This Streak-chested Antpitta gave amazing views in Carara. (Dani Lopez-Velasco)

ULTIMATE COSTA RICA

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This year’s Ultimate Costa Rica tour was our most successful tour ever to this wonderful country. We focused purely in the many specialities that Costa Rica has to offer, and we managed to see a high percentage of them. While doing so, we amassed a huge list, possibly the biggest ever recorded on a tour of similar length, with 612 species –of which 596 were seen!-. Birdquest has been operating birding tours in Costa Rica for 30 years now, and we have adapted our itinerary to offer the very best that this superb destination has to offer. With its three endemic bird areas, regional endemism is a strong influence in the Costa Rican avifauna, and many of these charismatic species were among the tour highlights. Black Guan,
Purplish-backed, Buff-fronted and Chiriqui Quail-Doves, 46 species of hummingbirds including the endemic Mangrove Hummingbird, stunning Black-crested and White-crested Coquettes and the delightful Snowcap, Dusky Nightjar, Sulphur-winged Parakeet, Baird’s Trogon, incredible views of Resplendent Quetzal, the uncommon Yellow-eared Toucanet, the rare Black-eared Wood Quail, Golden-naped Woodpecker, Yellow-naped Amazon, Buffy Tuftedcheek, Streak-breasted Treehunter, the rare Silvery-throated Jay, Dark Pewee, brilliant views of male Turquoise, Snowy and Yellow-billed Cotingas, Tody Motmot, singing Three-wattled Bellbirds, 7 species of manakins including Long-tailed Manakin, prolonged views of Wrenthrush (Zeledonia), excellent views of the very rare Black-crowned Antpitta, Streak-crowned Antvireo, Blue-and-gold Tanager, Silvery-fronted Tapaculo, Yellow-winged Vireo, Tawny-chested Flycatcher, Costa Rican Brush Finch, Black-cheeked Ant-Handler, Spot-crowned Euphonia, Golden-browed Chlorophonia, the scarce Cabanis’s Ground Sparrow (now a CR endemic after the splitting of Prevost’s Ground Sparrow), Flame-throated Warbler, Sooty-faced Finch, Nicaraguan Seed Finch and Nicaraguan Grackle were but a few of these. We always make a special effort with nightbirds, and this time we saw no less than 11 species of owls, including Costa Rican Pygmy Owl, Bare-shanked and Vermiculated Screech Owls and Black-and-white and Striped Owls. Among the 22 species of wren recorded some of the favourite performers were Timberline, Northern Nightingale and Song Wrens. Additional highlights included Slaty-breasted and Thicket Tinamous, excellent views of Marbled and Spotted Wood Quails, plenty of Great Curassows, Pinned Bittern, Spot-bellied Bobwhite, Jabiru, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, White, Semiplumbeous and Zone-tailed Hawks, Ornate and Black Hawk Eagles, the skulking Yellow-breasted Crane, Uniform Crane, White-tipped Sicklebill, Sungrebe, Sunbittern, Lesser Ground Cuckoo, stunning Great Green Macaws, Spot-fronted Swift, Brown-billed Scythebill, Keel-billed Motmot, Rufous-winged, Red-rumped and Chestnut-colored Woodpeckers, Zeledon’s, Ocellated, Bare-crowned and Dull-mantled Antbirds, Black-faced and Black-headed Anthruses, Scaled, Thicket and Streak-chested Antpittas, Tawny-winged Woodcreeper, Pale-vented Thrush, Tawny-throated Leafcutter, tiny Black-capped Pygmy Tyrant, Black-and-yellow Phainoptila, exquisite Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher, Panamanian Flycatcher, Rufous-winged Tanager, Green Shrike-Vireo, all five nightingale-thrushes and Rufous-browed Tyrannulet.

Golden-browed Chlorophonia from Paraiso de Quetzales. What a beautiful near-endemic! (DLV)
A well-seasoned and enthusiastic group met early in the morning at our hotel in the outskirts of San Jose, and soon we were on our way up to Volcán Irazú. Some owling before dawn produced amazingly close views of a Bare-shanked Screech Owl, although our efforts with Unspotted Saw-whet Owl at a couple of known territories left us empty-handed. A calling Dusky Nightjar was seen briefly, and once it was light, we enjoyed great views of a Costa Rican Pygmy Owl being mobbed by some angry hummingbirds and passerines. We also spent some time looking for Buffy-crowned Wood Partridge, but although we heard some, they were totally unresponsive. While looking for them we came across a vocal pair of Resplendent Quetzals, which showed nicely. A great way to start the tour! We also checked an area of bamboo where I had seen a male Maroon-chested Ground Dove the day before, but unfortunately we couldn’t find it. However, a pair of very cooperative Wrenthrushes (or Zeledonias, a much better name in my opinion), more than compensated! Supporting cast here included Fiery-throated Hummingbird, Acorn and Hairy Woodpeckers, Spot-crowned Woodcreeper, a pair of Black-capped Flycatchers, delightful Long-tailed Silky Flycatchers, Ochraceous Wren, Flame-throated and Black-cheeked Warblers and Black-billed and Ruddy-capped Nightingale Thrushes. A bit further on we saw a Red-tailed Hawk of the resident subspecies and a couple of Mourning Doves perched on wires. We also had close looks at a few Sooty and Mountain Thrushes, Wilson’s and Black-throated Green Warblers and a pair of Mountain Elaenias. Higher up we birded the paramo where there were numerous displaying Volcano Hummingbirds. Fortunately, It didn’t take long to find some Volcano Juncos on the road. Timberline Wren, our other main target here, took a bit of a search before eventually posing for photos. Some of the other high altitude specialities we enjoyed in the paramo included Large-footed Finch, Slaty Flowerpiercer and Sooty-capped Bush Tanager. After a pleasant lunch, seeing a roosting Tropical Screech Owl in town, we moved down in elevation to bird a vegetable plantation (chayote squash), in order to look for the scarce Cabanís’s Ground Sparrow, a Costa Rica endemic after recently being split off from Prevost’s Ground Sparrow. It took some time, but in spite of the heat, we found a pair of these lovely sparrows, which gave very good views.

Later we saw another confiding individual. Other birds in the area included our first of many Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds, Torrent Tyrannulet, Black Phoebe, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Brown Jays, a few north american wood warblers, including Golden-winged, Tennessee and Chestnut-sided, our first Montezuma Oropendolas doing their crazy displays, Golden-hooded Tanager, Bay Wren, Variable Seedeaters and a pair of Blue-black
Grassquits. Then we continued our journey to the foothills of the Talamanca Mountains at Rancho Naturalista, making a stop to watch a beautiful Sunbittern, as well as a brief Louisiana Waterthrush.

We spent the following day with my friend Harry in a little known but very birdy reserve called El Copal, home to many interesting species. We birded various trails in the forest and also spent some time in the clearing around the building, ending up with a big list of species and plenty of highlights. Some definitely stand out, especially a pair of cracking and rarely-seen Yellow-eared Toucanets, and a pair of brilliant near-endemic Blue-and-gold Tanagers. Other good birds seen throughout the day included Crested Guan, good.
comparisons of both Ruddy and Short-tailed Pigeons –overlapping in altitude here-, several hummingbirds including Green-fronted Lancebill, Snowcap and Green Hermit, Gartered and Collared Trogons, Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner, Tawny-throated Leaftosser, Olivaceous Woodcreeper, Brown-billed Scythebill, Russet Antshrike, Slaty Antwren, Dull-mantled and Zeledon’s Antbirds, a heard-only Ochre-breasted Antpitta, a pair of uncommon Rufous-browed Tyrannulets, White-throated Spadebill, Rufous Mourner, White-ruffed Manakin, Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher, Northern Schiffornis, Song Wren, Black-headed Nightingale Thrush, White-vented and Tawny-capped Euphonias, Ashy-throated Bush Tanager, White-winged, Carmiol’s, Emerald, Silver-throated, Speckled, Black-and-yellow and Bay-headed Tanagers, Black-faced Grosbeak and Scarlet-thighed Dacnis. In the late afternoon we made a quick stop at a lake on the way to Rancho, adding Blue-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Least and Pied-billed Grebes, Fasciated Tiger Heron in a nearby stream, Black-crowned Night Heron, White-tailed Kite, Western Osprey, Snail Kite and Purple Gallinule to our list.

Crowned Woodnymph at Rancho Naturalista.
Our pre-dawn start the next morning saw us making our way down to the moth lamp. The activity of moth-savy birds taking advantage of the easy pickings wasn’t as good as in previous years, but nevertheless we managed to see a good selection of species, including Spotted Woodcreeper, Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner, Plain Antvireo, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Red-throated Ant Tanager, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and White-breasted Wood Wren, which all made many visits, even coming out into the open on occasion. Our main target here, the localized near-endemic Tawny-chested Flycatcher, played hide and seek for a while, never coming to the moth trap. We tried a couple of territories, to no avail, but in the end we finally got good views of a pair near the cabins. Pressure off! We then walked fairly briskly towards the forest, where one of Rancho’s specialities, White-crowned Manakin, proved easy to find, with a displaying male seen very well on its lek. We also had some mixed flocks here, which held plenty of new birds. Additions to our list during the walk included Crested Guan, Squirrel Cuckoo, Plain Xenops, Russet Antshrike, Checker-throated and Slaty Antwrens, Yellow-Olive Flatbill, Olive-striped, Ochre-bellied and Slaty-capped Flycatchers, Lesser Greenlet, Black-striped Sparrow, Chestnut-headed Oropendola, several warblers including Worm-eating and Black-and-white, and a variety of tanagers, including White-shouldered and Speckled. Having seen our main targets in the forest, we returned to the lodge. While having breakfast in the veranda, we had good bird activity in the feeders, with Gray-headed Chachalacas, Black-cheeked Woodpeckers and Montezuma Oropendolas coming in for the bananas along with Blue-gray, Palm and lovely Golden-hooded Tanagers and Baltimore Orioles, as well as cracking Green Honeycreepers. A Grey-headed Kite was sitting on a tree and pair of stunning Keel-billed Toucans was scoped in a nearby cecropia tree, together with some Collared Aracaris. The hummingbird show was pretty good, and we were happy to add Green-breasted Mango to our list. Summer Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Mourning and Rufous-capped Warblers were also found. Afterwards, we packed up and said goodbye to our hosts to visit a couple of nearby birding spots, our first of which came up trumps for the unassuming but localized and easy to miss White-throated Flycatcher, which after some searching gave good views in the scope. Both Olive-crowned and Grey-crowned Yellowthroats were seen too. Then, we continued our journey back towards Cartago, where we had lunch before making our way up the Panamerican highway. We encountered little traffic along the way and soon we were once again in the highlands enjoying its splendid avifauna rich in regional endemics. We then kept going, and immediately upon stepping off the bus into the refreshing mountain air at Paraiso de Quetzales lodge, we enjoyed one of the country’s best hummingbird spectacles with dozens of Fiery-throated and Talamanca (split from Magnificent) Hummingbirds crowded around several feeders at nearly arm’s length. Pulling ourselves away from this hummerfest we began our afternoon excursion with my good friend, and owner of this fantastic place, Jorge Serrano. A Silvery-fronted Tapaculo showed extremely well, next to a Wrenthrush (!). A singing Black-thighed Grosneak and pair of Black-and-yellow Phainoptilas was found near the parking lot as well, next to a Yellow-bellied Siskin, and not far we also located a pair of cracking Golden-browed Chlorophonias, while Black-billed Nightingale-Thrushes and Large-footed and Yellow-thighed Finches hopped around in the garden. Before dinner, we managed to secure excellent views of a pair of Dusky Nightjars just by the restaurant. We spent a few hours at night searching for Unspotted Saw-whet Owl, but, couldn’t even hear one. A Mexican Hairy Dwarf Porcupine was a good mammal we came across.

The following morning was spent first near the lodge and then at Providencia road. Mixed flocks held Ruddy Treerunner, Townsend’s Warbler, Collared Whitestart, Barred Becard, and Yellow-winged and Brown-capped Vireos, amongst others, while a Streak-breasted Treehunter performed. We tried hard for Ochraceous Pewee at some of our stake-outs, to no avail. Our first Northern Tufted Flycatchers were found, and after a stop at La Georgina for lunch, we visited the antennas of Cerro de la Muerte. Things were quiet there, with no seeding bamboo and thus no Peg-billed Finch, but a large kettle of migrating Broad-winged and Swainson’s Hawks was nice. It was then time to head down to Savegre, where a very productive afternoon walk gave us a pair of Spotted Wood Quails, a Dark Pewee, Grey-tailed Mountaingems, Scintillant Hummingbird, Yellowish Flycatcher, Chestnut-capped Brushfinch and a Louisina Waterthrush in the river.

Early morning at Hotel de Montaña Savegre is magic for any birder and today was no exception, as clear skies greeted us at dawn. The lovely gardens and numerous birds make for quite an impression. The most common birds included Flame-coloured Tanagers and Acorn Woodpeckers, Slaty Flowerpiercers, Ruddy-
capped Nightingale-Thrush and Blue-and-white Swallow. Sulphur-winged Parakeet was the most important bird for us here, and we had good scope views of several. Other interesting birds noted included Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher, Melodious Blackbird and Yellow-thighed Finch.

After breakfast, we were driven up to the lodge's impressive Los Robles forest reserve named for the beautiful forest of oaks. Amidst the oak trees festooned with moss and bromeliads, where Black-faced
Solitaires sang their beautiful, fluty and ethereal songs. We hiked up the trail, hoping for the rare Silvery-throated Jay to appear, and, as luck would have it, we found a very obliging individual of what’s one of the most difficult of all highland near-endemics. Success! We then walked down along the river, noting some good flocks, with Black-cheeked and Flame-throated Warblers, a single Buffy Tuftedcheeks, numerous cute Ruddy Treerunners, Spotted Barbtail, Lineated Foliage-gleaner, Spot-crowned Woodcreeper, Ochraceous Wren, Spangle-cheeked and Silver-throated Tanagers and Sooty-capped Bush Tanager, amongst others. And then it was time to leave this fantastic place. We carried on and had lunch surrounded by lots of Fiery-throated and Talamanca Hummingbirds, and then continued our journey down in elevation into the foothills of the Chirripo region above San Isidro. A quick stop produced the hoped-for White-tailed Emerald, as well as Red-faced Spinetail, Red-headed Barbet, White-naped Brushfinch, and others. Next stop at San Isidro produced 2 stunning male Turquoise Cotingas, first found by Karel. We had great scope views of this most-wanted and brilliant species. We then moved on to a patch of flowering eucalyptus trees, but unfortunately there were not as many hummers on attendance as expected. Still, we saw our first Fiery-billed Aracaris and Fork-tailed Flycatchers of the trip here. Some owling after dinner was successful, with point-blank views of a Tropical Screech Owl.

Next morning we started off with some more enjoyable early morning birding at Talari. The grounds of the hotel were, as usual, very birdy, and we saw some new birds, including Scaly-breasted Hummingbird, Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush, Streaked Saltator and Riverside and Rufous-breasted Wrens, before heading off to Los Cusingos, the home of the late ornithological legend, Dr. Alexander Skutch. Upon arriving at Los Cusingos we had a look around the garden first, but unfortunately no White-crested Coquettes were attending the verbain flowers. A roosting Common Pottoo was a good bonus. We soon entered the forest with my friend Susana and hit the trails, but things were quiet. Los Cusingos is a great place for manakins, and we managed to see both Blue-crowned and Red-capped Manakins. A calling male Baird’s Trogon gave itself up at the first attempt, while no less than 3 Great Tinamous were seen walking on the forest floor. Black-throated Trogon, Olivaceous Piculet, Smoky-brown Woodpecker, Black-hooded Antshrike, Northern Bentbill, Spot-crowned Euphonia, Kentucky Warbler and Blue-black Grosbeak were also logged. We then continued our long journey, stopping for lunch en route to Esquinas Rainforest Lodge. A couple of productive
stops around la Gamba gave us Muscovy Duck, Grey-necked Wood Rail, Southern Lapwing, Pale-vented Pigeon, Grey-chested Dove, Costa Rican Swift, Golden-naped Woodpecker, Blue-headed Parrot, Brown-throated Parakeet, Pale-breasted Spinetail, Yellow Tyrannulet, Yellow-billed Cacique, Blue Dacnis, Crested Oropendola, Isthmian Wren and good numbers of seedeaters including Yellow-bellied and Morelet’s.

We spent the whole morning next day birding around Esquinas lodge. We met success early with great views of a family group of the endemic Black-cheeked Ant Tanager, a CR endemic, confined to the Osa Peninsula and surroundings. A showy Uniform Crake performed brilliantly on the trail, and we also enjoyed very good views of a couple of Great Tinamous walking quietly in the forest. Amongst hummers, Bronzy Hermit and Band-tailed Barthrotho were seen in the forest, while a male Charming Hummingbird sang from a bare branch in the garden. A pair of Golden-naped Woodpeckers was found too, and a Red-rumped Woodpecker, a rare bird in CR, was watched making a hole by the track. Back in the forest, noisy Scarlet-rumped Caciques eventually revealed their distinctive rumps – usually difficult to see-, and we admired lekking Orange-collared Manakins. We also flushed an Agami Heron from a creek inside the forest, but we couldn’t relocate it. On the downside, mixed flocks were notable for their absence in the forest, and overall bird activity was rather poor. Other species such as Baird’s and Gartered Trogons, Short-billed Pigeon, Blue Ground Dove, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Tawny-winged Woodcreeper, Black-hooded and Russet Anthshrikes, Chiriqui Foliage-gleaner, Chestnut-backed Antbird, Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet, Eye-ringed Flatbill, Golden-crowned Spadebill, Sulphur-rumped Myobius, Philadelphia Vireo, Orange-billed Sparrow and Shining Honeycreeper were also seen during the course of the morning. In the afternoon, we went birding to the open country of La Gamba, where we added Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, Rusty-margined Flycatcher and Red-breasted Blackbird to our ever-growing list. After dinner we went for some owling. A Striped Owl was seen briefly, as well as a confiding Tropical Screech Owl. On the way back, several Common Pauraque were seen sitting on the road.

In the early morning, way before dawn, we set off for Rincon in order to seek out Yellow-billed Cotinga, one of the most localized of the south Pacific slope regional endemics presently classified as endangered. This year we were again in luck with the “white bird”, and it didn’t take more than a few minutes to find one after stepping out of the bus. During the course of the morning we scoped 3 different birds – including a very close
male - much to everyone`s delight. Terrific! Here we also had our first Scarlet Macaws of the trip – always a very welcome sight, a cracking Neotropical Otter below the bridge, as well as small numbers of Gray-breasted Martins and Mangrove Swallows; Overhead, a couple of King Vultures soared, while Ringed, Amazon and Green Kingfishers, a Double-toothed Kite found by Andrea, a White-necked Puffbird, Fiery-billed Aracari, Slaty-tailed Trogon, Northern Mealy Amazon, both Masked and Black-crowned Tityras were seen. Next on the agenda was the endemic Mangrove Hummingbird, another endangered species, mostly due to little habitat remaining and continuing mangrove clearance. The species has a patchy distribution along the Pacific Coast, and is very local. We went to our usual stake-out and in no time we were watching a couple of birds at close range. After this, we stopped for some well-deserved juices, and then made a stop near Ciudad Neilly. However, there were no flowering trees and in the heat of the day, little was seen, being a Savanna Hawk the only bird of note. After lunch we carried on towards Las Cruces, our next venue. We arrived in good time for a pleasant afternoon excursion around San Vito. The marsh was almost dry, and no Masked Yellowthroat (Chiriqui is now lumped in Masked), could be found. We decided to try for the scarce Costa Rican Brush Finch nearby, and we saw a pair almost immediately. At night, a Mottled Owl was outside our cabins.

We spent most of the next morning walking around the Wilson Botanical Gardens and a private property nearby, enjoying the good weather. In addition to the amazing variety of botanical specimens, the garden has a wonderful mix of forest edge as well as forest trails. During the course of the morning we obtained good views of Crested Guan, Grey-lined Hawk, Scaled Pigeon, Garden Emerald, Snowy-bellied Hummingbird, Rose-throated Becard, White-throated Thrush, Golden-olive Woodpeker, American Redstart and Lesser Goldfinch. A small group of Marbled Wood Quails crossed the trail in front of us, allowing for excellent views. The main highlight was admiring a male White-crested Coquette for as long as we wanted. After lunch, we made our way north towards Carara, driving along the Pacific coast. The drive was rather uneventful, noting Brown Booby and Zone-tailed Hawk, before reaching our hotel in the evening.
We spent most of the next day at Carara National Park, which is surely one the best national parks for birds and birding in the Americas. Before leaving our hotel we had already enjoyed terrific looks at a very responsive pair of Spectacled Owls. Our visit to the reserve itself gave us plenty of highlights. A cracking Streak-chested Antpitta, singing close to the trail, performed nicely, and, yet again, we had walk-away views of a pair of Marbled Wood Quails. A singing Black-faced Anthrush was seen from the trail, and two different Northern Royal Flycatchers were found. Dusky Antbirds skulked in the tangles, and Riverside, Rufous-backed and Rufous-breasted Wrens were as abundant as usual with a few showing well. Other birds seen included Slaty-tailed Trogon, Hoffman’s Woodpecker, Blue-vented Hummingbird, White-whiskered Puffbird found by Andy, Tawny-winged Woodcreeper, Black-hooded Antshrike, Rufous Piha, Dot-winged Antwre, Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher and Golden-crowned Spadebill. Before lunch we went to see a roosting Black-and-white Owl, which gave good views. In the afternoon we set off on our mangrove boat tour along the Rio Tarcoles estuary. We started upriver in the marsh and pasture habitat where we had enjoyed close-up views of various herons as well as many Northern Jacanas, together with some gorgeous Turquoise-browed Motmots. Eventually we arrived in the estuary’s mangrove habitat where we enjoyed fine views of several Roseate Spoonbills and American White Ibis. Magnificent Frigatebirds soared overhead, and once in the mangroves, we found Panamanian and Mangrove Warblers (split from Yellow), while a couple of Plumbeous Kites were also seen. We had some great encounters with Boat-billed Herons and admired their strange bills at very close range. Parrots were abundant, and watching many Scarlet Macaws flying to roost in the mangroves in the nice late afternoon light was certainly a highlight. We also connected with a couple of delightful American Pygmy Kingfishers, and our first Yellow-naped Amazons. On the way back, Lesser Nighthawks were seen leaving their roost in the mangroves.

Next morning was spent in some dry habitat to the north of Carara, and was highlighted by a cracking Lesser Ground Cuckoos that gave prolonged, frame-filling scope views just next to the road. Both Banded Wren and Olive Sparrow were pretty easy to see along this stretch of road too. Other notable birds seen included Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Grey Hawk, White-lored Gnatcatcher, Black-headed Trogon, our first White-
throated Magpie Jays and many Stripe-headed Sparrows. A quick stop at Caldera gave us large numbers of Laughing Gulls and Royal Terns, as well as 2 confiding Elegant Terns. Afterwards we paid a short visit to an area of coastal saltlans and mangroves. Good numbers of waders were present, and as this was pretty much the only time devoted to this kind of birding on the whole tour – we were focused in the country specialties and not in building a big list, which meant that we missed quite a few widespread coastal species – we saw a bunch of new species, including Wilson’s Plover, Short-billed Dowitcher, Marbled Godwit, Semipalmated, Least and Western Sandpipers, Black Skimmer, Cabot’s (split from Sandwich) and Gull-billed Terns. After lunch, our journey took us us to the wonderful Hacienda Solimar. We spent the afternoon and the morning birding the various habitats of this extensive ranch, led by Demetrio, an excellent and very knowledgeable local who lives at Solimar. The number of waterbirds present was incredible, and the few water sources available held literally thousands of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, together with Blue-winged Teals, some Jabirus, lots of Wood Storks, American White Ibises, Roseate Spoonbills, Bare-throated Tiger Herons, Great Blue, Tricoloured and Little Blue Herons, Anhingas, Limpkins and Double-striped Thick-knees, to name a few. In the raptor front we had good views of Western Osprey, Snail Kite, Harris’s, Red-tailed, Short-tailed and Crane Hawks and Merlin. Around the lodge we saw a few Yellow-naped Amazons, as well as a roosting Pacific Screech Owl. We also explored a number of dry woodlands near the lodge where we found a number of interesting species. Watching several lekking Long-tailed Manakins was certainly a highlight, as was a confiding Thicket Tinamou. Other interesting birds included Laughing Falcon, found by Bob, Spot-bellied Bobwhite, Plain-breasted Ground Dove, Black-headed Trogon, Cinnamon Hummingbird, Canivet’s Emerald, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Brown-crested Flycatcher, White-throated Magpie Jay, White-lored Gnatcatcher, Northern Barred Woodcreeper, Northern Beardless Tyrannulet, Greenish Elaenia, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Scrub Euphonia, both Spot-breasted and Streak-backed Orioles and Eastern Meadowlark. We had certainly done well at this great place – usually a favourite for tour participants – and after an excellent lunch and an even better lemonade (best and most refreshing one in the world?) it was time to leave for our next venue: Monteverde. Once there, we paid a visit a nearby patch of evergreen woodland where our primary target was Chiriqui Quail Dove. We walked the trails over and over, but no Chiriquis could be found. While searching for it, we found Ruddy Quail Dove, Rufous-and-white Wren, Wood Thrush, Long-tailed Manakin, a brief Ruddy Woodcreeper and Ovenbird, amongst others.
We returned to the same forest patch early next morning, and this time we managed to get good, albeit brief, views of a pair of Chiriqui Quail Doves. Mission accomplished! After a well-deserved breakfast we headed to Santa Elena reserve. A three-hour foray into the beautiful cloud forest gave us good quality highland species, including Prong-billed Barbet, Barred Becard, Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush, Collared Whitestart, Black-eared (split from Three-Striped) Warbler, Ochraceous Wren and Spangle-cheeked Tanager. We had lunch at the excellent local pizza restaurant, and afterwards visited another reserve nearby. Here, we had amazingly close views of a couple of male Three-wattled Bellbirds, uttering their remarkable calls just above our heads. A great end to a fantastic day!

Next morning we headed over to the hummingbird gallery of Michael and Patricia Fogden. Here the show was just as good as ever with hummingbirds of all sizes and colours. We spent plenty of time here observing their differences and getting to know these amazing creatures. The usual suspects were all present with Green Hermit, Green Violetear, Magenta-throated Woodstar, Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, Coppery-headed Emerald, Purple-throated Mountaingem, Green-crowned Brilliant and Violet Sabrewing. It was then time to pack our bags and start the journey north, towards Celeste mountain lodge. Celeste is located in the slopes of Tenorio Volcano, one of two dormant volcanoes in the northern section of the country. We spent the afternoon along a road that used to be good for Lovely Cotinga. However, records have been almost nonexistent over the last year, and in spite of all of our efforts, we couldn’t find any. A pair of Rufous-winged Tanagers was a good bonus, and Diane found us a pair of uncommon White-fronted Nunbirds in the same area. On the other hand, a singing Green Shrike Vireo couldn’t be spotted. Just before leaving, a pair of White Hawks appeared overhead.

Next morning was spent in a trail at Celeste. The rare Tody Motmot is one of the main specialities here, and we had no trouble in finding a singing bird, which gave great views. A very confiding Northern Schiffornis was watched at length, but the best bird of the morning was definitely Black-eared Wood Quail. A covey of this rarely-seen species performed for the whole group, much to everyone’s delight. Other birds seen during the morning included Broad-billed Motmot, Cinnamon Woodpecker, Streak-crowned Antvireo, Spotted...
Antbird and Carmiol’s Tanager. Pleased with such a successful morning, we returned to our lodge for lunch. We spent part of the afternoon at Heliconias, walking the loop trail. A singing Purplish-backed Quail Dove was the best bird, although in the mammal front a fantastic Northern Tamandua stole the show. Other birds seen included Ornate Hawk Eagle, Violet-headed Hummingbird, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, a brief Black-crested Coquette and Carmiol’s Tanager. The sharp eyes of my friend Henry found us a couple of stunning Eye-lash Vipers as well as a Two-toed Sloth too. And then it was time to drive towards Caño Negro, where we arrived in the dark.

Next day we went on a very enjoyable boat ride with my friend Chambita. Before getting on the boat we had already secured views of Grey-headed Dove and Spot-breasted Wren. The marsh held numerous Neotropic Cormorants, Anhingas, a male American Wigeon, Northern Jacana, Spotted, Stilt and Solitary Sandpipers,
Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Collared Plovers, Pectoral Sandpiper, Great Blue, Little Blue, Tricolored and kjGreen Herons, Snowy and Great Egrets, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Purple Gallinules, Roseate Spoonbill, Green Ibis and Limpkins. A couple of Boat-billed Herons were found at their roost and 2 pairs of Rufous-naped Wood Rails (split from Grey-necked) were seen at close quarter and garrulous Finsch’s (Crimson-fronted) and some Olive-throated Parakeets crowded amidst the brilliant orange flowering *Erythrina* trees.

One of our main targets, the localized Nicaraguan Grackle, showed superbly, as did a cracking Sungrebe, totally unconcerned by our presence. However, bird of the day was undoubtedly Yellow-breasted Crake, normally a very skulking and difficult species that, this time, came out in the open for as long as we wanted. And not just one, but 3 different birds! We also saw a Sora in the same area, although Grey-breasted Crake remained heard-only. Amongst the passerines, we saw Northern Beardless Tyrannulet, Eastern Kingbird, Black-cowled Oriole and Slaty Spinetail. After a late breakfast, It was time to load up our bags in the bus and head towards our next birding destination, Arenal Volcano. On the way, we stopped at some promising habitat to look for the near-endemic Nicaraguan Seed Finch, and in no time we found a nice male of this prized finch, showing its massive bill. Overhead, good numbers of Broad-winged Hawks streamed past, including a rare dark morph bird. Another stop at a nearby marsh gave us fantastic views of the uncommon Pinnated Bittern. Upon reaching la Fortuna, we visited a spot where several new species were added to our list, including the localized Keel-billed Motmot, two showy White-throated Crakes and Black-throated Wren. In the mammal front we saw 3 different Hoffman’s Three-toed Sloths. Then it was just a short drive to the amazing Arenal Observatory Lodge.

The birding in the extensive hotel property was not bad next day, in spite of some rain. Semiplumbeous Hawk was the best bird, with supporting cast including a roosting Great Potoo, Western Woodhaunter and Tawny-faced Gnatwren. After lunch we visited the Arenal dam road. A short trail here was productive, with good views of a pair of Rufous-winged Woodpeckers, 2 different pairs of skulking Bare-crowned Antbirds, a Thicket Antpitta that in the end showed reasonably well and our first Crimson-collared Tanager. Afterwards we drove towards our next destination, Pocosol field station, a rather remote place in the vast Children’s Eternal Rainforest. The last part of the journey was made in a sturdy pick up truck, due to the bad conditions of the track. The reason why we chose to come to this place was to look for Bare-necked Umbrellabird, as there had been some reports at this time of the year in previous years. Since the disappearance of the lek in
San Gerardo station, the species has now become very difficult to see in spring, and it seemed the chances of a sighting here were higher than elsewhere. During the next 2 days we walked the trails over and over, but in spite of all of our efforts, and the 20+ km, we didn't find any umbrellabirds. The birding however was good, and we saw a variety of good birds, including Barred Hawk, Purplish-backed and Ruddy Quail Doves, Rufous Motmot, a very confiding male Rufous-winged Woodpecker, a super tame Northern Nightingale Wren, Black-headed Anthruth, Thicket Antpitta at our feet, Black-headed Tody Flycatcher, Black-crowned Tityra, Sharpbill, several Pale-vented Thrushes and a leader-only White-throated Shrike Tanager male. In the mammal front, we enjoyed fantastic views of a troop of Central American (Geoffroy’s) Spider Monkeys, behaving quite aggressively towards us, as well as Mantled Howler Monkeys, and during the night we had Olingo and Mexican Mouse Oposum. We were also very lucky in coming across a large antswarm, and we spent some time admiring one of the major wildlife spectacles in the neotropics. Good numbers of antbirds were in attendance, including at least 10 stunning Ocellated, as well as plenty of Spotted and Bicolored and a couple of Zeledon’s, together with Northern Barred and Spotted Woodcreepers, all taking advantage of the easy prey that ran away trying to escape from the ants. We heard what sounded like bill-clapping a couple of times, but never saw the source.

Our next port-of-call on our annual Costa Rican odyssey is OTS La Selva, a biologist's paradise, and one of the leading tropical research facilities in the world, which also happens to be extremely birdy. As usual we found most of the bird activity around our accommodation as well as near the dining hall, with Great Curassow – possibly the easiest place in the world to see this stunning cracid?-, Crested Guan, Short-billed Pigeon, Semiplumbeous Hawk, Brown-hooded Parrot, Blue-chested Hummingbird, numerous Keel-billed and Chestnut-mandibled Toucans, White-ringed Flycatcher, Band-backed Wren, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Eastern Kingbird, Bay-breasted Warbler, Long-tailed Tyrant, Shining Honeycreeper, Plain-colored Tanager and Olive-backed Euphonia all seen from the station clearing. Already on our first morning, right before breakfast, we came across a very responsive Slaty-breasted Tinamou, which gave fantastic views. Snowy
Cotinga – definitely one of the best birds of La Selva- proved quite easy this year, we multiple sightings of both males and females. We also enjoyed a fairly productive and educational walk through La Selva’s primary forest seeing a trio of vocal Purple-throated Fruitcrows, Bat Falcon, both Black-crowned and Fasciated Antshrikes, Chestnut-colored and Pale-billed Woodpeckers, a tiny Black-capped Pygmy Tyrant and lekking White-collared Manakins. “Blue Jeans” Poison Dart Frog and Green-and-black Poison Dart Frog were much appreciated too. Surely one of the highlights of our stay in La Selva was the pair of endangered Great Green Macaws that were watched at length inspecting some tree cavities. Later on we encountered a few more birds. Another very good bird we saw, after a lot of effort, was a cracking Agami Heron, much to John’s delight. Night outings into the forest eventually produced smashing views of Vermiculated Screech Owl, singing just a metre from us!
One morning we made a nice excursion out to Braulio Carrillo National Park. Birding is never easy there, but with patience and effort one is usually rewarded with some good sightings. And this time we scored big time, as we managed to see, for the first time ever in a Birdquest tour to Costa Rica, a cracking Black-crowned Antpitta. The bird was singing from thick cover and was very shy, but after a long wait and some careful positioning, we eventually all managed good views of it. What a bird! On the other hand, there was no sign of Lattice-tailed Trogon anywhere along the trail. Nearby we visited some flowers where both Snowcap and Black-crested Coquette stole the show, showing extremely well, together with Green Thorntail and other common hummers. In the afternoon we visited Cope’s place. This is a really wonderful place, and the feeders were packed with birds, including lots of tanagers and hummers, including Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer, as well as Chestnut-headed Oropendola. But the best bird here was the rare White-tipped Sicklebill, which put on a great show.

We left La Selva and paid a visit to a local hummingbird garden in the montane foothills where exquisite Black-bellied Hummingbirds and White-bellied Mountaingems showed nicely. A walk in the nearby forest produced, after some effort and time, a Scaled Antpitta for everyone, as well as a pair of Sooty-faced Finches, a key target here, while a pair of Black-breasted Wood Quails was only seen briefly. In the late afternoon we left Cataratas del Toro and headed to Bosque de Paz for the night. Here, we had another mammal highlight in form of 2 Spotted Pacas, a very rarely seen mammal, and a sumptuous dinner.

On our last day of the tour we first visited La Virgen del Socorro, an area badly damaged by the big earthquake a few years ago. The best bird here was a pair of American Dippers, which showed very well below the bridge. The last spot we visited was Cinchona, where we were very pleased to connect with our last new birds of the tour, the near endemic Buff-fronted Quail Dove. In the same area we also saw a confiding Brown-billed Scythebill and another Scaled Andpitta. Afterwards we drove back to San Jose, where yet another very successful and enjoyable tour to this wonderful country ended. I would like to express my gratitude to our excellent driver, Luis, as well as to all my costa rican friends for all their help, and to all tour participants for such a nice time.
SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). IOC World Bird Names. This list is updated several times annually and is available at http://www.worldbirdnames.org.

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).
Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).
Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered ‘special’ birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

**Great Tinamou** *Tinamus major*  Seen very well several times.
**Little Tinamou** *Crypturellus soui* (H)  Heard at La Selva.

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**Slaty-breasted Tinamou** ◊ *Crypturellus boucardi*  Extremely good views of this difficult tinamou at La Selva.
**Thicket Tinamou** ◊ *Crypturellus cinnamomeus*  Seen well at Solimar.
**Black-bellied Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis*  Thousands in Solimar.
**Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata*  Small numbers recorded.
**Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors*  Thousands in the pacific lowlands.
**American Wigeon** *Mareca americana*  A male in Caño Negro.
**Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis*  Seen a few times.
**Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris*  A couple of females in a reservoir near Rancho.
**Grey-headed Chachalaca** *Ortalis cinereiceps*  Commonly seen throughout.
**Crested Guan** *Penelope purpurascens*  Good numbers recorded at several sites.
**Black Guan** ◊ *Chamaepetes unicolor*  Seen well in the mountains.
**Great Curassow** ◊ *Crax rubra*  First seen at Arenal, also in la selva.
**Buffy-crowned Wood Partridge** ◊ *Dendropteryx leucophrys* (H)  Heard only, despite a lot of effort, at Irazu.
**Spot-bellied Bobwhite** ◊ *Colinus leucopogon*  Seen well at Solimar.
**Marbled Wood Quail** *Odontophorus gujanensis*  2 showed down to a few feet at Carara, and also 3 in Las Cruces.
**Black-breasted Wood Quail** ◊ *Odontophorus leucolaemus*  Seen a Catarata del Toro.
Spotted Wood Quail ◊ *Odontophorus guttatus*  A pair seen very well at Savegre.
Black-eared Wood Quail ◊ *Odontophorus melanotis*  A group seen very well at Celeste. Very rare species!

*Spotted Wood Quail, Spot-bellied Bobwhite and Spotted Wood Quail.*

**Least Grebe**  *Tachybaptus dominicus*  A few seen.
**Pied-billed Grebe**  *Podilymbus podiceps*  One sighting.
**Wood Stork**  *Mycteria americana*  Seen at various wetlands.
**Jabiru**  *Jabiru mycteria*  Seen well at Solimar.
**Green Ibis**  *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*  Seen a few times.
**American White Ibis**  *Eudocimus albus*  Seen at a few sites.
**Roseate Spoonbill**  *Platalea ajaja*  Seen at various wetlands.
**Fasciated Tiger Heron**  *Tigrisoma fasciatum*  2 seen near Rancho Naturalista.
**Bare-throated Tiger Heron**  *Tigrisoma mexicanum*  Seen at many sites throughout.
**Agami Heron**  *Agamia agami*  One flushed near Esquinas and then brilliant views at La Selva. Cracker!
**Boat-billed Heron**  *Cochlearius cochlearius*  Seen well in Carara and others at Caño Negro.
**Pinnated Bittern**  *Botaurus pinnatus*  Great views in Medio Queso.
**Black-crowned Night Heron**  *Nycticorax nycticorax*  A few birds recorded.
**Yellow-crowned Night Heron**  *Nyctanassa violacea*  A few at Rio Tarcoles.
**Green Heron**  *Butorides virescens*  Commonly recorded.
**Western Cattle Egret**  *Bubulcus ibis*  Common to abundant in open areas throughout.
Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*  Good numbers at Rio Tarcoles and Caño Negro.

Great Egret (G White E) *Ardea alba*  Common to abundant at all wetland sites.

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*  Good numbers at Rio Tarcoles and Caño Negro.

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**Pinnated Bittern.**

**Tricolored Heron (Louisiana H)** *Egretta tricolor*  Good numbers seen on the coast and at Cano Negro.

**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea*  Commonly recorded throughout at wetland sites.

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula*  Commonly recorded at wetland sites.

**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis*  Commonly recorded on the coast.

**Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens*  Commonly recorded on the Pacific coast.

**Neotropic Cormorant (Olivaceous C)** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*  Recorded throughout in small numbers.

**Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga*  Recorded at several places.

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*  Common to abundant throughout.

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus*  Common to abundant at most sites.

**Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture** *Cathartes burrovianus*  Seen near ciudad neilly and caño negro.
King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa*  A total of 11 birds seen.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*  Small numbers seen at several wetland and coastal sites.

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*  Recorded at many sites throughout

Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus*  One near Osa.

Ornate Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus ornatus*  Seen well at Heliconias.

Grey-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis*  3 sightings.

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*  A few noted at scattered sites.

Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus*  A couple of sightings.

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea*  A few birds noted at the Rio Tarcoles.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*  Seen a couple of times.

Barred Hawk *Leucopternis princeps*  One seen briefly and then one for Diane.

Semiplumbeous Hawk  *Leucopternis semiplumbeus*  Seen at Arenal and La Selva.

Common Black Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus*  Seen along the Tarcoles river.

Grey Hawk *Buteo plagiatus*  Seen at various places.

Grey-lined Hawk *Buteo nitidus*  One seen in the south.

White Hawk *Pseudastur albicollis*  Seen well near Celeste.

Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris*  Commonly recorded throughout.

Crane Hawk *Geranopsis caerulescens*  One sighting.

Harris’s Hawk (Bay-winged H) *Parabuteo unicinctus*  Seen at Solimar.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*  Large numbers seen heading north at Cerro and Caño Negro.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*  A few seen at widely scattered sites.

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus*  A couple of birds seen.

Swainson’s Hawk *Buteo swainsoni*  Large numbers migrating north, at Cerro de la Muerte and Caño Negro.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*  Seen at Savegre and Irazú.

Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis*  Seen near ciudad neilly.

Sunbittern *Eurypyga helias*  Seen well near Rancho Naturalista.

Sungrebe *Heliornis fulica*  Seen very well at Caño Negro.

White-throated Crake *Laterallus exilis*  (H)

Grey-breasted Crake *Laterallus albicollis*  Mega views of a pair near Arenal.

Grey-necked Wood Rail *Aramides cajaneus*  Several sightings in the Pacific.

Rufous-naped Wood Rail  *Aramides albiventris*  Seen in the Caribbean.

Uniform Crane  *Amaurolimnas concolor*  Seen very well at Esquinas.

Yellow-breasted Crake  *Porzana flavicollis*  This mega skulker was seen extremely well at Caño Negro!

Sora  *Porzana carolina*  Seen at Caño Negro.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinicus*  Seen at various places.

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*  Seen at San Vito marsh.

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*  Seen at Solimar and Caño Negro.

Double-striped Thick-knee *Burhinus bistriatus*  Seen at Solimar.

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*  Good numbers seen.

Southern Lapwing  *Vanellus chilensis*  Seen a few times.

Grey Plover (Black-billed P) *Pluvialis squatarola*  Seen on the coast.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*  Seen on the coast.

Wilson's Plover (Thick-billed P) *Charadrius wilsonia*  Seen on the coast.

Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris*  Seen at Caño Negro.

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa*  Seen at various places.

Short-billed Dowitcher  *Limnodromus griseus*  Seen on the coast.

Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus*  Recorded at several places along the coast.

Marbled Godwit  *Limosa fedoa*  Seen on the coast.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*  Seen on the coast.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*  Seen a few times.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*  Seen a few times.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*  Seen at widely scattered sites.

Western Willet *Tringa (semipalmata) inornata*  Seen along the coast.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*  A few seen at sites throughout.
Sanderling *Calidris alba*  Seen on the coast.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*  Seen on the coast.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*  Seen on the coast.

Willett (Western W) *Tringa [semipalmata] inornata*  Seen on the coast.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*  Common along the coast.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*  Seen at Cano Negro.

Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus*  Seen at caño negro.

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger*  Good numbers along the coast.

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla*  Very common along the coast.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*  Common along the coast.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*  Seen along the coast.

Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans*  Seen at caldera.

Cabot's Tern *Thalasseus acuflavidus*  A few seen amongst the terns on the coast.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa*  Seen a few times.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*  Not uncommon in the highlands.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*  A common species in the lowlands.

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris*  Commonly seen throughout.

Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea*  Seen in the highlands.

Short-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas nigrirostris*  Seen in the lowlands.

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Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*  Seen at Irazu.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*  Fairly common in open habitats in the north-west.

Inca Dove *Columbina inca*  A common species in dry open habitats in the north-west.

Plain-breasted Ground Dove *Columbina minuta*  Seen at solimar.

Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerina*  A fairly common species in dry open habitats in the north-west.
Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti*  A common species in dry open habitats in the lowlands.

Blue Ground Dove *Claravis pretiosa*  Small numbers.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*  The commonest Leptotila dove at sites throughout our trip.

Grey-headed Dove *Leptotila plumbeiceps*  Seen very well at Carlo Negro.

Grey-chested Dove ♀ *Leptotila cassini*  Seen a few times.

Ruddy Quail Dove *Geotrygon montana*  Seen very well in monteverde and pocosol.

Chiriqui Quail-Dove ♀ (Rufous-breasted Q-D) *Zentrygon chiriquensis*  Seen well at Finca ecologica.

Purplish-backed Quail-Dove ♀ *Geotrygon lawrencii*  Seen very well at heliconias.

Buff-fronted Quail-Dove ♀ (Cost Rican Q-D) *Geotrygon costaricensis*  Seen very well at cinchona.

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*  Common in the south-west.

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*  Common in open habitats throughout except the south-west.

Striped Cuckoo (American S C) *Tapera naevia*  Seen at Rincon.

Lesser Ground Cuckoo *Morococcyx erythropygus*  Two birds seen very well north of Carara.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*  Seen in small numbers throughout.

Pacific Screech Owl ♀ *Megascops cooperi*  One seen well at Solimare.

Tropical Screech Owl *Megascops choliba*  Seen very well at Talari and Esquinas.

Bare-shanked Screech Owl ♀ *Megascops clarkia*  A bird seen very well at irazu.

Vermiculated Screech Owl ♀ *Megascops vermiculatus*  One seen exceedingly well at la Selva.

Mottled Owl *Strix virgata*  Seen by some at Wilson botanical gardens.

Black-and-white Owl *Strix nigrolineata*  Seen very well at Tarcoles.

Crested Owl *Lophostrix cristata* (H)

Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata*  A pair seen very well at Carara.

Costa Rican Pygmy Owl ♀ *Glaucidium costaricanum*  One bird seen very well at Irazu.

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*  A few seen.

Striped Owl *Pseudoscops clamator*  A bird seen in flight at Esquinas.

Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus*  One seen.
Great Potoo *Nyctibius grandis* One seen at Arenal.
Short-tailed Nighthawk *Lurocalis semitorquatus* One briefly at la selva.
Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis* Seen in tarcoles.
Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* Common.
Dusky Nightjar *Antrostomus saturatus* Seen very well in Irazu.
Spot-fronted Swift ◊ *Cypseloides cherriei* Seen at Rincon.
Chestnut-collared Swift *Streptoprocne rutila* Seen at Braulio.
White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris* Seen in small numbers at widely scattered sites.
Vaux’s Swift (Richmond’s S) Swift *Chaetura vauxi* Seen at various places.
Costa Rican Swift ◊ *Chaetura fumosa* Seen at Esquinas.
Grey-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris* Seen on the Caribbean slope.
Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* Many over caño negro.
Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift *Panyptila cayennensis* (LO) Seen once.
White-tipped Sicklebill ◊ *Eutoxeres aquila* One at Cope.

Bronzy Hermit *Glaucis aeneus* Seen very well at Esquinas
Band-tailed Barthroath *Threnetes ruckeri* Seen very well at Esquinas.
Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy* Common throughout the highlands.
Long-billed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris* Seen at several spots.
Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis* Common at La Selva, Carara and Esquinas.
Green-fronted Lancebill *Doryfera ludovicae* Seen at el copal.
Scaly-breasted Hummingbird *Phaenochroa cuvierii* A few seen throughout the tour.
Violet Sabrewing ◊ *Campylopterus hemileucurus* Very common at Cataratas del Toro and Monteverde.
White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora* Common at numerous sets of feeders.
Brown Violetear *Colibri delphinae* Seen at Arenal.
Green Violetear *Colibri thalassinus* Seen at sites in the highlands.
Green-breasted Mango *Anthracothorax prevosti* Common on feeders at various sites.
Violet-headed Hummingbird *Klais guimeti* Seen at numerous sites throughout.
Black-crested Coquette ◊ *Lophornis helenae* Great views at El tapir.
White-crested Coquette *Lophornis adorabilis*  Brilliant views of a male near Wilson BG.
Green Thorntail *Discosura conversii*  Seen at Cataratas del Toro and el Tapir.
Canivet’s Emerald *Chlorostilbon canivetii*  Seen in the northwest.
Garden Emerald *Chlorostilbon assimilis*  Seen in Wilson.
Fiery-throated Hummingbird *Panterpe insignis*  Abundant at Paraíso de Quetzales and La Georgina.
White-tailed Emerald *Elvira chionura*  Seen very well at bosque de tolomuco.
Coppery-headed Emerald *Elvira cupreiceps*  Seen at Cataratas del Toro and Monteverde.

![Talamanca Hummingbird](image)

Striped-tailed Hummingbird *Eupherusa eximia*  Seen at Monteverde.
Black-bellied Hummingbird *Eupherusa nigriventris*  Up to 10 at Cataratas del Toro and bosque de paz.
Crowned Woodnymph *Thalurania colombica*  Seen at numerous sites.
Blue-throated Sapphire *Hylocharis eliciae*  (LO)
Cinnamon Hummingbird *Amazilia rutila*  Seen in the dry northwest.
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl*  The most common and widespread hummingbird.
Blue-chested Hummingbird *Amazilia amabilis*  Seen at La Selva.
Charming Hummingbird *Amazilia decora*  Seen at Esquinas.
Mangrove Hummingbird *Amazilia boucardi*  Seen very well near Rincon.
Blue-vented Hummingbird *Amazilia hoffmanni*  A few seen at widely scattered sites in the north and west.
Snowy-bellied Hummingbird *Amazilia Edward*  Seen at tolomuco and wilson.
Snowcap *Microchera albocoronata*  Seen at el copal and el Tapir.
Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer *Chalybura urochrysa*  Seen at pocosol and cope.
White-bellied Mountainengem *Lampornis hemileucus*  Seen at Cataratas del Toro.
Purple-throated Mountainengem *Lampornis calolaemus*  Common at Monteverde.
Grey-tailed Mountainengem *Lampornis cinerereauda*  A few seen at Savegre lodge.
Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula*  Common to abundant at many sets of feeders.
Talamanca Hummingbird (Rivoli’s H) *Eugenes spectabilis*  Good numbers seen in the highlands.
Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliothryx barroti*  A couple of sightings.
Long-billed Starthroat *Heliomaster longirostris*  2 sightings.
Magenta-throated Woodstar *Calliphlox bryantae*  Several at Monteverde.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*  Seen at heliconias.
Volcano Hummingbird *Selasphorus flammula*  Common in the highlands.
Scintillant Hummingbird ◊ *Selasphorus scintilla*  A couple of birds seen.
Resplendent Quetzal ◊ *Pharomachrus mocinno*  Several birds seen well, male at Irazu, then at Monteverde.

Slaty-tailed Trogon *Trogon massena*  Common in the lowlands.
Black-headed Trogon *Trogon melanocephalus*  Common in the NW.

Baird’s Trogon ◊ *Trogon bairdii*  Seen well at Los Cusingos and Esquinas.
Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus*  Seen at widely scattered sites in the lowlands.

Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus*  Seen at various places.
Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris*  Seen a few times. "Orange-bellied" Trogon seen as well.

American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea*  Seen at tarcoles river.
Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*  A few seen at many sites.
Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*  A few seen at a number of sites.
Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*  Small numbers seen at several sites.

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcion*  A few sightings.

Tody Motmot ◊ *Hylomanes momota*  Seen very well at Celeste.

Blue-diademed (Lesson’s M) *Momotus lessonii*  Common throughout.

Rufous Motmot *Baryphthengus martii*  First at pocosol.
Keel-billed Motmot ◊ *Electron carinatum*  1 seen very well near fortuna.
Broad-billed Motmot *Electron platyrhynchum*  A few seen.

Turquoise-browed Motmot ◊ *Eumomota superciliosa*  Common to abundant in the dry north-west.
Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda*  Seen at several places.
White-necked Puffbird *Notharchus hyperrhynchus*  3 birds seen.
White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis*  Seen very well in Carara.

White-fronted Nunbird *Monasa morphoeus*  A pair near Celeste.

Red-headed Barbet *Eubucco bourcierii*  Great views on two occasions.

Prong-billed Barbet ◊ *Sennornis frantzii*  Seen well at Santa Elena and cinchona.
Blue-throated Toucanet ◊ *Aulacorhynchus caeruleogularis*  Commonly seen throughout the highlands
Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus*  Recorded at various places.

Fiery-billed Aracari ◊ *Pteroglossus frantzii*  Small numbers seen in the Pacific lowlands.
Yellow-eared Toucanet ◊ *Selenidera spectabilis*  Great views of this rare bird in el copal.
Keel-billed Toucan  *Ramphastos sulfuratus*  Common.
Chestnut-mandibled Toucan  *Ramphastos swainsonii*  A common toucan.
Olivaceous Piculet  *Picumnus olivaceus*  Seen well at two places.
Acorn Woodpecker  *Melanerpes formicivorus*  Common at Savegre and elsewhere in the oak forests.
Golden-naped Woodpecker  *Melanerpes chrysauchen*  Seen at Esquinas.

Keel-billed Toucan

Black-cheeked Woodpecker  *Melanerpes pucherani*  Common on the Caribbean slope.
Red-crowned Woodpecker  *Melanerpes rubricapillus*  Abundant in the south-west.
Hoffmann’s Woodpecker  *Melanerpes hoffmannii*  Common from the Central valley to the north-west.
Hairy Woodpecker  *Picoides villosus*  Seen in the highlands.
Smoky-brown Woodpecker  *Picoides fumigatus*  Seen well at los cusingos.
Red-rumped Woodpecker  *Veniliornis kirki*  Seen at esquinas.
Rufous-winged Woodpecker  *Piculus simplex*  Seen very well at pocosol.
Golden-olive Woodpecker  *Colaptes rubiginosus*  Good views.
Chestnut-colored Woodpecker  *Celeus castaneus*  Seen well at La Selva.
Cinnamon Woodpecker  *Celeus loricatus*  Seen at La Selva and celeste.
Lineated Woodpecker  *Dryocopus lineatus*  Commonly seen.
Pale-billed Woodpecker  *Campephilus guatemalensis*  Seen a few times.
Northern Crested Caracara  *Caracara cheriwayi*  Commonly seen.
Yellow-headed Caracara  *Milvago chimachima*  Good numbers seen throughout.
Laughing Falcon  *Herpetotheres cachinnans*  Seen at a couple of sites.
Barred Forest Falcon  *Microstur ruficollis*  (H)
Collared Forest Falcon  *Microstur semitorquatus*  (H)
Peregrine  Falcon  *Falco peregrinus*  A couple of sightings.
Merlin  *Falco columbarius*  One at Solimar.
Bat Falcon  *Falco rufipigilus*  Seen at la selva.
Bat Falcon *Falco rufilagris*  A couple seen.

Great Green Macaw *Ara ambiguus*  Several seen very well near La Selva.

Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao*  Seen at various sites in the Pacific lowlands and La Selva. Increasing in Costa Rica now.

Finsch's Parakeet ♦ (Crimson-fronted P) *Aratinga finschii*  Seen throughout.

Olive-throated Parakeet ♦ *Aratinga nana*  Seen on the Caribbean slope.

Orange-fronted Parakeet *Aratinga canicularis*  Seen on the Pacific coast.

Sulphur-winged Parakeet ♦ *Pyrrhura hoffmanni*  Seen very well at Savegre.

Orange-chinned Parakeet (Tovi P) *Brotogeris jugularis*  Common throughout.

Brown-hooded Parrot *Pyrilia haematotis*  Not uncommon on the Caribbean slope and in the south-west.

Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus*  Seen at Esquinas and Las Cruces.

White-crowned Parrot *Pionus senilis*  Seen at numerous sites throughout except the north-west.

White-fronted Amazon (W-f Parrot) *Amazona albilors*  Seen at several places.

Red-lored Amazon (R-l Parrot) *Amazona autumnalis*  Common in the humid lowlands.

Yellow-naped Amazon ♦ (Y-n Parrot) *Amazona auropalliata*  A few pairs seen well at Carara and Solimar.

Northern Mealy Amazon (Mealy Parrot) *Amazona guatema*  Seen well in Rincon.

Pale-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albescens*  Seen near esquinas.

Slaty Spinetail *Synallaxis brachyura*  Seen at caño negro.

Red-faced Spinetail *Cranioleuca erythropus*  First seen at tolomuco.

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Spotted Barbtail *Premnoplex brunnescens*  A few sightings in the highland forests.

Ruddy Treerunner ♦ *Margarornis rubiginosus*  Common in the highlands.

Buffy Tuftedcheek *Pseudocolaptes lawrencii*  Seen well in providencia road.

Lineated Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla subalaris*  Recorded at cerro de la muerte.

Western Woodhaunter *Hyloctistes virgatus*  Seen at arenal.

Streak-breasted Treecreeper ♦ *Thripadectes rufobrunneus*  Great views at Cerro de la muerte.

Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner *Automolus ochroaemus*  A few seen in the caribbean.

Chiriqui Foliage-gleaner *Automolus exsertus*  This recent split from Buff-throated F-g was seen in the SW.

Tawny-throated Leafchop *Sclerurus mexicanus*  One seen well in el copal.

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus*  A few seen at widely scattered sites.

Plain-brown Woodcreep *Dendrocincla fuliginosa*  Seen well at rancho.

Tawny-winged Woodcreep *Dendrocincla anabatina*  Seen well in Carara.

Ruddy Woodcreep *Dendrocincla homochroa*  Seen briefly at finca ecologica by some.
Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*  
Seen a few times.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorynchus spirurus*  
Seen at numerous sites.

Northern Barred Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*  
Seen well a few times.

Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorynchus susurrans*  
A common woodcreeper.

Black-striped Woodcreeper *Xiphorynchus lachrymosus*  
(H)

Spotted Woodcreeper *Xiphorynchus erythropygius*  
A few seen in foothill forest.

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*  
A common woodcreeper seen throughout.

Spot-crowned Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes affinis*  
Seen in the highlands.

Brown-billed Scythebill *Campylorhamphus pusillus*  
Seen very well at el copal and cinchona.

Fasciated Antshrike *Cymbilaimus lineatus*  
Seen at La Selva.

Great Antshrike *Taraba major*  
(H)

Black-crowned and Scaled Antpittas.

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus*  
Seen at la fortuna.

Black-hooded Antshrike *Thamnophilus bridgesi*  
Common in the SW.

Black-crowned Antshrike *Thamnophilus atrinucha*  
A few birds at La Selva.

Russet Antshrike *Thamnites anabatinus*  
Several birds seen.

Plain Antvireo *Dysithamnus mentalis*  
Not uncommon in forest understorey.

Streak-crowned Antvireo *Dysithamnus striaticeps*  
Seen well at heliconias and Arenal.

Checker-throated Antwren *Epinecrophylla fulviventris*  
Seen at Rancho.

Slaty Antwren *Myrmotherula schisticolor*  
A few sightings.

Dot-winged Antwren *Microrhopias*  
Several seen.

Dusky Antbird *Cercomacra tyrannina*  
Common at Carara NP.

Bare-crowned Antbird *Gymnocichla nudiceps*  
Seen at Arenal.

Chestnut-backed Antbird *Myrmeciza exsui*  
Seen at several locations.

Dull-mantled Antbird *Myrmeciza laemosticta*  
Seen well at Rancho and el copal.

Zeledon’s Antbird *Myrmeciza zeledoni*  
Seen at Pocosol and el copal.

Bicolored Antbird *Gymnopithys leucapis*  
A few birds seen at antswarms.

Spotted Antbird *Hylophylax naevioides*  
This smart antbird was seen very well a few times.

Ocellated Antbird *Phaenostictus mcleannani*  
Seen superbly at antswarms at pocosol.
Black-faced Antthrush *Formicarius analis*  Several seen at Esquinas and Carara NP.

Black-headed Antthrush *Formicarius nigrocapillus*  Seen at pocosol.

Streak-chested Antpitta ◊ *(Spectacled A) Hylepoeus perspicillatus*  Seen very well at Carara.

Thicket Antpitta ◊ *(Fulvous-bellied A) Hylepoeus dives*  Seen by everyone well at Arenal and Pocosol.

Ochre-breasted Antpitta *Gralharcula flavirostris* *(H)*  Recorded at el copal.

Scaled Antpitta *Gralaria guatimalensis*  Two sightings, at Cinchona and Cataratas del Toro.

Black-crowned Antpitta ◊ *(Pittasoma michleri)*  One of the tour highlights. Seen very well at Braulio Carrillo.

Silvery-fronted Tapaculo ◊ *Scytalopus argentifrons*  One seen very well at Paraiso de Quetzales.

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet *Tyrannulus elatus*  Seen at la gamba.

Ocellated Antbird and Buff-fronted Quail Dove.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*  Fairly common throughout.

Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata*  Seen a few times.

Mountain Elaenia *Elaenia frantzii*  Common in the highlands.

Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet ◊ *Ornithion semilavum*  Seen at esquinas.

Northern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma imberbe*  Seen at Cano Negro.

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum* *(H)*

Torrent Tyrannulet *Serpophaga cinerea*  Seen near rancho and la virgen.

Yellow Tyrannulet *Capsiempis flaveola*  Seen well at la gamba.

Mistletoe Tyrannulet ◊ *Zimmerius parvus*  Common throughout the highlands.

Rufous-browed Tyrannulet ◊ *Phylloscartes superciliaris*  Seen very well el copal.

Olive-striped Flycatcher *Mionectes olivaceus*  Seen a few times. First at el copal.

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus*  Common at La Selva, and noted at other places.

Slaty-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon superciliaris*  A couple seen.

Black-capped Pygmy Tyrant *Myiornis atricapillus*  Seen well at La Selva.

Northern Bentbill *Oncostoma cinereigulare*  Seen well at los cusingos.

Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant *Lophotriccus pileatus*  A few seen throughout the tour.

Slaty-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilotriccus sylvia*  Seen a couple of times.

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*  Common throughout.

Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum nigricaps*  Seen at La Selva.

Eye-ring Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus brevirostris*  Seen at esquinas.

Yellow-olive Flatbill *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*  A few noted at various locations.
Yellow-margined Flatbill  *Tolomyrias flavotectus* (H)

White-throated Spadetail  *Platyrinchus mystaceus*  Seen well at el copal.

Golden-crowned Spadebill  *Platyrinchus coronatus*  Seen well at carara.

Tawny-chested Flycatcher  *Aphanotrichus capitalis*  Seen at Rancho Naturalista.

Black Phoebe  *Sayornis nigricans*  Commonly seen throughout.

Northern Tufted Flycatcher  *Mitraphanes phaeocercus*  Several seen.

Dark Pewee  *Contopus lugubris*  Seen well at Savegre.

Western Wood Pewee  *Contopus sordidulus*  A few seen throughout.

Eastern Wood Pewee  *Contopus virens*  A couple birds seen well, and heard.

Tropical Pewee  *Contopus cinereus*  Common in the north and also seen at tarcoles mangroves.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher  *Empidonax flaviventris*  A few seen.

White-throated Flycatcher  *Empidonax albicaudus*  A single bird seen near Rancho Naturaista.

Yellowish Flycatcher  *Empidonax flavescens*  Several seen in the highlands.

Black-capped Flycatcher  *Empidonax atriceps*  Seen in the highlands.

Long-tailed Tyrant  *Colonia colonus*  Seen at Arenal.

Piratic Flycatcher  *Legatus leucophaeus*  Common.

Rusty-margined Flycatcher  *Myiozetetes cayanensis*  Seen at la gamba.

Social Flycatcher  *Myiozetetes similis*  Common.

Grey-capped Flycatcher  *Myiozetetes granadensis*  Several birds seen.

Great Kiskadee  *Pitangus sulphuratus*  Common throughout.

White-ringed Flycatcher  *Conopias albivittatus*  Seen at La Selva.

Golden-bellied Flycatcher  *Myiodynastes hemichrysus* (H)

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher  *Myiodynastes luteiventris*  A few seen at many sites.

Streaked Flycatcher  *Myiodynastes maculatus*  Small numbers throughout.

Boat-billed Flycatcher  *Megarynchus pitangua*  Fairly common throughout.

Tropical Kingbird  *Tyrannus melanochilus*  Common to abundant.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher  *Tyrannus forficatus*  Seen at solimar.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher  *Tyrannus savana*  Seen in the south.

Eastern Kingbird  *Tyrannus tyrannus*  Only one in caño negro.

Rufous Mourner  *Rhytipterna holerythra*  Seen at several locations.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher  *Myiarchus tuberculifer*  Fairly common throughout.

Great Crested Flycatcher  *Myiarchus crinitus*  Small numbers seen throughout.

Brown-crested Flycatcher  *Myiarchus tyrannulus*  A few seen and heard in the northwest.

Nutting’s Flycatcher  *Myiarchus nuttingi*  Seen in the dry nW.

Panamanian Flycatcher  *Myiarchus panamensis*  Seen in the mangroves of rio Tarcoles.

Bright-rumped Attila  *Attila spadiceus*  Heard and seen at many lowland sites.

Turquoise Cottinga  *Cotinga ridgwayi*  Male at san isidro.

Three-wattled Bellbird  *Procnias tricarunculatus*  Two males seen very well near Monteverde.

Snowy Cotinga  *Carpodectes nitidus*  Several at La Selva.

Yellow-billed Cotinga  *Carpodectes antoniae*  3 birds seen very well at Rincon.

Purple-throated Fruitcrow  *Querula purpurata*  Seen La Selva.

White-ruffed Manakin  *Corapipo altera*  Seen at several locations.

Blue-crowned Manakin  *Lepidothrix coronata*  Seen in the SW.

White-collared Manakin  *Manacus candei*  A few at La Selva.

Orange-collared Manakin  *Manacus aurantiacus*  Common at Esquinas and Carara NP.

Long-tailed Manakin  *Chiroxiphia linearis*  Seen around Monteverde and solimar.

White-crowned Manakin  *Dixiphia pipra*  Seen at Rancho.

Red-capped Manakin  *Dixiphia mentalis*  Seen at Los Cusingos, Esquinas and Carara.

Sharpbill  *Oxyruncus cristatus*  A calling bird at pocosol.

Northern Royal Flycatcher  *Onychorhynchus mexicanus*  Seen at esquinas and carara.

Sulphur-rumped Myiobius  *Myiobius sulphureipygii*  A couple seen.

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher  *Terentricia erythrus*  A couple seen.

Black-crowned Tityra  *Tityra inquisitor*  Seen at la selva.
Masked Titira *Tityra semifasciata*  Seen in small numbers throughout the lowlands.
Northern Schiffornis *Schiffornis veraepacis*  Seen very well at celeste.
Barred Becard *Pachyramphus versicolor*  Seen at Santa Elena.
Cinnamon Becard *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*  A few birds seen throughout the tour.
Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae*  Seen at widely scattered sites.
White-winged Becard *Pachyramphus polychropterus* (LO)  At esquinas.
Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*  Seen several times.
Green Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanius pulchellus*  Seen very well at la selva.
Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*  A few sightings.

*Turquoise and Yellow-billed Cotingas and Three-wattled Bellbird*
Yellow-winged Vireo \textit{Vireo carmioi}  A fairly common near-endemic in the highlands.

Brown-capped Vireo \textit{Vireo leucophrys}  Seen at Savegre.

Philadelphia Vireo \textit{Vireo philadelphicus}  A couple seen.

Yellow-green Vireo \textit{Vireo flavoviridis}  A few seen.

Tawny-crowned Greenlet \textit{Hylophilus ochraceiceps}  Found in several understorey flocks at various places.

Lesser Greenlet \textit{Hylophilus decurtatus}  Widespread

Scrub Greenlet \textit{Hylophilus flavipes}  (H)

Silvery-throated Jay \textit{Cyanolca argentigula}  Seen very well at savegre.

Brown Jay \textit{Psilorhinus morio}  Very common throughout.

White-throated Magpie-Jay \textit{Calocitta Formosa}  Quite numeros in the dry open country of the north and west.

Black-and-yellow Phainoptila \textit{Phainoptila melanoxantha}  Several noted at Paraiso de Quetzales.

Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher \textit{Ptilogonys caudatus}  Common in the highlands.

Sand Martin \textit{Riparia riparia}  2 sightings.

Mangrove Swallow \textit{Tachycineta albilinea}  A common species throughout.

Grey-breasted Martin \textit{Progne chalybea}  Not uncommon around human settlement in the lowlands.

Blue-and-white Swallow \textit{Notiochelidon cyanoleuca}  The most common and widespread swallow.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow \textit{Stelgidopteryx serripennis}  Seen at numerous locations.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow \textit{Stelgidopteryx ruficollis}  Seen at various locations.

Barn Swallow \textit{Hirundo rustica}  Small numbers noted throughout.

American Cliff Swallow \textit{Petrochelidon pyrrhonota}  Seen a few times, mixed in with other swallows.

Band-backed Wren \textit{Campylorhynchus zonatus}  Seen at several locations.

Rufous-backed Wren \textit{Campylorhynchus capistratus}  A fairly common species seen in the north and west.

Black-throated Wren \textit{Pheugopedius atrogularis}  Seen well at caño negro.

Black-bellied Wren \textit{Pheugopedius fasciatoventris}  (H)

Spot-breasted Wren \textit{Pheugopedius maculipictus}  Seen at Caño Negro.

Rufous-breasted Wren \textit{Pheugopedius rutilus}  Seen at various places.

Banded Wren \textit{Thryophilus pleurostictus}  Seen in the northwest.

Rufous-and-white Wren \textit{Thryophilus rufalbus}  Seen near Monteverde.

Cabanis’s Wren \textit{Cantorchilus modestus}  Seen a couple of times.

Cabanis’s Wren \textit{Cantorchilus thoracicus}  Seen near la selva.

Isthmian Wren \textit{Cantorchilus elutus}  Seen near esquinas.

Riverside Wren \textit{Cantorchilus semibadius}  Seen well at talari and esquinas.

Bay Wren \textit{Cantorchilus nigrocapillus}  Seen a couple of times.

Stripe-breasted Wren \textit{Cantorchilus thoracicus}  First seen at Arenal.

House Wren \textit{Troglydtes aedon}  A widespread species seen at numerous sites throughout.

Ochraceous Wren \textit{Troglydtes ochraceus}  Seen at Monteverde and Irazu.

Timberline Wren \textit{Thryorchilus browni}  Seen well at Irazu.

White-breasted Wood Wren \textit{Henicorhina leucosticta}  A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Grey-breasted Wood Wren \textit{Henicorhina leucophrys}  A few in the highlands.

Northern Nightingale-Wren \textit{Microcerculus philomela}  One seen well at Pocosol.

Southern Nightingale-Wren \textit{Microcerculus marginatus}  (H)  Heard only.

Song Wren \textit{Cyphorhinus pheaecephalus}  Seen at Copal and pocosol.

Tawny-faced Gnatwren \textit{Microbates cinereiventris}  Seen at pocosol and Arenal.

Long-billed Gnatwren \textit{Ramphocaeninus melanus}  Recorded at several locations.

White-lored Gnatcatcher \textit{Polioptila albiloris}  Seen in the dry northwest.

Tropical Gnatcatcher \textit{Polioptila plumbea}  A rather common species seen at widely scattered sites throughout.

Tropical Mockingbird \textit{Mimus gilvus}  Seen a few times. Spreading.

Black-faced Solitaire \textit{Myadestes melanops}  Commonly seen and heard in the highlands.

Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush \textit{Catharus graciilostris}  A very confiding species seen in the highlands.

Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush \textit{Catharus aurantirostris}  Seen at talari.

Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush \textit{Catharus fuscater}  An inconspicuous species recorded in the highlands.

Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush \textit{Catharus frantzii}  Commonly recorded in the highlands. A fine songster.

Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush \textit{Catharus mexicanus}  Seen well at el copal.
Swainson’s Thrush  *Catharus ustulatus*  A commonly recorded migrant at widely scattered sites.

Wood Thrush  *Hylocichla mustelina*  A species seen at various places.

Sooty Thrush  *Turdus nigrescens*  A common species in the highlands.

Mountain Thrush  *Turdus plebejus*  Rather numerous in the highlands.

Pale-vented Thrush  *Turdus obsoletus*  Seen well at pocosol.

Clay-colored Thrush  *Turdus grayi*  A very common species seen at sites throughout. CR national bird.

White-throated Thrush  *Turdus assimilis*  First at Wilson botanical gardens.

American Dipper  *Cinclus mexicanus*  Seen at la virgen.

House Sparrow  *Passer domesticus*  Just a couple seen.

Scrub Euphonia  *Euphonia affinis*  Seen in the northwest.

Yellow-crowned Euphonia  *Euphonia luteicapilla*  A common species in the humid tropics.

Yellow-throated Euphonia  *Euphonia hirundinacea*  Scattered sightings.

Thick-billed Euphonia  *Euphonia lanirostris*  A couple of sightings.

Spot-crowned Euphonia  *Euphonia imitans*  Seen at Las Cruces and Esquinas.

Olive-backed Euphonia  *Euphonia gouldi*  Seen in the Caribbean slope.

Elegant Euphonia  *Euphonia elegantissima*  Seen at monteverde by some.

White-vented Euphonia  *Euphonia*  Seen at el copal.

Tawny-capped Euphonia  *Euphonia anneae*  A few good sightings.

Golden-browed Chlorophonia  *Chlorophonia callophrys*  Great views at paraiso de quetzales.

Yellow-bellied Siskin  *Carduelis xanthogastra*  A species recorded in the highlands.

Lesser Goldfinch  *Spinus psaltria*  Seen at Wilson gardens.

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**Birds:**

Ovenbird  *Seiurus aurocapilla*  Seen a few times.

Worm-eating Warbler  *Helmitheros vermivorum*  Seen at rancho.

Northern Waterthrush  *Parkesia noveboracensis*  A migrant species commonly recorded at widely scattered sites.

Louisiana Waterthrush  *Parkesia motacilla*  Seen well a couple of times.

Golden-winged Warbler  *Vermivora chrysoptera*  An uncommon migrant species recorded at several locations.

Black-and-white Warbler  *Mniotilta varia*  Recorded at widely scattered sites.
Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*  Seen at tarcoles.

Flame-throated Warbler ◊ *Oreothlypis gutturalis* A stunning species seen at several sites in the highlands.

Tennessee Warbler *Leiothlypis peregrina* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Grey-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis poliocephala* One record.

Mourning Warbler *Geothlypis philadelphia* A scarce migrant species seen at a couple of places.

Kentucky Warbler *Geothlypis formosa* An uncommon migrant species seen well at los cusingos.

Olive-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis semiflava* Seen a couple of times.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* A couple seen.

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiayumi* A few seen at widely scattered sites.

Bay-breasted Warbler *Setophaga castanea* 2 males at la selva.

Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca* A somewhat uncommon but cracking warbler.

American Yellow Warbler *Setophaga aestiva* A common migratory species seen at widely scattered sites.

Mangrove Warbler *Setophaga petechia* This distinctive species was common along the Rio Tarcoles.

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Setophaga pensylvanica* A fairly common migrant species seen at widely scattered sites.

Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens* A fairly common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Townsend’s Warbler *Setophaga townsendi* Great views of this rare migrant in the cerro de la muerte forest.

Buff-rumped Warbler *Myiathlypis fulvicauda* Another common rainforest species recorded at many sites.

Rufous-capped Warbler *Basileuterus rufifrons* A not uncommon species at widely scattered sites.

Black-cheeked Warbler ◊ *Basileuterus melanogenys* Commonly recorded in the highlands. A near endemic.

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus* A widespread species seen at widely scattered sites.

Black-eared Warbler *Basileuterus melanocephalus* Recorded a few times. A recent split from Three-striped W.

Canada Warbler *Cardellina canadensis* One record.

Wilson’s Warbler *Cardellina pusilla* A common migrant recorded at widely scattered sites throughout.

Slate-throated Whitestart *Myioborus miniatus* Not uncommon at widely scattered sites throughout the foothills.

Collared Whitestart ◊ *Myioborus torquatus* Commonly recorded at highland sites. A delightful species.

Wrenthrush ◊ *Zeledonia coronata* Seen very well at irazu and Cerro de la Muerte.

*Wrenthrush (Zeledonia)*
Eastern Meadowlark  *Sturnella magna*  Recorded in cattle pasture and cut over areas.

Red-breasted Blackbird  *Sturnella militaris*  Another Icterid recorded in the south and also in caño negro.

Yellow-billed Cacique  *Amblycercus holosericeus*  Seen in the south.

Chestnut-headed Oropendola  *Psarocolius wagleri*  Seen a few times.

Crested Oropendola  *Psarocolius decumanus*  A recent colonist seen at Las Cruces and la gamba.

Montezuma Oropendola  *Psarocolius montezuma*  A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Scarlet-rumped Cacique  *Cacicus microrhynchus*  An uncommon species first recorded at Esquinas.

Spot-breasted Oriole  *Icterus pectoralis*  Seen well at Solimar.

Black-cowled Oriole  *Icterus prothomelias*  First seen at caño negro.

Baltimore Oriole  *Icterus galbula*  A common migrant species seen at widely scattered sites.

Streak-backed Oriole  *Icterus pustulatus*  A localised species seen in the dry northwest.

Costa Rican Brushfinch  

Bronzed Cowbird  *Molothrus aeneus*  A common species recorded at widely scattered sites throughout.

Shiny Cowbird  *Molothrus bonariensis*  Seen at la selva.

Melodious Blackbird  *Dives dives*  A recent colonist now seen at widely scattered sites throughout.

Red-winged Blackbird  *Agelaius phoeniceus*  An abundant species in the north at Cano Negro.

Giant Cowbird  *Molothrus oryzivorus*  A few.

Great-tailed Grackle  *Quiscalus mexicanus*  A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Nicaraguan Grackle  *Quiscalus nicaraguensis*  A rare species seen at Cano Negro.

Bananaquit  *Coereba flaveola*  A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Rufous-collared Sparrow  *Zonotrichia capensis*  A common species seen at widely scattered sites in the highlands.

Volcano Junco  *Junco vulcani*  Seen at Irazu.

Stripe-headed Sparrow  *Peucaea ruficauda*  A common species in the northwest.

Cabanis’s Ground Sparrow  *Melozone cabanisi*  3 birds seen well at Ujarras. Endemic and uncommon nowadays.

White-eared Ground Sparrow  *Melozone leucotis*  Seen a few times.

Olive Sparrow  *Arremonops rufigratus*  Seen north of Carara.

Black-striped Sparrow  *Arremonops conirostris*  A commonly recorded species at widely scattered sites.

Orange-billed Sparrow  *Arremon aurantirostris*  A common species seen at widely scattered sites in the lowlands.

Chestnut-capped Brush Finch  *Arremon brunneinucha*  A few seen.

Costa Rican Brush Finch  *Arremon costaricensis*  Seen well near San Vito.

Sooty-faced Finch  *Arremon crassirostris*  Great views at catarata del toro.

Large-footed Finch  *Pezopetes capitalis*  A common species at sites throughout the highlands.
White-naped Brush Finch *Atlapetes albinucha*  A couple of sightings.
Yellow-thighed Finch◊*Pselliophorus tibialis*  Another common finch at sites in the highlands.
Common Bush Tanager *Chlorospingus flavopectus*  A species commonly recorded at several spots.
Ashy-throated Bush Tanager *Chlorospingus canigularis*  Seen at copal.
Sooty-capped Bush Tanager◊*Chlorospingus pileatus*  Common only in the highlands where seen many sites.
Dusky-faced Tanager *Mitrospingus cassini* (H) Heard at La Selva.
Grey-headed Tanager *Eucometis penicillata*  Seen briefly at caño negro.
White-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus luctuosus*  Seen a few times.
Tawny-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus delatrii*  Seen at el copal and Braulio.

*Rufous-winged Tanager, Black-and-yellow Tanager and Streak-breasted Treehunter*
White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus* A pair seen.
White-throated Shrike-Tanager ♦ *Lanio leucothorax* (LO) Seen at pocosol.
Crimson-collared Tanager *Ramphocelus sanguinoventus* Another stunning species in an impressive genus.
Passerini's Tanager *Ramphocelus passerinii* A very common species in the Caribbean.
Cherrie’s Tanager ♦ *Ramphocelus costaricensis* Common in the Pacific.
Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus* An abundant species seen at widely scattered sites.
Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Blue-and-gold Tanager ♦ *Bangsia arcaei* Seen well at el copal.
Plain-colored Tanager *Tangara inornata* An aberrant tangara seen well at La Selva.
Emerald Tanager *Tangara florida* A rather pretty species recorded at a couple of locations.
Silver-throated Tanager *Tangara icterocephala* A widespread species seen at many sites.
Speckled Tanager *Tangara guttata* Seen well several times.
Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola* A widespread species recorded at widely scattered sites.
Rufous-winged Tanager *Tangara lavinia* A pair seen very well near celeste.
Golden-hooded Tanager *Tangara larvata* A lovely species seen at numerous sites throughout.
Spangle-cheeked Tanager *Tangara dowii* Seen at various places.
Scarlet-thighed Dacnis *Dacnis venusta* Somewhat localised but not uncommon species seen at many sites.
Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana* Rather uncommonly recorded on this tour.

Shining Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes lucidus* A somewhat infrequently recorded species on this tour.
Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus* A stunning species seen at numerous widely scattered sites.
Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophasis spiza* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Black-and-yellow Tanager ♦ *Chrysothlypis chrysomelas* First seen at el copal.
Slaty Flowerpiercer ♦ *Diglossa plumbea* A species only recorded at all commonly in the highlands.
Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina* Rapidly increasing with continued deforestation and habitat degradation.
Variable Seedeater *Sporophila corvina* Common on both Pacific and Caribbean slopes.
Morelet’s Seedeater *Sporophila moreletti* First near la gamba.
Yellow-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila nigricollis* Many in la gamba.

Thick-billed Seed Finch *Oryzoborus funereus* This species was commonly seen on the Caribbean slope.

Nicaraguan Seed Finch *Oryzoborus nuttingi* 2 males of this localised species were seen near Caño Negro.

Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus* A somewhat numerous species seen at widely scattered sites.

Flame-colored Tanager *Piranga bidentata* Fairly common in the highlands.

Tooth-billed Tanager (Highland Hepatic T) *Piranga lutea* Several seen.

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* Only 2 seen.

White-winged Tanager *Piranga leucoptera* Seen well at el copal.

Red-crowned Ant Tanager *Habia rubica* Seen at carara.

Red-throated Ant Tanager *Habia fuscicauda* We had great views of this understorey species at Rancho.

Black-cheeked Ant Tanager *Habia atrimaxillaris* Great views of this cracking endemic at Esquinas.

Carmiol's Tanager *Chlorothraupis carmioli* A numerous species at Braulio Carillo and Rancho Naturalista.

Black-thighed Grosbeak *Pheucticus tibialis* Seen at 3 places this year, first at cerro de la muerte.

Black-faced Grosbeak *Caryothraustes poliogaster* Seen well several times.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus* Seen well a few times.

Black-headed Saltator *Saltator atriceps* A few recorded.

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.

Greyish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens* Seen several times.

Streaked Saltator *Saltator striatipectus* Seen at Talar and Las Cruces.

Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanocompsa cyanoides* A few seen.
MAMMALS

Black-eared Opossum (Common O, Black-faced O) *Didelphis marsupialis*  One sighting.
Hoffmann’s Two-toed Sloth *Choloepus hoffmanni*  Seen at heliconias.
Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth *Bradypus variegatus*  Several seen, many near fortuna.
Nine-banded Armadillo *Dasypus novemcinctus*  Several seen at Finca Ecologica.

Northern Tamandua *Tamandua mexicana*  Fantastic views at heliconias.
Greater White-lined Bat (W-Sac-winged B) *Saccopteryx bilineata*  A group of 20 roosting at Esquinas.
White-faced Capuchin (W-throated C, W-throated C Monkey) *Cebus capucinus*  A few sightings.
Mantled Howler (M H Monkey) *Alouatta palliata*  Superb sightings of this magnificent species.
Central American Spider Monkey (Black-handed S M) *Ateles geoffroyi*  A troop at Pocosol.
Variegated Squirrel *Sciurus variegatoides*  Common to abundant with many different colour morphs.
Red-tailed Squirrel (Tropical Red S) *Sciurus granatensis*  Small numbers seen throughout.
Alfaro’s Pygmy Squirrel (Central American Dwarf S) *Microsciurus alfari*  One seen in the mountain forest.
Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata* Fairly common.

Spotted Paca *Cuniculus paca* Seen at bosque de paz. A rare mammal.

Mexican Hairy Dwarf Porcupine *Sphiggurus mexicanus* Seen at cerro de la muerte and la selva.

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica* Very common at several sites.

Collared Peccary *Tayassu tajacu* Rather common at La Selva. Also at carara.

Tayra *Eira Barbara* One near carara.

Neotropical Otter *Lontra longicaudis* One at Rincon.

Northern Olingo *Bassaricyon gabbii* One at pocosol.

Crab-eating Raccoon *Procyon cancrivorus* One in tarcoles.

Northern Raccoon (Common R) *Procyon lotor* One in the south.

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus* Two sightings.

Mexican Mouse Oposum *Marmosa mexicana* 2 at pocosol.
Dusky Nightjar