



Bogota Rail by Ian Segebarth



# COLOMBIA

## BIRDING THE CENTRAL ANDES & RIO CLARO RESERVE

9 days | Choose your dates

### 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 and look for large mixed flocks in this area.
- 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.

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*Supporting Audubon and its partners  
in advancing sustainable development  
in bird hot-spots*

**Holbrook Travel** is a supporting partner in Audubon and its partners' conservation work in Latin America and in the Caribbean. One key aspect of that work is the strengthening of **bird-based tourism** as a conservation and sustainable development tool. The tours developed from this initiative are designed to help protect key target areas along the flyways for migratory and local species. Initial sites are located in **Belize, Colombia, Guatemala, Paraguay** and **the Bahamas**.

These areas were selected by intersecting bird hot-spots with key **Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)** where Audubon and their partners (Belize Audubon, Patrimonio Natural, Calidris, WCS, Vivamos Mejor, Guyra Paraguay and the Bahamas National Trust) are carrying out vital conservation work. By overlaying conservation work with the economic support that bird-based tourism brings, this program **strengthens local communities** and the **long-term conservation** of these areas.

Participants on these tours have a direct economic impact on local people and communities, help preserve IBAs, and nurture an emerging ecotourism industry. By visiting these sites with our trained guides, you **help protect threatened habitats** by supporting local conservation and local communities that benefit from tourism.



# WHAT MAKES FLYWAY EXPEDITIONS DIFFERENT?



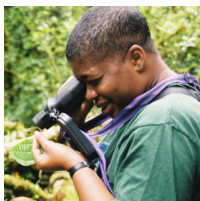
## UNIQUE ITINERARIES

These birding itineraries are unique in that they are designed to help strengthen and support tourism in bird hot-spots and support conservation and local economic development. The initial program is focusing on nine sites in Belize, Guatemala, Paraguay and the Bahamas. The project is helping communities, local tour operators, and tourism boards attract bird watching tourists to the selected destinations and associated businesses. Participants will see the conservation activities first-hand and engage with the local community during their tours.



## EXTENSIVE GUIDE TRAINING

Birding guides selected for the tours have taken part in comprehensive guide training in alliance with expert guides, local tourism authorities, and Audubon's local conservation partners. Guides are provided advanced levels of training which include bird identification, biology, ecology, and conservation alongside guiding ethics, group management, marketing, and business, plus basic English language where needed. Tours connect advanced regional guides with local guides to increase knowledge and capacity.



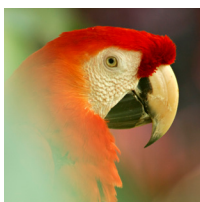
## SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

The National Audubon Society project provides local guiding businesses with access to equipment, including binoculars, scopes, and guidebooks; improves trails and associated infrastructure; and offers basic business support such as marketing and customer service training. Participants on the tours will benefit from these improvements and help support the important economic incentive to promote conservation.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Travelers will learn about targeted environmental education and outreach programs carried out by Audubon and its partners. These include programs at local schools, using local birdlife as a hook to engage youth, and courses for adult, community, and women's groups, and alternative livelihood programs. Tours may include a talk with community members or a school visit where participants can exchange their passion for birding.



## BIRD CONSERVATION

With greater local awareness and appreciation for ecosystems, the program supports priority endemic bird species including the critically endangered Scarlet Macaw, Resplendent Quetzal and Bahama Oriole, plus migrant species that rely on key migratory flyways like the Piping Plover, Wood Thrush and Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and other wildlife including the Jaguar, Maned Wolf and Rock Iguana.

*Photos by Greg Basco, Christa Dillabaugh, Pelin Karaca, and Martin Van Lokven*

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

*Supporting Audubon and its partners in advancing sustainable development in bird hot-spots*

This bird-based tourism initiative is a key conservation tool being implemented by the National Audubon Society that links poverty reduction and economic development directly with nature conservation. By building capacity within communities, especially on the edge of protected areas or Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas, and working with tour operators and local organizations to drive an interested market to support the initiative, we all can make a vast difference for conservation and reduce the loss of habitat and birds. Holbrook Travel is a proud supporter of this work, having pioneered conservation, local guide training, and community outreach in Costa Rica. Together, we aim to create a network of community-based birding destinations across the hemisphere that offer skilled local birding guides, improved site interpretation and lodging, and related goods and services tailored to the birding community.

# Birding at Central Andes & Rio Claro Reserve

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.

## ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER



Medellín by Jonathan Hood

### DAY 1 - MEDELLÍN

Arrive at the José María Córdova International Airport (MDE) in Medellín, Colombia, and transfer to the hotel. This is an arrival day and no meals are included. *Overnight at Hotel La Extremadura.*

### DAY 2 - RIO CLARO RESERVE

After an early breakfast, transfer to La Romera Reserve in Sabaneta village—a nice secondary forest in the Medellín Mountains—in search of endemics such as the 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. After lunch at a local restaurant, continue to Rio Claro Reserve, arriving at about 5 pm. After checking into your room, gather with your fellow travelers for your first checklist meeting, followed by dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Cabañas La Mulata. (BLD)*

### DAY 3 - RIO CLARO RESERVE

Spend today birding in the Rio Claro Natural Reserve, where you can enjoy the incredible humid tropical forest and amazing biodiversity. Some birds of interest here include: Citron-throated Toucan, Black-bellied Wren, Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, Marble 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, Scarlet-browed Tanager, Plain-colored Tanager, Golden-hooded Tanager, White-eared Conebill, Slate-colored Seedeater,

Thick-billed Seed-Finch, Large-bellied Seed-Finch, Masked Yellowthroat, Orange-crowned Oriole, and Fulvous-vented Euphonia. Endemic birds of the region are the White-mantled Barbet, Sooty Ant-Tanager, Colombian Chachalaca, Beautiful Woodpecker, Magdalena Antbird, Antioquia Bristle-Tyrant; near-endemic birds are the Saffron-headed Parrot and Moustached Brushfinch. *Overnight at Cabañas La Mulata. (BLD)*

### DAY 4 - NEVADO DEL RUIZ

Spend the morning birding around the trails surrounding the lodge. After lunch, begin the four-hour transfer to the next location. *Overnight at Termales del Ruiz. (BLD)*

### DAY 5 - NEVADO DEL RUIZ

This morning you will be birding in the high elevations (13,000 feet) of Los Nevados National Park (Nevado del Ruiz), an incredible páramo in the central Andes with many special birds and amazing landscapes. Return back to the lodge for lunch. In the afternoon go birding around the lodge trails and the feeders. Target species for this day include the Andean Condor, Andean Duck, Páramo Tapaculo, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Noble Snipe, Andean Pygmy-Owl, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Shining Sunbeam, Golden-breasted Puffleg, Rainbow-bearded Thornbill, Viridian Metaltail, Many-striped Canastero, White-chinned Thistletail, Andean Tit-Spintail, White-capped Tanager, Páramo Seedeater, Slate-colored Seedeater, and Golden-crowned Tanager. Endemic birds of the region are the Buffy Helmetcrest and Rufous-fronted Parakeet; 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)*

### DAY 6 - OTÚN QUIMBAYA

Depart early for the 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 see birds by the antpitta feeders; in this location the mixed flocks and the amazing number of birds are fantastic and very easy to see. After lunch, transfer to Otún Quimbaya Sanctuary. *Overnight at Lodge at Otún Quimbaya. (BLD)*

### DAY 7 - OTÚN QUIMBAYA

Spend the day birding in the Otún Quimbaya Flora and Fauna Sanctuary. This is a lovely place in the central Andes with some very important and rare birds. Search for birds on a little-used road or on the paths inside the forest. Some interesting birds in Otún for this day are the 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, Golden-headed Quetzal, White-winged Becard, Western Emerald, Crimson-rumped Toucanet, Emerald Toucanet, Spotted Barbtail, and Speckle-faced Parrot. Otún is also very good for owling, so you'll have the opportunity to explore the reserve by night. *Overnight at Lodge at Otún Quimbaya. (BLD)*

### DAY 8 - BOGOTÁ

Before breakfast, you'll have time for birding around the lodge trails one last time. After breakfast, journey toward Pereira for your mid-day flight to Bogotá, with some birding en route to look for ducks and dippers. Lunch will be at the Bogotá airport upon arrival. Then transfer to La Florida Park, a wetland ecosystem in Bogotá, where you'll have the chance to see some important highland savanna species, such as the Bogotá Rail, Apolinar's Wren, Silvery-throated Spinetail, Noble Snipe, Subtropical Doradito, and more. Transfer to the hotel late in the afternoon and check in. Gather with your fellow travelers for a final checklist review at the hotel before sharing a farewell dinner. *Overnight at Hilton Garden Inn. (BLD)*

### DAY 9 - DEPART

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

## PROGRAM PRICING

**\$2,675** (based on 12 participants and 1 leader)

**\$2,875** (based on 10 participants and 1 leader)

Cost includes accommodations, activities, and meals as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, full-time guide, part-time apprentice guides, and a donation to National Audubon to support the program.

Does not include international airfare, gratuities, alcoholic beverages, or items of a personal nature.

Valid for travel in 2020.

## TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants on a group program of 10 or more 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. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of Group Deluxe Travel Protection and provides protection in the event you need to cancel your program for a covered reason, leave your program early, are delayed going to or returning home from your program, or need to change or cancel your airfare, whether purchased through Holbrook Travel or independently. Contact your Holbrook Travel specialist for more details.

## THE FINE PRINT

*Rates are based on double occupancy for participants. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to secure your reservation. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Non-refundable final payment is due at 95 days prior to departure.*



*Green-bearded Helmetcrest by Ian Segebarth*



*Collared Trogon by Ian Segebarth*



*Colombian Chachalaca by Mateo Gable*