Belize & Tikal, Guatemala

February 1-9, 2008
With René Laubach

Belize is an excellent destination for both naturalists and those fascinated with discovering the hidden ruins of the ancient Mayan civilization. Our tour begins at the Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area, where we will look for howler and spider monkeys, tree porcupines, and some of the over 200 birds including that reside here. We will also travel down the New River to Lamanai, where we will bird among the spectacular ruins. Tikal and its incomparable ruins will be visited next. The tour ends in southern Belize where we will explore Cockscomb Jaguar Preserve and the second longest barrier reef on earth.
**Day-To-Day Itinerary**

**Day 1 ~Belize City to La Milpa**
Our group should arrive in Belize by 2 pm (we will send flight suggestions). Upon arrival and after clearing customs, we will be met by Programme for Belize staff who will drive us to the La Milpa Field Station in northwestern Belize. Our welcome dinner will be followed by a short orientation meeting this evening by the station manager. (D) **La Milpa Field Station, Rio Bravo Conservation Area**

**Day 2 ~La Milpa**
Early morning birding for those who wish. After breakfast, we will explore the unexcavated Mayan archaeological site of “Las Milpas.” After lunch at the Field Station, we will bird along the diverse trails and roads of La Milpa. The bird list for the area is truly remarkable, with well over 200 species having been observed. (B,L,D) **La Milpa Field Station**

**Day 3 ~Lamanai**
Another opportunity for early morning birding for those who wish. After breakfast, we will take a bus to the spectacular Mayan ruins of the Lamanai Archaeological Reserve (watching for Howler Monkeys). We will enjoy a picnic lunch amid the temples and forests of this reserve. After lunch, we will take a boat trip down the New River, looking for Morelet’s Crocodile, sleeping bats, the Jacanas (birds which walk on water!) and other wildlife. Return to **La Milpa** for dinner and overnight. (B,L, D)

**Day 4 & 5 ~Lamanai to Tikal National Park, Guatemala**
We depart early to catch a charter flight to Flores, Guatemala. We will transfer to Tikal, whose incomparable ruins date from the Classic Period of the Maya civilization. Upon arrival, we will enjoy lunch at the Jungle Lodge. The grounds and the ruins here are set amidst a thousand-year-old tropical forest teeming with wildlife. We will combine birding with a visit to the Mayan temples in the afternoon. (B,L,D) **The Jungle Lodge, Tikal National Park**

**Day 5 ~Tikal National Park**
Today we will spend the entire day exploring the many trails and old Mayan causeways, as well as visiting the ruins and Inscription Temple. Our travel here will be by foot as we walk some of the many trails and causeways leading to the ruins and through the forest. This is truly a naturalist’s vision of heaven and one of the finest birding localities in Central America. We will have lunch at the lodge, then visit the small but excellent Tikal museum. (B,L,D) **The Jungle Lodge, Tikal National Park**

**Day 6 ~Tikal to Dangriga, Belize**
After breakfast we will be driven to Flores and fly back to Belize City to clear customs and then transfer via air to Dangriga, situated on southern Belize’s Caribbean seacoast. We will arrive in time for lunch, followed by relaxation and a refreshing dip in the Caribbean before dinner. (B,L,D) **Pelican Beach Resort, Dangriga**

**Day 7 ~Cockscomb Jaguar Preserve**
After breakfast we will travel to the Red Bank village in the early morning in hopes of seeing the Scarlet Macaws. In the afternoon, we will then transfer by bus to the Cockscomb Jaguar Preserve where we will walk the wildlife-rich trails and then have a picnic lunch. In the afternoon we will enjoy more birding in this 100,000- acre preserve. Though the likelihood of seeing one of the elusive and beautiful cats is exceedingly slim, you can be sure that all eyes and ears will be alert to the slightest rustle. (B,L,D) **Pelican Beach Resort**
Day 8 ~ South Water Caye
This morning we’re off by motorboat from Pelican Beach to South Water Caye, nine miles offshore, where we will spend the day snorkeling along the barrier reef, the world’s second longest reef. South Water Caye is right on the reef and miles from the populous tourist islands to the north. The reef is still relatively undisturbed here with thousands of colorful fish and brilliant coral a few feet off the small island. En route, we will stop at Man O’ War Caye to see and hear the Magnificent Frigatebird and Brown Booby colony close-up. Lunch will be on the island. (B,L,D) Pelican Beach Resort

Day 9 ~ Dangriga to Belize City / transfer home
We will leave Dangriga by air this morning for Belize City and transfer to our flights home, bringing back with us many fond memories of our Central American adventure. (B,L)

WHAT’S INCLUDED:
• Services of Rene Laubach, qualified Massachusetts Audubon Society naturalist, and local guides
• All scheduled land transport and internal flights
• All meals as indicated in the itinerary
• All scheduled transfers, portages, service charges, and taxes
• Tips to local guide/drivers

WHAT’S NOT INCLUDED:
• Round-trip airfare to Belize
• Items of a personal nature
• Airport departure taxes, passport fees, or other fees not listed in program

ABOUT OUR NATURALIST GUIDE

René Laubach. Director of the Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries since 1985, has led tours for Massachusetts Audubon to Belize and Tikal, Mexico, and the American Southwest. Since his first trip to Belize and Tikal in 1992, René has returned annually to this fascinating and wildlife-rich area of Central America. His natural history interests include bats and birds, and he has been an active bird bander for many years. René is also the author of six books on natural history subjects.
**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

**PRICE:** $2900 per person/double occupancy; single supplement $200 (Singles are very limited).

$500.00 per person deposit is required.

**GROUP SIZE:** A minimum of 10 participants is required. The group size will be limited to approximately 16 people.

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**TERMS & CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL**

Updated 3/26/07

**RESERVATIONS, APPLICATIONS, DEPOSITS:** Early reservations are required to ensure your place on this trip. All reservations must be accompanied by a completed reservation form and a $500 deposit. Deposit can be by check or credit card (Visa or MasterCard). In the case of questionable health, we reserve the right to require a physician’s certification to affirm you are capable of the activities. Final payment due by 95 days (Oct 26th) before the departure date. Final payment must be by check.

**RATES:** All tour prices are based on double occupancy. If you would like us to find you a roommate, we will do our best, but cannot guarantee a share (except on certain cruises). If we cannot find a share, you will need to pay the single supplement. All forms and fares are accurate at the time of publication March 2007, but are subject to change at any time prior to departure. It is our policy to only pass on the actual amount of any increases in airfares or land costs such as those increases due to the devaluation of the dollar. A price increase may be called for if the group falls below the minimum of 10. The maximum number of participants is approximately 16.

**FLIGHTS:** You the traveler are responsible for booking and paying for your own international flights. We work with a local travel agent, The Travel Station, in Lincoln to book our flights. You may book flights on your own or with The Travel Station. They will have the most up-to-date information on the flight arrival and departure times that we recommend for our travelers (there is a $35 charge for all bookings). Once your deposit and reservation form have been sent to us, we will send you flight and contact information. Please be aware that most tickets are non-refundable, therefore you should not book your flight arrangements until you have checked with us to be sure the tour has the minimum number of participants for the trip to go. The Travel Station can be reached at 781-259-1200.

**CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:** If you need to change your booking, you must inform us immediately. All cancellations must be done in writing and are effective upon receipt in the Massachusetts Audubon Travel Office. Cancellations received up to 121 days prior to departure will be refunded deposits less a $300 per person fee. For cancellations between 120 and 90 days prior to departure, all deposits will not be refunded. There are no refunds for cancellations 90 days or less from departure. We strongly urge all travelers to purchase trip cancellation insurance. You will be sent information from the Massachusetts Audubon Society upon receipt of your deposit.

**Your Responsibility:** Although every precaution is taken to safeguard you and your belongings, group travel trips by their nature involve a certain amount of risk. Trip participants should understand that the domestic and international trips sponsored/operated by Massachusetts Audubon Society (Mass Audubon Tours) - hereafter collectively “M.A.S.” - involve known and unknown risks. M.A.S. assumes no responsibility for injuries, death, financial losses or damage to clients’ property caused by or occurring during participation in any of the travel trips sponsored/operated by M.A.S. Trip participants must assume responsibility for having sufficient skill and fitness to participate in the trips and activities offered or sponsored by M.A.S. Trip participants must also certify that they have no medical, mental or physical conditions which could interfere with their abilities to participate in the activities and/or trips they are participating in and they must assume and bear the cost of all risks that may be created, directly or indirectly, by any such condition. It is the responsibility of trip participants to have in place adequate insurance to cover any injury, damage or emergency transportation costs related to their travel and/or participation in trip activities and/or to bear the costs of such injury, damage or emergency transportation costs. Because of the risks associated with the travel trips sponsored by M.A.S. we urge all trip participants to supplement their own insurance with travel or vacation or emergency response types of insurance. M.A.S. requires that all trip participants acknowledge and assume these risks by reading and signing an M.A.S. Release and Waiver and Assumption of Risk contract prior to departure.

**CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL:** Travelers will be provided an itinerary and trip preparation information. It is expected that travelers will read this information prior to trip departure. Travelers will be responsible for completing a reservation form, a personal information form, and a release of liability form. Travelers will be expected to abide by the terms set for in the invoice. During the tour, travelers are asked to respect and follow the directions of their guide and leader.
RESERVATION FORM – BELIZE AND TIKAL, GUATEMALA – FEB 1 – 9, 2008

Mr./Mrs./Ms. Passenger Name (1) – as shown as passport

Mr./Mrs./Ms. Passenger Name (2) – as shown as passport

Address

City      State    Zip

Phone: Day     Evening

Email address

Passport number 1 (for international trips): ____________________________________________
Expiration date: ____________________

Passport number 2 (for international trips): ____________________________________________
Expiration date: ____________________

Accommodations:
I/We are non-smoker(s) ___ smoker(s) ___ (smoking is limited to outdoors in non-group spaces)
___ I request single accommodations where available and will pay the single supplement.
___ I would like to be assigned a roommate. If one is not available, I will pay the single supplement.

Deposit: Please find my enclosed check __________ or please charge __________ my credit card for
the deposit:

VISA __ MC ___ Card # ________________________________ Exp.

Checks should be made payable to “Massachusetts Audubon Society”

Signature

Travel with the Massachusetts Audubon Society
208 South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773
800-289-9504