



Purple-backed Thornbill by Rick Greenspun



COLOMBIA

BIRDING COLOMBIA'S CENTRAL ANDES

10 days | Choose your dates

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Seek out a variety of Colombia's rare and endemic species, such as the Cauca Guan, Chestnut Wood-Quail, Crested Ant-Tanager, and Buffy Helmetcrest.
- 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.
- Watch the antpitta feeders in Rio Blanco Natural Reserve, a designated Important Bird Area, and look for large mixed flocks in this area.
- Meet with members of the Yarumo Blanco Foundation and learn about their involvement with Audubon's guide training and the development of the Central Andes Birding Trail.

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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.



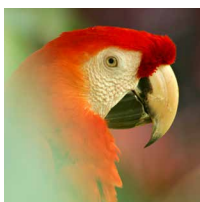
SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

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 Colombia's Central Andes

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 highlights of the Central Andes region, famed for its high level of species diversity, including the Otún Quimbaya Flora and Fauna Sanctuary, Rio Blanco Reserve, and Los Nevados National Park. Explore Andean cloud forest, farmland, páramo, and wetland 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

DAY 1 - BOGOTÁ

Upon arrival at the Bogotá International Airport, after clearing customs and immigration, you'll be met and transferred to your hotel. This is an arrival day and no meals are included. *Overnight at Hilton Garden Inn.*

DAY 2 - OTÚN QUIMBAYA

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the domestic flight to Pereira. Upon arrival, continue approximately one hour to Otún Quimbaya Fauna and Flora Sanctuary, with birding en route. Located on the western slope of the central mountain range, Otún Quimbaya protects the middle basin of the Otún River and the Andean and high Andean forests surrounding it. The site has been reforested for more than 40 years, creating connectivity with the well-preserved forests of the upper part of Los Nevados National Natural Park and resulting in a biological corridor of great importance in the Central Andes. Some birds that are possible in Otún are Cauca Guan, Chestnut Wood-Quail, Torrent Duck, Colombian Screech-Owl, Emerald Toucanet, Hooded Antpitta, Rufous-breasted Flycatcher, Flame-rumped Tanager, Scrub Tanager, Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, Multicolored Tanager, Crested Ant-Tanager, and White-capped Tanager—just a few of the 400 species that have been recorded here. It is also common to see large Andean mammals, such as mountain tapir and sometimes spectacled bear. Please note: Wi-Fi is not available at the lodge. Elevation: 7,382 feet | Walking conditions: Easy, unpaved rural road, little inclination | Temperature: 60-79 °F. *Overnight at Lodge at Otún Quimbaya. (BLD)*

DAY 3 - OTÚN QUIMBAYA

Spend the day birding in Otún Quimbaya. Bird along the main road to La Pastora and the garden around the main house, occasionally entering the forest using the national park trails. Meet with members of the Yarumo Blanco Foundation, which manages Otún Quimbaya Fauna and Flora Sanctuary and was heavily involved with the Audubon International Alliances Program training and development of the Andean Birding Trail. Yarumo Blanco is a prime example of community- and bird-based tourism. All members of the foundation are local farmers who have made an unparalleled effort to make Otún one of the best sanctuaries in the country. Learn about their award-winning work in communitarian conservation and social development. If time and schedules permit, also meet one of the national park rangers, who will explain a bit about the activity of national parks and the government's role in conservation. After dark, go owling around the lodge. *Overnight at Lodge at Otún Quimbaya. (BLD)*

DAY 4 - MANIZALES

Return to Pereira with birding along the way, including a stop by the Otún River to look for Torrent Duck, Black-capped Dipper,

and Torrent Tyrannulet. After lunch, continue to Tinamú Nature Reserve, about one hour from the city of Manizales in the village of San Peregrino. This area is focused on the production of shade-grown coffee and different agricultural products. The Tinamú Nature Reserve is a mosaic of coffee with shade, secondary growth, and patches of native forest, with feeders near the lodge to attract different species. Inside the reserve, there is a network of moderately strenuous trails, offering great opportunities to see species not found at the feeders. Elevation: 4,265 feet | Walking conditions: easy, unpaved rural road, trails within the reserve | Temperature: 75-84 °F. *Overnight at Tinamú Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 5 - MANIZALES

Spend a full day birding in Tinamú Reserve and exploring the action at the amazing hummingbird feeders near the rooms and inside the forest. Some important species include Guira Tanager, Moustached Puffbird, Common Potoo, Golden-collared Manakin, Andean Motmot, Jet Antbird, Great Antshrike, Bay-headed Tanager, Scrub Tanager, Blue-necked Tanager, Gray-fronted Dove, Scaled Antpitta, Spectacled Parrotlet, Red-headed Barbet, and Colombian Chachalaca. *Overnight at Tinamú Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 6 - NEVADO DEL RUÍZ

Rise early to visit Rio Blanco Reserve, a BirdLife International IBA (Important Bird Area) and one of the best places in the world to see antpittas. The reserve is in a cloud forest that belongs to the city of Manizales, protected for years to conserve the water resources that supply the city. No less than 450 species of birds have been recorded here, many of them endemic and with ranges of restricted distribution. Target species include Brown-banded Antpitta, Bicolored Antpitta, Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, Slate-crowned Antpitta, Black-billed Mountain-Toucan, Powerful Woodpecker, Long-tailed Sylph, Wedge-billed Hummingbird, White-capped Tanager, White-capped Dipper, and Dusky Piha. Have lunch here and enjoy the hummingbird and tanager feeders. After lunch, continue to the high elevations (13,000 feet) of Los Nevados National Park (Nevado del Ruíz), an incredible páramo in the Central Andes with many special birds and amazing landscapes. Later this afternoon, arrive at Termales del Ruíz, with time for birding around the lodge trails and feeders or to take advantage of the magnificent thermal baths. Elevation: 11,150-12,200 feet | Walking conditions: easy, unpaved and paved rural road, trails within the reserve | Temperature: 42-58 °F. *Overnight at Termales del Ruíz. (BLD)*

DAY 7 - NEVADO DEL RUÍZ

Today, search for birds in Los Nevados National Park. Some of today's specialties include Buffy Helmetcrest, Many-striped Canastero, White-chinned Thistletail, Tawny Antpitta, Plumbeous Sierra-Finch, Stout-billed Cinclodes, Glossy Flowerpiercer, Andean Lapwing, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Rainbow-bearded Thornbill, Greater Sapphirewing, Buff-winged

Starfrontlet, and Black-thighed Puffleg. The park is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful places in the country; the landscape is framed by snow-capped peaks that constitute three active volcanoes: El Ruíz, Santa Isabel, and Tolima. In addition to great birding, the flora is another draw, featuring an immensity of rare and unique species. *Overnight at Termales del Ruiz. (BLD)*

DAY 8 - BOGOTÁ

This morning, go birding in the cloud forest at a different reserve, Hacienda El Bosque, and learn about the CHEC community project. The reserve is characterized by having large patches of high Andean cloud forest mixed with livestock paddocks and potato fields. There is a chance to see Purple-backed Thornbill, Crescent-faced Antpitta, Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Golden-breasted Puffleg, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Bar-bellied Woodpecker, Golden-plumed Parakeet, Ocellated Tapaculo, Black-collared Jay, Rufous Wren, Hooded Mountain-Tanager, Plushcap, and Capped Conebill. This afternoon, travel to Pereira for a flight back to Bogotá. Transfer to the hotel and have some time to relax before dinner. *Overnight at Hilton Garden Inn. (BLD)*

DAY 9 - BOGOTÁ

Rise early this morning for birding in Chingaza National Park, a large mountainous area in the highlands of the Eastern Andes Cordillera. The habitat consists of montane cloud forest, high-elevation lakes, and specialized páramo covered by a vast expanse of frailejones (a type of perennial subshrub in the sunflower family, and a staple of the páramo ecosystem). Breakfast and lunch will be in the field, allowing you to focus on birding in the elfin forest of this enormous national treasure. Birding is primarily along the main access road. About 17 miles from Bogotá, the road traverses temperate scrub mixed with Chusquea bamboo. This habitat is home to Bronze-tailed Thornbill, Longuemare's Sunangel, Coppery-bellied Puffleg, and Rufous-browed Conebill, all near-endemics found only in the highlands of Colombia and Venezuela. In the afternoon, visit La Calera Hummingbird Garden in the cloud forest to see some great species of hummingbird, including Sword-billed Hummingbird, Glowing Puffleg, and Black-tailed and Green-tailed Trainbearers. Other birds of interest today include Purple-backed Thornbill, Paramo Seedeater, Plushcap, Pale-naped Brush-Finch, Smoky Bush-Tyrant, Black-billed Mountain-Toucan, Black-headed Hemispingus, and many more. Elevation: 8,530-11,810 feet | Temperature: 41-54 °F. *Overnight at Hilton Garden Inn. (BLD)*

DAY 10 - DEPART

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



Collared Trogon by Ian Segebarth



Colombian Chusquea by Mateo Gable

PROGRAM PRICING

\$3,490 (based on 12 participants + 1 leader)

\$3,490 (based on 10 participants + 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 2021.

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 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. Non-refundable final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure.