

BIRD TREKS

SAN BLAS, MEXICO

Great Birding in Diverse Habitats with MANY Endemics

Thursday, 10 February through Friday, 18 February 2011: 9 days & 8 nights
A FULL WEEK in the same comfortable hotel in San Blas.

The geography of the **SAN BLAS** area will allow us to visit many habitats while basing ourselves in this quaint beach town for our entire stay, except for the first and last nights.

We'll visit mangroves, mudflats, lagoons, offshore islands, thornscrub, and pine-oak woodlands, all while staying at the comfortable **Hotel Garza Canela** in San Blas. You will be able to bird at your desired pace. You will have the opportunity to spend all of your daylight hours searching for the many **Mexican endemics** and **specialties** of the area. Or if you like, take a break on their world-class beach, a surfing lesson, or a snooze by the pool.

Mexican specialties that we may see [Mexican endemics are in bold]

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Blue-footed Booby | Elegant Trogon | Sinaloa Crow |
| Brown Booby | Russet-crowned Motmot | Happy Wren |
| Magnificent Frigatebird | Golden-cheeked Woodpecker | Sinaloa Wren |
| Rufous-bellied Chachalaca | Gray-crowned Woodpecker | Golden Vireo |
| Elegant Quail | Ivory-billed Woodcreeper | Crescent-chested Warbler |
| Mexican Parrotlet | White-striped Woodcreeper | Red-breasted Chat |
| Orange-fronted Parakeet | Black-throated Magpie-Jay | Yellow Grosbeak |
| Mangrove Cuckoo | San Blas Jay | Blue Bunting |
| Mexican Woodnymph | Purplish-backed Jay | Rusty-crowned Ground-Sparrow |
| Citreoline Trogon | | Yellow-winged Cacique |

Birds that we'll make an extra effort to find include . . .

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Bare-throated Tiger-Heron | Military Macaw | Colima Pygmy-Owl |
| Boat-billed Heron | Lesser Roadrunner | Rosy Thrush-Tanager |
| | Rufous-necked Wood-Rail | |

Click on this link for a map of the tour route:

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&msa=0&msid=117812928873209532533.0004665a9c8e1af2173ab&ll=21.5572,-105.212631&spn=0.468103,0.881653&z=11>

[Day-by-day itinerary begins on page 2]

SAN BLAS, MEXICO

10-18 February 2011

Day Agenda

- 1 The tour begins in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. We'll bird some of the marshes in the nearby area, then settle in for the night in Puerto Vallarta.
- 2 We'll make the 3-hour drive north to San Blas, then get our first taste of this west Mexican hotspot by taking a morning walk right from town. We should find our first endemics in the form of **Golden-cheeked Woodpecker**, **Happy** and **Sinaloa Wrens**, the beautiful **Black-throated Magpie-Jay**, and **Yellow-winged Cacique**. In the afternoon we'll take a boat ride on the river to La Tovara, returning after dark. This trip may produce some spectacular birds such as **Boat-billed Heron**, **Bare-throated Tiger-Heron**, **Rufous-necked Wood-Rail**, **Mangrove Cuckoo**, and **Northern Potoo**. The next **SIX NIGHTS** will be at the same location in San Blas.
- 3 This morning we'll take a short van ride to La Bajada to bird a shade-grown coffee plantation. Some of the Mexican endemics we may find here include **Gray-crowned Woodpecker** and **Golden Vireo**. One year we had excellent looks at **Colima Pygmy-Owl**, **San Blas Jay**, and **Red-breasted Chat**. We'll spend the afternoon near town, hopefully ending the day with a spectacular sunset from Fort San Blas.
- 4 An early morning boat ride will take us to Roca Elephante. This small rock island is a roosting site for both **Blue-footed** and **Brown Boobies** and **Red-billed Tropicbirds**. The short sea crossing to the island will give us a chance for several pelagic species. One year we had **Northern Fulmar**, **Black-vented Shearwater**, and **Black Storm-Petrel**. Upon our return we'll stay in the boat and venture into a different mangrove and mudflat area where we have previously found **Rufous-necked Wood-Rail**. The afternoon will again be spent close to San Blas as we explore Shrimp Ponds Road for many **wading birds**, **raptors**, and birds of open country.

There is an excellent
chance of seeing
Red-billed Tropicbird.

- - *Kim & David Schutsky*



[Day 5 begins on page 3]

- 5 Breaking out of the San Blas lowlands for a day, we'll take a picnic lunch to the Cerro de San Juan area, about an hour away. These pine-oak woodlands are home to a different selection of birds. Endemics such as **White-striped Woodcreeper** and **Red-headed Tanager** are common in the roving flocks, as are **Crescent-chested, Red-faced, and Fan-tailed Warblers**. Other possibilities include **Bumblebee Hummingbird** (the world's smallest hummer), **Gray Silky-Flycatcher**, and **Brown-backed Solitaire**. We'll stop at El Mirador del Aguila (Eagle Lookout) on the return to San Blas for an excellent chance to see a flock of rare **Military Macaws**.
- 6 This day will be spent close to San Blas exploring the dirt road from Singayta. This is an excellent spot to find area specialties including **Mexican Parrotlet, Citreoline Trogon, Russet-crowned Motmot, and Red-breasted Chat**. In late afternoon we'll move closer to the coast to look for more **shorebirds** and the endemic **Elegant Quail and Purplish-backed Jay**, if we have not already seen them.
- 7 Today is reserved to catch up on the birds that we may have missed. All of the birding locations that we visit are worth additional time and we'll choose those that will most benefit us. It may be Singayta for **Fan-tailed Warbler**, La Bajada for **Colima Pygmy-Owl**, or back on the river for **potoos and rails**. Our final night in San Blas.
- 8 We'll spend as much time around San Blas as we desire, then work our way toward **Puerto Vallarta** to bird some of the wetlands and new habitats of this area. Our final night will be in Puerto Vallarta for easy access to the airport tomorrow.
- 9 We'll have time for a bit of birding, shopping, and relaxing before departing for our flights home, the end of an **incredible birding adventure** in one of Mexico's premier locations.



We are quite likely to see the unique **Boat-billed Heron** on our boat ride.

- - *Kevin Easley*

[Final details are on page 4]

Leader **Bob Schutsky**, leader of many tropical Bird Treks tours during the past 16 years, will lead this adventure to **San Blas**. Bob has birded Mexico extensively and is anxious to take you to this splendid destination.

Price \$2995 per person from Puerto Vallarta. Single accommodations are available for an extra charge of \$575.

Includes Expert guide service, all ground and boat transportation within Mexico, **ALL meals**, lodging for eight nights, and entrance fees. **ALL tips** are also included in the tour fee, except for anything that you may wish to give to your tour leader(s) and boat captains.

Does not include the cost of departure tax, alcoholic beverages, items of a personal nature, and airfare to and from Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Upon your request our travel agent will arrange your air transportation to insure that we all arrive in Puerto Vallarta at about the same time.

Extra Services We offer the services of our exclusive Bird Treks travel agent, **Lori Heathcote**, in arranging your air travel. Lori has 25 years of experience in the travel industry and is a veteran birder. Contact her through Bailey Travel at **1-800-224-5399**, or you can e-mail her at **lori@baileytravel.com**. By dealing with Lori you have the security of a 24-hour toll-free telephone number in case of any travel emergency. She can also assist you with all pre- and post-tour travel plans. Please discuss any service fees directly with Lori.

Deposit A \$700 deposit will assure your reservation on the tour. The balance is due 10 November 2010.



Brown Booby - - *David Nelson*

Refund & Cancellation With written notice more than 90 days prior to the first day of the tour, 100% of your deposit will be refunded, minus a \$100 service fee. With 30-90 days notice, you will receive a 50% refund of the full cost of the tour. No refund can be made with less than 30 days notice. You will receive a full refund if you provide a replacement for your spot on the tour. No partial refund can be given once a tour begins. We very **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect your full investment. Please contact Access America at **1-800-284-8300** and mention **BIRD TREKS (ACCAM # F021096)**. You can apply by phone or, if you would rather, via the Internet at **www.accessamerica.com**.