

**Birding the Andes and valleys of central Colombia:
Benefit for the Jeff Maurer Chautauqua Research Grant**

John Sterling and Diego Calderon

July 30 – August 13, 2016.

\$6,000 (airfare not included) \$400 *single supplement fee*.

Join expert ornithologist John Sterling and Colombia's top birding guide Diego Calderon on a special trip to central Colombia's best birding sites. In recent years the tremendous growth of birding and general ecotourism along with expanded conservation areas and tourist infrastructure has returned Colombia to the top of the world's birding destinations. With one of the two highest country bird lists in the world, Colombia is once again safe and birders and tour groups have returned in droves to see many species restricted to central Colombia including several newly described to science.

We offer this special trip to five participants with John and Diego as guides for an excellent participant to leader ratio. John has spent many years on research projects in Latin America and has a great deal of knowledge of the ecology of tropical birds. He recently coauthored a handbook for training birding guides in Latin America and the Caribbean. Diego has an unparalleled knowledge of bird distribution, habitat and status in Colombia and is a full time tour guide. We expect to see over 400 species including such spectacular endemics as Cauca Guan (thought to be extinct until rediscovered in early 1990s), Multicolored Tanager, Crested Ant-Tanager, Yellow-eared Parrot, Turquoise Dacnis, Black-and-gold Tanager, Golden-ringed Tanager and many more including new species not yet in field guides. Of course we'll get a chance to see several rare species of antpittas coming to feed in the open at a few sites. Expect excellent photographic opportunities of wildlife and the gorgeous mountain scenery of the Andes and tropical forests. All participants will receive a CD loaded with the best photographs taken by John during the tour (a popular treat on his previous tours to Panama).

If you register for this lifetime opportunity to bird in Colombia, you will also be supporting bird-related research in the Eastern Sierra through the Jeff Maurer Chautauqua Research Grant. If four or more participants book by mentioning the "Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua" John Sterling will donate \$2000.00 to the Jeff Maurer Chautauqua Research Grant. *Birding the Andes* registrants will also have early registration access to 2016 Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua events.

Colombia Tour information: <http://www.sterlingbirds.com/Colombia%20Tour.html>

Detailed itinerary at <http://www.sterlingbirds.com/Colombia%20Tour.pdf>