

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



COLOMBIA

SANTA MARTA MOUNTAINS FLYWAY EXPEDITION

with Bexar Audubon Society

January 26 – February 3, 2022



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 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, 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 Wayúu indigenous community members in Riohacha and learn about their culture, represented in their weaving, ceramics, vegetation, and gastronomy.

holbrook.travel/bexar-santamarta22



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

JANUARY 26 - BARRANQUILLA

Upon arrival in Barranquilla, you’ll be met and transferred to your hotel. This is an arrival day and no meals are included. Check-in starts at 3 pm. *Overnight at Barranquilla Plaza Hotel.*

JANUARY 27 - RIOHACHA

After an early breakfast and program orientation, head to the Universidad del Norte on the outskirts of the city for a good chance at seeing the endemic Chestnut-winged Chachalaca. From there, continue to the area known as KM 4 to begin the day’s birding in the mangrove habitat of Salamanca National Park. The wetlands of this area provide habitat for numerous species of shorebirds. Target species will include Bicolored Conebill, Pied and Russet-throated Puffbirds, Stripe-backed Wren, Caribbean Hornero, Blue-winged Parrotlet, Glossy, White, and Green Ibises, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Large-billed Tern, Sapphire-bellied and Sapphire-throated Hummingbirds, and more. Have lunch at a local restaurant before driving four to five hours to Riohacha. Check in at the Taroa Lifestyle Hotel, the first “Wayúu Lifestyle Hotel” in Colombia; the hotel is staffed by indigenous Wayúu people, and every space in the hotel is inspired by Wayúu culture, which is represented in their weaving, ceramics, vegetation, and gastronomy. *Overnight at Taroa Hotel. (BLD)*

JANUARY 28 - RIOHACHA

Today visit Los Flamencos Sanctuary, focusing on the wetlands and shorebirds. Los Flamencos is an important coastal wetland and dry forest reserve created to protect a large population of American Flamingo. This 17,000-acre reserve of marshes, lagoons, and dry forest also provides habitat for 185 other bird species, 80% of which are migrants. Also spend some time birding the dry scrubland for specialties such as the Tocuyo Sparrow, Vermilion Cardinal, Chestnut Piculet, White-whiskered Spinetail, Pearl Kite, Aplomado Falcon, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Burrowing Owl, Green-rumped Parrotlet, Brown-throated and Blue-crowned Parakeets, Red-billed Emerald, and Buffy Hummingbird, among others. Afterwards, visit the village of Camarones, where you’ll learn about the Wayúu indigenous people. Meet your local guide’s family, visit their home, and learn about their arts and crafts, especially the handmade, colorful bags known as mochilas. Have lunch at a local restaurant in Camarones Beach, then search for some key

species like Vermilion Cardinal, Tocuyo Sparrow, Orinocan Saltator, Blue-crowned Parakeet, Buffy Hummingbird, Chestnut Piculet, Bare-eyed Pigeon, White-whiskered Spinetail, Glaucous Tanager, Pileated Finch, and Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant. *Overnight at Taroa Hotel. (BLD)*

JANUARY 29 - SANTA MARTA

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and travel to Santa Marta with birding en route. La Guajira Peninsula is among the country’s most arid regions, and as a result, low-growth shrubs and spiny trees dominate the landscape; these sub-xerophytic conditions help maintain the unique diversity of species. The dry forests in La Guajira are distributed in territories belonging to the Wayúu, who grant access thanks to the good relationships that have been established. The trails are basically sandy walkways in between shrubs and stocky forests, swamps, and some creeks, which are dry much of the year. Arrive to Santa Marta in the afternoon and check in at your beachfront hotel, with time to enjoy the beach or do some birding in the surrounding area before dinner. (Elevation: Sea level | Accessibility: Rural, unpaved road | Temperatures: 82-97°F) *Overnight at GHL Costa Azul. (BLD)*

JANUARY 30 - EL DORADO RESERVE

Depart early for El Dorado, with birding along the way in the humid tropical forest around the town of Minca. Minca sits in the low-elevation foothills of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, where a dry forest ecosystem predominates across the ridges. Above the village, the premontane forest mixes with coffee crops to create habitat for many local and migratory bird species, including the Golden-winged Sparrow and Black-backed Antshrike, which tend to be difficult to find in other regions of the country. Have lunch in Minca while watching hundreds of hummingbirds at the nearby feeders. This afternoon, board several 4x4s and journey higher into the mountains to the beautiful El Dorado Lodge, the ProAves Foundation’s flagship lodge. This area is home to a vast array of species, including the Santa Marta Blossomcrown, Santa Marta Sabrewing, Streak-capped Spinetail, Scarlet-fronted and Orange-chinned Parakeets, Blue-fronted Lancebill, Steely-vented Hummingbird, Lineated and Crimson-crested Woodpeckers, Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, Cinnamon and White-winged Becards, Black-chested Jay, Rusty Flowerpiercer, Streaked and Grayish Saltators, Crested Oropendola, Thick-billed Euphonia, and many others. (Elevation: 2,300-3,600 feet | Accessibility: Easy, rural unpaved road | Temperatures: 75-86°F. Lowlands of Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta—Elevation: 2,620-7,550 feet | 59-77 °F.) *Overnight at El Dorado Lodge. (BLD)*

JANUARY 31 - EL DORADO RESERVE

Spend today exploring the San Lorenzo Ridge. The Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, the highest coastal mountain range in the world, is home to an incredible 20 endemic species, which account for 27 percent of the endemics in the entire country. Search for as many of these species as you can find along the altitudinal gradient of the San Lorenzo Ridge. Some of the species that you may hope to find in the Santa Marta Mountains include the Santa Marta Parakeet, Santa Marta Screech-Owl, 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, Sickie-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 Tyrannulets, Olive-striped Flycatcher, Black-throated Tody-Tyrant, Cinnamon Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant, Golden-breasted Fruiteater, Orange-billed and Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrushes, Great Thrush, Black-hooded Thrush, Slate-throated Redstart, Three-striped Warbler, White-sided Flowerpiercer, Blue-naped Chlorophonia, and many others. *Overnight at El Dorado Lodge. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 1 - EL DORADO RESERVE

Spend today birding in the El Dorado Natural Reserve. The reserve sits in a transitional zone between lower mountain forests and higher cloud forests, creating a confluence of species from both areas. The reserve is known for its incredible feeders for hummingbirds (some of which are endemic), tanagers, guans, and wood-quails. Targets today include the Santa Marta Foliage-gleaner, Santa Marta Antbird, Santa Marta Wood-Wren, Coppery Emerald, Black Hawk-Eagle, Military Macaw, Red-billed Parrot, Lined Quail-Dove, Blue-fronted Lancebill, Brown Violetear, Steely-vented Hummingbird, Keel-billed Toucan, Lineated and Crimson-crested Woodpeckers, Greenish and Forest Elaenias, Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, Social and Piratic Flycatchers, Cinnamon and White-winged Becards, Rufous-breasted and Rufous-and-white Wrens, Black-chested Jay, Brown-capped Vireo, Rusty Flowerpiercer, Streaked and Grayish Saltators, Yellow-bellied Seed-eater, Crested Oropendola, Thick-billed Euphonia, and more. During the northern winter months, these foothills harbor a good number of North American breeding migrants, including Swainson's Thrush, Yellow-throated Vireo, Tennessee, Golden-winged, Cerulean, Blackburnian, and Black-throated Green Warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Summer Tanager. (Elevation: 5,900 feet | Accessibility: Easy to medium; rural, unpaved road; hiking trails along the reserve | Temperatures: 60-75°F.) *Overnight at El Dorado Lodge. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 2 - BARRANQUILLA

Spend a final morning birding around El Dorado Reserve before starting your descent toward Santa Marta, with birding

en route. You'll use the 4x4 Jeeps until you reach Minca, where you'll have lunch and then continue by bus to Barranquilla, with more birding en route. *Overnight at Barranquilla Plaza Hotel. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 3 - DEPARTURE

This morning, check out and head to the airport for early afternoon flights back to the U.S. Check-out is at 12 pm. (B)

LAND PRICING

\$3,725 (based on a minimum of 4 participants)

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

Does not include international airfare, tips and 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. 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 \$335 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 23, 2021 at which time non-refundable final payment is 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



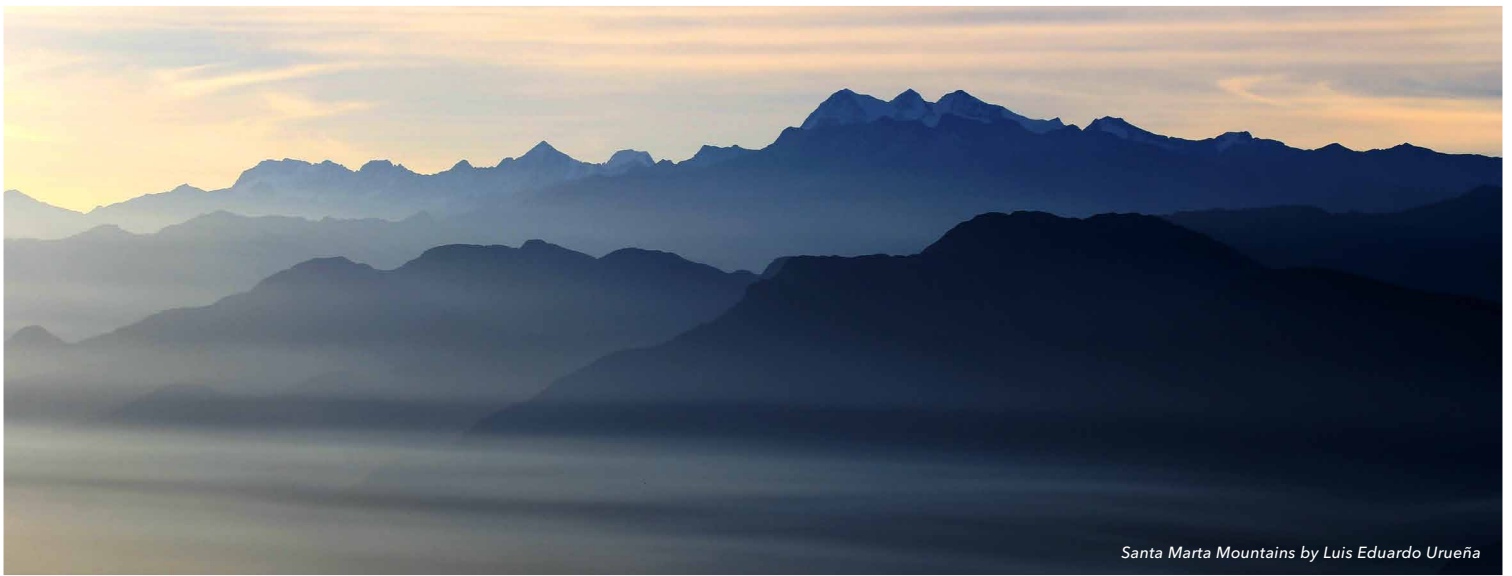
This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe



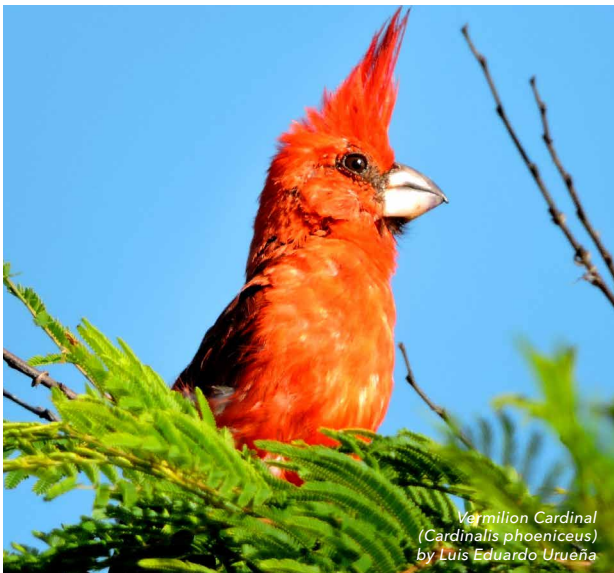
Black-fronted Wood-Quail
(*Odontophorus atrifrons*)
by Luis Eduardo Urueña



Yellow-crowned Redstart
(*Myioborus flavivertex*)
by Luis Eduardo Urueña



Santa Marta Mountains by Luis Eduardo Urueña



Vermilion Cardinal
(*Cardinalis phoeniceus*)
by Luis Eduardo Urueña



Sapphire-throated Hummingbird
(*Lepidopyga coeruleogularis*)
by Tim Lenz

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit holbrook.travell/bexar-santamarta22 or contact Sandy Schmidt at 877-907-5360 or schmidt@holbrooktravel.com