



Collared Trogon (*Trogon collaris*)
Photo by Ian Segebarth



HIGH INTENSITY!

This program is for serious birders. Expect at least 6-8 hours of birding each day.

COLOMBIA

HOLBROOK INVITATIONAL: BIRDING THE CENTRAL ANDES AND RIO CLARO RESERVE

With Debbie Sturdivant Jordan

November 3 – 11, 2018

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 9-day program focuses on the highlights of the Central Andes region, famed for its high level of species diversity, including the Rio Claro Natural Reserve, Nevado del Ruiz, Rio Blanco Reserve, and Otún Quimbaya Flora and Fauna Sanctuary. Explore high elevation mountains, humid tropical forest, páramo, wetlands, and highland savanna 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

- Seek out a variety of Colombia’s rare and endemic species, such as the Red-bellied Grackle, White-mantled Barbet, Magdalena Antbird, and Buffy Helmetcrest.
- Go birding in the humid tropical forest of Rio Claro Reserve, where approximately 350 avian species have been recorded.
- Enjoy impressive views of the Nevado del Ruíz Volcano while exploring high-elevation páramo habitat, with the possibility of seeing the Andean Condor.
- Watch the antpitta feeders in Rio Blanco Natural Reserve, which draw mixed flocks in high numbers.
- Hike the forest paths of Otún Quimbaya Flora and Fauna Sanctuary by night for the chance to see a variety of owls, including the endemic Colombian Screech-Owl.



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

NOVEMBER 3 - BOGOTÁ

Arrive at the Bogotá International Airport early this morning after your flight from Miami, then transfer to the hotel to rest. The remainder of the day is free to explore Bogotá or rest and relax. Enjoy a welcome dinner this evening with an orientation to the program. *Overnight at Hotel Sheraton. (D)*

NOVEMBER 4 - OTÚN QUIMBAYA

Leave early this morning for Chingaza National Park. Located high in the eastern Andes, Chingaza is an interesting páramo ecosystem with many species and landscapes. Next, visit La calera Hummingbird Garden where you can observe some of the most important species of hummers in the eastern Andes. Other interesting birds of the day include: Coopers-bellied Puffleg, Rufous-browed Conebill, Purple-backed Thornbill, Paramo Seedeater, Plush-capped Finch, Pale-naped Brush-Finch, Smoky Bush-Tyrant, Black-billed Mountain Toucan, Black-headed Hemispingus and many more. This afternoon, travel to the airport for the flight to Periera. Upon arrival, transfer to the Lodge at Otún Quimbaya and have a later dinner upon arrival. *Overnight at The Lodge at Otún Quimbaya. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 5 - OTÚN QUIMBAYA

Spend the entire day birding in the Otún Quimbaya Fauna and Flora Sanctuary. This is a lovely reserve nestled in the

central Andes, home to some very important and rare birds. Some interesting birds on the checklist for today include Cauca Guan, Chestnut Wood-Quail, Multicolored Tanager, Stiles's Tapaculo, Hooded Antpitta, Moustached Antpitta, Colombian Screech-Owl, Rufous-breasted Flycatcher, Flame-rumped Tanager, Scrub Tanager, Golden-plumed Parakeet, Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, Chestnut-breasted Wren, Wattled Guan, Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant, Andean Solitaire, Oleaginous Hemispingus, Goldenheaded Quetzal, White-winged Becard, Western Emerald, Crimson-rumped Toucanet, Emerald Toucanet, Spotted Barbtail, Speckle-faced Parrot, and many more. Otun is very good for owling, so this evening you'll explore the reserve at night in search of owls. *Overnight at The Lodge at Otún Quimbaya. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 6 - NEVADO DEL RUÍZ

Depart early this morning for Rio Blanco Reserve. Upon arrival have breakfast and start your morning birding excursion. Rio Blanco Natural Reserve is one of the most famous places in Colombia to view birds; the antpitta feeders here attract mixed flocks that are easy to spot. Spend the morning birding the trails surrounding the lodge. After lunch, visit Tinamú Hotel in the Tinamú Birding Nature Reserve, located in a dry forest 30 minutes from Manizales. Then journey several hours to the next location, steeped in the high elevation of the páramo. Upon arrival, relax before dinner, with a soak in the thermal waters. *Overnight at Termales del Ruiz. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 7 - NEVADO DEL RUÍZ

This morning you will be birding in the high elevations (13,100 feet) of Los Nevados National Park (Nevado del Ruíz), an incredible páramo in the central Andes with many special birds and amazing landscapes. Return to the lodge for lunch. In the afternoon, bird around the lodge trails and the feeders. Your target species for this day include: Andean Condor, Andean Duck, Paramo Tapaculo, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Noble Snipe, Andean Pygmy-Owl, Sword-bellied Hummingbird, Shining Sunbeam, Golden-breasted Puffleg, Rainbow-bearded Thornbill, Viridian Metaltail, Many-striped Canastero, White-chinned Thistletail, Andean Tit-Spintail, White-capped Tanager, Paramo Seedeater, Slate-colored Seedeater, Golden-crowned Tanager, and many

more. Endemic birds of the region are the Buffy Helmetcrest and Rufous-fronted Parakeet, and near-endemic birds are the Black-thighed Puffleg, Golden-breasted Puffleg, Crescent-faced Antpitta, and Black-backed Bush Tanager. *Overnight at Termales del Ruiz. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 8 - RIO CLARO RESERVE

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast with time to relax in the hotel gardens before departing for Rio Claro, with a stop for lunch at a local restaurant. Afterward, continue to Rio Claro Reserve, arriving at about 5 pm. After checking into your rooms, gather for your first checklist meeting, followed by dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Cabañas La Mulata. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 9 - RIO CLARO RESERVE

Spend the entire day birding in Rio Claro Natural Reserve. Immerse yourself in this incredible tropical forest and amazing biodiversity of this reserve. Some birds of interest here include: Citron-throated Toucan, Black-bellied Wren, Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, Marbled Wood-Quail, Chestnut-backed Antbird, Stripe-throated Hermit, Ruby Topaz, Purple-crowned Fairy, Western White-tailed Trogon, Pied Puffbird, Barred Puffbird, White-whiskered Puffbird, Cinnamon Woodpecker, Jet Antbird, Pacific Antwren, Brown-capped Tyrannulet, Southern Bentbill, Long-tailed Tyrant, Rufous Piha, Blue Cotinga, Black-chested Jay, Rufous Wren, Scarletbrowed Tanager, Plain-colored Tanager, Goldenhooded Tanager, White-eared Conebill, Slate-colored Seedeater, Thick-billed Seed-Finch, Large-billed Seed-Finch, Masked Yellowthroat, Orange-crowned Oriole, Fulvous-vented Euphonia, and so much more. Endemic birds of the region are the White-mantled Barbet, Sooty Ant-Tanager, Colombian Chachalaca, Beautiful Woodpecker, Magdalena Antbird, and Antioquia Bristle-Tyrant. Near-endemic birds are the Saffron-headed Parrot and Moustached Brushfinch. *Overnight at Cabañas La Mulata. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 10 - MEDELLÍN

After an early breakfast, transfer to La Romero Reserve in Sabaneta village, a nice secondary forest in the Medellín Mountains, in search of endemics such as Red-bellied Grackle and Yellow-headed Manakin. Other target species include Blackish Tapaculo, Rusty Flowerpiercer, Three-striped Warbler, Scrub Tanager, Blue-crowned Motmot and more. Arrive at the hotel late this afternoon and gather for a final checklist and farewell diner. *Overnight at Hotel La Extremadura. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 11 - DEPARTURE

Transfer to the airport for return flights to the US. (B)

PRICING

\$1,500 (from Miami)

Cost includes meals, accommodations, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, in-country flights, private transportation, bottled water on the bus, full-time guide.

Does not include airfare to Miami, gratuities, alcoholic beverages, or items of a personal nature. Holbrook can assist with your flight arrangements if desired.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants traveling in 2018 or beyond. 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. Visit holbrooktravel.com/travelprotection 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

Price is based on 7 participants. Limited companion space is available at \$2,000 per person land-only (shared). Limited single accommodations available at \$700 extra. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable excluding a \$100 cancellation fee until July 31, 2018, at which time non-refundable final payment is due.





FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit holbrooktravel.com/colombiabirding18 or contact Debbie Sturdivant Jordan at 866-748-6146 or debbie@holbrooktravel.com

PHOTOS BY

Photos by Jonathan Hood (p. 2); Neil Palmer, Ian Segebarth, Ben Tavener, and Michael Woodruff