

Colombia,  
the only risk  
is wanting  
to stay.

*BIRD*watching  
Colombia

Black inca - *Coeligena prunellei* - Andean Region





Cauca guan  
-*Penelope perspicax*-  
Andean Region

# 1876

reasons for birding around in Colombia!  
The country with the highest number of bird species in the world.

A strategic location in the American Tropics, a complex topography marked by the Andes, coasts on the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean make Colombia a mega-diverse country. And it occupies first place in birds!

Colombia is a paradise for birdwatchers. With only 0.1% of the world's land area, it has close to 20% of the planet's birds. Forty percent of the territory is considered a hotspot.

Colombia is part of the hotspots system of South America: *Tropical Andes* and *Tumbes-Choco-Magdalena*. It has 1,876 reported species, of which around 66 are endemic and 96 almost endemic.

As if this were not enough, the tallest seaside mountain range in the world is found in Colombia: the impressive Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, which rises abruptly from the sea and reaches a height of 5,775 meters in just 42 kilometers. This huge natural pyramid is an important Neotropical endemism center, with 22 restricted range bird species.

At present, there are 116 IBAs (Important Bird Areas), and 50 more are being studied.



"How can you not stay to live in a country where a unique diversity gives you 1876 reasons for letting your imagination fly?"  
Johan Ilse, belgian in love with Colombia.



Tanager Finch - *Oreothraupis arremonops* -  
Andean Region



Yellow-eared Parrot - *Ognorhynchus icterotis* -  
Andean Region

# The Amazon Region

## OVERVIEW

The Amazon is the largest extension of humid Tropical forest and one of the greatest sources of biodiversity on the planet. It is called “the lung of the world” on account of its millions of hectares of virgin jungle. Part of this great ecosystem belongs to Colombia, 293,000 hectares of which were declared the National Natural Amacayacu Park, which is the habitat of pink dolphins, giant otters, and the pygmy marmoset, the smallest monkey in the world. The region is characterized by having two seasons: winter (January to May) and summer (June to December). The Colombian Amazon region borders with Brazil and Peru.

## BIRD FAUNA

This enormous ecosystem is host to more or less 900 species, among which the following stand out: the Nocturnal Curassow (*Nothocrax urumutum*), the Wattled Curassow (*Crax globulosa*), the Crested Eagle (*Morphnus guianensis*), the White-eared Jacamar (*Galbalcyrhynchus leucotis*) and the Yellow-billed Jacamar (*Galbula albirostris*).

This is a paradise for Antbirds, the conspicuous, noisy birds that follow the paths of soldier army ants. Large groups of stinking pheasants and colonies of orioles are a common sight in the ceiba trees near the rivers.

On the Isla de la Ronda, near Peru, there are restricted birds, such as the Castlenau's Antshrike (*Thamnophilus Cryptoleucus*) and Zimmer's Woodpecker (*Xiphorhynchus Kienerii*).



Orange-checked Parrot  
-*Pyrrhula barrabandi*-  
Amazon Region



Yellow-billed Jacamar  
-*Galbula albirostris*-  
Amazon Region

Colombia is divided into six large regions, differentiated mainly by their relief and climate. The Andean, Caribbean, Pacific, and Amazon regions are the most interesting for bird lovers.



Red-bellied Grackle  
-*Hypopyrrhus pyrohypogaster*-  
Andean Region



Bogota rail  
-*Rallus semiplumbens*-  
Andean Region

# The Andean Region

Yellow-tufted Dacnis -*Dacnis egregia*-  
Andean Region

## BIRD FAUNA

The coffee area of the country, as well as areas for fruit cultivation and national parks and reserves like the Parque Nacional Natural de los Nevados, is situated in the Andean region. The altitude of the region varies between 600 and 3,000 m.a.s.l. and possesses zones of Andean forests, sub-tropical Andean forests, and humid Tropical rainforests. Temperatures range between 8°C and 36°C depending on the ecosystem.

The bird fauna of this region is characterized by a great variety of hummingbirds, Antbirds, and antpittas. There are approximately 807 species, of which 46 are endemic or near endemic, such as the Yellow-eared Parrot (*Ognorhynchus icterotis*), the Dusky Starfrontlet (*Coeligena orina*), the White-mantled Barbet (*Capito hypoleucus*), the Bicolored Antpitta (*Grallaria rufocinerea*), and the recently discovered Chestnut-capped Piha (*Lipaugus weberi*).



# The Pacific Region

The strategic geographical location in the American Tropics and a very high rainfall make the forest of the department of Choco one of the most biodiverse places in the world. The main ecosystem is the rainforest. The average temperature is 24°C and the average rainfall is 6,000 mm. The region is considered one of the rainiest places on earth.

The events that converge in the bio-geographic area of Choco confer exclusive characteristics concerning biodiversity and nature. Over 90% of the land is a pristine rainforest. It is the only region in the country, and possibly in the world, to have a virgin Neotropical forest between two seas.

Black-checked Woodpecker -*Melanerpes pucherani*-  
Pacific Region

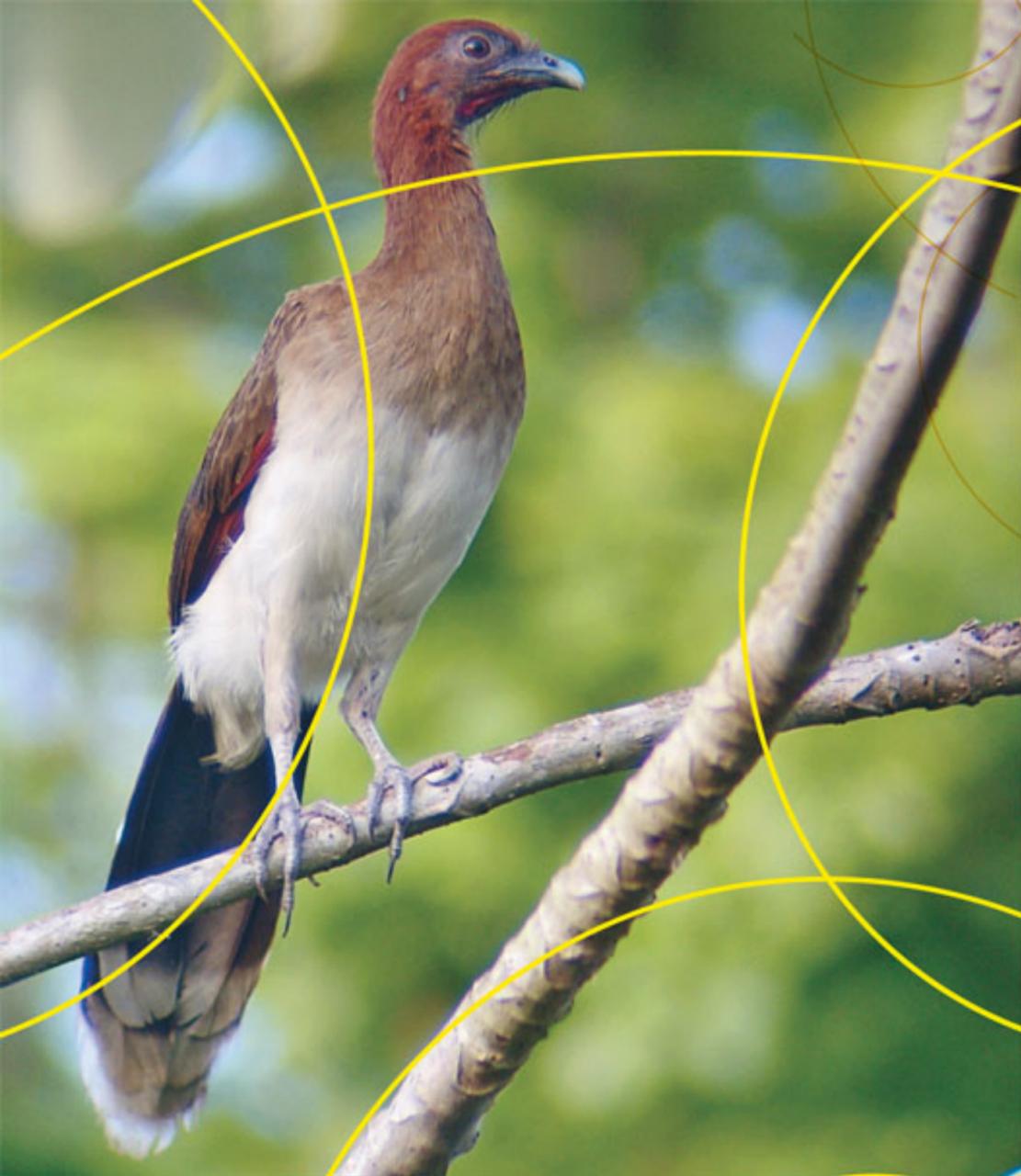


## BIRD FAUNA

The region is a migratory corridor of birds between Central and South America. It has 637 species, some of which are particularly important, such as the Baudó Guan (*Penelope ortonii*) the Sooty-capped Puffbird (*Bucco noanamae*) and the Baudó Oropendola (*Psarocolius cassini*).

Semiplumbeous Hawk -*Leucopternis semiplumbeus*-  
Pacific Region





Chestnut-winged Chachalaca -*Ortalis garrula*- Caribbean Region

## The Caribbean Region

The Colombian Caribbean region is made up of two large extensions of flat land that are interrupted by the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, at 5,775 m.a.s.l., the tallest snow-capped mountain formation near the sea. It is home to a great variety of ecosystems, including the Tropical rainforest, the sub-Andean and Andean forests and the snow ecosystem.

### FLAT AREA

Most of the region is flat and at sea level. It possesses a large complex of wetlands, some of which were declared flora and fauna sanctuaries. They are Isla de Salamanca, Los Flamencos, Cienaga Grande, and the Tayrona National Natural Park.



Keel-billed Toucan  
-*Ramphastos sulfuratus*-  
Caribbean & Pacific Region



Vermilion Cardinal -*Cardinalis phoeniceus*-  
Caribbean Region

### SIERRA NEVADA DE SANTA MARTA

This is the tallest seaside mountain formation in the world. It rises abruptly from sea level and reaches a height of 5,775 m in a distance of only 42 kilometers. All the known biomes in Colombia converge on this natural pyramid: perennial snow, *páramos*, high mountain ecosystems, cloud forests, mangroves, and coastal areas, making it the most valuable ecosystem mosaic in the world.

The wealth of the Sierra Nevada zone is not only natural. The famous *Ciudad Perdida*, or Lost City, the ancestral dwelling of the Kogi, Wiwa, Ljka and Kankuamo Indians is found high up in the mountains. (The first three are also known as Kagabas, Arzarios and Arhuacos, respectively). The area was declared a Biosphere Reserve and a World Heritage Site.

### BIRD FAUNA

The wealth of ecosystems and thermal floors of the Sierra Nevada is the habitat of a great variety of resident birds, and the great extension of the mangroves and bodies of water in the flora and fauna sanctuaries are a necessary stop for migratory birds.

The Sierra Nevada has 685 registered species, of which 21 are endemic. This is one of the sites with the highest concentration of endemic birds in the world. The following are among them: the Santa Marta Parakeet (*Pyrrhura viridicata*) and the Santa Marta Antpitta (*Grallaria bangsi*). The Isla de Salamanca Sanctuary possesses 200 species, among them, the American Flamingo. The world population of the Sapphire-bellied Hummingbird (*Lepidopygia lilliae*) is found in the mangroves of the Ciénaga Grande Sanctuary.

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