



Purple-backed Thornbill
(*Ramphomicron microrhynchum*)
by Rick Greenspun



COLOMBIA

CENTRAL ANDES FLYWAY EXPEDITION

with Bexar Audubon Society

January 17 – 25, 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 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, and páramo 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 Cauca Guan, Chestnut Wood-Quail, Crested Ant-Tanager, and Buffy Helmetcrest.
- Explore the cloud forest at La Finca El Cortaderal, home to a population of critically endangered Indigo-winged Parrot.
- 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.

holbrook.travel/bexar-andes22



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 17 - PEREIRA

Upon arrival in Pereira, you will be met and transferred to the hotel. Check-in starts at 3 pm. (For those connecting via Bogotá, please plan arrivals into Bogotá before 6:30 pm to be able to connect with the last flight to Pereira.) *Overnight at Sonesta Hotel.*

JANUARY 18 - SANTA ROSA DE CABAL

This morning, meet your fellow travelers during an early breakfast and orientation at the hotel. Check out and travel approximately one hour to Otún Quimbaya, with birding en route. Located on the western slope of the central mountain range, Otún Quimbaya Fauna and Flora Sanctuary 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. Spend the morning and early afternoon birding in Otún. Look for 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 recorded here. It is also possible to see large Andean mammals, such as mountain tapir and sometimes spectacled bear. After lunch at the on-site lodge, meet members of the Yarumo Blanco Foundation. This community association manages the park and was heavily involved with the Audubon International Alliances Program training and the development of the Andean Birding Trail. 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 community conservation and social development. Later this afternoon, continue to Santa Rosa de Cabal. Check in and have dinner at the hotel, with time together to complete your daily birding checklist. (Elevation: 7,382 feet | Walking conditions: Easy, unpaved rural road, little inclination | Temperature: 60-79 °F.) *Overnight at Hacienda Santa Clara. (BLD)*

JANUARY 19 - SANTA ROSA DE CABAL

Set out at 5 am for a full day of birding via 4x4 vehicles in the cloud forest at La Finca El Cortaderal; breakfast and lunch will be in the field. Over the course of centuries, Colombia's Cordillera Central has been drastically transformed due to agriculture and livestock farming, leading many species to the edge of extinction. The remains of high Andean forests have become the last refuge

for species such as the Indigo-winged (Fuertes's) Parrot, which was rediscovered in 2002 after 90 years of absence and whose population today is critically endangered. Other key species include the Gray-breasted and Black-billed Mountain-Toucans, Chestnut Wood-Quail, Mountain Avocetbill, Black-thighed Puffleg, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Andean Condor, Andean Pygmy-Owl, Powerful Woodpecker, Purple-backed Thornbill, Speckle-faced Parrot, Golden-plumed Parakeet, Ocellated Tapaculo, Flammulated Treehunter, Agile Tit-Tyrant, and Barred Fruiteater. Later this afternoon, return to Santa Rosa de Cabal. (Elevation: 9,180-9,845 feet | Walking conditions: Easy, rural unpaved road | Temperature: 48-65 °F.) *Overnight at Hacienda Santa Clara. (BLD)*

JANUARY 20 - MANIZALES

After 6 am breakfast, check out and travel about an hour to experience a bird-based tourism project designed and implemented by community members in Filandia Quindío, with leadership from local guides who have completed the National Audubon-hosted International Alliances training program. Learn about the work being done to create a 10-acre conservation corridor with native trees and plants. The project also aims to increase community participation in activities that enrich bird habitat, strengthen biological corridors, support conservation, and promote the region as a destination for citizen science and birding. The team is developing a field brochure with the most important birds in the region, establishing a baseline for monitoring planted trees in the corridors during phase I and II of the conservation agreements, and establishing a baseline for bird monitoring in the corridors. Continue to El Color de Mis Rêves tented camp for lunch. In this private natural reserve in the middle of the Central Andean cloud forest, it is possible to see a variety of hummingbirds and tanagers. Enjoy time for birding on the grounds and then continue to Tinamú Lodge & Nature Reserve, about an hour outside the city of Manizales near the village of San Peregrino. This area is focused on the production of shade-grown coffee and other agricultural products. The Tinamú Nature Reserve is a mosaic of coffee with shade, secondary growth, and patches of native forest, and there are feeders installed to attract different species. Inside the reserve, a network of moderately difficult trails offers great opportunities to see species not observed at the feeders. (Elevation at Manizales: 8,600 feet | Elevation: 4,265 feet | Walking conditions: Easy, unpaved rural road, moderately difficult trails within the reserve | Temperature: 75-84 °F.) *Overnight at Tinamú Lodge. (BLD)*

JANUARY 21 - MANIZALES

Spend a full day searching for birds in Tinamú Reserve and exploring the action at the amazing hummingbird feeders around the rooms and inside the forest. Some important species in

Tinamú include Guira Tanager, Moustached Puffbird, Common Potoo, Golden-collared Manakin, Andean Motmot, Jet Antbird, Great Antshrike, Bay-headed Tanager, Scrub Tanager, Blue-necked Tanager, Grey-fronted Dove, Scaled Antpitta, Spectacled Parrotlet, Red-headed Barbet, and Colombian Chachalaca. *Overnight at Tinamú Lodge. (BLD)*

JANUARY 22 - NEVADO DEL RUIZ

Start today with a very early breakfast, then at 5:30 depart for Río Blanco Natural Reserve, arriving by 7 am to observe the mixed flocks utilizing the antpitta feeders in this humid tropical forest of the Magdalena Valley. Río Blanco is an Important Bird Area (IBA) in a cloud forest that belongs to the city of Manizales, protected for years to conserve the water resources that supply the city. No fewer than 450 bird species have been recorded here, many of them endemic and with ranges of restricted distribution. You may see Brown-banded, Bicolored, Chestnut-crowned, and Slate-crowned Antpittas, Black-billed Mountain-Toucan, Powerful Woodpecker, Long-tailed Sylph, Wedge-billed Hummingbird, White-capped Tanager, White-capped Dipper, and Dusky Piha. Also visit the hummingbird and tanager feeders. This afternoon, continue approximately an hour to the higher elevations (up to 13,000 feet) of Los Nevados National Park, which protects an incredible páramo habitat with many special birds and amazing landscapes. Later, arrive at Termales del Ruiz, with time to bird around the lodge trails and hummingbird feeders or relax in the magnificent thermal hot springs 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 Ruiz. (BLD)*

JANUARY 23 - NEVADO DEL RUIZ

Spend the day birding in Los Nevados National Natural 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 include three active volcanoes: El Ruiz, Santa Isabel, and Tolima. In addition to great birding, the park's flora is another draw, featuring an immensity of rare and unique species. *Overnight at Termales del Ruiz. (BLD)*

JANUARY 24 - PEREIRA

This morning, depart early for Hacienda El Bosque, about 30 minutes away. The reserve is characterized by large patches of high Andean cloud forest mixed with livestock paddocks and potato fields. It currently boasts a bird list of over 120 species, including 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. After lunch, return to Pereira. Attend a late afternoon talk by a National Audubon representative before sharing a final farewell dinner together. *Overnight at Sonesta Hotel. (BLD)*

JANUARY 25 - DEPARTURE

This morning, transfer to the airport for departure flights, returning to the US or continuing your birding experience in Colombia's Santa Marta Mountains on the Atlantic coast. Check-out is at 1 pm. (B)



LAND PRICING

\$2,750 (based on 8 participants)

Cost includes meals, accommodations, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, private in-country transportation, 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, estimated at \$675 from San Antonio, gratuities, alcoholic beverages, or items of a personal nature. Other departure cities available.

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 \$455 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 14, 2020 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



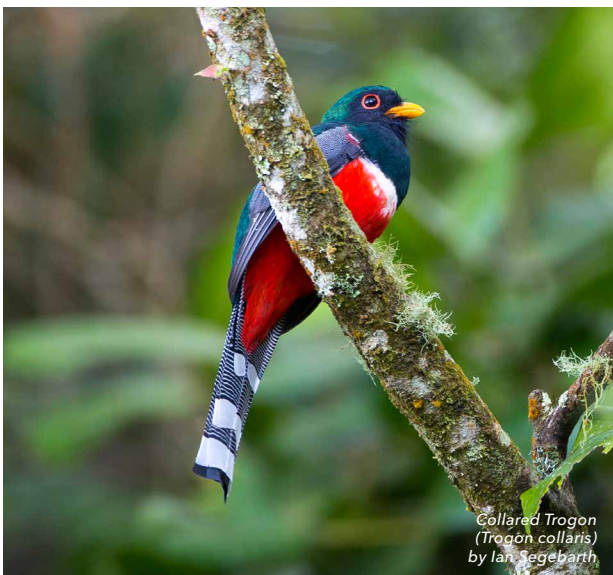
Buffy helmetcrest
(*Oxygogon stuebelii*)
by Ann & Rob Simpson



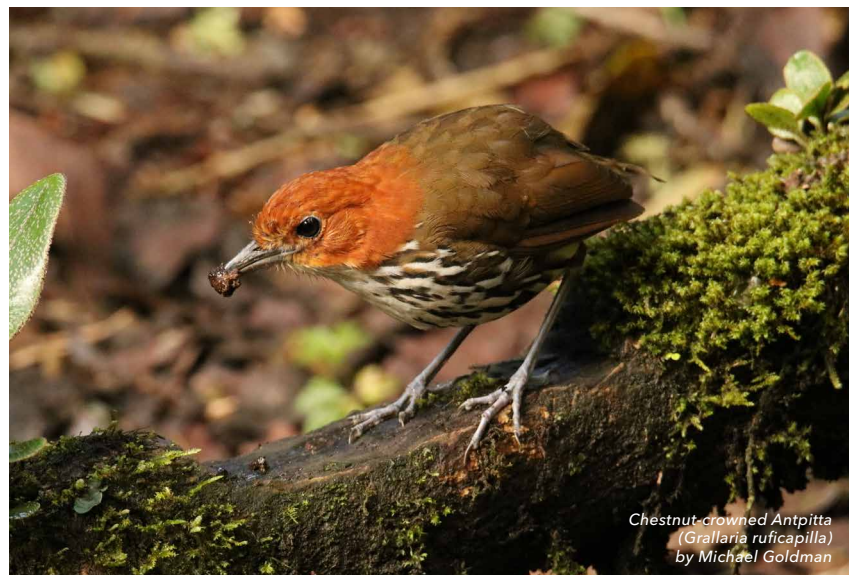
Andean Motmot
(*Momotus aequatorialis*)
by Debbie Jordan



by Debbie Jordan



Collared Trogon
(*Trogon collaris*)
by Ian Segebarth



Chestnut-crowned Antpitta
(*Grallaria ruficapilla*)
by Michael Goldman

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit holbrook.travel/bexar-andes22 or contact Sandy Schmidt at 877-907-5360 or schmidt@holbrooktravel.com