



American Birding  
ASSOCIATION

# ABA-Endorsed Tours

Enjoy Very Special Birding

2005

## Short Trips for Target Species

**Colorado Chickens:** White-tailed Ptarmigan, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Greater Sage Grouse, Gunnison Sage Grouse, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, Greater Prairie-Chicken. Most are seen on leks at good range. Three rosefinches at feeders. Blue Grouse is usually seen, as well. From Denver, with Nick Komar leading. 8-14 April and 16-22 April 2005.

**Black-capped Vireo, Golden-cheeked Warbler:** Travel into the Texas Hill Country for the two target birds at the time of year when they are vocalizing and the fields are ablaze with wildflowers. We usually get some "Valley" species such as Cave Swallow. From San Antonio. P.D. Hulce leads 17-20 April 2005.

**Collins Warbler, Gray Vireo, Montezuma Quail, Common Black-Hawk:** travel through Big Bend National Park and on to the Davis Mountains for the target species plus Lucifer Hummingbird and Varied Bunting From Midland-Odessa, Texas, led by P.D. Hulce. 20-25 April 2005

**Black Rail, Swainson's Warbler, Bachman's Sparrow, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, and other southern specialties.** New Bern, North Carolina, led by John Fussell. 28 April-1 May and 5-8 May 2005. **Bicknell's Thrush, Boreal Chickadee, and both Sharp-tailed Sparrows.** We quickly see the sparrows in seaside marshes and proceed to the Mt Washington area in New Hampshire. In addition to Bicknell's Thrush, we usually find some boreal species at the southern limit of their range, including Black-backed Woodpecker. From Portland, Maine. Bill Drummond leads. June 11-14, 2005. Contact: Bob Odear at OBServ Tours, Inc 3901 Trimble Road, Nashville, TN 37215; (615) 292-2739; observtours@bellsouth.net; www.observtours.com.

**North Dakota Prairie Birds:** Le Conte's, Baird's, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows; Sprague's Pipit, six species of grebes, and woodland songbirds such as Mourning Warbler and grosbeaks; Ferruginous and Swainson's Hawks, and much more. Schedule your personalized tour now. Contact: Buffalo Commons Birding Safaris, 2704 10th Avenue NW, Mandan, ND 58554; (701) 228-5271 or (701) 663-4980; tgbison@ndak.net; barnhart@btinet.net.

**Eastern Oregon Malheur Weekends.** Spring trip features Trumpeter Swan, Prairie Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, Gray Flycatcher, Rock and Canyon Wrens, Sage Sparrow, Bobolink. 28 April-1 May 1 or 19-22 May 2005. Fall trip includes visit to Steens Mountain for Black Rosy-Finch, Chukar, Greater Sage Grouse, Red-naped Sapsucker, plus many migrant raptors and songbirds at Malheur NWR. September 15-18 or October 13-16 2005.

**Woodpecker Wonderland Weekends.** Three-toed, White-headed, and Black backed Woodpeckers, up to 6 Empids, Calliope Hummer, Pinyon Jay, Cassin's Vireo, Northern Pygmy-Owl. As many as 11 species each of woodpecker and flycatcher are possible. 9-12 June or 23-26 June 2005.

**Washington Coast "Surf-and-Turf".** Land and sea combo includes pelagic trip in search of Black-footed Albatross, Pink-footed Shearwater, all 3 jaegers, and 6 alcids; more than 18 species of shorebirds are possible, including Pacific Golden-Plover, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, and Wandering Tattler. Also Heerman's Gull, Band-tailed Pigeon, Hutton's Vireo, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Red-breasted Sapsucker. 8-11 September 2005. Contact: Steve Shuck, Paradise Birding, 541-408-1753; steve@paradisebirding.com; www.paradisebirding.com.

## Canada, North America, ABA Area

### South Florida and the Dry Tortugas

We visit at the height of spring migration for Florida specialties, exotics, seabird colonies and possible Caribbean strays, including a three-day trip to the Dry Tortugas. Led by Adrian Binns. 17-26 April 2005. Contact: Jaeger Tours (215) 364-4407; binns@jaegertours.net; www.jaegertours.net.

### Gambell, Nome, and Pribilofs

Bird spring migration at the Pribilofs (St. Paul Island), Gambell, and Nome with a small group of hearty birders. Peak time for vagrants and Alaskan specialties. Stay in Siberian Yupik Eskimo home in Gambell; search for Bristle-thighed Curlew outside Nome; seabird colonies and fur seals rookeries on St. Paul. Small group, reasonable price. Pribilofs, 23-25 May 2005; Gambell and Nome, 27 May-4 June 2005. Contact: Wilderness Birding Adventures, 5515 Wild Mountain Road, Eagle River, AK 99577; (907) 694-7442; wildbird@alaska.net.

### Adak, Alaska

This tour offers a great chance to see spring migrants at this western Aleutian island, with Whiskered Auklet, Laysan Albatross, and Asian strays possible. Maximum 14 participants, with longtime Alaska resident Dan Wetzel and another leader. 22-29 May, 2005. Contact: Dan L. Wetzel, Nature Alaska Tours, (907) 488-3746; dwetzel@alaska.net.

### Churchill and Manitoba

Follow the spring north from Winnipeg for prairie specialties like Baird's Sparrow, northern woodland nesters at Riding Mountain, waterbirds like Snowy Plover and Clark's Grebe at the southern shores of Lakes Winnipeg, and an air trip to Churchill to search for that settlement's remarkable birds, including Ross's Gull and Hairy Redpoll. More than 200 species are expected. Limited to five birders and led by Derb Carter. 10-20 June 2005. Contact: Bob Odear at OBServ Tours, Inc., 3901 Trimble Road Nashville, TN 37215; (615) 292-2739; observtours@bellsouth.net; www.observtours.com.

## Newfoundland

From Saint John's in the southeastern corner of the province to Deer Lake/Cornerbrook on the west coast. Visit Cape Ste. Mary's, Wetts Bay, Terra Nova, Gros Morne, L'Anse aux Meadows, and the Codroy Valley for alcid and gannet colonies, possible pelagics from shore, and Boreal breeders such as Mourning Warbler and Rock Ptarmigan. Although European settlement came early to Newfoundland, much of Newfoundland remains stunningly unspoiled in its natural beauty. Led by Ken Knowles. 11-20 June 2005. Contact: Bob Odear at OBServ Tours, Inc., 3901 Trimble Road, Nashville, TN 37215; (615) 292-2739; observtours@bellsouth.net; www.observtours.com.

## Alaska Outer Islands and Russia

Cruise from Nome to Homer, Alaska, aboard the Clipper Odyssey. This cruise offers a great chance to see Whiskered Auklet, other alcids, and various seabirds, along with the possibility of ABA-area rarities. Visit King Island, both Little and Big Diomedes, Osrov Vitgras, St. Lawrence, St. Matthew/Hall Islands, and the inner Aleutians. A great cruise for birders. 19 July-2 August 2005. Clipper Cruise Line, (800)814-9393 x6813 or (800) 456-0020; csperry@intrav.com or grupres@intrav.com.

## Caribbean

### Island Endemics

OBServ Tours, Inc. has put together a package of Caribbean birding tours that focus on island endemics.

**Dominican Republic Endemics:** Our oldest West Indies tour takes you to the southwest portion of the country, where dry thorn forest covers the lowlands and moist forest clothes the great Bahoruco Mountain range. There is even a huge salt lake below sea level. As always, diversity of habitat leads to diversity of bird species. There are 25 Dominican endemics, and we usually find a total of approximately 100 species. Led by Kate Wallace. 7-13 April 2005. Contact: OBServ Tours, Inc., 3901 Trimble Road, Nashville, TN 37215; (615) 292-2739; observtours@bellsouth.net; www.observtours.com.

## Mexico

### Southern Veracruz

And the Tuxtlas. At one time this area produced the highest Christmas count in the world. The parts of the area have been converted to agricultural uses, but this remains one of the most productive birding areas in Mexico. We cover the coastal plain as well as the Tuxtla volcanic complex. There are 26 species of special interest. Bob Odear and Bob Straub lead 16-22 March 2005. Contact: OBServ Tours, Inc., 3901 Trimble Road, Nashville, TN 37215; (615) 292-2739; observtours@bellsouth.net; www.observtours.com.

### Northeastern Mexico

This is an area of desert and high forested mountains. We begin in Monterrey and go immediately to the high, dry plateau near Saltillo for three endemics. We next head south along the base of the Sierra Madre Occidental to the famed area around Rancho Cielo and finally to mountains west of Ciudad Monte in southern Tamaulipas and San Luis Potosí. Approximately 30 endemics are possible. P.D. Hulce and Bob Odear lead. 7-14 May 2005. Contact: OBServ Tours, Inc., 3901 Trimble Road, Nashville, TN 37215; (615) 292-2739; observtours@bellsouth.net; www.observtours.com

### Veracruz "River of Raptors"

Witness the worlds greatest raptor migration, where single days counts have exceeded 700,000 birds! More than 325 species possible, including 30 raptors, 20 hummingbirds, and 35 warblers. Led by Bob Straub and Adrian Binns. 24 September-6 October 2005. Contact: Jaeger Tours, (215) 364-4407; binns@jaegertours.net; www.jaegertours.net.

## Central and South America

### Galapagos Islands

Join this short cruise among the Enchanted Isles aboard the Santa Cruz, built for exploration of these islands. Many of the islands remain the same as when Darwin himself saw them. Come see Darwin's finches and other island endemics. 22-28 May 2005; dates to be announced. Contact: Intrav, (800) 456-0020; csperry@intrav.com or grupres@intrav.com.

### Cruising in the Chilean Fjords

Cruise the remote, icy waters off southern Chile. More numerous than Scandinavia's fjords, Chile's magnificent fjords are virtually unknown. The Chilean Inside Passage offers spectacular scenery and a chance to see Chilean seabirds. Stop at the spectacular Torres del Paine National Park and voyage into the Beagle Channel. Clipper naturalist will lead walks on landings. Post-trip to Machu Picchu available. 29 October-12 November 2005. Contact: Clipper Cruise Line, (800) 814-9393 x6813 or (800) 456-0020; csperry@intrav.com or grupres@intrav.com.

### Costa Rica and Panama

Cruise on the Yorktown Clipper from Costa Rica to Panama, including this region's great engineering spectacle, the Panama Canal. This is an excellent introduction to tropical birding, with multiple daily stops in both countries

for birding along rich lowland rainforest trails. Expert onboard naturalists. Very birdy pre- and post-cruise extensions available. 16-24 November 2005. Contact: Clipper Cruise Line, (800) 814-9393 x6813 or (800) 456-0020; csperry@intrav.com or grupres@intrav.com.

## Europe

### North Wales and Norfolk

Highlands, islands, and wetlands: the contrast of the mountains, oak woods, and moorlands of North Wales and the coastal plain of North Norfolk may offer the most diverse range of habitats currently available on a United Kingdom tour. All of the highlights from of spring in these remarkable regions can be found, with the potential for turning up some some unexpected rarities, as well. Breeding species include Black Grouse, Hawfinch, Ring Ouzel, Red Kite, Red-billed Cough, Stone Curlew, Golden Oriole, Bearded Tit, Pied Avocet, Wood Lark, European Nightjar, and Corn Bunting. With ample time to enjoy the beauty of these unspoiled regions, this tour offers a first class introduction to birding in the UK. Led by Neil Donaghy and Steve Cale. 7-20 May 2005. Contact: Neil Donaghy, Celtic Bird Tours, 84 Coity Road, Bridgend CF31 1LT, Wales, UK; telephone (+44) 01656 645709; cell (+44) 07971 983227, Birds@celticbirdtours.org.uk; www.celticbirdtours.com.

### Scotland: Highlands and Shetlands

A two-week trip to one of the most scenic parts of the world to explore the birds, mammals and flora of Scotland's highlands including the Caledonian forest and Cairngorms as well as the seabird colonies of the Shetlands. Led by Adrian Binns. 24 June-9 July 2005. Contact: Jaeger Tours, (215) 364-4407; binns@jaegertours.net; www.jaegertours.net.

## Pacific Ocean

### Eastern Australia

Australia has more endemic bird species (238) than any other country, and nearly all of Australia's remaining 500 species are likely to be new to first-time visitors. Our tour takes in the absolute best of the east from top to bottom. We start with the Great Barrier Reef, the tropical and highland rainforests, and the savanna grasslands of northern Australia, then we head south to the cloudforests of Lamington NP. Continuing on to New South Wales, we visit the Eucalypt forests around Sydney, coastal heathlands, and the Mallee Bushlands farther west. We finish the trip in possibly the most magical place of all, Tasmania. 12-30 September 2005. Contact: Tropical Birding, 17 Toucan Tropics, 26 Willow Road, Blouberg Rise 7441, South Africa; tel/fax +27-21-556-4124; cell: +27-83-296-0147, info@tropicalbirding.com; www.tropicalbirding.com.

## Asia

### China

This expedition explores China's geographical diversity. Join us as we visit many of the best birding locales in China. Led by some of China's foremost ornithologists. April/May 2005. Contact: Siemer & Hand Travel, 750 Battery St. Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94111 (800) 451-4321; (415) 788-4000, fax (415) 788-4133; travel@siemerhand.com

## Africa

### Morocco

Morocco boasts the richest bird life in North Africa, and along with its endemic, rare, and specialty birds, its Moorish and Berber culture and stunning scenery make this trip truly memorable. Led by Adrian Binns. 3-19 March 2005. Contact: Jaeger Tours, (215) 364-4407; binns@jaegertours.net; www.jaegertours.net.

### South Africa

"Fairest Cape to Kruger". South Africa is a mega-diversity country. In the southwest, it contains two habitats found nowhere else in the world: the heath-like fynbos and the semi-desert Karoo. Both these systems hold a host of endemic species (South Africa has 58 endemic and near-endemic birds, more than any other African country, and most of these will be seen on our safari). Included are sensational birds, among them a suite of small endemic bustards and at least 30 species of endemic larks and chats. In its northeast, South Africa metamorphoses into bush and savanna vegetation similar to that in East Africa, and here species diversity increases dramatically, with possibilities of hundreds of species a day. We can expect to see at least 400 species on this trip, and 450 or more are possible. 12-25 November 2005. Contact: Tropical Birding, Africa and Asia Division, +27 (0) 82-400-3400; fax +27-21-556 4124; www.tropicalbirding.com; tropicalbirding@telkomsa.net.

## Antarctica

### Antarctica and the Falkland Islands

Join the crew of the Clipper Adventurer in the icy waters of the spectacular Antarctic Peninsula. Scenery and abundant wildlife, including penguins, seabirds, and marine mammals, along with some endemic birds of the Falkland Islands, will be the highlights. 20 November-5 December 2005. Contact: Clipper Cruise Line, (800) 814-9393 x6813 or (800) 456-0020; csperry@intrav.com or grupres@intrav.com.

# May Migration **Madness** in Michigan



The 2005 ABA Regional Conference will be based in Midland Michigan, 16–21 May—the best time for spring migration in the Saginaw Bay area. Kirtland's Warblers will have arrived and will be singing on territories. Tawas Point State Park, "Michigan's Cape Cod" with only 200 acres has a bird list of 290 species and seeing 25 species of warbler on a fallout day is not uncommon. If you want to see migrants and you are tired of the crowds at Pt. Pelee; the ABA Saginaw Bay Conference may be the ticket. In addition, we will visit Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area (Yellow-headed Blackbird), Pincomming County Park (waders), Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge (both bitterns and Prothonotary Warbler), Harwick Pines State Park (old growth eastern white pine and eastern hemlock with Black-billed Cuckoo), Houghton Lakes Wildlife Area (Yellow Rail), and local parks in Midland Michigan (Cerulean Warbler). Mark your calendars for May in Michigan with the ABA.

Photograph by Ron Austin



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