



Emerald Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus prasinus*)



# BELIZE

## BIRDING AND NATURE IN THE TROPICS OF BELIZE

with Matt Jeffery

November 5-12, 2018

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Meet representatives from the Hummingbird Environmental Tour Guide Association who will discuss regional birding and conservation efforts.
- Explore the waterways of Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, a 44,000-acre Ramsar site, to see herons, ibis, Northern Jacanas, Boat-billed Herons and more.
- Enjoy a talk by a Belize Audubon Society representative about local efforts to promote bird-based tourism as a conservation and development tool.
- Have dinner and discussion with members of the community-based project on Scarlet Macaw conservation.
- Be on the lookout for Pheasant Cuckoo, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, various hummingbirds, woodcreepers, flycatchers and more.
- Set your sights on over 330 bird species in the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, exploring open and forested habitats.
- Watch for forest species like Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Northern Royal Flycatcher, and tanagers in the reserve around Pook's Hill.

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*Supporting Audubon and its partners in advancing sustainable development in bird hot-spots*

**Holbrook Travel** is a supporting partner in Audubon and its partners' conservation work in Latin America and in the Caribbean. One key aspect of that work is the strengthening of **bird-based tourism** as a conservation and sustainable development tool. The tours developed from this initiative are designed to help protect key target areas along the flyways for migratory and local species. Initial sites are located in **Belize, Colombia, Guatemala, Paraguay and the Bahamas.**

These areas were selected by intersecting bird hot-spots with key **Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)** where Audubon and their partners (Belize Audubon, Patrimonio Natural, Calidris, WCS, Vivamos Mejor, Guyra Paraguay and the Bahamas National Trust) are carrying out vital conservation work. By overlaying conservation work with the economic support that bird-based tourism brings, this program **strengthens local communities and the long-term conservation** of these areas.

Participants on these tours have a direct economic impact on local people and communities, help preserve IBAs, and nurture an emerging ecotourism industry. By visiting these sites with our trained guides, you **help protect threatened habitats** by supporting local conservation and local communities that benefit from tourism.

# WHAT MAKES FLYWAY EXPEDITIONS DIFFERENT?



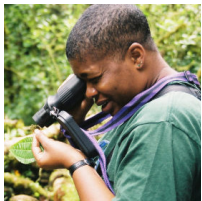
## UNIQUE ITINERARIES

These birding itineraries are unique in that they are designed to help strengthen and support tourism in bird hot-spots and support conservation and local economic development. The initial program is focusing on nine sites in Belize, Guatemala, Paraguay and the Bahamas. The project is helping communities, local tour operators, and tourism boards attract bird watching tourists to the selected destinations and associated businesses. Participants will see the conservation activities first-hand and engage with the local community during their tours.



## EXTENSIVE GUIDE TRAINING

Birding guides selected for the tours have taken part in comprehensive guide training in alliance with expert guides, local tourism authorities, and Audubon's local conservation partners. Guides are provided advanced levels of training which include bird identification, biology, ecology, and conservation alongside guiding ethics, group management, marketing, and business, plus basic English language where needed. Tours connect advanced regional guides with local guides to increase knowledge and capacity.



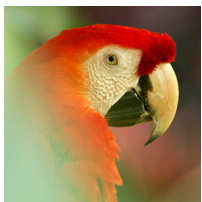
## SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

The National Audubon Society project provides local guiding businesses with access to equipment, including binoculars, scopes, and guidebooks; improves trails and associated infrastructure; and offers basic business support such as marketing and customer service training. Participants on the tours will benefit from these improvements and help support the important economic incentive to promote conservation.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Travelers will learn about targeted environmental education and outreach programs carried out by Audubon and its partners. These include programs at local schools, using local birdlife as a hook to engage youth, and courses for adult, community, and women's groups, and alternative livelihood programs. Tours may include a talk with community members or a school visit where participants can exchange their passion for birding.



## BIRD CONSERVATION

With greater local awareness and appreciation for ecosystems, the program supports priority endemic bird species including the critically endangered Scarlet Macaw, Resplendent Quetzal and Bahama Oriole, plus migrant species that rely on key migratory flyways like the Piping Plover, Wood Thrush and Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and other wildlife including the Jaguar, Maned Wolf and Rock Iguana.

*Photos by Greg Basco, Christa Dillabaugh, Pelin Karaca, and Martin Van Lokven*

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

*Supporting Audubon and its partners in advancing sustainable development in bird hot-spots*

This bird-based tourism initiative is a key conservation tool being implemented by the National Audubon Society that links poverty reduction and economic development directly with nature conservation. By building capacity within communities, especially on the edge of protected areas or Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas, and working with tour operators and local organizations to drive an interested market to support the initiative, we all can make a vast difference for conservation and reduce the loss of habitat and birds. Holbrook Travel is a proud supporter of this work, having pioneered conservation, local guide training, and community outreach in Costa Rica. Together, we aim to create a network of community-based birding destinations across the hemisphere that offer skilled local birding guides, improved site interpretation and lodging, and related goods and services tailored to the birding community.



# Birding and Nature in the Tropics of Belize

On this exciting 8-day expedition to Belize, set your sights on hundreds of neotropical species with the help of our expert guides. Enjoy birding in the pine savannas and wetland habitats of Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, in the primary and secondary tropical moist broadleaf forest at Cockscomb Basin and Pook's Hill, and in private reserves, a botanical garden, and along the Macal River Valley. This trip is a prime reflection of the birds the National Audubon Society hopes to protect through its ongoing conservation efforts. Participate in several talks with members of the local community about these efforts, the training programs, and other activities to promote birding as a viable economic alternative.

## ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER



Harpy Eagle (*Harpia harpyja*) by mdf

### NOVEMBER 5 - CROOKED TREE

Upon arrival in **Belize City**, you will be met outside baggage claim and transferred to **Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary**, established in 1984 to protect resident and migrant birds. The sanctuary includes a network of inland lagoons, swamps, and waterways. During the dry season tens of thousands of birds congregate here, taking advantage of abundant food resources in the wetlands. This evening have dinner with a Belize Audubon Society representative and then a talk on bird-based tourism as a conservation and sustainable development tool in Belize. *Overnight at Bird's Eye View Lodge. (D)*

### NOVEMBER 6 - CROOKED TREE

Today we will bird the extensive waterways of this 44,000 acre Ramsar site where we hope to see a mix of herons, ibis, Roseate Spoonbills, Northern Jacanas, Boat-billed Herons and Jabiru. After lunch we will explore the pine savannas where we hope to find the near endemic Yucatan Jay, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Yellow-headed and Yellow-lored Parrots, Aplomado Falcon, Canivet's Emerald, and Yucatan Woodpecker. An evening walk will be available for those who hope to catch up with a Common Pauraque, Mottled Owl, or Tody Motmot. *Overnight at Bird's Eye View Lodge. (BLD)*

### NOVEMBER 7 - STANN CREEK

We will spend the morning birding at Crooked Tree by boat if water conditions allow. Check out and travel to **St. Herman's Blue Hole National Park**, with a stop at **Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary** to look for the rare Blue- and Slate-colored seedeaters. Box lunch en route. During the visit to the Blue Hole, meet with tour guides who support St. Herman's Blue Hole National Park to discuss birding and conservation efforts in the region. Late afternoon birding in the **Mayflower Bocawina National**

**Park.** The park is located in the southern district of Stann Creek, consisting of over 7,100 acres of lush jungle, refreshing waterfalls and ancient Mayan sites. More than 200 species of birds have been identified in the area. Check in at the lodge and enjoy a hearty dinner. *Overnight at Bocawina Rainforest Resort. (BLD)*

### NOVEMBER 8 - STANN CREEK

Depart early for morning birding at **Cockscomb Basin**. In the late afternoon, return to the lodge and bird along the trails for Pheasant Cuckoo, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, various hummingbirds, woodcreepers, flycatchers, Nightingale Wren, Green Shrike Vireo, Green Honeycreeper, White-winged Becard and Passerini's Tanager to name a few. *Overnight at Bocawina Rainforest Resort. (BLD)*



Rufous-tailed Jacamar (*Galbula ruficauda*) by Sanford M Sorokin

### NOVEMBER 9 - STANN CREEK

Early morning visit to **Red Bank Village** to see the Scarlet Macaws that are rebounding in this region. We will have lunch and a discussion on this important, community-based project focused on Scarlet Macaw conservation at the Scarlet Macaw Bed and Breakfast. This afternoon, return to Bocawina for birding in the sanctuary as there are many trails to choose from, with each leading through open and forested habitats. With over 330 species, there will be plenty of new birds to see. *Overnight at Bocawina Rainforest Resort. (BLD)*

### NOVEMBER 10 - ROARING RIVER

We will spend the morning in the sanctuary exploring trails not covered in the previous day. We will focus on finding new species for the trip and better looks at familiar species. In the afternoon, we will drive to **Pook's Hill Lodge** for late afternoon birding. Pook's Hill is situated within a private reserve, located at the foothills of the Maya Mountains in the Cayo District of Belize and borders the Roaring River. Birding right from the lodge, the



Green Shrike-Vireo (*Vireolanus pulchellus*) by Dominic Sherony

meadow, and along the riverside is exceptional. There are often good sightings of trogons, motmots, and toucans. With over 300 birds recorded at Pook's Hill, sightings of many of the less common species such as the Spectacled Owl, Emerald Toucanet, and Tody Motmot are also a good possibility. Explore the socio-economic factors associated with conservation while engaging with the locals from the lodge regarding conservation and habitat protection processes. Then, this evening, optional night walk may yield Black-and-white or Spectacled Owls. *Overnight at Pook's Hill Lodge. (BLD)*

## NOVEMBER 11 - ROARING RIVER

In the morning explore the trails of the private preserve, looking for Agami Heron, Pheasant Cuckoo, Tody Motmot, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Northern Royal Flycatcher, and Gray-headed and Crimson-collared Tanagers, among the many forest species known from the area. After lunch, explore the **Belize Botanical Gardens** and trails at duPlooy's Jungle Lodge along the Macal River Valley. *Overnight at Pook's Hill Lodge. (BLD)*

## NOVEMBER 12 - DEPART

Early morning birding and then group transfer to the airport for flights back to U.S. Please make sure flights depart after 12:00pm. *(B)*



Jaguar at the Belize Zoo by Bernard DuPont



Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) by Jerry Goffe, NaturePhotoWorks.com

## MEET YOUR LEADER



**MATT JEFFERY** is the Deputy Director of the International Alliances Program. Matt has been with Audubon since 2006 and has more than 15 years of experience in the environmental conservation field. He has worked closely with and managed projects in several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, including Mexico, Panama, Belize, Bahamas,

Argentina, and Paraguay. His focus has been the protection of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Latin America and the Caribbean, specifically those concerning Neotropical migrant bird populations.

## PROGRAM PRICING

**\$2,900** (based on 10 participants)

Cost includes accommodations, activities, and meals as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, full-time guide, part-time apprentice guides, and a donation to National Audubon to support the program.

Does not include international airfare or gratuities.

## THE FINE PRINT

Price is based on double occupancy; for a single room throughout the trip add \$375 per person. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due by July 8, 2018 to secure your reservation. This deposit is refundable until August 2, 2018 excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Non-refundable final payment is due no later than August 2, 2018. Travel trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit [travelinsured.com](http://travelinsured.com). Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.