North America. Key Species: Barrow's Goldeneye, Gray Partridge, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Northern Shrike, Pygmy Nuthatch, Bohemian Waxwing, American Tree-Sparrow, and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch. Highlights: at just over 80 species, this trip tallies our shortest species list, but the winter spectacle is phenomenal; flocks of up to hundreds each of Snow Buntings, Rosy-Finches, and Bohemian Waxwings; small pockets of Tree Sparrows in the canyons; startling raptor abundance, including Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk; American Dippers along icy streams; and the spectacular Wallowa Mountains skyline.

\$1,455 single/\$1,285 double, from Portland. Includes 1 night in Pendleton and 3 nights in Enterprise.

April 5–15: South Florida Spring Migration — NEW TOUR ... ONLY TWO SPACES REMAINING

South Florida, with Dry Tortugas extension, birding at Sanibel Island, Corkscrew Swamp, Big Cypress Preserve, Everglades, and Lake Okeechobee, with a post-tour extension to Dry Tortugas National Park. Key Species: Masked Booby, Brown Booby, Sooty Tern, Brown Noddy, Magnificent Frigatebird, Snail Kite, Swallow-tailed Kite, Short-tailed Hawk, Limpkin, Mangrove Cuckoo, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Smooth-billed Ani, Black-whiskered Vireo, Florida Scrub-Jay, Red-vented Bulbul, and Spot-breasted Oriole. Highlights: unbelievably close viewing of nearly every species of long-legged wading bird in North America; swarming mixed flocks of migrant shorebirds; one of the highest concentrations of endemic birds in North America; the peak of eastern warbler migration; nesting seabirds at the Dry Tortugas; the boat ride to the Dry Tortugas; the chance for songbird fallouts on Garden Key (also Dry Tortugas); southern hospitality and key lime pie.

South Florida Mainland, April 5–11, from Miami. \$2,245 single/\$1,885 double. Includes 3 nights in Naples, 3 nights in Homestead.

Dry Tortugas Extension, April 11-15: \$1,775. Includes Larry Manfredi's guiding services and boat charter (all meals and bunk on boat), dinners before and after tour, last night in Key West, transportation from Miami, and Steve Shunk as second guide for 10 passengers.

April 23–April 28: East Texas & Gulf Coast ... ONLY THREE SPACES REMAINING

Pineywoods and High Island, visiting all the famous High Island migrant spots, plus Bolivar Peninsula, Big Thicket Preserve, and the East Texas pine forests. Key Species: Reddish Egret, White-rumped Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and Bachman's Sparrow, plus nesting Hooded, Prairie, and Pine Warblers. Highlights: the chance of being at High Island for a "fallout" of migrant songbirds; the abundance of wading birds and sandpipers on the beaches and mud flats; up to 8 species of woodpeckers, most being very vocal and conspicuous; exploring scenic pockets of preserved woodlands; watching the Red-cockaded Woodpeckers return to their cluster sites for the evening.

\$1,740 single/\$1,500 double, from San Antonio or Houston. Includes 2 nights in Winnie and 3 nights in Jasper.

April 29–May 4: Texas Hill Country

Edwards Plateau and Brush Country, including Lost Maples Natural Area, Kerr Wildlife Area, Frio River, Kickapoo Caverns, and Fort Clark Springs. Key Species: Harris's Hawk, Green Kingfisher, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Great Kiskadee, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Black-capped Vireo, Gray Vireo, Black-crested Titmouse, Cave Swallow, Golden-cheeked Warbler, Olive Sparrow, Painted Bunting, and Bronzed Cowbird. Highlights: standing at the mouth of the Frio bat cave when 10 million Mexican Free-tailed Bats start pouring out for their nightly feeding; watching the hawks and falcons hunt bats on the wing; beating the heat at the productive feeding stations at Neal's Lodges; up to 16 species of sparrows; daily Scissor-tailed and Vermilion Flycatchers; the giant bald cypresses along the Frio River; seeing a number of South Texas endemic birds at the northern limits of their ranges; birding among some of the most beautiful habitats in Texas.

\$1,740 single/\$1,500 double, from San Antonio. Includes 2 nights in Uvalde and 3 nights in Leakey.

NOTE: Take the 2 Texas trips together and get a free night of lodging in between.

SUMMER/FALL PREVIEW



June 3–6: Woodpecker Wonderland Festival

Eleven species of nesting woodpeckers on the east slope of the Oregon Cascades! Woodpeckers galore, plus: Barrow's Goldeneye, Sooty Grouse, Northern Goshawk, Vaux's Swift, Calliope Hummingbird, Hermit, Townsend's, and MacGillivray's Warblers, Green-tailed Towhee, Lazuli Bunting, and Black-headed Grosbeak. Half-day and full-day tours will explore all corners of the Metolius River Basin. Visit www.woodpeckerwonderland.com for updates.

June 8–12: Daily Woodpecker Workshops

Specialized workshops led by North American woodpecker specialist Steve Shunk. Each day will focus on the natural history, behavior, and conservation of different suites of woodpeckers.



September 17–30: Wings, Wine, and Wonders of Sicily

Two weeks in the Mediterranean, showcasing some of the world's best foods and wines, ancient ruins, quality birding, and our guide, renowned European naturalist, Andrea Corso. *Key species:* Bonelli's Eagle, Eurasian Flamingo, Purple Swamphen, Audouin's Gull, Sicilian Rock Partridge, Hoopoe, Blue Rock Thrush, Sicilian Long-tailed Tit, Richard's Pipit, and Spotless Starling. *Key Desserts:* cannoli, cassata, manna, panettone, torroncini. *Key Wines:* Marsala, Nero d'Avola, Grillo, Alcamo, Etna Rosso. *Key Cultural Sites:* Valle dei Templi, Selinunte, Segesta, Cassibile, Saline di Trapani, Erice, Ortygia.

October 16–27: Ecuadorean Andes — NEW Exploratory Tour

A week in the Andean cloud forests of Ecuador, with over 500 species possible, led by international birder and naturalist Moez Ali. *NW slope:* Cock-of-the-Rock, Oilbird, White-faced Nunbird, Toucan Barbet, Giant Antbird, Beautiful Jay. *NE slope:* Andean Condor, Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe, Giant Conebill, Ecuadorean Hillstar, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Long-tailed Sylph, Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher, White-capped Tanager, Highland Motmot, Emerald Toucanet, Chestnut-breasted Coronet, Collared Inca, and Fawn-breasted Brilliant. NOTE: We initiate an exploratory tour when we ourselves have not yet visited a region. In order to afford some scouting trips, we invite clients to join us. These trips may have logistical challenges, among other unpredictable events, and we expect participants to remain flexible and good-spirited with the experimental nature of the tour. For Ecuador, we have always been impressed with Moez Ali, including his experience, his poise, and his skill as a naturalist. We invite you to explore Ecuador with us on this exciting adventure!

PRE-REGISTRATION DETAILS

Pre-register to hold your space for any tour by downloading, completing, and returning the registration materials found at: <http://www.paradisebirding.com/09regforms.pdf>. All dates and prices subject to change. Contact us for information on special groups, private tours, custom itineraries, or gift certificates.

For information on any Paradise Birding program, contact us at
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www.paradisebirding.com