



SCINTILLANT HUMMINGBIRD (SELASPHORUS SCINTILLA) BY DOMINIC SHERONY



HIGH INTENSITY!
This program is for serious birders. Expect 6-8 hours of birding each day.

COSTA RICA

BIRDING SOUTHERN COSTA RICA WITH MARIO CORDOBA

May 11 – 19, 2021

Join Costa Rican bird expert Mario Cordoba to discover the abundant species of neotropical birds and other wildlife inhabiting this small but biodiverse country.

With Mario's help, you will identify hundreds of bird species while learning about the natural history of Costa Rica and the latest conservation initiatives to protect its precious ecosystems.



RESPLENDENT QUETZAL
BY FRANCESCO VERONESI

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Cruise along the Tárcoles River and watch for water birds and shorebirds.
- Venture on a guided tour through Los Cusingos Bird Sanctuary, once home to famed ornithologist Alexander Skutch.
- Observe some of the 400+ bird species during your stay at Las Cruces Biological Station, a leading research outpost with onsite accommodations.
- Ascend the Cordillera de Talamanca to experience its famous diversity of endemic wildlife.
- Seek out the elusive Resplendant Quetzal in Savegre's private reserve.

holbrook.travel/cordoba-cr21



ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

MAY 11 - SAN JOSÉ

Individual arrivals in San José. Check-in starts at 3:00 pm. Please arrange for all incoming flights to arrive by 4:30 pm. This evening at the hotel, enjoy dinner, followed by a program orientation. *Overnight at Hotel Bougainvillea. (D)*

MAY 12 - GOLFITO

After breakfast, head south toward Golfito. En route, stop for a boat ride along the Tárcoles River, where you can spot both water and shore birds such as the Double-striped Thick-knee, Roseate Spoonbill, jacanas, and ducks. The Tárcoles River basin is one of the most important in the Pacific coastal region, virtually draining the entire western side of the Central Valley. The Tárcoles hosts an amazing diversity of wildlife along its banks and in the extensive mangrove areas near its estuary. As a result, the river is the perfect place to catch a glimpse of mangrove specialties such as the rare Rufous-necked Wood-rail, Mangrove Hummingbird, Pygmy Kingfisher, Panama Flycatcher, Mangrove Vireo, Mangrove (Yellow) Warbler and Scrub Greenlet. But perhaps the most famous of all its inhabitants are the enormous crocodiles that live on its banks. These crocodiles have been studied by numerous local and foreign specialists to better understand their characteristics, habitat, and relationship with the land. After lunch nearby, continue to Golfito and arrive at Esquinas Rainforest Lodge. Nestled amid the lowland tropical wet forest of Piedras Blancas National Park, more than 340 bird species have been recorded there, including Black-striped Woodcreeper, Black-cheeked

Ant-Tanager, Brown-throated Parakeet, Southern Lapwing, Veraguan Mango, Sapphire-throated Hummingbird, Slate-colored Seedeater, Red-breasted Blackbird, and Crested Oropendola. *Overnight at Esquinas Rainforest Lodge. (BLD)*



MAY 13 - GOLFITO

Spend the morning birding in the Esquinas Forest, then have lunch at Golfito's marina. This afternoon, return to the lodge for birding along La Gamba road. *Overnight at Esquinas Rainforest Lodge. (BLD)*

MAY 14 - SAN VITO

Depart Golfito for San Vito, with opportunities for roadside birding along the way. The next destination is Las Cruces Biological Station, a contiguous 632-acre forest reserve and leading research institution operated by the Organization of Tropical Studies. Here, over 2,000 species of plants attract over 400 species of birds, including many hummingbirds, tanagers, warblers, and at least five different species of trogons. In the afternoon, bird the on-site gardens to become acquainted with the area. *Overnight at OTS Las Cruces. (BLD)*



MAY 15 - SAN VITO

Wake up early for morning birding at Wilson Botanical Garden. The garden features an extensive collection of tropical and subtropical ornamentals, representatives of unusual plant families, and rare and endangered plants from Costa Rica and elsewhere. Look for Scarlet-thighed Tanager, Silver-throated Tanager, Gartered Trogon, Blue-headed Parrot, Violet Sabrewing, and possibly Turquoise Cotinga. This afternoon bird at a nearby property in San Vito. San Vito, located 3,214 feet above sea level, is surrounded by mountains and has a cool climate with marshes that are home to the Masked Duck and the Masked "Chiriqui" Yellowthroat. The wetlands of San Vito attract many species of water birds, including wild ducks, gallinules, and White-throated Crakes. Dinner will be at the station followed by a guided night walk. *Overnight at OTS Las Cruces. (BLD)*

MAY 16 - SAN GERARDO DE DOTA

After breakfast, depart for San Gerardo de Dota. En route stop at Los Cusingos Bird Sanctuary, a farm-turned-private-reserve where famed ornithologist Alexander Skutch lived and studied. Target species include Turquoise Cotinga, Speckled Tanager, Slaty Spinetail, Red-legged Honeycreeper, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, and Fork-tailed Flycatcher. Continue to San Gerardo de Dota and check in at Savegre. Bird at the lodge before dinner. Take some time to visit the hummingbird feeders in front of reception and off the balcony at the lounge. The feeders are often active with resident Tamanca Hummingbird, Green Violetear, Gray-tailed Mountain-gem, Volcano Hummingbird, and tiny Scintillant Hummingbird. *Overnight at Savegre Hotel Natural Reserve and Spa. (BLD)*



VOLCANO HUMMINGBIRD BY CHRIS JIMENEZ



TALAMANCA HUMMINGBIRD BY DOMINIC SHERONY

MAY 17 - SAN GERARDO DE DOTA

Spend the morning exploring the upper trails at Savegre in search of Resplendent Quetzal and some of the other 189 species of birds present here. Savegre's private biological reserve protects high elevation habitat of mostly oak forest and highland cloud forest that attracts a huge variety of avifauna. The large centennial oaks that cover the forest are laden with lichens and mosses that contrast with the colorful bromeliads. (Note: the beginning of this trail is a one-mile uphill climb.) After lunch, journey to Cerro Buena Vista in Los Quetzales National Park to look for Volcano Junco and other high elevation species. *Overnight at Savegre Hotel Natural Reserve and Spa. (BLD)*

MAY 18 - SAN JOSÉ

After breakfast, check out and begin the journey back to San José. Stop at La Georgina and Cerro de la Muerte, an area at the top of Cordillera de Talamanca famous for its diversity of endemic wildlife. Consisting of temperate forest and páramo habitats, the natural vegetation attracts species such as the rare Red-fronted Parrotlet, Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl, Dusky Nightjar, Fiery-throated, Volcano, and Scintillant Hummingbirds, Gray-tailed Mountain-gem, Ruddy Treerunner, Buffy Tuftedcheek, Silvery-fronted Tapaculo, Ochraceous Pewee, Silvery-throated Jay, Black-and-yellow Silky-flycatcher, Volcano Junco, Timberline Wren, Zeledonia, and Resplendent Quetzal. Farewell dinner this evening. *Overnight at Wyndham Herradura. (BLD)*

MAY 19 - DEPART

After breakfast use the hotel shuttle to transfer to the airport for your international departure. *(B)*



SPECKLED TANAGER BY STEFANIE PLEIN

PROGRAM PRICING

\$2,650 (based on 8 participants)

Price includes accommodations, meals and activities as listed in itinerary, private transportation, most tips and gratuities (except main guide and driver), and carbon offset.

Does not include items of a personal nature or international airfare. Holbrook can assist with your flight arrangements if desired.

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.

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 a minimum of 8 participants in double occupancy rooms. For a single room throughout the trip add \$225 per person. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to hold your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable minus a \$100 cancellation fee until February 5, 2021, at which time non-refundable final payments are due.

Please note: itineraries may be subject to change due to protocols and adjustments related to the COVID-19 pandemic. For the latest information regarding our COVID-19 policies, please visit holbrooktravel.com/covid19

MEET YOUR GUIDE



Mario Córdoba Hidalgo has been a nature guide in Costa Rica for more than two decades. During all these years he has expanded his knowledge and appreciation for the country's unique features and introduced many

visitors to its beauty and biodiversity. Born in 1973 in Quesada, San Carlos, he spent his early years exploring nature with his local Boy Scout troop. This was the onset of his lifelong passion for the natural world. After completing primary and secondary school, he went on to attend the Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica for his professional training in ecotourism. He learned the trade as a tour guide at places like Arenal Volcano and Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge. He has been leading tours for Holbrook Travel since 1996.



RED-LEGGED HONEYCREEPER

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit holbrook.travel/cordoba-cr21 or

Contact **Debbie Jordan** at **866-748-6146** or debbie@holbrooktravel.com