



Santa Marta Parakeet
(*Pyrrhura viridicata*)
by Luis Eduardo Urueña



COLOMBIA

SANTA MARTA MOUNTAINS FLYWAY EXPEDITION

with Bexar Audubon Society

February 3 -14, 2021



With over 1,900 avian species — more than any other country in the world — Colombia is a birder's paradise waiting to be discovered. This 10-day program focuses on the country's northern highlights, including the Caribbean region and the Santa Marta Mountains, famed for their high level of endemic species. Explore high elevation mountains, dry forest, and coastal habitats in search of an array of tropical avifauna, including flycatchers, hummingbirds, tanagers, toucans, and more. Throughout your journey, meet members of the local community and learn about conservation efforts to use birding as a sustainable development resource.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Be one of the few outsiders to explore birding-rich, remote regions of Northern Colombia led by expert local guides.
- Bird the coastal wetland and mangrove habitats of Salamanca National Park and Los Flamencos Sanctuary along Colombia's Caribbean coast.
- Explore the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, the highest coastal mountain range in the world and home to more than a quarter of the country's endemic species.
- Enjoy several days of birding at El Dorado Lodge, the ProAves Foundation's flagship lodge.
- Meet the indigenous Wayúu people in Riohacha and learn about their culture, represented in their weaving, ceramics, vegetation, and gastronomy.



Support Audubon and its partners to advance sustainable development in bird hot-spots

Holbrook Travel is a supporting partner in Audubon's conservation work in Latin America and in the Caribbean. One aspect of that work is the strengthening of **bird-based tourism** as a conservation and sustainable development tool. As part of our **Flyway Expeditions** series, this program is designed to help protect key areas along the flyways for migratory and local species. As a participant on this trip, you'll have a direct economic impact on local people and communities, help preserve IBAs, and nurture an emerging ecotourism industry.

Learn more at holbrook.travel/flywayexpeditions

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

FEBRUARY 3 - BOGOTÁ

Upon arrival at the Bogotá International Airport, you'll be met and transferred to your hotel. This is an arrival day; no meals are included. Check-in starts at 3:00 pm. *Overnight at Hilton Garden Inn.*

FEBRUARY 4 - VALLEDUPAR

Program orientation early this morning before the flight to Valledupar. After lunch, visit the lower parts of Los Besotes Private Reserve, about 6 miles from Valledupar. As the first Important Bird Area (IBA) in Colombia, Los Besotes is part of the Santa Marta Range. This forest is greatly threatened, and hosts many regional specialties. Over 210 species of birds have been found at Los Besotes. A possible highlight species here is the Blue-billed Curassow as well as the uncommon Military Macaw. Other species of note include Vermilion Cardinal, Glaucous Tanager, and the Golden-winged Sparrow. The Black-backed Antshrike is here in the lower elevations, as well as the Pale-legged Hornero, a form that is sometimes considered a regional endemic (Caribbean Hornero). Picnic dinner, then continue birding after dark in search of owls. *Overnight at Hotel Mayales Plaza . (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 5 - SERRANÍA DE PERIJÁ

Head to the Perijá Mountains. The drive is approximately an hour to reach the foothills, and from there the road becomes rougher and slower. If time permits, stop for birding at an elevation of 4,900 feet, and then drive up the mountain to the accommodation. Transportation will be via 4x4 vehicles; during drives, you may not be traveling with the guide, during the stops en route, birding will be done as a group. If you are prone to motion sickness, please make sure you have medication with you, as the roads will be rough on this day. Arrival to the cabins will be in the evening. Pro Aves' Chamicero del Perijá Reserve started receiving tourists in May of 2015. The basic but comfortable accommodations are surrounded by amazing montane forest. Please note that there are only 5 cabins at this site, so single rooms are not available. The Perijá Mountains (Serranía de Perijá) are like the Holy Grail for birders interested in Colombia's birds. This isolated offshoot of the Eastern Andes forms the border with Venezuela and it is one of the least explored areas in Colombia. *Overnight at Chamicero del Perija. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 6 - SERRANÍA DE PERIJÁ

Currently the Serranía de Perijá is considered to have four endemic species, the Perijá Metaltail, Perijá Thistletail, Perijá

Sierrafinch and the newly described Perijá Tapaculo. This area has been out of reach for birders and scientists for decades until recently. Many new discoveries await as birders and biologists increase their visits to Perijá. There is a spintail here that could be a new species and so far a resolution of what it is has not been reached. A unique looking form of Lacrimose Mountain Tanager is common in the higher areas, as well as another unique endemic that may one day be a full species, the local form of the Golden-bellied Starfrontlet. With luck the White-rumped Hawk or even Black-and-chestnut Eagle may fly through. The road that reaches the reserve continues into páramo habitat, where Rufous-breasted Chat-tyrants abound, and Páramo Seedeater may be found as well as many Tyrian Metaltail and fewer of the stunningly purple tailed endemic Perijá Metaltail. The ability to move from montane forest to páramo, and then down to foothill subtropical areas will give you many opportunities for excellent birding. Today spend a full day birding at the top of Sabana Rubia in the páramo. *Overnight at Chamicero del Perija. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 7 - SERRANÍA DE PERIJÁ

Today we bird the elevations slightly above and below the cabins. Other bird species that can be seen in the area include Crested and Golden-headed Quetzal, Barred Fruiteater, Andean Condor, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Plushcap, and Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager. *Overnight at Chamicero del Perija. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 8 - RIOHACHA

After an early start we will bird downslope, and head to Riohacha. Assuming an early arrival, we will have an evening of birding at Los Flamencos Reserve. Meet the indigenous Wayúu people in Riohacha and learn about their culture, represented in their weavings, agricultural practices and gastronomy. A few of the species to look for today include the Sapphire-bellied Hummingbird, Sapphire-throated Hummingbird, Bicolored Conebill, Pied Puffbird, Russet-Throated Puffbird, Golden-green Woodpecker, Stripe-backed Wren, Savannah Hawk and Snail Kite. *Overnight at Taroa Hotel. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 9 - RIOHACHA

Today we visit Los Flamencos Sanctuary. The reserve is only 15 minutes from Riohacha, so we plan on returning to town for lunch and a siesta. However, we will head out early morning to take in the best birding before the desert heat really begins. Birding in the dry scrubland habitat at sea level in search of Tocado Sparrow, Chestnut Piculet, Green-rumped Parrotlet, and Blue-tailed Emerald. For the energetic in the crowd, we shall visit Los Flamencos again this evening. *Overnight at Taroa Hotel. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 10 - SANTA MARTA MOUNTAINS

We will leave Riohacha in the morning for the hour drive to Tayrona National Park, where we will spend the morning. Here we can find some moister forest birds. If we are in luck, the Blue-billed Curassow will make an appearance, although it is very rare. We will drive up the Santa Marta Mountains in the afternoon, stopping to bird as we go. *Overnight at El Dorado Lodge. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 11 - SANTA MARTA MOUNTAINS

We spend two full days exploring the exceptional El Dorado Reserve and San Lorenzo Ridge. The highest coastal mountain range in the world, the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta is home to incredible 20 endemic species which account for 27% of the endemics in the entire country. We will search for as many of these species as we can find along the altitudinal gradient of the San Lorenzo Ridge. Some of the species that we hope to find include the Santa Marta Parakeet, Santa Marta Screech-Owl, Santa Marta Blossomcrown, Santa Marta Foliage-gleaner, Santa Marta Tapaculo, Santa Marta Antbird, Santa Marta Sabrewing, Santa Marta Wood-Wren, Santa Marta Brush-Finch, White-tailed Starfrontlet, Santa Marta Woodstar, Rusty-headed Spinetail, Santa Marta Antpitta, Brown-rumped Tapaculo, Santa Marta Bush-Tyrant, Yellow-crowned Whitestart, White-lored Warbler, Santa Marta Warbler, Santa Marta (Black-cheeked) Mountain-Tanager, Black-backed Thornbill, Colombian Nevada Brush-Finch, Bang's Wood-Wren, Black-fronted Wood-Quail, White-tipped Quetzal, White-rumped Hawk, Band-tailed Guan, Sickle-winged Guan, Band-tailed Pigeon, Scarlet-fronted Parakeet, Red-billed Parrot, Masked Trogon, Golden-olive Woodpecker, Yellow-billed (Groove-billed) Toucanet, Emerald Toucanet, Montane Foliage-gleaner, Spotted Barbtail, Streaked Xenops, Gray-throated Leaf-tosser, Strong-billed Woodcreeper, Rusty-breasted Antpitta, Rufous Antpitta, Mountain Elaenia, Black-capped Tyrannulet, Venezuelan and White-throated Tyrannulet, Olive-striped Flycatcher, Black-throated Tody-Tyrant, Cinnamon Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant, Golden-breasted Fruiteater, Orange-billed and Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush, Great Thrush, Black-hooded Thrush, Slate-throated Redstart, Three-striped Warbler, White-sided Flowerpiercer, Blue-naped Chlorophonia and many others. There will be ample time to enjoy the feeders at the lode, as well as the forest above and below the lodge. *Overnight at El Dorado Lodge. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 12 - SANTA MARTA MOUNTAINS

Another day birding in the area. *Overnight at El Dorado Lodge. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 13 - BOGOTÁ

We will bird around the lodge, concentrating on what we have not found yet. Then we head down to Santa Marta and the airport for afternoon flights to Bogotá. Farewell dinner this evening at the hotel. *Overnight at Hilton Garden Inn. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 14 - DEPART

Transfer to the airport for your flight home. Check-out starts at 12:00pm. (B)



LAND PRICING

\$4,920 (based on a minimum of 8 participants)

Cost includes internal flights, meals, accommodations, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, in-country flights, private transportation, bottled water on the bus, full-time guide, donation to Bexar Audubon Society and National Audubon Society, departure tax, and carbon offset.

Does not include international airfare, estimated at \$859 from San Antonio, tips and gratuities, alcoholic beverages, or items of a personal nature. Other departure cities available.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/ Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on double occupancy; a limited number of single rooms may be available for an additional cost of \$595 per person. A \$500 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable excluding a \$300 cancellation fee until October 31, 2020 at which time non-refundable final payment is due.



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe



Black-fronted Wood-Quail
(*Odontophorus atrifrons*)
by Luis Eduardo Uruña



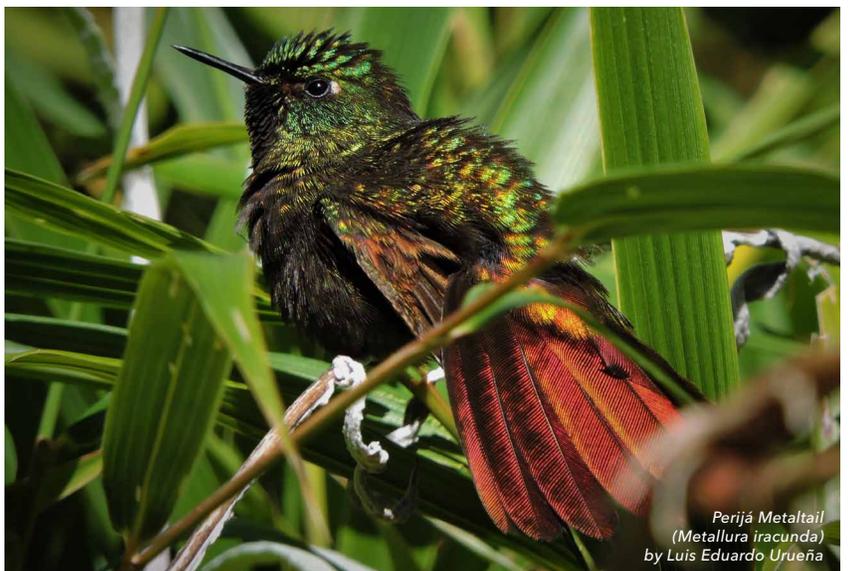
Yellow-crowned Whitestart
(*Myioborus flavivertex*)
by Luis Eduardo Uruña



Santa Marta Mountains by Luis Eduardo Uruña



Vermillion Cardinal
(*Cardinalis phoeniceus*)
by Luis Eduardo Uruña



Perijá Metaltail
(*Metallura iracunda*)
by Luis Eduardo Uruña

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit holbrook.travel/bexar-santamarta21 or contact Sandy Schmidt at 877-907-5360 or schmidt@holbrooktravel.com