Arkansas
Rice Fields and Bayous

Tour Special Features

Unique Habitats
Fabulous Birds
Fine Food
Beautiful Parks
Wild Landscapes
Comfortable Hotels

Small Groups!
Great Leaders!
Interesting People!

January 10 - 17, 2021
taudubon.org
The Connecticut Audubon Society is offering an exciting expedition into the southern woodlands to visit the primeval forests that once (and perhaps today) hosted the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. We promise you no audience with the famed bird, but just the visit to the incredible tracts of southern woodland will be enough to conjure the feel of the vastness of these ancient lands. Hear about the history of the area and tales of the elusive Grail Bird from some of the “characters” involved in the search.

The Ivory-billed Woodpecker, which once inhabited the bottomland hardwoods and pine forests of the southeastern United States and Cuba, had until recently been thought to be extinct. Never common, this large black-and-white woodpecker disappeared as its habitat increasingly declined. The last confirmed sighting in the United States was during the 1940s—more than 60 years ago.

Since then, however, there have been unconfirmed reports that it has been seen or heard in numerous spots across the United States. More recently, evidence of its existence has been “confirmed and documented” by Cornell University biologists and birding experts in the Cache River and White River National Wildlife Refuges of eastern Arkansas. This evidence, including the now famous Luneau video, lends support for the survival of this fabled bird.

As you explore the bayous, imagine what it must have been like to witness an Ivory-billed hard at work. Today, the land is empty of their trumpet-like calls. But that doesn’t mean there aren’t other wonders to discover! Look for the rapidly declining Henslow’s Sparrow in habitat drastically different than where it breeds. Witness the stunning spectacle of thousands of waterfowl taking off from the many rice fields. There is so much to see and do that you won’t want to leave!

Andrew Griswold, Director of EcoTravel for Connecticut Audubon Society, graduated as an honor student in biology from Hartwick College, where he worked at their biological research station in the Bahamas studying avian ecology. He is the original concept creator and scientific consultant for a cable television series on bird watching called All Bird TV that aired on Discovery’s Animal Planet. Andy is the original concept creator of the award-winning Connecticut River Eagle Festival (at the time the largest birding festival in the Americas). He leads trips for Connecticut Audubon to Canada, Texas, South Florida, Nova Scotia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, and many other unique destinations. Andy is a licensed USCG 100-Ton Master boat captain and lives in Essex, Connecticut, with his wife and their son. He is known for his attentiveness to travelers’ needs, fine birding skills, and infectious sense of humor.

General Information
Main Tour Cost: $2,995.
With Member Discount: $2,598.
Single Room Supplement: No extra cost but not guaranteed

Prices are based upon a minimum number of seven paying participants traveling together.

For a Detailed Itinerary and More Information:
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