

Title BirdLife's Mexican Partner Pronatura is promoting an [online raffle](http://www.helpandtravel.org) to raise funds for the conservation of the El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve, an Important Bird Area in Chiapas, Mexico, with the prize of an all-inclusive ten-day trip for two. - see www.helpandtravel.org "**By joining in this competition you will help conserve one of the most important cloud forests in the Americas,**" says Rosa María Vidal of Pronatura Chiapas



Resplendent Quetzal is one of nearly 400 bird species found in El Triunfo (Photo: Fulvio Eccardi)

Among the 378 recorded bird species, El Triunfo holds good populations of a number of threatened birds, including Horned Guan *Oreophasis derbianus* and Azure-rumped Tanager *Tangara cabanisi* (both Endangered), and Near Threatened Resplendent Quetzal *Pharomachrus mocinno*. El Triunfo is also a critical site for neotropical migrant birds, and a centre of endemism for butterflies and salamanders. The more spectacular of the 112 mammals include spider monkey, jaguar and ocelot. El Triunfo has a diversity of habitats, including oak-pine and dry forests, and the largest tracts of cloud forest remaining in Mexico. Local landowners and communities have participated in the conservation and management of El Triunfo since the reserve was created. But rapid population growth and the expansion of cattle ranching, coffee plantations and other kinds of agriculture are causing rapid forest loss and degradation. Each \$10 donated to the El Triunfo fund buys one entry to the contest. The aim is to raise a minimum of \$50,000 for Pronatura's work with local people and local government, such as a surveillance/wardening programme based on stakeholder participation, empowering the community to develop more sustainable livelihoods and forest use practices, and environmental education. The funds will also be used for monitoring to evaluate the impact of management on the conservation of the reserve. **The winner will be chosen by a random draw from all eligible entries on February 29th, 2012. The prize includes flights to and from any airport, hotel stays at the beginning and end of the trip, and six days guided hiking and camping in El Triunfo. The person who recommends the most friends to enter the contest will win Swarovski binoculars worth \$2,500. For more details, see www.helpandtravel.org.**