



Andean Condor



COLOMBIA

SEATTLE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Birding at Central Andes and Rio Claro Reserve

February 22 - March 2, 2019



HIGH INTENSITY!

This program is for serious birders. Expect at least 6-8 hours of birding each day.

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.

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, which draw mixed flocks in high numbers.
- 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.



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 Important Bird Areas (IBAs), and nurture an emerging ecotourism industry.

Learn more at holbrook.travel/flywayexpeditions

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

FEBRUARY 22 - MEDELLÍN

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

FEBRUARY 23 - RIO CLARO RESERVE

After an early breakfast travel to La Romero Reserve in Sabaneta Village -- a productive secondary forest in the Medellín Mountains -- in search of endemics such as 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 the journey to Rio Claro Reserve arriving around 5 pm. After checking into your room, get together for our first check-list meeting followed by dinner at the hotel. Elevation up to 5,570 feet, temperature ranges from 59 - 73.4 °F. *Overnight at Cabañas La Mulata. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 24 - RIO CLARO RESERVE

Spend a full day birding in Rio Claro Natural Reserve. Enjoy the beautiful humid tropical forest and amazing biodiversity abundant throughout the reserve. Birds of special interest here include: Citron-throated Toucan, Black-bellied Wren, Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, Marbled Wood-Quail, Chestnut-backed Antbird, Stripe-throated Hermit, Ruby Topaz, Purple-crowned Fairy, Western White-tailed Trogon, Pied, Barred and White-whiskered Puffbirds, 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 and Golden-hooded tanagers, White-ear Conebill, Slate-colored Seedeater, Thick-billed and Large-bellied Seed-Finches, Masked Yellowthroat, Orange-crowned Oriole, Fulvous-vented Euphonia and so much more. Endemic Birds of the region are: White-mantled Barbet, Sooty Ant Tanager, Colombia Chachalaca, Beautiful Woodpecker, Magdalena Antbird, Antioquia Bristle-Tyrant. Near-Endemic Birds are Saffron-headed Parrot, and Moustached Brushfinch. Elevation 2,300 - 3,280 feet, temperature ranges from 77-95 °F. *Overnight at Cabañas La Mulata. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 25 - NEVADO DEL RUÍZ

Spend the morning birding around the trails surrounding the lodge. After lunch, begin the 4-hour journey to our next location. *Overnight at Termales del Ruiz. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 26 - NEVADO DEL RUÍZ

This morning you will be birding in 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. 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. Elevation 10,830 - 13,450 feet, temperature ranges from 14 - 50 °F. *Overnight at Termales del Ruiz. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 27 - OTÚN QUIMBAYA SANCTUARY

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)*

FEBRUARY 28 - OTÚN QUIMBAYA SANCTUARY

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 and many more. Otún is also very good for owling, so you'll have the opportunity to explore the reserve at night. Elevation 5,250

- 5,900 feet, temperature ranges from 59 - 64 °F. *Overnight at Lodge at Otún Quimbaya. (BLD)*

MARCH 1 - BOGOTÁ

Before breakfast, do some birding around the lodge trails for one last time at this location. After breakfast, begin the journey towards Pereira for the mid-day flight with some birding en route, in search of ducks and deepers. Upon arrival in Bogotá have lunch at the airport before heading out to La Florida Park -- a wetlands ecosystem in Bogotá. Here, you'll have the opportunity to see important birds of the savanna and highlands, including Bogotá Rail, Apolinar's Marsh-wren, Silvery-throated Spinetail, Noble Snipe, Subtropical Doradito and more. Check in at the hotel late this afternoon, then get together for a final check list and farewell dinner. *Overnight at El Hotel Habitel. (BLD)*

MARCH 2 - FAREWELL!

Transfer to the airport for return flights to the US.



Russet-Throated Puffbird
Photo by Neil Orlando Diaz Martinez



Medellin
Photo by Jonathan Hood

MEET YOUR LEADER



TOBY ROSS is Science Manager at Seattle Audubon where he manages three citizen science projects engaging over 500 volunteers annually. Before joining Seattle Audubon, Toby lived and worked in Papua New Guinea ultimately creating the first Conservation Area in the country and was also responsible for managing research projects on tree kangaroos and other native fauna. Previously, Toby has also worked extensively on islands in the West Indies and Mascarenes to conserve reptiles and birds through research and invasive species removal. Regretfully, he found birding later in life, but is now trying to make up for lost opportunities whenever possible.

LAND PRICING

\$3,295 (based on 7 participants)

Cost includes meals and non-alcoholic beverages, accommodations, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, in-country flights, private transportation, bottled water on the bus, full-time guide, donation to Seattle Audubon, carbon offset and departure tax.

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

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all 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.

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. With 10 participants the program price reduces to \$2,795; with 12 participants the price reduces to \$2,595. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable excluding a \$100 cancellation fee until November 19, 2018 at which time non-refundable final payment is due.



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit holbrook.travel/seattleaudubon-co19 or contact Stefanie at: stefanie@holbrooktravel.com

PHOTOS BY

Photos by Jonathan Hood, Neil Orlando Diaz Martinez, Neil Palmer, Ian Segebarth, Ben Tavener, and Tim Lenz