

What's Inside:

Argentina.....	3,5	Britain, SE.....	6	Ethiopia.....	6	Patagonia.....	5
Brazil, Amazonas.....	3	Cuba.....	1,3	Galápagos.....	5	Sichuan.....	1
Brazil, SE.....	3	China (Beidaihe).....	3	India (Peninsular).....	4	Sri Lanka.....	4
		Colorado Grouse.....	7	Madagascar.....	3	Venezuela.....	7

Ornifolks

*Networking Birders
with Destinations*

Volume 7, Issue 2

October 2000

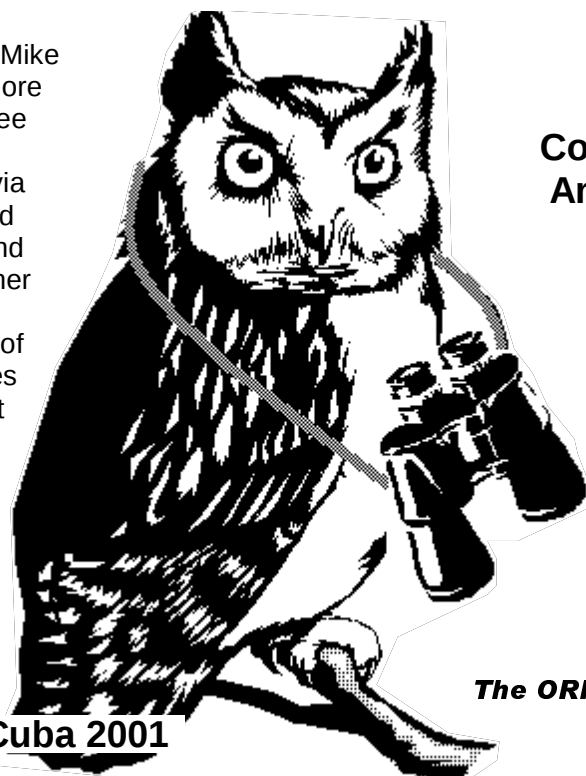
Sichuan Report

Rod Martins led a successful trip to Sichuan, China in June. With Chris Bradshaw, Ken Cole, Mark Elwonger, Mike Flieg and Tom Pucelik participating, more than 240 species were recorded in three weeks. Taking us from Chengdu to Wolong, up onto the Tibetan Plateau via Hongyuan, then over to Jiuzhaigou and finally to Emei Shan, Rod helped us find ten species of *Phasianidae* (with another three heard), thirteen species of *Phylloscopus* warblers, nine species of *Garrulax* Laughingthrushes, six species of *Paradoxornis* (Parrotbills), and eight species of *Carpodacus* Rosefinches.

Highlights of the trip included:

- A male Temminck's Tragopan walking onto the road behind our parked van, just minutes after we first ascended above 2,200m.

continued on p2....



Trips on tap:

Patagonia
Cuba
England, SE
Morocco
Colorado (Grouse)
Amazonian Brazil
Ethiopia
Madagascar
Beidaihe
Peninsular India
Sri Lanka
Galápagos

Spaces Still Available for Cuba 2001

Our popular Cuba trips fill quickly so don't delay sending in your deposit if you want to attend. Led by Guy Kirwan and Arturo Kirkconnell, the 9-day itinerary will sweep the island for its 21 endemics (plus several incipient species), and a host of near-endemics as well. All of the endemics are routinely recorded, although Gundlach's Hawk can be difficult. Even Zapata Rail has been heard on several of our previous trips. Cuba is also a great place to see near-endemics that are difficult on other islands. We will only be offering one trip in 2001, but two or more visits will be scheduled in 2002. Watch this space.

**The ORNIFOLKS Website has
improved!
The address is**

<http://www.members.tripod.com/elwonger.mark/Ornifolks.htm>

Prices now available for, and deposits now due, for

- ⇒ Patagonia.....21 days.....\$3,000
- ⇒ SE England.....4 days.....\$450
- ⇒ Morocco (full).....14 days.....\$1,700
- ⇒ Cuba.....9 days.....\$1,500
- ⇒ Colorado (Grouse).....8 days.....\$675
- ⇒ Amazonian Brazil.....24 days.....\$3,300

January 14-22, 2001

\$1,500

<u>Destination</u>	<u>Start Date (No. of days)</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Organizer/Leader</u>
Patagonia	Nov 27, 2000 (21)	\$3,000	Mike Flieg
Cuba	Jan 14, 2001 (9)	\$1,500	Mike Flieg
SE England	Feb 26, 2001 (4)	\$450	Chris Bradshaw
Morocco (wait-listed)	March 2, 2001 (14)	\$1,700	Chris Bradshaw
Brazil (Amazonia)	Aug 23, 2001 (24)	~\$3,300	tba
Colorado (Grouse)	April 15, 2001 (8)	\$675	Mike Flieg
Ethiopia	October 2001 (24)	~\$3,000	Merid Nega Gabremicael
SE Brazil	September 21, 2001 (27)		Juan Mazar Barnett
Madagascar	October 2001 (24)	~\$3,600	Guy Eldridge
Beidaihe	Oct (tba)		tba
Argentina, Northern	October 25, 2001 (25)		Juan Mazar Barnett
South Africa	November 2001 (12)		tba
India (Bandhavgarh)	Jan 2, 2002 (6)	\$750	Chris Bradshaw
India (Peninsular)	Jan 7, 2002 (20)	\$3,400	Chris Bradshaw
India (Andamans)	Jan 26, 2002 (4)	\$850	Chris Bradshaw
Sri Lanka	Jan 31, 2002 (6)		Chris Bradshaw
Irian Jaya	February 2002		tba
Galápagos	March 2002		Travis MacClendon
Peru– Tumbes NP	May 10, 2002 (5)		Barry Walker
Peru– Northern	May 15, 2002 (21)		Barry Walker
Dates indicated here are the dates you will be arriving and meeting the group at the port of entry. Dates may slide a day or so due to flight availability, please confirm with us before making your reservations. Prices given do not include international air fare.			

Juan Mazar Barnett joins the Ornifolks “Leader” Squad

Juan Mazar Barnett hails from Buenos Aires, Argentina, although he is currently working on his degree in England. His birding interests, however, remain firmly rooted in the Neotropics, where he has travelled extensively throughout his native country, as well as in eastern Brazil, and he is also developing an increasing knowledge of the birds of Bolivia and Chile. Juan is particularly interested in the vocalisations (already having established a strong library of recordings), taxonomy and distribution of the birds of this region of the world, the so-called southern cone. Together with Mark Pearman, he has recently completed a checklist to the birds of Argentina, which is being published by Lynx Edicions. A frequent contributor to the literature on birds, especially in his native Argentina, Juan is also a fluent linguist, being proficient in Portuguese and English, as well as his native Spanish. We are pleased to note that his studies will be completed in time for him to take charge of our 2001 SE Brazil and Argentina trips.

(Continued from page 1)

- Scope views of three White Eared-Pheasants foraging on the montane slopes
- Hearing Wood Snipe displaying in the cloudbank immediately overhead, until one finally broke into sight for reasonable (some would say appalling) looks
- A Tibetan Snowcock exploding into evasive flight after an approach by a Golden Eagle
- Long, careful studies of a migrant Slaty-breasted Rail at 3,000m in Jiuzhaigou
- Sixteen Black-necked Cranes sharing the Tibetan

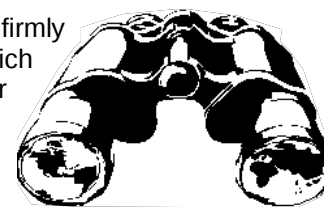
grasslands with Upland Buzzards, Tibetan Ground-Jays and Tibetan Larks

- Long looks at a male Firethroat on territory
- Several encounters with furtive Rufous-headed Robins
- Long studies of Barred and Snowy-cheeked (Sukatshev's) Laughingthrushes
- Slaty Buntings feeding young at two locations

These events, combined with comfortable motels and good food, made the Sichuan trip a memorable one and an experience that should be repeated for interested Ornifolks members.

Southeastern Brazil to be repeated

September 24-October 20. Brazil is now firmly established as one of our classic trips, which always provides excellent opportunities for



seeing a wide range of endemics and globally threatened birds. We will begin our exploration of the endemic-rich south-east in the montane and lowland forests of Itatiaia and Ubatuba, which support a host of threatened birds. Turning inland into the campos of the planalto, where the highlight shall be the rich avifauna of the Serra da Canastra National Park, including the critically threatened Brazilian Merganser. Further north in Minas Gerais, we will visit Pirapora and Januária, two areas rarely visited by foreign birders and tours, where some of the least known species await us, including the recently rediscovered Minas Gerais Tyrannulet, Henna-capped Foliage-gleaner, Great Xenops, the rare Moustached Woodcreeper, Reiser's Tyrannulet and newly described Caatinga Nighthawk. After visiting the caatinga of NE Minas, where Slender Antbird and Narrow-billed Antwren have recently been found, we'll turn south to Cipó National Park, to search for a new suite of endemics, before heading to the forest reserves of Espírito Santo. This final leg of the trip will encompass searches for the spectacular Cherry-throated Tanager, a host of cotingids, including both berryeaters, and Red-billed Curassow. Finally, we will return to Rio de Janeiro, pausing briefly for the range-restricted Restinga Antwren. This, slightly revised and longer, itinerary will occupy 27 days (it will be possible for those with limited time to miss the final week) and is a must for the serious endemic hunter. Price to be announced, although pre-registration (please include a \$100 deposit) is possible. Contact Juan Mazar Barnett, at J.Mazar.Barnett@uea.ac.uk, or GMF for details.

Northern Argentina to be offered in 2001

October 25-November 18. This will be our second trip to Argentina, where we will concentrate on the northern half of the country, mainly dedicating our time to sierran and Andean habitats. Our first stop will be in the endemic centre of the Córdoba Mountains, where highlights include a host of furnariid taxa. Specialities such as Spot-winged Falconet and Black-bodied Woodpecker are also possible in the area. After visiting the salt-plains further north, where the endemic Salinas Monjita and a number of other interesting species occur, we will head to Tucumán province. Here we will visit the upper yungas and páramo biomes, both highly rich in endemic or globally threatened species, such as Rufous-throated Dipper, Tucumán Mountain-Finch, Scribble-tailed Canastero and Yellow-striped Brush-finch. In Salta province we will continue visiting higher elevation areas, looking for the poorly known Rufous-bellied Saltator, before briefly searching the lowland Chaco scrub for Black-legged Seriema and Quebracho Crested-Tinamou. In Jujuy, we visit the spectacular Calilegua National Park, well known for its rich avifauna, the highlights being White-throated Antpitta, Alder Amazon, Lyre-tailed Nightjar, a host of owls and more. The trip will culminate with a climb to the Quebrada de Humahuaca into the barren and breathtaking puna landscape. Here we should find a large number of specialities, such as several yellow-finches, Puna Miner, Andean Negrito and the rich waterbird communities, including three species of flamingoes and the rare Horned Coot.

Upon returning to Buenos Aires, we will spend our final few days in the wet marshes and savannas of Entre Ríos province looking for Saffron-cowled Blackbird, Black-and-white Monjita and several threatened seedeaters. The itinerary will occupy 25 days. Price to be announced, although pre-registration (please include a \$100 deposit) is possible. Contact Juan Mazar Barnett, at J.Mazar.Barnett@uea.ac.uk, or GMF for details.

Madagascar Slated for October 2001

Our trip for this year failed to make, but not for lack of interest. The trip failed to go because people waited too long to sign up. Trips to places like Madagascar take months of planning and reservations should be made months in advance. Nevertheless, the prospect for a trip in 2001 appears good. *Please sign up before May if you are interested.*

There is some camping involved, but our ground agent makes every effort to make us comfortable and keep us well-fed on this trip to the rainforests and thorn forests of the island. Guy Eldridge will line up the best local guides to assure the group will have the best chances possible for the scarce and sometimes difficult ground-rollers, vangas and other endemics.

If you missed our fantastic trip in 1999, sign up early and take advantage of our experience birding this remote and fascinating tropical island.

Beidaihe Being Considered for October 2001

We've been approached by a Chinese ticket agent who is offering us incredible air fares and surface rates for a birding trip to Beidaihe (Hebei Province, Eastern China) for fall migration. Beidaihe has long been a popular destination for European birders to round out their Asian lists, but is little visited by North American birders. We think we can do this trip from San Francisco for about \$2,500 for seventeen days, or about \$2,000 for eleven days, including international flights. If interested, contact us and we'll set up some dates.

Peninsular India Jan 2002

Chris Bradshaw (chris@northkentbirding.freeseve.co.uk) has spent nearly three months birding and leading groups in peninsula India and is preparing to lead a group of Ornifolks to this tropical subcontinent of Asia. The winter (dry) season will offer comfortable weather and the chance for wintering Asian passerines, but the itinerary will be driven by the need to see as many as possible of the forty or so peninsular endemics. Dates for the trip are January 7-26 2002, with a pre-trip extension to Bandhavgarh for Tiger, beginning on January 2, and an Andaman Island

post-trip extension running from 27 to 30 January. We'll be hiring a ground agent from Raj Singh's company, used by most UK birding tours; Raj is the co-author of *Birdwatcher's Guide to India*; unfortunately our choice of cheap hotels will be limited since we will be staying in the proximity of national parks. The price of \$3,400 for the 20-day segment is from Hyderabad to Cochin. The itinerary shall include Rollapadu, Cuddapah, Nagarhole, Ooty, Top Slip, and Periyar.

Sri Lanka

Finally, Sri Lanka and its 19 endemics will be offered from January 31 to about February 6.

TARGETS FROM PENINSULAR INDIA

Rock Bush-Quail	Endemic
Painted Bush-Quail	Endemic
Red Spurfowl	Endemic
Gray Junglefowl	Endemic, near-threatened
Ferruginous Pochard	Vulnerable
White-cheeked Barbet	Endemic
...'Crimson-fronted' Barbet	Endemic
Malabar Gray-Hornbill	Endemic, near-threatened
Indian Gray-Hornbill	Endemic
Malabar Parakeet	Endemic
White-rumped Spinetail	Endemic
Nilgiri Wood-Pigeon	Endemic, near-threatened
Pale-Capped Pigeon	Vulnerable
Indian Bustard	Endemic
Jerdon's Courser	Endemic
Greater Spotted Eagle	Vulnerable
Spot-billed Pelican	Vulnerable
Lesser Adjutant	Vulnerable
White-bellied Treepie	Endemic, near-threatened
...'Spot-breasted' Fantail	Endemic
Malabar Whistling-Thrush	Endemic
Rusty-bellied Shortwing	Vulnerable
Kashmir Flycatcher	Near-endemic, vulnerable
Black-and-rufous Flycatcher	Endemic, near-threatened
Nilgiri Flycatcher	Endemic, near-threatened
White-Bellied Blue-Flycatcher	Endemic, near-threatened
Bank Myna	Endemic
Black-lored Tit	Endemic
Gray-headed Bulbul	Endemic, near-threatened
Wynaad Laughingthrush	Endemic, near-threatened
Rufous-breasted Laughingthrush	Endemic, near-threatened
Gray-breasted Laughingthrush	Endemic, near-threatened
Large Gray Babbler	Endemic
Rufous Babbler	Endemic
Rufous-tailed Lark	Endemic
Malabar Lark	Endemic
Tawny Lark	Endemic
Crimson-backed Sunbird	Endemic
Nilgiri Pipit	Endemic

TARGETS FROM SRI LANKA

Red-faced Malkoha	Endemic, vulnerable
Green-billed Coucal	Endemic, endangered
Chestnut-backed Owlet	Endemic, near-threatened
Ceylon Wood-Pigeon	Endemic
Wood Snipe	Vulnerable
Sociable Lapwing	Vulnerable
Spot-billed Pelican	Vulnerable
Lesser Adjutant	Vulnerable
Ceylon Magpie	Endemic, vulnerable
Ceylon Whistlingthrush	Endemic, endangered
Kashmir Flycatcher	Vulnerable
Dull-blue Flycatcher	Endemic, near-threatened
White-faced Starling	Endemic, near-threatened
Yellow-eared Bulbul	Endemic, near-threatened
Ceylon Bush-Warbler	Endemic, near-threatened
Ashy-headed Laughingthrush	Endemic, vulnerable
White-throated Flowerpecker	Endemic, near-threatened

Amazonian Brazil Endemics

White-crested Guan	Rio Branco Antbird
Golden Parakeet	White-breasted Antbird
Pearly Parakeet	Harlequin Antbird
Vulturine Parrot	Santarem Antbird
Dark-winged Trumpeter	Pale-faced Bare-eye
Zimmer's Tody-Tyrant	Wing-banded Hornero
Pelzel's Tody-Tyrant	Scaled Spinetail
Buff-cheeked Tody-Flycatcher	Hoffmann's Woodcreeper
White-tailed Cotinga	Zimmer's Woodcreeper
Opal-crowned Manakin	Dusky-billed Woodcreeper
Golden-crowned Manakin	Hooded Gnateater
Glossy Antshrike	Tooth-billed Wren
Klagess' Antwren	Crimson-fronted Cardinal
Bananal Antbird	Yellow-billed Blue Finch

BOOK NOOK

My dear traveling companions are always deriding me for the English nomenclature I use in my field checklists, and on the questionable status of some of the taxa considered allopatric, incipient or distinct in Sibley & Monroe Birds of the World 1993. So in order to get them off my back I recently ordered, and received,

- Checklist of the Birds of Eurasia, Ben King, 1997, Ibis Publishing Company; and

- Birds of the World V.2.0 Charles G. Sibley, 1996, Thayer Birding Software

Sibley has made many changes to his 1993 treatise with the result that the 1996 version comes much closer to more generally accepted checklists from other sources. Ben King has made a valiant attempt to standardize English names of Eurasian birds, and has recognized a few splits (and lumps) in the process. Both works will be incorporated into my database and used for future Ornifolks field checklists and trip reports.

NOV	South Africa	SE Brazil	NOV
DEC	Patagonia		DEC
JAN		Cuba	JAN
FEB			FEB
MAR	Morocco		MAR
APR			APR
MAY			MAY
JUN			JUN
JUL			JUL
AUG			AUG
SEP		Brazil (Amazonia)	SEP
OCT	Ethiopia	Beidaihe	OCT
NOV		Madagascar	NOV
DEC		Brazil (SE)	DEC
JAN		Argentina	JAN
FEB	India (Peninsular)		FEB
MAR	Sri Lanka	Irian Jaya	MAR
APR	Galápagos		APR
MAY			MAY
JUN	Northern Peru		JUN

Ornifolks to stage third Galápagos trip

We've mastered the technique of squeezing the greatest number of Galápagos endemics for the least cost. Aboard the *Yolita*, a seaworthy single-screw diesel equipped with kitchen and staff, our captain will pilot us overnight to the spots where, guided by Walter Greenfield, a licensed guide who knows the birds, we can most easily experience those often difficult finches and other endemics. There may even be a bit of free time for snorkeling in the coral reefs and swimming with the penguins (*El Niño* permitting).

Best of all, this is a sea voyage and we're able to optimize our special seven-day itinerary allowing us to observe the maximum amount of endemics.

Non-birding spouses would be welcome on this trip. Space is limited and to make the trip affordable we need an exact number of participants. The trip will be organized by Ornifolks veteran Travis MacClendon.

March 2002

TECHNOLOGY TIPS

Whistles

I recently went shopping to upgrade the 10¢ plastic whistle Merid bought me on the street in Shashemene with the following requirements:

The whistle had to be

- lightweight
- durable
- quiet when not in use (i.e. no rattling ball)
- Rust/ water resistant
- designed so it won't freeze to your tongue

I can recommend the Campmoor "Survival S.O.S. Whistle" No. 84603-K. It

- has a clip for pocket or belt.
- has a small hole for a lanyard.
- is constructed from bright orange polypropylene— and seems indestructable and impossible to corrode.
- weighs less than 1/2 ounce.
- Costs \$2.

The whistle has two chambers which resonate when both are in play. Or use your tongue to block one and use the pitch to give a signal. The "Ornifolks" two-note, descending "contact call" can be imitated by blocking the left chamber for the first note and the right chamber for the second. Our "bob-white" two-note ascending "come here, I've got something good" call can be produced in a similar way. Finally, the all-out emergency full-blown mode is quite loud (except when underwater).

www.campmore.com

Patagonia Update

Nov 27– Dec 17 '00. There are a few spaces still available but you must register immediately. The trip is designed around the endemics and specialties of the region, including Hooded Grebe, the recently rediscovered Austral Rail, Magellanic Plover, a host of waterfowl, Chocolate-vented Tyrant and many other Southern Cone goodies. Cost of the trip is \$3,000; budget another \$1,100 for airfare to Buenos Aires (from the USA). Check our website for the latest details. <http://www.members.tripod.com/elwonger.mark/Ornifolks.htm>

difficult taxonomic puzzles to resolve.

Merid informs us that he's found an alternate site for Sidamo Lark, which eluded us on our first trip, and our second trip promises to be just as interesting and fulfilling as that in early 2000, but always with a number of

Our January 2000 trip compiled 483 species, in 27 days. We saw 12 out of 15 possible endemics, and all 17 near-endemics. Our mammal list was no less impressive, with approximately three dozen taxa represented. Add to the equation some tasty local food, colorful regional tribes and wonderful African scenery, and the result is one of our finest Ornifolks trips.

~\$3,000



- ◆ Custom international birding
- ◆ a library of trip reports
- ◆ contacts with ground agents and local guides

Southeast Britain: February 2001



**HOT OFF
THE PRESS**

Trip report from
a recent
ORNIFOLKS
trip to Ethiopia.

Dungeness: Firecrest, Mediterranean Gulls.

Let us send you future Ornifolks newsletters as an e-mail attached file, in pdf (Adobe Acrobat Reader) format. NL File size is about 200-300KB, enabling downloading in a few minutes at 28k bps. A download of Acrobat Reader is available free from <http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/>



Why weren't you with us?

Our most recent reports have been distilled into Adobe Acrobat PDF format, allowing transmission by e-mail. For a list of these reports, see our website or call Mike Flieg.



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THE ORNIFOLKS LEK-A-DAY COLORADO GROUSE TRIP

April 15-22, 2001

Itinerary

Sunday April 15 PM: Leave from St. Louis or Kansas City. Overnight in Manhattan KS or Wray CO.

Monday April 16: Observe lek of Greater Prairie Chicken in AM. Drive to Pawnee National Grassland, Greeley CO. Targets are Mountain Plover, Chestnut-collared and McCown's Longspurs. Night in Greeley or Walden.

Tuesday April 17: Observe lek of Greater Sage Grouse in AM. Go to Cameron Pass in PM for possible Rosy finches, Cassin's Finch, Pine Grosbeak and others. Night in Hayden.

Wednesday April 18: Observe lek of Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse. Other targets include Dusky Blue Grouse, Rosy finches. PM drive to Guanella Pass for White-tailed Ptarmigan. Other possibilities: Dipper, Gray and Steller's Jays, Clarke's Nutcracker. Later a long drive to Gunnison for the night.

Thursday April 19: Observe lek of Gunnison Sage Grouse (new species). Drive via Pueblo to Springfield CO for the night. Targets en route

include Western and Mt. Bluebirds, Lewis's Woodpecker, Pinyon Jay.

Friday April 20: Observe lek of Lesser Prairie Chicken near Campo in Comanche National Grassland. Other target is Cassin's Sparrow. Drive to Great Bend KS for the night.

Saturday April 21: We will make a very serious attempt to hear and see the elusive Black Rail at Quivera National Wildlife Refuge. This will be during the peak of the shorebird migration. We may also visit Cheyenne Bottoms NWR as well before we return to Kansas City and St. Louis.

Cost of \$ 675 includes all ground travel, lodging, and my services. The trip will begin when I pick you up at the airport at St. Louis or Kansas City, and will terminate when I drop you off. Meals, snacks and drinks are on your own.

Call for further information.

Mike Flieg 314-645-3356 FAX 314-645-3366
e-mail Gmflieg@aol.com
6803 Nashville St. Louis MO 63139

Venezuela 2001

David Klauber is currently birding in Central America, but will be home from Oct 30 – Nov 5, then he's off to Brazil before doing Venezuela in Feb- Mar 2001.

He's looking for birders to share the cost of a rental car in Venezuela. He can be reached at [davehawkowl@email.msn.com] or possibly at (516) 935-4002 and maybe even at 7 Julian Street, Hicksville NY 11801; but only between Oct 30-Nov 5.

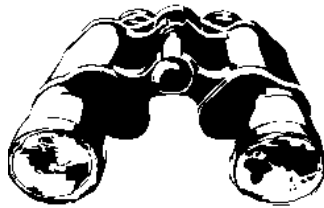
David's itinerary would run something like this:

Feb 6 or 7Arrival in Caracas
Feb 7-10Rancho Grande (Henri Pittier NP)
Feb 11-14Hato Frío or Hato el Cedral
Feb 14- March 1.....Santo Domingo & Venezuelan Andes

Paría and the Tepuis/Escalera segment:
March 1-4Irapa-Melenas
March 5-7Caripe
March 8-10Maturín
March 102 or 3 nights in El Palmar (Hosteria Taguapire)
March 14About 10 days in Escalera/ Gran Sabana area
March 24Re-visit Rancho Grande
March 30International Departure

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