



**INDIANA AUDUBON**  
SOCIETY, INC. FOUNDED 1898

## **Indiana Audubon 2020 Cuba Birding Tour** **Feb 13-22, 2020**

### **Cuba's Western Mountains, Zapata Peninsula, Northern Archipelago, and Escambray Valley**

You are invited on an exclusive Indian Audubon Society authorized birding tour to Cuba! The program is managed by the US based **Caribbean Conservation Trust, Inc. (CCT)**. In early 2019 CCT staff will begin their 23rd year of managing bird conservation and natural history programs in Cuba. All our trips are legal for U.S. Citizens. Along with IAS Executive Director, Brad Bumgardner, our team will include the esteemed Cuban author & artist Nils Navarro, a bilingual Cuban tour leader and local naturalists in 4 different birding regions. They will guide you through some of the best bird habitat in Cuba, the Caribbean's largest and most ecologically diverse island nation.



In addition to Cuba's incredible birds, we will learn about the ecology and history of regions we visit. Finally, and especially given the ongoing changes in U.S. – Cuban relations, we can expect some degree of inquiry into fascinating aspects of Cuban culture, history, and daily living during our visit.

### **Cuba's Birds**

According to BirdLife International, which has designated 28 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Cuba, "Over 380 bird species have been recorded in Cuba, including 26 which are endemic to the island and 29 considered globally threatened. Due to its large land area and geographical position within the Caribbean, Cuba represents one of the most important countries for Neotropical migratory birds – both birds passing through on their way south (75 species) and those spending the winter on the island (86 species)."



Our itinerary provides opportunities to see many of Cuba's endemic species and subspecies, as listed below. This trip will also focus on the many neotropical migrant species that migrate south to Cuba in the fall, and are abundant in Cuba during the winter months (endemic species and endemic subspecies in italics):

*Bare-legged Owl, Cuban Oriole, Bee Hummingbird, Blue-headed Quail-Dove, Gray-fronted Quail-Dove, Cuban Black Hawk, Cuban Blackbird, Cuban Bullfinch, Cuban Gnatcatcher, Cuban Grassquit, Cuban Green Woodpecker, Cuban Parakeet, Cuban Parrot, Cuban Pewee, Cuban Pygmy-Owl, Cuban Solitaire, Cuban Tody, Cuban Trogon, Cuban Vireo, Fernandina's Flicker, Giant Kingbird, Gundlach's Hawk, Eastern Meadowlark, Cuban Nightjar, Red-shouldered Blackbird, Tawny-*

*shouldered Blackbird, Oriente Warbler, Yellow-headed Warbler, Zapata Wren, Zapata Sparrow, Cuban Crow, Palm Crow, Cuban Emerald, Bahama Mockingbird, Thick-billed Vireo, & Western Spindalis.*

### **Travel Summary**

Our Cuba Bird Survey begins in the forests surrounding Vinales Valley, among Cuba's most dramatic landscapes.

**Cuba's Western Mountains** include two of the country's most diverse and dramatic ranges: The **Sierra de la Rosario**, & **Sierra de los Organos**. We will explore an area common to both ranges in search of western range endemic species of birds and other fauna. The Western Mountains includes habitat unique to much of the world that is often captured in



photos and paintings of rural Cuba. Here we will encounter sub montane seasonal rain forest, pine forest, and tropical karstic forest. A highlight of the trip, we will visit the magical, unusually beautiful karstic landscape of mogotes-- the towering, lushly vegetated, flat-top limestone monoliths that dominate the Organos Mountains. This is the only region in which we will likely see the Cuban Solitaire, Cuban Grassquit, Giant Kingbird, & Olive-capped Warbler. Other potential endemic species for western Cuba include Cuban Oriole, Cuban Blackbird, Cuban Green Woodpecker, Cuban Pygmy-Owl, Cuban Tody, Cuban Trogon, Cuban Vireo, & Yellow-headed Warbler.



We will also explore the diverse wetland region of the **Zapata Peninsula**, Cuba's richest and most important birding destination located in the historic **Bay of Pigs**. This peninsula is a Ramsar Convention (international conservation treaty) designated site and is among the most important wetlands in the West Indies. Here, the best local guides will lead us through protected areas in Cienaga de Zapata National Park and other natural sites off the beaten track. The Zapata Peninsula covers

more than 2800 square miles and features easily accessible, everglades-like ecology and habitat. Framed by the pristine Caribbean coastal environment of the Bay of Pigs, the peninsula features vast open swamp land, low coastal forests, sparkling white sand beaches, healthy and accessible coral reefs, and refreshing natural limestone pools called cenotes. Bee Hummingbird, Cuban Black Hawk, Zapata Wren, Zapata Sparrow, Fernandina's Flicker, Bare-legged Owl, Tawny-shouldered and Blue-headed and Grey-fronted Quail Doves, Red-shouldered Blackbird are among the many birds we will hope to find (3 nights).

**Cayo Coco and Cuba's Atlantic Archipelago** provide excellent birding opportunities on Cuba's Atlantic coast. These previously uninhabited and relatively unexplored islands were connected to the mainland by an 18+ mile causeway completed in 1989. Cuba's academy of sciences

(CITMA) maintains a research facility here. These barrier islands and keys provide unique opportunities for: Cuban Gnatcatcher, Oriente Warbler, Thick-billed Vireo, Bahama Mockingbird, West Indian Whistling Duck, as well as numerous shorebirds and aquatic birds. This region also provides additional opportunities to see rare endemics such as Zapata Sparrow & Gundlach's Hawk. Accommodations are in a modern beachfront resort (2 nights).



**Sancti Spiritus, the Escambray Valley and Caribbean Coast** are a great birding destination. The outskirts of Sancti Spiritus in central Cuba provides a peaceful and welcome location as we move south and east from Cuba's Atlantic coast. This lovely region is surrounded by lush valleys and foothills of the Sierra de Escambray Mountains. From here we will bird the Escambray Valley, bordered on the north by dramatic vistas of Cuba's third largest mountain range, and to the south by the Caribbean Sea and its picturesque coastline. A lunch stop in historic Cienfuegos follows our search for Palm Crow and other resident birds.

Our program concludes in **HAVANA**, among the most authentic colonial cities in the Americas. Upon our return to Havana at the end of the birding program, you will have the option of spending two evenings in Havana, one of Latin America's best preserved and most compelling colonial cities. Our full day **EXTENSION OPTION** in the city **will include all meals, a guided city tour, including a walking tour of Habana Vieja** (Old Havana) and the 4



original plazas, declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1987. Old Havana is like a living museum, and is currently undergoing rapid, energetic change. As a special treat we will also visit the home and private ornithological collection of **Orlando Garrido**, Cuba's most prolific living naturalist and senior author of the Field Guide to the Birds of Cuba.

### **Program Leadership**

Our program is designed and managed in the United States and is professionally staffed and field tested over 20 years in Cuba. We provide participants with informative nature-oriented experiences with the help of our highly skilled local leaders.

#### Full-time U.S. Field Leader -



Brad Bumgardner has visited Cuba on multiple occasions, having spent a month in birding trips on the island. He has also led or assisted tours to Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, as well as numerous United States locations. Brad serves as the current executive director for Indiana Audubon, and has served prior roles as the society's president, vice-president, and has chaired several society committees. Brad's previous experience includes over 10 years with the Indiana DNR as a park naturalist and was named Northwest Indiana's top business leaders under 40.

### Full-time Cuban Field Leader –



Nils Navarro has dedicated his life to the study and conservation of the biodiversity of his native Cuba as well as other areas of the West Indies and Latin America. He holds a degree in Fine Arts and worked for 10 years as a taxonomist and curator in the Museum of Natural History in Holguin, Cuba. An extraordinarily versatile and internationally recognized wildlife artist and illustrator, Nils' work is characterized by refined technique combined with a profound understanding of the biodiversity of the Caribbean Region. Nils is the author and illustrator

of ENDEMIC BIRDS OF CUBA A Comprehensive Field Guide, which will be included in the program cost to all participants. The book contains illustrations as well as photographs, and provides detailed and invaluable information describing habitat, distribution, behavior and physical characteristics of Cuba's 26 endemic birds, and another 22 species endemic to the West Indies.

### **Our Cuban Naturalists**

We work with a very competent team of biologists and museum curators in Cuba. Our full time Cuban birding guide will be with us throughout the program in the field and will assist in finding and identifying birds, as well as providing a broad overview of Cuban natural history. He may share specific information relative to the flora, fauna, geology and other natural features of the environments we visit. Additionally, we will work with regional naturalists from the national parks and biosphere reserves that we visit around the country. We work with a very competent team of biologists, museum curators and naturalists in Cuba. Our full time Cuban biologist and primary Cuban birding guide will be with us throughout the program in the field and will assist in finding and identifying birds, as well as providing a broad overview of Cuban natural history. He may share specific information relative to the flora, fauna, geology and Cuban Pygmy Owl other natural features of the environments we visit. Additionally, we will work with regional naturalists from the national parks and biosphere reserves that we visit around the country.

A Bilingual Cuban Guide will be at our service throughout the program. Along with a professional driver, he or she will be with the group each day to tell us about Cuban history, culture, arts and lifestyle. He/she will also deal with logistics, meals, translation, and other nuts-and-bolts aspects of the travel experience.

### **Accommodations**

Accommodations feature hotels in Havana and 4 additional provinces. Our Cuban accommodations are staffed by friendly hosts and in the countryside represent the best Cuba has to offer in the regions we visit. These may include refurbished vintage hotels, modern resort hotels, and simple beach-front bungalows. All accommodations are safe, clean, air-conditioned tourist facilities. It should be noted that standards in Cuba differ from those in the U.S. and other developed countries.

### **Physical Demands and Expectations**

This program offers opportunities for several days of ambitious birding, early departure times on birding days, and occasional evening sessions. Birding days may provide leisure time after lunch



and before our afternoon birding sessions. Physical exertion will be light to moderate most days, with the longest walks approximately 3 miles. Terrain is mostly flat and dry, with some hills present in western Cuba. Participants should be in reasonably good physical condition and prepared for strong sun, with temperatures in the mid-70s – 90s. Mosquitoes can be bothersome in Cayo Coco and the Zapata Region. Although unlikely, rain may occur as well, so bring adequate rain gear. Those with medical concerns should check with their physician before taking part in the program. Your health and well-being are very important to us!

## **Registration, Trip Costs, Terms, and Conditions**

**\$4,395.00 per person IAS Member. \$4,495.00 per person non-IAS Member.**

**Single Supplement: \$495.00**

*\$100 surcharge for credit card payments*

Land costs for this program are **\$4,395.00** per person for shared accommodations, with an additional \$495.00 for Single supplements. **A portion of proceeds help support future IAS publications.** Registration must be accompanied by an **\$ 700.00 per person deposit payable to Indiana Audubon Society.** Deposits must be received within 1 week of registration. Enrollment is limited to 14 participants. IAS Cuba programs have historically sold out very quickly. Fewer than 12 participants may result in a small group supplement. Our very popular 1 day/night Havana Extension is \$ 265.00 per person sharing (\$ 75 single supplement)

### **What is included:**

CCT Cuba Bird Survey Programs include the following: all accommodations, all meals in Cuba beginning with dinner on day 1, ending with breakfast on the last day of the program, guide services, most tips (guides, drivers, naturalists and restaurant and bell staff), airport/hotel transfers, ground transportation, bottled water, some drinks, admission fees (itinerary only), U.S. Department of Treasury authorization documents, and program management services which include the provision of all pre- and post-program materials, a full-time Cuban bilingual guide, bilingual Cuban naturalists, and a fulltime driver. Program fees help support Caribbean Conservation Trust's bird conservation efforts in Cuba.



### **Not Included:**

Travel to Cuba (approximately \$ 250.00 round trip between Florida & Cuba; Cuban Visa (\$ 50); items of a personal nature such as laundry, phone calls, additional beverages, bar and housekeeping tips, etc., U.S. passport fees, meals or accommodations outside Cuba, or other fees not listed in the program. Cost estimates are as of December 2018 and are subject to change.

### **Flights**

We plan to arrive in Cuba on a direct flight from South Florida. The best arrangements we have experienced on Southwest Airlines from Fort Lauderdale. No flights are included. Airlines tend to offer flight for booking no more than 6 months prior to departure. Our driver and guide will meet the groups at the airport upon arrival.

## **Travel Insurance Policy**

Any U.S. citizen traveling internationally should consider insurance protection. Reasonably priced coverage is available to provide protection against financial loss due to trip cancellation or delay due to weather or other circumstances beyond our control, as well as lost baggage.

Although uncommon, cancellations due to illness, accidents, work-related schedule changes, and other unplanned or unwelcome events have happened. Other considerations include recent contractions in the airline industry, which have led to a reduction in the number of available flights domestically and internationally. Sometimes these reductions come on very short notice and can result in missed connections or significant delay. Unforeseen events which you have little or no control over can also effect travel plans. All of these factors make trip cancellation insurance a very important consideration.

If you are interested in buying a policy from **TRAVELEX**, call 1 800-228-9792. Be sure to reference the agent code **07-0067**, for Caribbean Conservation Trust. **Travelex**, has a copy of our current license, issued to Caribbean Conservation Trust. If asked, the category our license falls under is **HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS**. Using the agent code above should be enough to satisfy your connection to our authorization.

## **Payment**

A \$700.00 deposit must be received within 1 week following online registration to reserve space on this trip. Please send checks payable to:

### **IAS Cuba Trip**

#### **Indiana Audubon Society**

85 Old Hickory Lane  
Valparaiso, IN 46385

*(do not write Cuba on the check memo)*



## **Balance Payment and cancellation and refund policy**

Full payment is due 120 days prior to departure. You will receive a detailed receipt/invoice following receipt of your deposit and reservation form. All cancellations must be done in writing and are effective upon receipt to IAS. Should it become necessary for you to cancel, all payments, minus deposits, will be refunded after a deduction of our cancellation fee outlined below:

*More than 120 days prior to the tour..... \$ 200.00 per person (land only)*

*Fewer than 120 days prior to the tour... FULL DEPOSIT (unless we can fill your place)*

*75 days prior to departure No refunds (unless we can fill your place)*

\*Please be aware that the refund policies apply only to the land portion of the trip, and that airlines may have different policies that exist beyond our ability to control. Additional registration fees may apply. As with all international travel programs, we highly encourage trip cancellation and travel insurance policies.

Caribbean Conservation Trust and its agents and constituents reserve the right to make changes to the itineraries. Land and air arrangements may be subject to price increases beyond our control.

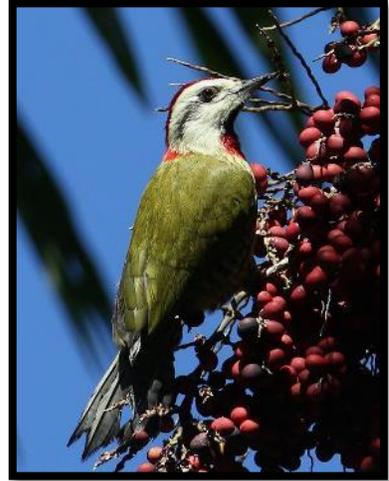


**Indiana Audubon 2020 Cuba Birding Tour**  
**Feb 13-22, 2020**

**Cuba's Western Mountains, Zapata Peninsula, Northern Archipelago, and Escambray Valley**

**Detailed Itinerary**

**Day 1- February 13, 2020 (Thursday)** arrive Havana, transfer to Vinales National Park After arrival in Havana by early afternoon, we will transfer to Vinales (1 night). Vinales is a small town nestled in a stunning valley in the heart of Cuba's renowned tobacco growing region. This enchanting landscape is surrounded by lushly vegetated 'mogotes', or blunt, ragged limestone monoliths that dominate the region. Endemic birds such as Cuban Tody, Cuban Green Woodpecker, Yellow-headed Warbler, Cuban Trogon, Cuban Pygmy-Owl and Cuban Solitaire will be among the birds we pursue in this region. Our afternoon concludes with a visit to the private home and art studio of Nils Navarro – our coleader, and Cuba's best natural artist. Optional evening visit to the mouth of a local cave to witness the exit of thousands of endemic and regionally endemic bats, and search for the endemic Cuban Bare-legged Owl. Dinner and accommodation at in Vinales (1 night).



**Day 2- February 14, 2020** Vinales to Sierra de la Rosario Biosphere Reserve Morning birding nearby within the park. In addition to the birds mentioned above, we will look for Cuban Blackbird, Tawny-shouldered Blackbird, Cuban Emerald, Loggerhead Kingbird, and Red-legged Honeycreeper. Lunch will be at a successful farm to table restaurant run by a local family. After lunch we will motor east to La Moka (1 night), nestled in the forest and foothills of the Sierra de la Rosario mountains. Accommodation is in a tranquil and comfortable small eco-hotel that is part of las Terrazas ecological community. After generations of deforestation and neglect, this beautiful natural area was nationalized in the 1960s, and a small, experimental ecological community was established. The region was the former site of over 50 coffee plantations in the late 18th and 19th centuries, was later heavily logged, and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1985. The now reforested biosphere reserve helps protect close to 850 endemic plant species and 98 bird species, including 11 of Cuba's 26 endemic bird species, Optional evening excursion in search of 2 endemic owls (Cuban Pygmy & Bare-legged Owl) close to the lobby.

**Day 3- February 15, 2020** Las Terrazas to Zapata Peninsula Breakfast followed by a walk along forest paths to the nearby community Cuban Grassquit and Olive-capped Warbler are important target species. Along the way our local naturalist will point out birds and other fauna we encounter as we explore native pine forest and submontane seasonal rain forest habitat. Lunch is at Cafetal Buena Vista, offering sweeping views of the mountains, plains and coast. Departure

east to the Zapata Peninsula (4 hours). Birding stops along the way as opportunity permits. Accommodation / dinner in private home stays in Playa Larga (3 nights) on the picturesque Bay of Pigs. This region contains the largest wetland complex in the West Indies and is Cuba's most prolific birding region. Here we have access to excellent local guides, as well as to protected areas and birding locations off the beaten track.

**Day 4- February 16, 2020** Zapata Peninsula Early breakfast and a morning of birding in a nature preserve adjacent to the small village of Bermejas. Here is our best opportunity to see the endemic Bee Hummingbird (world's smallest bird), Fernandina's Flicker, Bare-legged Owl, Cuban Parakeet, Cuban Parrot, Blue-headed and Gray-fronted Quail-Doves, Key West and Ruddy Quail Doves. Lunch at Caleta Buena, a beautiful limestone rimmed inlet abundant with fish and excellent snorkeling opportunities. The historic Bay of Pigs museum is nearby. Afternoon birding in Bermejas, dinner/accommodation in Playa Larga.



**Day 5- February 17, 2020** Zapata Peninsula Early breakfast and departure for birding within Zapata National Park and a morning walk along a dry roadway in the swamp at La Turba. This is our best opportunity for Zapata Wren, Zapata Sparrow, Red-shouldered Blackbird and Tawny-shouldered Blackbird and a variety of warblers and other migrants. Lunch and a trip to Las Salinas Wildlife Refuge, with numerous shorebirds, Reddish Egrets, Wood Storks, Spoonbills, Flamingos and endemic Cuban BlackHawk. All walking is on dry, flat terrain (less than 2 miles total). Dinner at a private restaurant in the village, accommodation in Playa Larga.

**Day 6- February 18, 2020** Zapata to Cayo Coco Breakfast, check out, and birding options within the protected areas of the park, based on leader discretion. Late morning drive northeast to Cayo Coco (6 + hours) in Cuba's northern archipelago, the setting for Hemingway's Islands in the Stream. The 'keys' offer excellent birding, scenery, and accommodation. All-inclusive beachfront accommodation and meals at Sol Cayo Coco hotel. Birding on site or en route (or both), depending on timing of arrival.



**Day 7- February 19, 2020** Cayo Coco Morning birding on Cayo Paredon Grande, the northeastern-most key in the Cayo Coco archipelago, which is one of Cuba's most important migratory landfalls. Cuban Gnatcatcher, Oriente Warbler, Scaly-naped Pigeon, Thick-billed Vireo and possibly a subspecies of Zapata Sparrow and the Bahama Mockingbird are target birds for the day. Lunch at the hotel followed by afternoon birding on Cayo Guillermo in mixed habitat including coastal forest, mangrove flats, low coastal scrub, and pristine white sand shoreline (roadside, flat walking). Dinner, accommodation in Cayo Coco.

**Day 8- February 20, 2020** Cayo Coco to Sancti Spiritus AM birding not far from our hotel for any species we may have missed. Late check out followed by lunch in Cayo Coco and drive to Sancti Spiritus (3 + hours) for dinner and accommodation at Rancho Hatuey in the peaceful countryside.

**Day 9- February 21, 2020** Sancti Spiritus – Cienfuegos Coast - Havana Morning departure west through the scenic Escambray Valley in search of Palm Crow, a 'future' endemic recorded here recently by our groups. Other birding stops en route. Departure west along the striking coastline, with lunch in Cienfuegos Province on the coast. Late day arrival in Havana for accommodation and dinner.



**Day 10- February 22, 2020** Havana – U.S OR HAVANA EXTENSION The optional extended stay in Havana will include accommodation, breakfast, lunch, and a guided tour of Havana, including historic Old Havana, one of the best-preserved colonial cities in the Americas. The walking tour will include a guided interpretive exploration of some of colonial Havana's most significant historical sites. This **UNESCO World Heritage site** is loaded with a variety of museums, a thriving arts scene, and a full range of architectural examples of both renovated and neglected structures,



many opulent or otherwise unique, representing 5 centuries of human habitation. The extension also includes visit the home and private ornithological collection of **Orlando Garrido**, Cuba's greatest living naturalist. Sr. Garrido is a retired and venerable former Curator of Birds at the National Museum of Natural History in Havana, and senior author of the Field Guide to the Birds of Cuba as well as hundreds of scientific publications. This visit is always mentioned as a trip highlight. Lunch

is in Old Havana. Late afternoon is open for independent exploration of this fascinating and historic small city. Accommodation in Havana. Dinner at one of Havana's best 'paladares' (private restaurants).

**Day 11- February 23, 2020** Havana – U.S. Breakfast and morning transfer to Jose Marti International Airport for your return flight to Florida.

## **INDIANA AUDUBON TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

We believe it is best to begin with a clear written understanding of our respective responsibilities and obligations. Please read the entire document and select "I/we have read and understood these terms and conditions" to continue with the booking process. If you prefer, you can request a paper booking form, fill it out, sign it, and return it by fax or mail. We will not consider your booking confirmed until we receive both your completed booking form and your deposit (or full payment for late bookings). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us by e-mail at [bbumgardner@indianaaudubon.org](mailto:bbumgardner@indianaaudubon.org) or by phone at (219)-928-6905 (US & Canada) INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY undertakes to create a trip itinerary, to provide a trip leader to guide expeditions, and to arrange for all travel services and accommodation. INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY reserves the right to substitute other suppliers of arranged services, and to alter the itinerary when deemed necessary or advisable. The passage contract used by the airline shall constitute the trip participant's sole contract regarding international air travel and is not a contract with INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY.

### **TRIP PRICE**

The price of the trip includes all accommodation, ground transport as required by the itinerary, tour materials and the service(s) of a leader, entrance fees to parks and reserves mentioned on the itinerary, as well as meals as indicated on the final itinerary. Exclusions to prices are noted on your itinerary or are designated as optional activities. The price represents a complete package; itemization of individual costs is not available. Not included are flights between your home and the tour's starting and ending destinations. Travel expenses such as departure taxes, passports, visas, immunizations, insurance, medical costs, evacuation, optional excursions, room service, minibar, laundry, excess baggage, telephone calls and expenses of a purely personal nature are not included. Any expenses arising from the delay, disruption or extension of a trip due to causes beyond INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY'S control are not included. Tips to the Indiana Audubon Society tour leader are not included. If you have questions about what is or is not included in your tour, please do not hesitate to contact us. A special note on trip reports: Our guides write trip reports for many of the tours, but due to time constraints, busy schedules, and other reasons, a trip report cannot be produced for every tour. Indiana Audubon Society cannot guarantee that a trip report will be written for any tour.

### **TRIP PRICE INCREASE**

Due to a variety of possible circumstances beyond our control, the total trip cost is subject to change, although this is only as a last resort. Participants will be notified if any changes to the trip cost will be incurred. INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY tries its best to anticipate the rising costs of service in every country it operates, but when unexpected increases occur we will reserve the right to increase our price by 10% of the tour price. If greater increases are necessary, participants will be allowed to withdraw from the tour without cancellation penalty. If you wish to avoid the cost of a single room (single supplement), we will attempt to find a roommate for you, but please be aware that this is not always possible, and if we are unable to find a suitable roommate for you, you will be required to pay the single supplement. Please note rooming preferences will be honored to the best of our ability, but not guaranteed. In some locations, such as remote field stations or very small lodges, single rooms may not be available, and sharing arrangements need to be accommodated. Whenever INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY is aware of these situations, participants will always be informed prior to booking. When unexpected sharing must occur (particularly in remote locations where communication is difficult) the lack of availability at a particular hotel or lodge is usually not notified to us in advance and is only discovered on arrival. Under these circumstances, your leader(s) will do their best to accommodate the group's preferences.

### **RESERVATIONS and PAYMENTS**

To secure your reservation, we require a deposit as well as the signing of the booking form including the assumption of risk and liability release, either electronically or handwritten on a

paper form. DEPOSITS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE IF YOU DECIDE TO CANCEL YOUR TOUR. If INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY cancels a tour, deposits are almost always refundable; please refer to the section on CANCELLATIONS below. INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY reserves the right to refuse or decline bookings for any reason whatsoever, at its sole discretion. A booking is accepted only from the date that INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY has confirmed acceptance in writing and received your booking form and payment. Only at this point does the contract between the participant and INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY come into existence. If payments are not received according to the payment schedule outlined in the invoice, INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY reserves the right to treat these bookings as canceled and charge cancellation fees as outlined in this booking form. For tours to all international destinations, the full balance is due 90 days prior to the starting date of the tour. Payments for bookings made less than 90 days prior to departure are due in full at the time of booking. We accept payments by check, bank draft, or bank-to-bank (wire) transfer. Credit cards payments may require additional credit card processing fees and must be paid by participant if this is the preferred method of payment. All checks must be in US dollars and drawn on a US bank. For payments by wire transfer, you must instruct your bank to cover all bank charges involved in sending the wire. In many instances, an intermediary bank will deduct additional charges, which are deducted from the total that is transmitted to our account. If this is a small amount (US \$25 or less), we will absorb it, but if the charges are more than US \$25, INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY will invoice you for the charges.

#### INSURANCE

All trip participants are responsible for their own personal travel insurance to cover accident, medical expense, evacuation, repatriation, and loss of effects. We suggest you check your health policy to determine if it provides any overseas coverage (most do not). In addition, we strongly recommend trip cancellation/interruption coverage. We cannot stress how important this is to protect your investment. Please note that most traveler insurance companies require policies to be purchased within a short period following booking, depending on the insurer, so bear this in mind when booking and applying for travel insurance.

#### CHANGE OF ITINERARY or LEADER

INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY reserves the right to make tour changes if the need should arise due to unforeseen circumstances or for safety reasons. If the trip leader/guide determines it is best to deviate from the activities described in the trip program, he/she will make reasonable efforts to substitute an activity of comparable interest and satisfaction to the trip participants. If significant changes are necessary prior to the start of any tour, participants will be informed. If a change of itinerary or operation mode is imposed upon us for any reason, such as airline strikes, weather or political unrest, the additional costs, whatever these may be, shall be the participants' responsibility. Finally, INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY reserves the right to reassign or substitute any of its leaders to any tour.

#### GROUP SIZE

A suitable maximum group size to enjoy a tour will depend very much upon the location and type of habitats visited. The tour pages on the Indiana Audubon Society website state the maximum group size for each tour, or you may contact us and ask. All but a very few of our tours are limited to 8-12 participants and one leader.

#### MEDICAL CARE

All applicants with medical problems that could interfere or limit participation in the tour, or with communicable diseases, are required to make them known to us. The trip leader/guide has the right to disqualify anyone at any time from certain activities, if he/she has reason to believe that the person is not capable of safely participating in the activity. INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY makes no representation that there will be a doctor on any trip, and we assume no liability whatsoever regarding provision of medical care. If a participant is injured or becomes ill, INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY or the trip leader/guide may, at the participant's cost, arrange medical evacuation or other emergency services.

## RESTRICTIONS AND PARTICIPATION

Our tours do not normally entail very strenuous activity but, if this cannot be avoided, it will be made clear in the tour details. Nevertheless, participants must be able to complete moderate walks of several miles a day, sometimes on uneven or slippery surfaces, to participate fully in the activities of the tour. To cater for the needs of all clients, our tours sometimes involve long days in the field and traveling long distances.

## AUTHORITY OF TRIP LEADER/GUIDE

Please let the trip leader/guide know of any problems or dissatisfaction; he/she will usually be able to remedy the situation. If a schedule change is necessary, he/she will ordinarily consult with trip participants. However, on matters relating to the safety and proper conduct of the trip, the leader's decision is final. INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY accepts no responsibility for a participant who breaks the laws or regulations of any country visited, who is judged detrimental to the safety or welfare of others on the trip, or whose behavior impedes the operation of the trip or the rights, welfare or enjoyment of other trip participants. Such a person may be asked to leave the trip and INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY shall not be liable for any additional expenses incurred by a person excluded from further participation on a trip, including, but not limited to, ground costs and airfares.

## TRAVELER'S RESPONSIBILITY

Trip participants' responsibilities include: selecting a trip appropriate to their interests and abilities; determining that destinations and activities are appropriate for them; determining that they are in sufficient health and fitness to undertake the trip and activities along the way; acquiring necessary passports, visas and immunizations; securing adequate insurance coverage; bringing appropriate clothing and equipment; passing through customs. Participants are responsible for the fate of all personal belongings they choose to bring on the trip.

## DOCUMENTATION

For tours outside of your country of citizenship, a passport valid for six months after the date of completion of your international travel is required for all trips. Many countries require foreign visitors to obtain a visa before they can enter the country. It is the responsibility of the traveler to determine their visa requirements for all destinations and countries visited within a tour, though INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY can help you with this upon request.

## CANCELLATION BY TRAVELER

We require written notice of cancellation (email or fax), which is effective upon receipt by us. If you need to cancel your booking, you must inform us immediately via email or fax and we will confirm your cancellation. Based on the date that we acknowledge your cancellation notice, cancellation fees will apply per person. This policy and fee schedule also applies to pre-trip and post-trip extensions as well as any transfers from one tour extension to another. For cancellations of all other tours received 90 days or more prior to the first day of the tour, your cancellation fee will be your deposit (120 days in certain trips, detailed in specific trip description). For cancellations of all other tours received 89 days or less prior to the first day of the tour, your cancellation fee will be the full cost of the tour. Please note that bank charges may be deducted from the refund you receive. INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY cannot waive or reduce cancellation fees, so it is highly recommended that you purchase trip cancellation/interruption insurance.

## CANCELLATION BY INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY

We always try to run a tour, and sometimes at a loss, even if few people have signed up. Certain tours are designated as "guaranteed departures" which means they will never be cancelled due to insufficient bookings. Trip cancellations by Indiana Audubon Society are a matter of last resort. However, we simply cannot run some tours without a minimum number of bookings, and if we fail to reach that number we will be forced to cancel the tour. If this should happen, you will receive a full refund of any payment made. Participants should note that the cancellation of a pre- or post-

tour extension due to insufficient participation, or any other reason, does not alter your rights and obligations with respect to the main tour. INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY'S responsibilities are limited to ground services only. Airfares may not be refundable from airlines, so we strongly advise tour participants to obtain travel insurance.

**TOUR ANNULMENT DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND INDIANA AUDUBON CONTROL**  
If a tour cannot commence due to circumstances beyond our control, including but not limited to technical or maintenance problems with transport, changes imposed by rescheduling or cancellation by air or sea carriers, government action, industrial dispute, war or threat of war, civil strife, terrorist activity, riot, natural or man-made disaster, severe weather conditions, or any situation considered threatening to the safety of our participants and/or staff, the tour will be annulled. In the event of an annulment, then INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY will refund all payments minus all expenses incurred by us. Where non-refundable prepayment has been made by INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY, most of the tour costs will not be refundable. In these instances, documentation will be provided by Indiana Audubon Society to allow participants to make a claim on their travel cancellation/interruption insurance. Keep in mind that many travel insurance policies will not cover civil unrest however. Also note that we cannot be responsible for any airline cancellation fees or other travel expenses you may face if the tour you signed up for is disrupted. For this reason, we strongly advise tour participants to obtain travel insurance.

**IAS International Trip Terms and Conditions Acknowledgement**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date