



*This Three-wattled Bellbird put on a show at eye level at Santa Elena reserve. (Leo Garrigues)*

# **COSTA RICA**

**18 MARCH – 10 APRIL 2022**

**LEADER: LEO GARRIGUES**

Costa Rica is one of the countries with the highest biodiversity in the world in proportion to its size and hosts a good number of specialties because it has three important endemic bird areas. In addition, a wide variety of habitats makes the perfect combination to see a great variety of species and specialties.

This year's Ultimate Costa Rica tour was highly successful in terms of specialties, as well as in the total number of birds recorded, with an impressive 620 species recorded, and 606 species seen by at least one of the participants. Also, 12 species were added to the Birdquest cumulative Costa Rican list: Least Bittern, White-chinned Swift, Mangrove Rail, Black-collared Hawk, Choco Screech-Screech Owl, Red-fronted Parrotlet, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Elegant Trogon, Black-chested Jay, Grass Wren, Rosy-thrush Tanager and Cerulean Warbler. But most important was the number of specialties with a total of 197 diamond birds. As well, an impressive total of 28 different species of mammals were seen during the tour, with great encounters that included Baird's Tapir, Spotted Paca, and Northern Tamandua, among others.



*The White-chinned Swift nesting was chosen as the bird of the trip. (LG)*

Regarding highlights of the trip, we did very well with the owls, recording 15 species (14 of them seen, only the Tropical Screech-Owl just heard), which basically is all the species of owls possible in the country. We even added Choco Screech-Owl to the Costa Rican Birdquest trips list. We got all nine species of trogons in the country, all five species of jays, including decent views of the Silvery-throated Jay, which is one of the hardest highland endemics to see, and we added Black-chested Jay to the Birdquest list for Costa Rica. Another interesting number is the 48 species of hummingbirds recorded, with great views of White-crested Coquette, Snowcap, Black-crested Coquette (brief but good views of a male, and then good prolonged views of a female), good views of Mangrove Hummingbird (male and female) in two different sites, Sapphire-throated Hummingbird, Veraguan Mango, Bronzy Hermit, Black-bellied Hummingbird and the endemic Coppery-headed Emerald, among the many others. The 23 possible species of wrens in the country were all seen very well, as were the three species of Leaf-tossers (Grey-throated, Scaly-throated, and Tawny-throated - twice). Getting all the members of the group onto such birds is a difficult task, I would say. Other major highlights were Lovely, Turquoise, Yellow-billed, and Snowy Cotingas, Three-Wattled Bellbird, views of the Highland Tinamou for a majority of the group, and excellent views of Black Guans in different locations. We had great views of Dusky Nightjar, Chiriquí and Buff-fronted Quail-Doves, Mangrove Rail, Rufous-necked Wood-Rail, Yellow-breasted Crake, Sora, Uniform Crake, Least and Pinnated Bitterns, Black-breasted, Spotted, and Marbled Wood Quail, Spot-bellied Bobwhite, and all the Costa Rican species of motmots and toucans, with good views of Yellow-eared Toucanet, and Tody and Keel-billed Motmots. Also well-seen were Great Green Macaws, the super skulker Ruddy Foliage-Gleaner, Chiriquí Foliage-Gleaner, Western Woodhaunter, Buffy Tuftedcheek, close views in the open of Streak-breasted Treehunter, Bare-crowned, Zeledon's and Dull-mantled Antbirds, Streak-chested Antpitta, the skulking Thicket Antpitta, Silvery-fronted Tapaculo, the local Tawny-chested Flycatcher, Stub-tailed, White-throated and Golden-crowned Spadebills, the near-endemic Dark and Ochraceous Pewees, Golden-bellied Flycatcher, Panamanian and Nutting's

Flycatchers, White-throated Flycatcher, Rufous-browed Tyrannulet, and Yellow-bellied and the inconspicuous White-fronted Tyrannulet. We logged seven species of manakins, including the local White-crowned Manakin and the Red-capped Manakin displaying for us, Northern Royal Flycatcher, the near-endemic Yellow-winged Vireo, Mangrove Vireo, Black-and-yellow Phainoptila, Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher, all five local species of nightingale-thrushes, the melodious Black-faced Solitaire, all the resident thrush species, including Pale-vented Thrush and the highland endemic Sooty Thrush, and all ten species of euphonias, with superb views of Golden-browed Chlorophonia. Costa Rican Brushfinch and Sooty-faced Finch performed well for our group, and we had excellent views of Volcano Junco, the Costa Rican endemic Cabanis's Ground-Sparrow, Wrenthrush (the only member of its family), the near-endemic Nicaraguan Grackle, the very range-restricted Chiriquí Yellowthroat, the near-endemic Black-cheeked and Black-eared Warblers, the stunning Flame-throated Warbler, Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager (an endemic of the Golfo Dulce region of Costa Rica), Black-thighed Grosbeak, the rare and localized Cabanis's Seed-eater (another major highlight), and a wide variety of tanagers, including White-throated Shrike-Tanager, Blue-and-gold Tanager, Nicaraguan Seed-Finch, and Peg-billed Finch, to mention just a few of the highlights.



*Unspotted Saw-whet Owl, the hardest species of Owl to see in Costa Rica. (Photo by participant Ursula Ekkers)*

The tour started at Alajuela, and from there we went to the hills of the Irazu Volcano where we did some owling. At our first stop we managed to see Dusky Nightjar and a Northern Raccoon. Another stop yielded a Bare-Shanked Screech Owl right in the open. Then we went to get some well-deserve rest to be ready for the next early morning.

At 3:45 we met, ready to go directly for the enigmatic Unspotted Saw-whet Owl. On the way, we spotted an American Barn Owl on the edge of the road, sitting on fencepost, though only some members of the group got to see it before it flew. Once at the spot of the Unspotted Saw-whet Owl, after some playback, the owl answered with an alarm call. Silently we approached and then the Owl started to call. It came in closer to where we were standing and every member of the group managed to see it. What a great start of the tour!!!



*The same individual of Resplendent Quetzal from Irazu, with different angles. (LG)*

With the first light of day, we heard a Costa Rican Pygmy Owl. With a bit of patience, we managed to find it in an oak tree. Our fourth owl of the trip in less than 24 hours, not bad at all. After seen the pygmy owl the Resplendent Quetzal started to sing and we got close views of a nice male. After that we saw several of the regular highland birds, such as the Large-footed Finch, Flame-throated Warbler, Black-capped Flycatcher, Spot-crowned Woodcreeper, Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher, Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush, Sooty Thrush, our first Volcano Hummingbird (the subspecies of Irazu and Turrialba Volcano), Fiery-throated Hummingbird, Talamanca Hummingbird, and as well the first views of the Wrenthrush. Finally on the way back to our bus, a pair of Buffy-crowned Wood Partridges answered us, and some members of the group got good views, the other ones had to be satisfied with views of the birds running along the forest edge.

After a stop for coffee and hot chocolate, we went to try the higher parts of the Irazu Volcano, where we got to see Volcano Junco and Timberline Wren.

Having lunch at lower elevation, we added Morelet's Seedeater, White-tailed Kite, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-billed Pigeon and Swallow-tailed Kite among other common birds. Next, we tried for Cabanis's Ground Sparrow on the outskirts of Turrialba, where we saw them in 2 of the 3 sites that we tried. But not every member of the group managed to see them, so we had some unfinished business. However, with the threat of rain, we continued to Rancho Naturalista.



*Acorn Woodpecker and Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl from Irazu. (LG)*

Rancho Naturalista, one of the renowned birding lodges of Costa Rica, hosts a good variety of Caribbean foothill species with some specialties too. This morning we had the help of my colleague and friend Mercedes "Meche", one of the local guides at Rancho who helped us to find our targets. After an early coffee on the balcony of the main lodge, we went to look right away for the Tawny-chested Flycatcher, a very local species of flycatcher that only occurs in Costa Rica and Nicaragua. It gave us some trouble finding it, but finally everyone managed to see the bird.

Harry another local guide of Rancho spotted a male Lovely Cotinga in a distant tree. After everyone got scope views, we went closer and had excellent views. Another good rarity right at the beginning of the trip.

Other birds seen that morning were Buff-throated Foliage-Gleaner, Cocoa Woodcreeper, and our first Keel-billed Toucans and Red-throated Ant-Tanagers. Also, we spent some time on the balcony, of the main lodge where we saw White-necked Jacobin, Green-breasted Mango, Crowned Woodnymph, Red-billed Pigeons, Orange-billed Sparrow, Montezuma Oropendola, Yellow-faced Grassquits, and Blue-grey and Palm Tanagers.

After breakfast we went to the upper trails of Rancho to see the White-crowned Manakins on a lek. We also managed to see Plain Antvireos, Golden-crowned Warbler, Rufous and Broad-billed Motmots, but we never encountered a proper mixed flock as we would have hoped for. So, we decided instead of looking for forest birds, to go to Rancho Bajo, to try for Snowcap and Black-crested Coquette, among other hummingbirds. Once at the site, we had to wait a bit for our main targets, but we got good views of one male Black-crested Coquette that came just once, and after a few minutes more we had at least two Snowcap males that came in at different times. Also, Stripe-throated Hermit and Green Thorntail came to the flowers, as well as the common Rufous-tailed Hummingbird. Other birds that appeared were the Rufous-winged Woodpecker, our first Plain Xenops, and a Bay Wren. On the way back to lunch we had prolonged views of a female Black-crested Coquette.



*Lovely Cotinga from Rancho Naturalista, the hardest species of Cotinga in Costa Rica. (LG)*

We took some rest after lunch, and then we went to some fields outside Rancho to try for White-throated Flycatcher. It gave us some complications at the beginning but finally we managed to find one bird. We also saw Olive-crowned Yellowthroat, Slaty Spinetail, White-lined Tanager, Yellow-bellied Elaenia and other common birds. After that, we went to a site where there was a Sunbittern nest that we managed to see really well. After that, we went to the base of Silent Mountain, which is a bit higher elevation, to spend the rest of the afternoon hoping to see Red-fronted Parrotlets. That didn't happen, but we managed to see some other birds such as Chestnut-headed Oropendola, Slaty-capped Flycatcher, Black-and-white Warbler, Tropical Parula, Slate-throated Whitestart, and Tawny-crested, Bay-headed and Silver-throated Tanagers. Rain then forced us to quit the parrotlet search and go back to Rancho in time for dinner.

The following day, we had an early cold breakfast at Rancho, then departure to El Copal reserve, where we had the help of another excellent local guide, and a good friend of mine, Juan Carlos Sojo, better known as "Cali". He inspected the area of Copal on previous days, which really helped us to decide how to invest our time in our only visit to this great birding site. Once we got out of the bus, the tanager activity was incredible. With so many birds all around us and we didn't know where to look. The species included Ashy-throated Bush Tanager (that was our only sighting of the trip but we saw it several times that day in El Copal) Emerald, Black-and-Yellow, Speckled, Bay-headed, Tawny-crested, White-shouldered, and Carmiol's Tanagers, White-ruffed Manakin, and Mistletoe Tyrannulet. At least 4 Snowcaps (3 males and 1 female) were in the verbena flowers around the main buildings, and we got views of Chestnut-collared Swift and American Black Swift, possibly the resident subspecies judging by the behaviour. Once on the trails, the highlights of the morning were a pair of Yellow-eared Toucanets and three Rufous-browed Tyrannulets another major specialty of the site. Other birds of the morning included Brown-billed Scythebill, Rufous-winged Woodpecker, Olive-striped Flycatcher, great views of Northern Schiffornis, and a female White-crowned Manakin.



*Snowcap and White-crowned Manakin, two of the specialties of Rancho Naturalista. (LG)*



*Rufous-browed Tyrannulet and Yellow-Eared Toucanet, two rarities from El Copal. (LG)*

In our second round on the Copal trails, we were focussed mostly on the Blue-and-gold Tanager and Grey-headed Piprites, but neither of them showed signs of being around. We did add Dull-mantled Antbird, Dot-winged Antwren, a close encounter with Black-headed Antthrush that refused to be seen, and a single male of the Lattice-tailed Trogon (another mega of this morning). At the very end of the walk, I managed to spot a roosting Crested Owl, without knowing its presence, that was a great ending to our visit at El Copal.



*Sunbittern nesting in Platanillo. (LG)*



*White-throated Flycatcher from Platanillo, a resident species of Empidonax with very patchy and local distribution.*

So, then we were ready to go to Ujarras to finish our business with the Cabanis's Ground Sparrow. Once at Ujarras, I spotted some individuals that flew away inside the coffee fields, and while we were trying to see them again, I received a phone call from our driver letting us know that he spotted another couple of Cabanis's Ground Sparrow near where we parked our bus. So, we went right away and finally we managed to see this exclusive Costa Rican endemic.



*Grass Wren, an endangered species in Costa Rica, and the Cabanis's Ground-Sparrow a Costa Rican endemic.*

No time to lose, and on the way to Paraiso Quetzal we did a brief check at a small lagoon and we spotted one Sora, a few Common Gallinules, and common things such as Southern Lapwing and Northern Jacanas. After that, we did a quick try for the Grass Wren, and we managed to see it. This is not a global specialty, but is a really endangered bird in Costa Rica by the expansion of urban areas in its habitat. Other interesting birds in the Cartago vicinity were 2 different encounters with different individual Hook-billed Kites, a female and a black morph as well. After that we went directly to our lodge, Paraiso Quetzal, where we arrived in the evening after a long but very productive day. Luckily, we didn't have to do any owling that night, and our driver was the happiest person for that.



*A couple of Golden-browed Chlorophonias, a near endemic highland specialty.*

The next morning, we spent time on the grounds of Paraiso Quetzal, where we started our day with superb close views of a Peg-billed Finch, a great beginning of the day for sure. Other birds that morning were Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Black-and-yellow Phainoptila, Hairy Woodpecker, several flocks of Barred Parakeets that flew over us, and Yellow-thighed Brushfinch. At the hummingbird feeders the early morning light gave unreal coloration to the Fiery-throated and Talamanca Hummingbirds.



*Superb views of Peg-billed Finch from Paraiso Quetzal. (LG)*

We left after breakfast from Paraiso Quetzal to Providencia Road where we spent the rest of the morning. The highlight for me was to hear Red-fronted Parrotlets, but the cloudy conditions didn't allow us to see anything. Fortunately, we managed to see an Ochraceous Pewee, which is one of the most difficult specialties of the Talamanca highlands. A good selection of other highland specialties appeared such as Black Guan, brief views of Sulphur-winged Parakeets, Black-cheeked Warbler, Yellow-winged Vireo, Streak-breasted Treehunter, Golden-bellied Flycatcher, Timberline Wren, and great views of Wrenthrush in the open. We had lunch at Casa Dowii, where we had Buff-fronted Quail-Dove at the feeders. Other birds that came to the feeders were Spangle-cheeked Tanager, Chestnut-capped Brushfinch, White-naped Brushfinch, Yellow-thighed Brushfinch, Mountain Thrush, and Common Bush-Tanager, and a Purple throated Mountaingem visited some flowers in the site too. Buffy-crowned Wood Partridge didn't come to the feeders, but we heard them calling. After that we continued to our next destination, Savegre Mountain Lodge.



*Black-and-Yellow Phainoptila, Wrenthrush and Buff-fronted Quail-Dove, three specialties of the highlands.*



Before breakfast, we did some birding around the hotel, where we saw Black-faced Solitaire, Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush, Yellowish Flycatcher, Blue-throated Toucanet, and the main surprise of the morning was a small covey of Spotted Wood Quails. After breakfast we went to the oak forest trails where we focussed on the Silvery-throated Jay, and after an exhaustive search, we managed to see a single individual. Other birds found were White-winged Tanager, Buffy Tuftedcheek, great views of Streak-breasted Treehunter, Collared Whitestart, Gray-breasted Wood-Wren, and Ochraceous Wren.

A brief stop at my friend Melvin's to check his feeders turned up our last hummingbird of the area, the Scintillant Hummingbird. Others at his feeders were Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Melodious Blackbird, Lesser Violetear, Volcano Hummingbird (the Talamanca subspecies) and Flame-colored Tanager. Just before leaving the Savegre Valley, we got a Yellow-bellied Siskin. Once outside the Savegre valley, on the way to San Isidro, we did a brief stop where we improved our views of Timberline Wren. Next, we stopped at Bosque del Tolomuco where we saw our only White-tailed Emerald of the trip. Also seen were Violet Sabrewing, Green-crowned Brilliant, Striped-tailed Hummingbird, and Grey-tailed Mountaingem, as well as Speckled Tanager, Elegant Euphonias, and Swallow-tailed Kite.

We continued our journey arriving to San Isidro just in time to see the two male Turquoise Cotingas. While there we saw big numbers of American Cliff Swallows, with Barn Swallows, Sand Martins and Grey-breasted Martins. Additionally, we saw Orange chinned Parakeet, Red-crowned Woodpecker, Tropical Mockingbird, Yellow-headed Caracara, White crowned Parrot and Streaked Flycatcher. We spent the night at Talari Mountain Lodge, where our owling efforts gave us views of a Kinkajou (an arboreal mammal), but we only managed to hear the Tropical Screech Owl that was nesting at the moment.



*Silver-throated Jay and Ochraceous Pewee, two of the hardest highland specialties.*

We had an early breakfast while doing some birding from the restaurant of Talari, where we saw our first Fiery-billed Aracaris, Scarlet-rumped (Cherrie's) Tanager, Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush and White-winged Becard. After breakfast, we went to Los Cusingos Reserve, the former home that of the legendary naturalist Dr Alexander Skutch, who made very important contributions to the ornithology of the Neotropics, as well as being one of the authors of the first Field Guide of the Birds of Costa Rica. At Los Cusingos, we saw 3 different species of Manakins, Orange-collared, Blue-crowned and Red-capped Manakins doing courtship displays. Other birds seen included Tawny-winged Woodcreeper, Rufous Piha, Golden-crowned Spadebill, and Eye-ringed Flatbill. Then we headed to a site to look for White-crested Coquette, where a male showed up once but gave us prolonged views. Also seen were Garden Emerald, Streaked Saltator, Golden-hooded Tanager and Red-legged and Green Honeycreepers.

After a good lunch we headed to a site near Buenos Aires to try for Rosy Thrush-Tanager, that we only managed to hear, but the stop provided excellent views of a Great Antshrike, Costa Rican Brushfinch, Black-tailed Myiobius and Blue Ground Dove. After that we continued our journey to Wilsons Botanical Gardens, stopping en route to see a nesting Common Potoo. While there we saw our only Crested Oropendolas of the trip.



*White-crested Coquette, one of the species of Coquettes with the smallest distribution ranges in the world.*

At the Wilsons Botanical Gardens, we left the owling for the following early morning. Our target was the Choco Screech Owl, formerly considered a subspecies of Vermiculated Screech Owl, but with a very different voice. After a bit of an effort, we managed to see it and add a new species to the Birdquest list of Costa Rica.

At dawn, with assistance of my friend Jason, a local guide in Wilsons Botanical Gardens, we went to known site for Chiriqui Yellowthroat. In addition to seeing the yellowthroat we also saw Bran-colored Flycatcher, Scaled Pigeon, Lesser Elaenia, Yellow Tyrannulet and Pale-breasted and Slaty Spinetails. Other goodies of the early morning were White-fronted Tyrannulet and great views of Black-faced Antthrush.

We spent the rest of the morning at Wilsons Botanical Gardens seeing Snowy-bellied Hummingbird, Olivaceous Piculet, Rufous-breasted Wren, Black-crowned Tityra, and a nesting female White-crested Coquette. In the forest on the Rio Java trail, we added some good species such as Baird's Trogon, Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser, Spot-crowned Euphonia, White-ruffed Manakin, Blue-crowned Manakin (females), and White-throated Thrush. But, the best bird of the morning was the super skulker Ruddy Foliage-Gleaner which is a very localized and tricky bird to see in Costa Rica. After lunch we went to a known site of Black-Chested Jay that we managed to see, and as well we got nice views of a cracking male Golden-winged Warbler.

Descending to the lowlands, we birded Coto 47, where we saw Veraguan Mango, Sapphire-throated Hummingbird, Blue-throated Sapphire, Charming Hummingbird and Ruby-throated Hummingbird. A Black-

bellied Wren gave great views in the open. Also seen in the area were Ruddy-breasted, Yellow-bellied and Morelet's Seedeaters, Grey-lined Hawk, Red-rumped Woodpecker and Rusty-Margined Flycatcher, among others, before continuing to Esquinas Rainforest Lodge. After dinner we had heavy rain that gave us a very pleasant sleep.



*Two additions for the Costa Rican Birdquest list, Choco Screech Owl and Black Chested Jay from San Vito area.  
(Photo of Black Chested Jay taken by participant Neil Gray).*

Predawn at Esquinas we tried for owls without success, but at least we were there at first light to try for our most important target, the Black-cheeked Ant Tanager that we managed to see. Other birds seen in Esquinas were Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet, Eye-ringed Flatbill, Golden-naped Woodpecker, Black-hooded Antshrike, Dot-winged Antwren, Black-striped Woodcreeper, Riverside Wren, Great Curassow, Band-tailed Barbthroat, Sulphur-rumped Myiobius, Yellow-throated Toucan, Grey-chested Dove, Grey-cowled Wood-Rail and Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet.

In the afternoon we birded open fields in La Gamba. The weather didn't cooperate and we had to deal with some rain, but we managed to add some birds to our trip such as Red-breasted Blackbird, Isthmian Wren, and Scrub Greenlet.



*Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager from Esquinas, one of the Costa Rican endemics, exclusive to Golfo Dulce area. (LG)*

The next day we left Esquinas early in the morning to look for the Yellow-billed Cotinga at the famous Rincon bridge. We had several sightings (at least three individuals) with some fairly close views. A Tiny Hawk flew by, as did some Scarlet Macaw, Red-lored Parrot, and Costa Rican Swift. Other birds seen from the bridge were Shiny Cowbird, White-necked Puffbird, Mangrove Swallow, Ruddy Ground Dove, Black-striped Sparrow, White ibis, Spotted Sandpiper and Southern Lapwing. We then went to a site for Mangrove Hummingbird, where after some minutes we managed to find one female. As well we got very nice and close views of Scarlet Macaw feeding on the seeds of Beach Almond trees.



*Juvenile male of Yellow-billed Cotinga from Rincon. (LG)*

We continued our journey north along the Pacific coast focusing mostly on driving, but we made a brief stop on the way where we found an Eurasian Collared-Dove, that is rapidly expanding its distribution in North and Central America and is now in Costa Rica. This is the first time seen in a Birdquest trip in Costa Rica.

On the way to Hotel Villa Lapas, we stopped the Jaco area, and saw a stunning King Vulture sitting in a tree, with other vultures. We also had views of Plain-breasted Ground Dove, Cabanis's Wren and Blue Grosbeak. In the late afternoon we tried for mangrove birds and we were able to see Mangrove Vireo, Northern Scrub-Flycatcher, Greenish Elaenia, another Scrub Greenlet, and other birds that were not exclusive of the mangroves such as Striped Cuckoo, Scrub Euphonia and Streak-backed Oriole. We also checked different sites on the Tarcoles river, adding Muscovy Duck, Common Black-Hawk, Yellow-naped Parrot, and some regular shorebirds such as Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstone, Hudsonian Whimbrel, Western, Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers, and Semipalmated Plovers, as well as Great-blue heron, Snowy and Great Egret, and Yellow-crowned Night-Herons.

The next day, we spent almost the whole day at Carara National Park, where we saw a good repertoire of birds including Streak-chested Antpitta, Chiriqui Foliage-Gleaner, Marbled Wood Quail, Crane Hawk (inspecting natural tree cavities for potential prey), and a Collared Forest-Falcon in a tree cavity nest. Other birds during that morning were Black-throated Trogon, White-whiskered Puffbird, Black-hooded Antshrike, Barred Antshrike, Riverside Wren, Rufous-breasted Wren, Trilling Gnatwren and Orange-billed Sparrow amongst others. In our second round in the afternoon, the major highlights were Stub-tailed Spadebill, Royal Flycatcher, and Southern Nightingale-Wren. Once the park closed, we changed habitats and drove to nearby dry forest where we saw Cinnamon Hummingbird, Banded Wren, Olive Sparrows, Stripe-headed Sparrow, and Lesser Ground Cuckoo (just heard). Before returning to the lodge, we got superb views of a Mottled Owl for a great ending of the day.

Our final morning in the Carara area, we made our last try for the last 2 birds that we needed to see in the area: Long-tailed Woodcreeper and Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser. We succeeded in getting great views of the leaf-tosser, but such was not the case with the woodcreeper and we had to make do with one bird that sang the previous afternoon, but wasn't responsive. We did extremely well with the birds of the South Pacific zone, and it was time to move on to the dry forest.



*Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser from Carara National Park. (LG)*

Our first stop once we left Villa Lapas was to see a pair of Double-striped Thick-Knees, after that we got great views of the Lesser Ground Cuckoo, as well as the first Nutting's Flycatcher of the trip. Farther north at Caldera we saw a group of Royal and Elegant Terns, with some Laughing Gulls, but no Cabot's Terns, an unexpected dip on this trip. In adjacent mangroves we found Panamanian Flycatcher along with another Mangrove Hummingbird, as well as our first Brown-crested Flycatcher and Black-headed Trogons. Also, we saw a Zone-tailed Hawk flying away. At our lunch site, we added more dry forest species such as Plain-capped Starthroat, Canivet's Emerald and Blue-vented Hummingbird. After that, we went to the Monteverde Hummingbird Gallery and we got the major targets: Magenta-throated Woodstar and the Costa Rican endemic Coppery-headed Emerald. Also seen were Green-crowned Brilliants, Striped-tailed Hummingbird, Violet Sabrewing and the Purple-throated Mountaingem, as well as very good views of a Black Guan near the feeder station. Next, we visited the original Monteverde reserve, and even though it that wasn't the most active afternoon we got great looks at Zeledon's Antbird, and the majority of the group got to see a Highland Tinamou that was quite responsive. Other birds that we saw were Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant, Brown-billed Scythebill and Slaty-backed Nightingale Thrush, though Black-breasted Wood Quail was heard only.

Our full day in the Monteverde area we started early morning in some Quakers Forest trails, with very slow birding activity, but the effort paid off with great views of the Grey-throated Leaf-tosser, but no signs of Chiriqui Quail-Dove nor Black-breasted Wood Quail. After breakfast we went to the Santa Elena Reserve where we had a fantastic morning with stunning views of Three-wattled Bellbird, great views of the Azure-hooded Jay (our last jay to complete the jays of Costa Rica), Prong-billed Barbet, Sooty-faced Finch, and, after some difficult searching, the majority of the group managed to see the Black-thighed Grosbeak. Other birds such as Lineated Foliage-Gleaner, Red-faced Spinetail, and amazing views of a male Silvery-fronted Tapaculo right in the open were more highlights of the morning. Later in the afternoon we went to another reserve where we got our major prize, the near endemic Chiriqui Quail-Dove, which gave us superb views. We also got our first Golden-olive Woodpecker, another bellbird, and had some Barred Parakeets flying around.



*Chiriqui Quail Dove from Monteverde area. (LG)*

On the last morning in Monteverde we decided to try for a Bare-necked Umbrellabird that was seen about five days earlier, feeding in wild avocados trees. But nobody managed to see it that particular day, perhaps due to the presence of a Bicolored Hawk and a Collared Forest-Falcon that were in the area. Still, our visit paid off as we got our only Black-breasted Wood-Quails of the trip with excellent views. We also encountered a group of army ants where we saw a Ruddy Woodcreeper and a Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush, which is quite unexpected to see on the Pacific side of the mountains, but happens to occur regularly in the Curicancha Reserve. Also attending the ant swarm were Lesson's Motmot, Northern-Barred Woodcreeper, Brown Jays, Wood Thrush, and White-eared Ground-Sparrow.

Travelling down to the dry lowlands we visited some salt pans to check for shorebirds, adding Marbled Godwits, Stilt Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Wilson's Plover to our growing list. Once in the property of Ensenada lodge we added species like Mangrove Cuckoo and Northern Beardless Tyrannulet, as well as better views of Long-tailed Manakin males, and another sighting of Hook-billed Kite. The salt pans at Ensenada had the usual suspects, and also Roseate Spoonbill, White Ibis, Tricolored Heron and Lesser Yellowlegs. Meanwhile, a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl was calling right above us. After dinner we did some owling and we got a Pacific Screech Owl, as well as a Hooded Skunk and a Nine-banded Armadillo.



*Spot-bellied Bobwhite, White-fronted Amazon and Lesser Ground Cuckoo, some of the dry forest specialties. (LG)*

We started our day in Ensenada with splendid views of a Spot-breasted Oriole, another addition to the trip. Fidel (a worker in Ensenada) showed us the roosting site of a Pacific Screech-Owl before we went to try for Spot-bellied Bobwhite in the open fields. While searching for the bobwhite we had excellent looks at White-fronted Amazon. Also seen were White-lored Gnatcatcher, Turquoise-browed Motmot, Nutting's Flycatcher, Banded Wren, and others. On the way back to breakfast, we finally had looks at the Spot-bellied Bobwhite right in the open. We left Ensenada and went to a site to try for Mangrove Rail, where a couple of rails came in well and were seen by the whole group. After our success with the Mangrove Rail, we tried for Rufous-

necked Wood-Rail and most of the group saw it, but this one was a bit shy, and not everyone managed to see it. Other birds seen were Mangrove Warbler, Mangrove Vireo, White-lored Gnatcatcher, and Northern Scrub Flycatcher that came to mob a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl. After leaving the Mangroves, we had a major surprise with a very close encounter with a Jabiru that was on a small lagoon at the edge of the road, giving really incredible views of the largest bird of Costa Rica. Later on, we tried a patch of dry forest near Cañas to look for Elegant Trogon. The bird was a bit shy but we managed to see it.

Continuing our journey, we arrived at Bijagua, for some afternoon birding at Celeste Mountain Lodge, where a Baird's Tapir (the biggest terrestrial mammal of Costa Rica) gave us an unexpected surprise welcome. The birding was a bit slow but we got several views of Tody Motmot, as well as some views of Rufous-winged Tanager high in the trees. White-fronted Nunbird and Streak-crowned Antvireo were the other nice additions to the list.



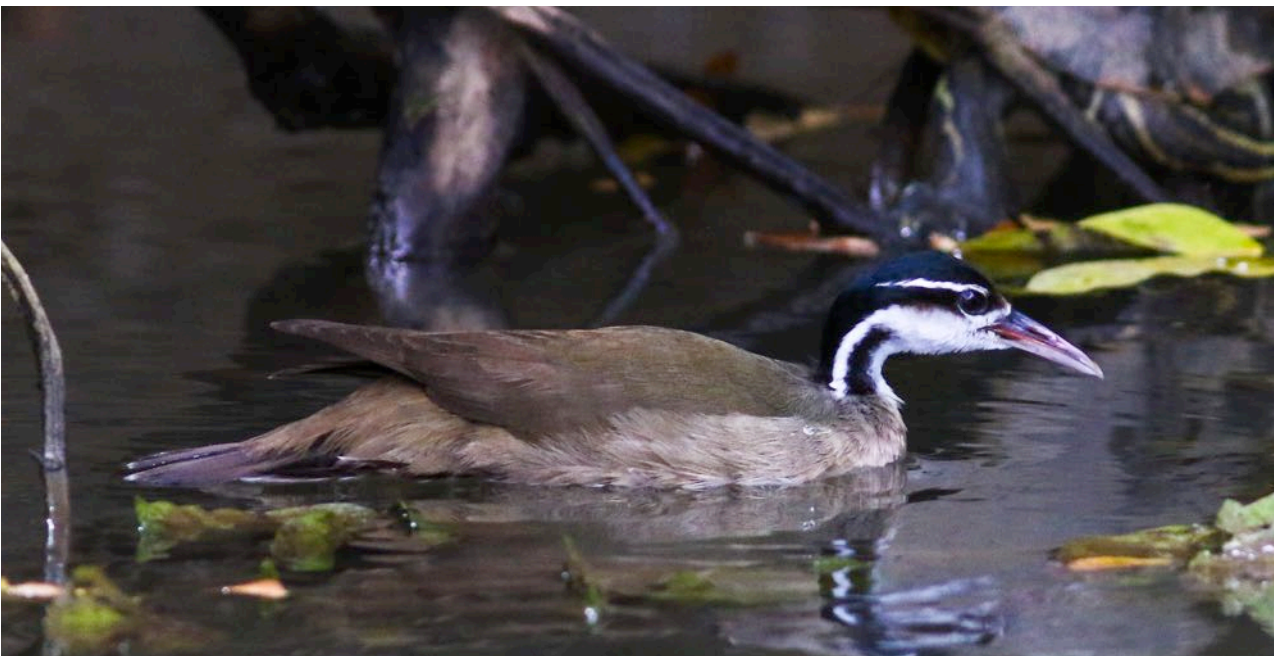
*Spotted Antbird and Tody Motmot. (LG)*

I warned the group the night before that an intense day was awaiting us, and yes this was an attempt of a Big Day in some way and at the end of that day we recorded 155 species of birds. We started our morning at Celeste Lodge with nice views of Dull-mantled and Spotted Antbirds, the melodious Northern Nightingale-Wren, and our first views of Rufous Mourner, that had previously been heard only. On the way to the restaurant White-tipped Sicklebill showed very briefly at Heliconia flowers but got chased by a Scaly-breasted Hummingbird, but only few members of the group saw it. After breakfast, we went to Heliconias Lodge trails, where we got to see Song Wren, Russet Antshrike, Carmiol's Tanager, Spotted Woodcreeper, and more sightings of Tody Motmot. Time to continue, to Caño Negro because a tour in Medio Queso wetland was waiting for us that afternoon. On the way, we made stops to see a Pied Puffbird, and another to get Nicaraguan Seed Finch. In the late afternoon, Chambita and Javier were waiting for us to do a boat ride through the Medio Queso wetlands. Our first target was the Yellow-breasted Crake that responded well. We had several sightings of Least and Pinnated Bitterns, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture and American Pygmy Kingfisher, Purple Gallinule, and Red-winged Blackbirds. We also had several sightings of another main target, the Nicaraguan Grackle, a very local and range restricted species. Other birds seen included Harris's and Black-collared Hawk's, Nicaraguan Seed Finch, Bare-throated Tiger Heron,

Ruddy-breasted Seedeaters, and distant views of three Jabirus. Driving back to Caño Negro at night we spotted Striped and Black-and-white Owls, ending a very long but successful day.



*Pinnated Bittern and Black-collared Hawk from Medio Queso. (LG)*



*Superb views of a male Sungrebe from Caño Negro. (LG)*

The next morning, we had another tour with Chambita but this time in Caño Negro. Our success in Medio Queso the previous afternoon allows us to focus on specific targets. We went down river as far as the water

level allowed us, where we got proper views of Bare-crowned Antbird, Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher, and Yellow-billed Cacique. Along the river, we spotted Boat-billed Heron, Russet-naped Wood-Rails, Limpkin, Neotropic Cormorant, Anhinga, Long-billed Starthroat, Grey-headed Dove, and Ringed, Amazon, and Green Kingfishers. Also, we got superb views of a male Sungrebe swimming along the river edge. We made a couple of stops to get out of the boat and bird along the river edge picking up Canebrake and Spot-breasted Wren, along with a nice male Hooded Warbler in the process. With all of our targets in the bag, we went briefly to Chambita's Garden and feeders where we had great views of Bronzy Hermit, Black-cheeked and Hoffman's Woodpeckers, Scarlet-rumped (Passerini's) Tanager, Red-legged Honeycreepers, and others. But the main bird to see was a Great Potoo with a nestling, near his place.

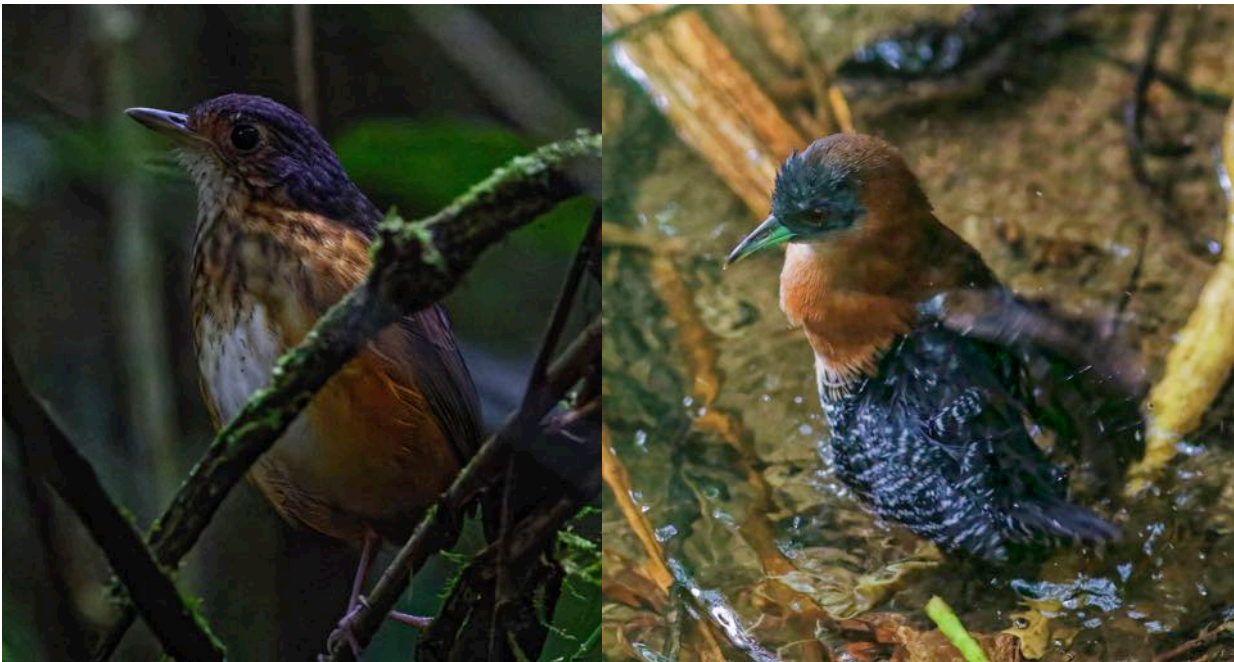


*Nicaraguan Grackle a very restricted species to the border region between northern Costa Rica and southern Nicaragua. (LG)*

After lunch in Caño Negro we continued on to La Fortuna, where we visited the Bogarin trails. A White-throated Crake perform really well, taking a bath right next to us. On the forest trails a Uniform Crake was properly seen, and others were heard. Others birds seen were the Keel-billed Motmot, Broad-billed Motmot, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, White-collared Manakin, Black-throated Wren, Hooded Warbler, and a roosting Black-and-white Owl. We had views of both Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth, and Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth, the latter showed really well. After that, we continued to our destination, the Arenal Observatory Lodge.

A male Bare-necked Umbrellabird had been reported on the lodge grounds the day before, so, searching for this rare near endemic was our priority, but sadly, there was no signs of it even though we tried several times in the area where it was seen. Fortunately, the very skulking Thicket Antpitta was seen really well by everybody. Other additions to our list at the Observatory Lodge were Tawny-faced Gnatwren, Western Woodhaunter, White-throated Shrike Tanager and Band-backed Wren. In general, the mourning had good activity and we were entertained by species such as Crested Guan, Keel-billed and Yellow-throated Toucans, Pale-billed Woodpecker, Spotted Woodcreeper, Streak-crowned Antvireo, Tawny-crowned Greenlet, and Emerald, Bay-headed, Black-and-yellow, and Carmiol's Tanagers, among others.

En route to our next lodge, we made a stop for Central American Pygmy Owl, it took some effort but we finally succeeded in seeing the Pygmy Owl, before continuing our drive to Tapirus Lodge at the Rain Forest Aerial Tram.



*Thicket Antpitta from Arenal Observatory Lodge, and White-throated Crake taking a bath from Bogarin Trails. (LG)*

It rained heavily during most of the night, and was still raining at dawn. That affected our birding, but even so we saw our first White Hawk and White-flanked Antwren (female) of the trip. We also logged Northern Mealy Amazon, Northern Schiffornis, Scarlet-rumped Cacique and Chestnut-headed Oropendola, along with several sightings of Baird's Tapir that roamed peacefully around the property. Once the rain stopped, we went to Braulio Carrillo National Park, where there was good bird activity, with good flocks that included Tawny-crested, Carmiol's and Black-and-yellow Tanagers, Black-faced Grosbeak, Buff-throated Foliagegleaner, Western Woodhaunter, Streak-crowned Antwren and Tawny-capped Euphonia, among others. The main addition of the trip was the Checker-throated Stipplethroat. After lunch, our intentions to return to Braulio Carrillo were frustrated by rain, so we went back to Tapirus Lodge. When the rain finished, we did some late afternoon birding. The rain had produced swarms of winged termites or ants which attracted many birds to feed on them. We saw Olive-sided Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Shining Honeycreeper, Scarlet-rumped Cacique, Summer Tanager, Chestnut-sided Warbler and Golden-hooded Tanager taking advantage of the food source. A brief nightwalk produced Spectacled Owl and a Mottled Snail-eater (snake).

On our last morning at the Tram, we watched another Central American Pygmy Owl being mobbed by different birds that included Violet-headed Hummingbird, Purple-crowned Fairy, Scarlet-thighed Dacnis, and Shining and Green Honeycreepers. We heard a Lattice-tailed Trogon that morning, and one or two members of the group managed to see a male Cerulean Warbler. New for the trip that morning was a pair of White-ringed Flycatchers. Once we left the facilities of the Aerial Tram, we tried for Fasciated Tiger Heron and, luckily, we found it. Then we continued to La Selva to bird the rest of the afternoon. It was hot and the activity wasn't the best but we managed to see our first Chestnut-colored Woodpecker, and we tried for Slaty-breasted Tinamou but the individual that was singing didn't approach. Later we went to look for Great Green Macaws and we got good views of them at the usual site in the nearby fields. Our attempts to find the Vermiculated Screech Owl didn't work out well, but we saw an active pair of Short-tailed Nighthawks flying at dusk.

Our full day at La Selva was quite successful with good variety and quality of species, and good activity at some moments of the day. We were very focused on seeing the Snowy Cotinga, so we went right away to the clearings near the reception area. When we were coming out of the bus, I spotted a female in a big leafless tree. By the time that everyone was out of the bus, nobody got decent views of the bird, and the bird didn't stay very long. Sadly, there were no signs of the bird for the rest of the early morning. Our group kept

searching for the cotinga without success, and we decided to move on to the trails, but always keeping an eye towards the canopy for the Snowy Cotinga. This particular day had very good migrant activity. We saw a lot of Eastern Kingbirds, had several encounters with Scarlet Tanagers, as well Bay-breasted Warblers, Chestnut-sided Warblers, and lots of Barn and American Cliff Swallows. Also seen were Plain-colored Tanager, Chestnut-colored Woodpecker, Green Ibis, Slaty-tailed Trogon, Grey-headed Kite, White-ringed Flycatcher, Black-crowned and Masked Tityras, Black-faced Grosbeak, and Blue-chested Hummingbird. But the main highlights of the morning were the tiny Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant that gave really good views, as well as our encounter with a handsome male Purple-throated Fruitcrow showing his purple throat. The day warmed up and the activity dropped, so we decided to give the cotinga another try. After some time invested, Joel, our local guide, finally spotted a nice male Snowy Cotinga. What a great way to end the morning!



*Central American Pygmy Owl and Vermiculated Screech Owl, two of the last owls of the trip. (LG)*

After lunch and a well-deserved rest, we did some more forest trails at La Selva hoping to see Olive-backed Quail-Dove. Though this one didn't show up, we did have some sightings of ground birds like Great Tinamou, Grey-chested Dove, and Great Curassow. Nice views of Spotted Antbird and Black-crowned Antshrike, as well Black-throated Trogon rounded out the afternoon. Our owling session was successful and with the Vermiculated Screech-Owl we got our 15th species of owl for the trip.

Our main target the next morning was the Slaty-breasted Tinamou, but even though we heard a closer individual this time, it never came out. Luckily, we got the male Fasciated Antshrike, and also a couple of Dusky-faced Tanager that finally decided to appear. Red-throated Ant-Tanager, White-collared Manakin, Northern-Barred Woodcreeper, and Long-tailed Tyrant by our rooms, were some other sightings of the morning.

After breakfast, we did a day trip to higher altitudes to look for some of our last birds needed for the trip. So, we headed up to La Paz Waterfall Gardens where a good repertoire of hummingbirds was visiting the hummingbird feeders. One of the first ones that we saw as soon as we got there was the Black-bellied Hummingbird a new species for our trip. Also present were Brown Violetear, Purple-throated Mountaingem, Green Thorntail, Violet Sabrewing, Green-crowned Brilliant, and the Costa Rican endemic Coppery-headed Emerald. Unfortunately, in all the time that we invested at the feeders the White-bellied Mountaingem didn't show up. Other birds seen during our visit to La Paz Waterfall Gardens included Dark Pewee, American Dipper, brief views of Azure-hooded Jay, Common Bush-Tanagers, and Slate-throated Whitestart. Then we started our way down to lower altitudes, checking the Cinchona feeders on the way, where the activity and

variety wasn't as good, with basically just common birds such as Scarlet-rumped Tanager, Baltimore Oriole, and Blue-grey and Palm Tanagers. Maybe the best birds were Crimson-collared Tanager and Green Hermit.

Just before that rain came, we visited La Virgen del Socorro road where we managed to see a Blue-and-gold Tanager and Pale-vented Thrush, two of the birds that we still needed to see for our trip. Then we kept driving back to La Selva, but on the way we got the Cinnamon Woodpecker that was another bird that had eluded us.



*Great-green Macaws from Sarapiquí. (LG)*

Just a few days ago I had heard from my friend Luis Barrantes that White-chinned Swifts were coming to the site where they nested in previous years. The White-chinned Swift is quite a rare species of *Cypseloides* swift, and very difficult to identify, as well. You need very good observations to be sure of the right ID, and what better way than to see it at the nest? Well, that sounds easy, but this plan had some logistics involved and some degree of risk of not seeing the birds especially because they were in the nest-building stage, and perhaps just starting to incubate eggs, but we didn't know. So, we left early in the morning La Selva to go to Cajon de Grecia, the site of the swifts. The day was very rainy on the Caribbean side of the mountains, and still with a bit of rain once we got to the site of the swifts on the Pacific side of the mountains. The bad weather conditions instead of affecting us actually helped us for our main purpose because once we arrived to the site of the swifts there was one bird on the nest. A few minutes later a pair of White-chinned Swifts came to other nest that Luis didn't know about!! One of the newly arrived individuals was in a quite open position, allowing us to see details of tail length and body shape.

Just after our successful mission, we accomplished our second main target right away: the Cabanis's Seedeater, another local rarity that is not often seen on the Birdquest tours. We watched as a male fed on Chusquea bamboo. I love it when the plan comes together.

After our early success, we heard Buffy-crowned Wood Partridge, but this one didn't have any interest in showing itself. Some members of the group had very good views of Black-thighed Grosbeak when we were heading back to our vehicle. We kept trying for Spot-fronted Swift at a nearby site, but we only managed to

see Chestnut-collared and White-collared Swifts. Other birds of note were Lesser Elaenia, Chestnut-capped Warbler, and Blue-vented Hummingbird. In the late afternoon we arrived at Bosque de Paz, where we spent our last night of the trip. Some Pacas (a large nocturnal rodent) came to the feeders at night, that was another new creature on a very successful trip for mammals.



*Black-bellied Hummingbird and Magenta-throated Woodstar, two near endemic species of Hummingbirds. (LG)*

This was a good trip for leaflossers, without a doubt, and on this last morning at Bosque de Paz we had really good views of more Tawny-throated Leaflossers. Other birds of the morning were Barred Becard, Olive-crowned Yellowthroat, Spangle-cheeked Tanager, Dark Pewee, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Yellow-thighed Brushfinch, Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Scarlet-thighed Dacnis, Philadelphia and Brown-capped Vireos at the same time, Black Phoebe, and Vaux's Swift. After breakfast, we continued on our way to the airport making some birding stops along the road with nothing really exciting besides a Collared Whitestart. After a nice lunch, we arrived at the airport without complications.

Many thanks to all the people that helped in one way or another with information of where to find birds and support with logistics, and all our local guides that helped us during this successful tour, as well to our drivers, Luis and Carlos, and all the enthusiastic members of this group.



*T*  
*The near endemic Sooty-faced Finch. (LG)*



*Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture from Medio Queso. (LG)*

## 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).

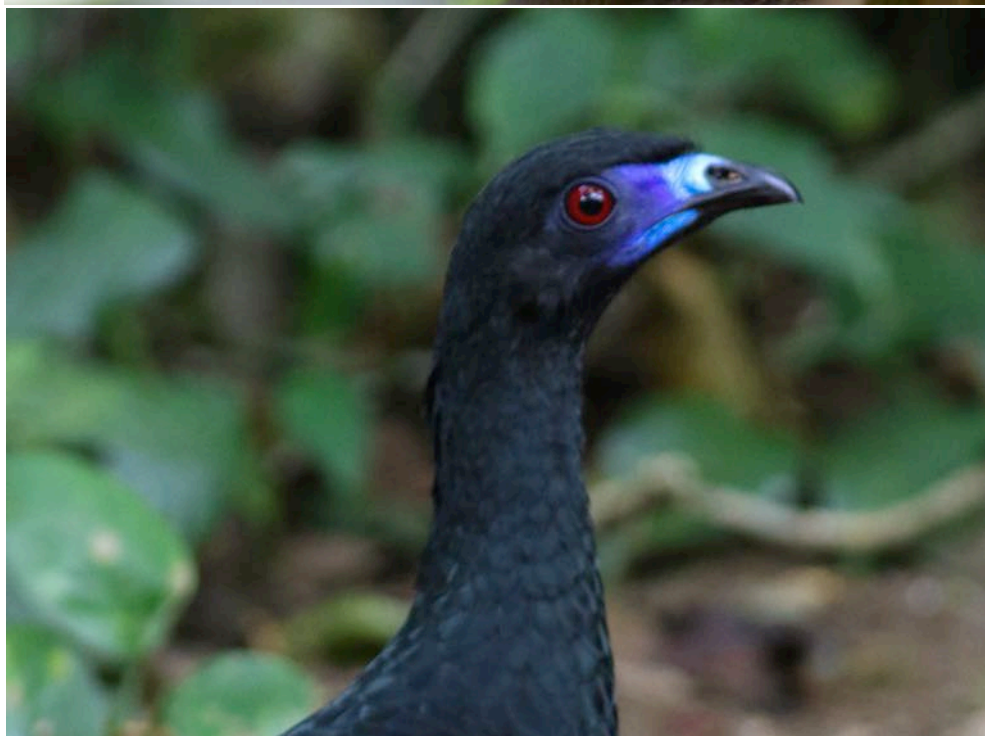
**Great Tinamou** *Tinamus major* Seen very well several times.

**Highland Tinamou** ◊ *Nothocercus bonapartei* One individual seen by the majority of the group at Monteverde.

**Little Tinamou** *Crypturellus soui* (H) Heard at La Selva and Esquinas.

**Thicket Tinamou** ◊ *Crypturellus cinnamomeus*. (H) Heard at Ensenada.

**Slaty-breasted Tinamou** ◊ *Crypturellus boucardi* (H) Heard at La Selva.

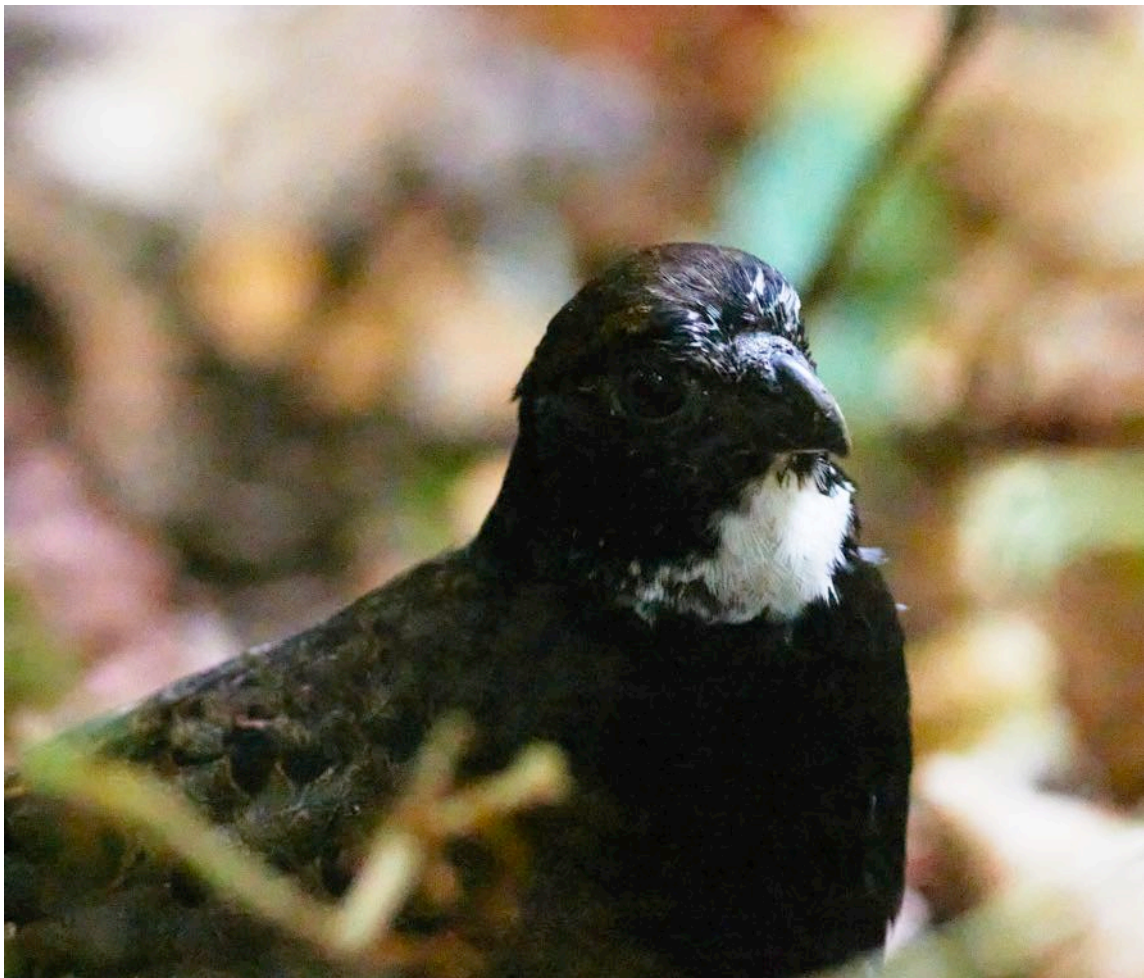


*Great Tinamou and Black Guan.*

- Black-bellied Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis* Seen at different sites.
- Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata* Small numbers recorded in different sites.
- Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors* One couple at Ensenada Salt pans, and another in a small lagoon.
- Grey-headed Chachalaca** *Ortalis cinereiceps* Commonly seen throughout.
- Crested Guan** *Penelope purpurascens* Seen at several sites.
- Black Guan** ◊ *Chamaepetes unicolor* Seen well mainly in Monteverde area.
- Great Curassow** ◊ *Crax rubra* Seen at Esquinas, Arenal, and also in la Selva.
- Buffy-crowned Wood Partridge** ◊ *Dendrortyx leucophrys* Seen at Irazu, heard at Grecia and Dowii reserve.
- Spot-bellied Bobwhite** ◊ *Colinus leucopogon* Seen well at Ensenada.
- Marbled Wood Quail** *Odontophorus gujanensis* Very good views at Carara.
- Black-breasted Wood Quail** ◊ *Odontophorus leucolaemus* Seen very well at Curicancha.



*Marbled Wood Quail from Carara and Black-breasted Wood Quail from Curicancha gave to us superb views.*



**Spotted Wood Quail** *Odontophorus guttatus* Seen well at Savegre.  
**Lesser Nighthawk** *Chordeiles acutipennis* Seen at Tarcoles.  
**Short-tailed Nighthawk** *Lurocalis semitorquatus* Seen at La Selva.  
**Pauraque** *Nyctidromus albicollis* Seen at different locations in the lowlands.  
**Dusky Nightjar** *Antrostomus saturatus* Seen well at Irazu.  
**Great Potoo** *Nyctibius grandis* One seen at Chambita's Garden.  
**Common Potoo** *Nyctibius griseus* One seen at San Vito.  
**American Black Swift** *Cypseloides niger* One bird seen at El Copal.  
**White-chinned Swift** *Cypseloides cryptus* Seen nesting in Grecia. THE BIRD OF THE TRIP!!!  
**Chestnut-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne rutila* One sighting at El Copal and another at Grecia.  
**White-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne zonaris* Seen at many sites.  
**Grey-rumped Swift** *Chaetura cinereiventris* Seen on the Caribbean slope.  
**Costa Rican Swift** *Chaetura fumosa* Seen at Esquinas.  
**Vaux's Swift** *Chaetura vauxi* Seen on the slopes of Turrialba volcano and at Bosque de Paz.  
**Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift** *Panyptila cayennensis* Seen at La Gamba.  
**White-necked Jacobin** *Florisuga mellivora* Common at numerous sets of feeders.  
**White-tipped Sicklebill** *Eutoxeres aquila* Very brief views at Celeste.  
**Bronzy Hermit** *Glaucis aeneus* Seen very well at Chambita's garden and La Selva.  
**Band-tailed Barbthroat** *Threnetes ruckeri* Seen very well at Esquinas.  
**Stripe-throated Hermit** *Phaethornis strigularis* Seen at several spots.



Bronzy Hermit from Chambita's Garden and Veraguan Mango from Coto 47.

**Green Hermit** *Phaethornis guy* Seen at different localities.  
**Long-billed Hermit** *Phaethornis longirostris* Seen at several locations in humid lowlands.  
**Brown Violetear** *Colibri delphinae* Seen at several locations.  
**Lesser Violetear** *Colibri cyanotus* Seen at different sites in the highlands.  
**Purple-crowned Fairy** *Heliophryx barroti* Seen at several locations.  
**Green-breasted Mango** *Anthracothorax prevostii* Feeders of Rancho and some other open areas.  
**Veraguan Mango** *Anthracothorax veraguensis* Seen it at Coto 47.  
**Green Thorntail** *Discosura conversii* Seen at Rancho, Cinchona feeders and Waterfall Gardens.  
**Black-crested Coquette** *Lophornis helenae* Seen at Rancho, one male and a female.



Grey-tailed Mountaingem and Mangrove Hummingbird, two excellent Costa Rican endemics.

- White-crested Coquette** ♦ *Lophornis adorabilis* Excellent views of a male at San Isidro, a female nesting at Wilsons.
- Green-crowned Brilliant** *Heliodoxa jacula* Common at feeders in Tolomuco, Monteverde, and Waterfall Gardens.
- Talamanca Hummingbird** ♦ *Eugenes spectabilis* Good numbers seen in the highlands
- Fiery-throated Hummingbird** ♦ *Panterpe insignis* Common at Paraiso de Quetzal and the highlands.
- Long-billed Starthroat** *Helimaster longirostris* Seen at Caño Negro, and San Isidro.
- Plain-capped Starthroat** *Helimaster constantii* Seen at Ensenada Lodge and the road to Monteverde.
- Purple-throated Mountaingem** ♦ *Lampornis calolaemus* Seen at different sites.
- Grey-tailed Mountaingem** ♦ *Lampornis cinereicauda* A few seen at Talamanca highlands and Tolomuco.
- Magenta-throated Woodstar** ♦ *Calliphlox bryantae* Seen at Monteverde.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird** *Archilochus colubris* One individual at Coto 47, a brief view at Ensenada.
- Volcano Hummingbird** ♦ *Selasphorus flammula* Common in the highlands.
- Scintillant Hummingbird** ♦ *Selasphorus scintilla* Seen at Melvin's feeders in Savegre area.
- Canivet's Emerald** ♦ *Chlorostilbon canivetii* Seen at Cala Lodge and Ensenada.
- Garden Emerald** *Chlorostilbon assimilis* Seen at San Isidro and briefly at Ujarras.
- Violet-headed Hummingbird** *Klais guimeti* Seen at Braulio Carrillo area.
- Violet Sabrewing** ♦ *Campylopterus hemileucurus* Common at different feeders.
- Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer** ♦ *Chalybura urochrysia* Seen at Celeste, and Arenal Observatory lodge.
- Crowned Woodnymph** *Thalurania colombica* Seen at numerous sites.
- Snowcap** ♦ *Microchera albocoronata* Seen at El Copal and Rancho.
- Coppery-headed Emerald** ♦ *Elvira cupreiceps* Seen at Monteverde and Waterfall Gardens.
- White-tailed Emerald** ♦ *Elvira chionura* Seen very well at Bosque del Tolomuco.
- Stripe-tailed Hummingbird** ♦ *Eupherusa eximia* Seen at Tolomuco and Monteverde.
- Black-bellied Hummingbird** ♦ *Eupherusa nigriventris* Seen at Waterfall Gardens and Bosque de Paz.
- Scaly-breasted Hummingbird** *Phaeochroa cuvierii* Seen at Talari, and Tarcoles mangroves.
- Blue-vented Hummingbird** ♦ *Amazilia hoffmanni* Seen at different sites in the northwest.
- Snowy-bellied Hummingbird** ♦ *Amazilia Edward* One bird at Wilson.
- Cinnamon Hummingbird** *Amazilia rutila* Seen in the dry northwest.
- Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** *Amazilia tzacatl* The most common and widespread hummingbird.
- Mangrove Hummingbird** ♦ *Amazilia boucardi* A female near Rincon and a male at Caldera.

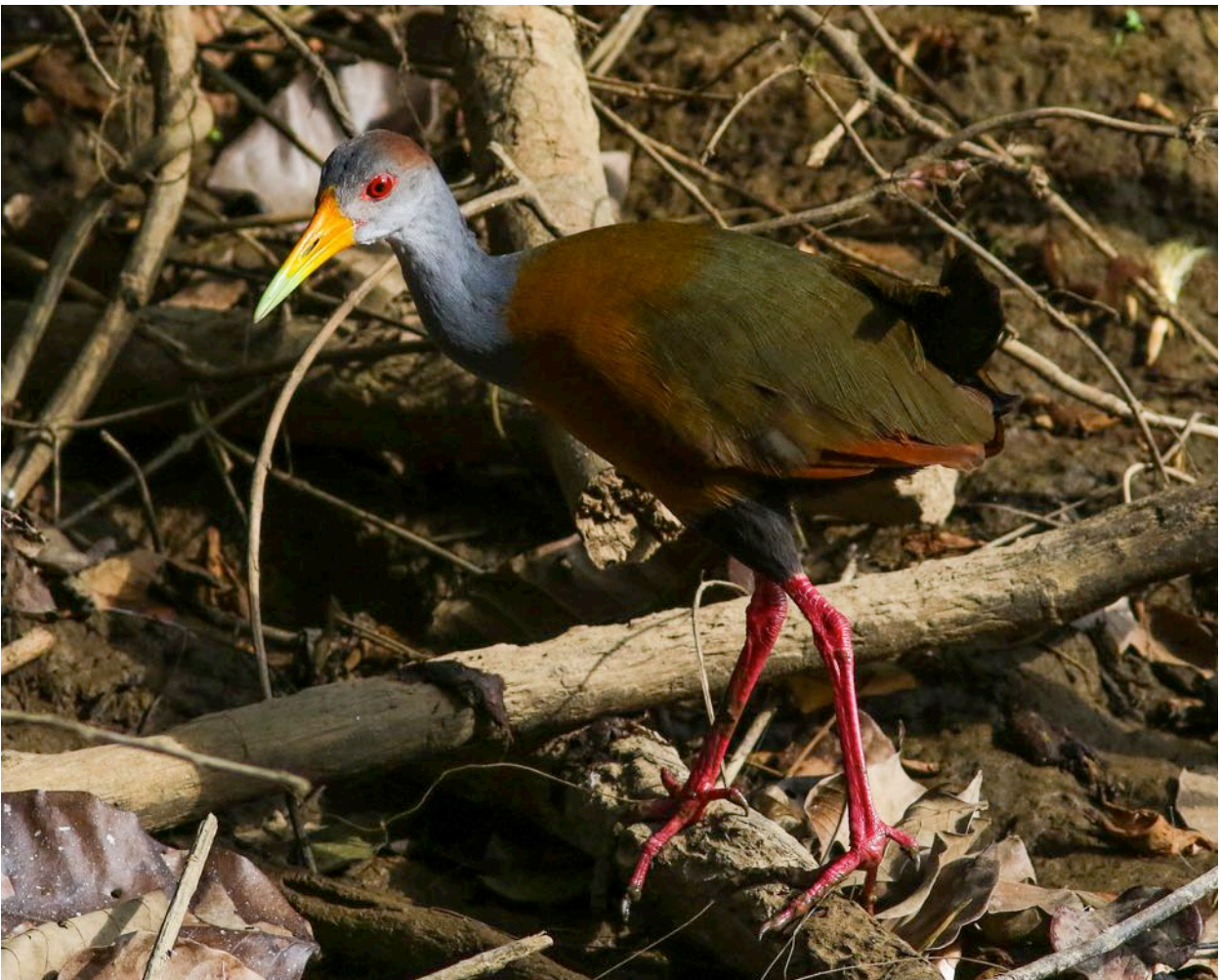


*Fiery-throated and Talamanca Hummingbirds showing his fantastic colours.*

- Sapphire-throated Hummingbird** ♦ *Chrysuronia coeruleogularis* Seen at Coto 47.
- Blue-chested Hummingbird** *Amazilia amabilis* Seen at La Selva.
- Charming Hummingbird** ♦ *Amazilia decora* Seen at Esquinas and Coto 47.
- Blue-throated Sapphire** ♦ *Chlorestes eliciae* Seen at Coto 47, and at Jaco area.
- Smooth-billed Ani** *Crotophaga ani* Seen at La Gamba and Coto 47.
- Groove-billed Ani** *Crotophaga sulcirostris* Common in open habitats throughout, except the southwest.
- Striped Cuckoo (American S C)** *Tapera naevia* Seen at Tarcoles.
- Lesser Ground Cuckoo** *Morococcyx erythropygus* Seen it very well at Orotina.
- Squirrel Cuckoo** *Piaya cayana* Seen in small numbers throughout.
- Mangrove Cuckoo** *Coccyzus minor* One bird seen at Ensenada.
- Rock Dove** *Columba livia* Seen in different towns and cities.
- Scaled Pigeon** *Patagioenas speciosa* Seen at San Vito, heard at La Selva.
- Band-tailed Pigeon** *Patagioenas fasciata* Seen at Irazu, and Paraiso Quetzal.
- Pale-vented Pigeon** *Patagioenas cayennensis* A common species in the lowlands.
- Red-billed Pigeon** *Patagioenas flavirostris* Seen at different localities.
- Ruddy Pigeon** *Patagioenas subvinacea* Seen at Monteverde area and briefly at Savegre oak forest.
- Short-billed Pigeon** *Patagioenas nigrirostris* Seen in the humid lowlands.
- Inca Dove** *Columbina inca* A common species in open habitats in the dry northwest.
- Common Ground Dove** *Columbina passerine* Seen few times in dry open areas in the northwest.
- Plain-breasted Ground Dove** *Columbina minuta* Seen at Jaco.
- Ruddy Ground Dove** *Columbina talpacoti* A common species in open habitats in the lowlands.
- Blue Ground Dove** *Claravis pretiosa* Seen at Buenos Aires.
- Ruddy Quail Dove** *Geotrygon Montana* (NL) Seen at Villa Lapas by one member of the group.
- White-tipped Dove** *Leptotila verreauxi* A common and widespread species.
- Grey-headed Dove** *Leptotila plumbeiceps* Seen very well at Caño Negro.
- Grey-chested Dove** ♦ *Leptotila cassini* Seen at Esquinas, Celeste and La Selva.
- Buff-fronted Quail-Dove** ♦ *Zentrygon costaricensis* Seen very well at Dowii reserve.
- Chiriqui Quail-Dove** ♦ *Zentrygon chiriquensis* Excellent views at Finca Ecologica.



We saw a good range of rallids during the trip: Uniform Crake, Yellow-breasted Crake (Neil Gray) and Russet-naped Wood Rail.



**Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura* Seen at Irazu area.

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

**Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* Introduced - 1 seen at Parrita, new addition to the CR Birdquest list.

**Sungrebe** *Heliornis fulica* Seen very well at Cano Negro.  
**Uniform Crane** ◊ *Amaurolimnas concolor* Seen at Bogarin trails.  
**Rufous-necked Wood Rail** ◊ *Aramides axillaris* Seen at Nicoya Gulf mangroves.  
**Russet-naped Wood Rail** ◊ *Aramides albiventris* Seen at Caño Negro, and Rancho Perla at Fortuna.  
**Grey-cowled Wood Rail** *Aramides cajaneus* Seen at Esquinas, Talari, and Coto 47.  
**Mangrove Rail** ◊ *Rallus longirostris* Seen at Nicoya Gulf mangroves. An addition to the CR Birdquest list.  
**Sora** *Porzana carolina* Seen at Cartago vicinity.  
**Common Gallinule** *Gallinula galeata* Seen at Medio Queso.



*Mangrove Rail, one of several additions to the Costa Rican Birdquest list. (LG)*

**Purple Gallinule** *Porphyrio martinicus* Seen at various places.  
**Yellow-breasted Crane** ◊ *Porzana flaviventer* Very good views at Medio Queso.  
**Grey-breasted Crane** *Laterallus exilis* (H) Heard at Medio Queso.  
**White-throated Crane** *Laterallus albigularis* Excellent views in the open at Bogarin.  
**Limpkin** *Aramus guarauna* Seen at Caño Negro.  
**Double-striped Thick-knee** *Burhinus bistriatus* Seen at Orotina.  
**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus* Good numbers seen.  
**Southern Lapwing** *Vanellus chilensis* Seen at different sites.  
**Grey Plover (Black-bellied 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.  
**Northern Jacana** *Jacana spinosa* Seen at various places.  
**Hudsonian Whimbrel** *Numenius hudsonicus* Recorded at several places along the coast.  
**Marbled Godwit** *Limosa fedoa* Seen at Cocorocas Salt pans.  
**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* Seen on the coast.  
**Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himantopus* Seen at Cocorocas Salt pans.  
**Sanderling** *Calidris alba* Seen on the coast.  
**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla* Common along the coast.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla* Seen on the coast.  
**Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri* Seen on the coast.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus* Seen at Cocorocas and Ensenada Salt pans.

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* A few seen at sites throughout.  
**Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa solitaria* Seen at Coto 47 and Ensenada Salt pans.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* Ensenada Salt pans.  
**Willet (Western W)** *Tringa (semipalmata) inornata* Seen along the coast.  
**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* nnSeen at Medio Queso.  
**Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla* nnSeveral birds seen at Caldera.  
**Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maximus* Seen at Caldera and Cocorocas Salt pans.  
**Elegant Tern** *Thalasseus elegans* n Seen at Caldera.  
**Sunbittern** *Eurypyga helias* An active nest near Rancho Naturalista.  
**Wood Stork** *Mycteria americana* Seen at Coto 47, Medio Queso and Ensenda.  
**Jabiru** *Jabiru mycteria* Seen at Medio Queso, and one individual in a small lagoon near Colorado.  
**Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens* Commonly recorded on the Pacific coast.



*Jabiru and Boat-billed Heron.*

**Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga* Seen at Coto 47 and Medio Queso.  
**Neotropic Cormorant (Olivaceous C)** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* Seen at Caño Negro and Medio Queso.  
**Green Ibis** *Mesembrinibis cayennensis* Seen at La Selva.  
**American White Ibis** *Eudocimus albus* Seen at a few sites.  
**Roseate Spoonbill** *Platalea ajaja* Seen at various wetlands.  
**Fasciated Tiger Heron** *Tigrisoma fasciatum* One bird seen at Rio San Jose.  
**Bare-throated Tiger Heron** *Tigrisoma mexicanum* Seen at many sites throughout.  
**Boat-billed Heron** *Cochlearius cochlearius* Seen well at Caño Negro and Fortuna.  
**Pinnated Bittern** ◊ *Botaurus pinnatus* Great views in Medio Queso.  
**Least Bittern** ◊ *Ixobrychus exilis* Flushed several times at Medio Queso, with some brief sightings in the grass.  
**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* One bird seen at Medio Queso.  
**Yellow-crowned Night Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea* Seen at Rio Tarcoles, and Cocorocas and Ensenada Salt pans.  
**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.



*Double-striped Thick-knee from Orotina.*

**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.

**King Vulture *Sarcorampus papa*** Great views of one bird at Jaco in a tree, and flying at La Selva.

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

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

**Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus*** Seen at Medio Queso.

**Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*** Seen at different locations, specially near the coast.

**White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*** Seen at Platanillo near Rancho.

**Grey-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis*** One bird seen at La Selva.

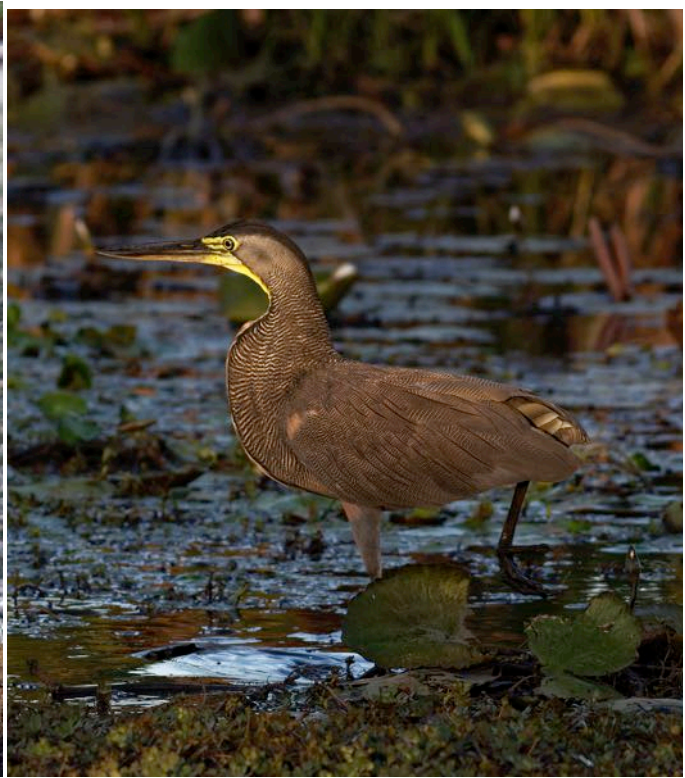
**Hook-billed Kite *Chondrohierax uncinatus*** Three different sightings, at Cartago and Ensenada.

**Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*** Recorded at different sites.

**Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus* (H)** Heard at La Selva.

**Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus*** Seen at Copal, Esquinas, La Selva.

**Tiny Hawk *Accipiter superciliosus*** One bird flew by at Rincon bridge.



*Fasciated Tiger Heron from Rio San Jose (photo by Neil Gray), and Bare-throated Tiger Heron from Medio Queso, similar species but with different habitat preferences.*

- Bicolored Hawk** *Accipiter bicolor* (H) Heard at Curicancha.
- Black-collared Hawk** *Busarellus nigricollis* One bird seen at Medio Queso and another in Caño Negro.
- Crane Hawk** *Geranospiza caerulescens* Good views at Carara.
- Common Black Hawk** *Buteogallus anthracinus* Seen at different sites close to the Pacific coast.
- Roadside Hawk** *Buteo magnirostris* Commonly recorded throughout.
- Harris's Hawk (Bay-winged H)** *Parabuteo unicinctus* Seen at Medio Queso.
- White Hawk** *Pseudastur albicollis* Seen well at the Aerial Tram.
- Grey Hawk** *Buteo plagiatus* Seen at various places.
- Grey-lined Hawk** *Buteo nitidus* A couple nesting at Coto 47.
- Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus* Seen at various places .
- Short-tailed Hawk** *Buteo brachyurus* Seen at different sites.
- Swainson's Hawk** *Buteo swainsoni* One individual at La Selva, and another sightings at Savegre.
- Zone-tailed Hawk** *Buteo albonotatus* Seen at Caldera, and Grecia, flying in the distance.
- Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis* Seen at Savegre and Irazu.
- American Barn Owl** *Tyto furcata* Seen briefly on the hills of Irazu.
- Unspotted Saw-whet Owl**  $\diamond$  *Aegolius ridgwayi* Good views at Irazu, one of the best birds of the trip.
- Costa Rican Pygmy Owl**  $\diamond$  *Glaucidium costaricanum* One bird seen very well at Irazu.
- Central American Pygmy Owl**  $\diamond$  *Glaucidium griseiceps* Seen at Chilamate, and at the Aerial Tram.
- Ferruginous Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium brasilianum* Seen at Ensenada, and Nicoya gulf mangroves.
- Striped Owl** *Pseudoscops clamator* Two different sightings at Caño Negro.
- Bare-shanked Screech Owl**  $\diamond$  *Megascops clarkia* Excellent views at Irazu.
- Tropical Screech Owl** *Megascops choliba* (H) Heard at Talari.
- Pacific Screech Owl**  $\diamond$  *Megascops cooperi* Views at night and roosting at day time at Ensenada.
- Vermiculated Screech Owl**  $\diamond$  *Megascops vermiculatus* One seen very well at la Selva.
- Choco Screech Owl**  $\diamond$  *Megascops centralis* Seen at Wilsons, a new addition for CR Birdquest list.
- Spectacled Owl** *Pulsatrix perspicillata* Seen well at the Aerial Tram.
- Crested Owl** *Lophotrix cristata* One bird found on day roost at El Copal.



*This was a very successful tour for Owls, some of the encounters at night were Black-and-white Owl, Mottled Owl, Spectacled Owl, and Bare-shanked Screech Owl.*





Also, some owls roosting at day time like this Crested Owl from El Copal, and the Pacific Screech Owl from La Ensenada.

- Mottled Owl *Strix virgata*** Excellent views at Carara area.
- Black-and-white Owl *Strix nigrolineata*** Seen at Caño Negro and roosting at Bogarin trails .
- Resplendent Quetzal** ♦ ***Pharomachrus mocinno*** A male at Irazu, also Cerro de La Muerte and Santa Elena.
- Lattice-tailed Trogon** ♦ ***Trogon clathratus*** Seen at Copal, and heard at the Tram.
- Slaty-tailed Trogon *Trogon massena*** Seen at La Selva, and Celeste, heard at different sites.
- Black-headed Trogon *Trogon melanocephalus*** Common in the NW.
- Baird's Trogon** ♦ ***Trogon bairdii*** Seen well at Wilsons and Carara.
- Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus*** Seen at various sites in the lowlands and foothills.
- Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus*** Good views at Carara and La Selva.
- Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris*** Seen a few times. "Orange-bellied" Trogon seen at Monteverde area.
- Elegant Trogon *Trogon elegans*** Seen at forest patches near Cañas.
- Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*** Common at Caño Negro, also seen at other sites.
- American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea*** Seen at Medio Queso.
- Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*** A few seen at Caño Negro area and Coto 47.
- Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*** Small numbers seen at several sites.
- Tody Motmot** ♦ ***Hylomanes momotula*** Seen very well at Celeste and Heliconias.
- Lesson's Motmot (Blue-diademed M) *Momotus lessonii*** Seen at Monteverde, Grecia and Talari.
- Rufous Motmot *Baryphthengus martii*** Seen at Rancho and La Selva.
- Keel-billed Motmot** ♦ ***Electron carinatum*** Seen very well at Bogarin trails.
- Broad-billed Motmot *Electron platyrhynchum*** A few seen throughout the Caribbean slope.
- Turquoise-browed Motmot** ♦ ***Eumomota superciliosa*** Common to abundant in the dry northwest.
- Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda*** Seen at Bogarin trails, heard at other locations.
- White-necked Puffbird *Notharchus hyperrhynchus*** Seen at Rincon, and as well in Ensenada.
- Pied Puffbird *Notharchus tectus*** One seen driving to Caño Negro, and another one at Caño Negro.
- White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis*** Seen very well in Carara.
- White-fronted Nunbird *Monasa morphoeus*** Seen very well in Celeste.
- Prong-billed Barbet** ♦ ***Semnornis frantzii*** Seen well at Santa Elena and Cinchona.



The closely related Keel-billed and Broad-billed Motmots. (LG)

- Blue-throated Toucanet** ◊ *Aulacorhynchus caeruleogularis* Commonly seen throughout the highlands
- Collared Aracari** *Pteroglossus torquatus* Recorded at various places on the Caribbean slope.
- Fiery-billed Aracari** ◊ *Pteroglossus frantzii* Small numbers seen in the Pacific lowlands.
- Yellow-eared Toucanet** ◊ *Selenidera spectabilis* Seen at El copal.
- Keel-billed Toucan** *Ramphastos sulfuratus* Common in the Caribbean side and Monteverde area.
- Yellow-throated (Chestnut-mandibled) Toucan** *Ramphastos [ambiguus] swainsonii* Common in the lowlands.
- Olivaceous Piculet** *Picumnus olivaceus* Seen very well at Wilsons.
- Acorn Woodpecker** *Melanerpes formicivorus* Common in the highlands and also at Cajon de Grecia.
- Golden-naped Woodpecker** ◊ *Melanerpes chrysauchen* Seen at Esquinas and Rincon.
- Black-cheeked Woodpecker** *Melanerpes pucherani* Common in the Caribbean slope.
- Red-crowned Woodpecker** *Melanerpes rubricapillus* Abundant in the south Pacific.
- Hoffmann's Woodpecker** ◊ *Melanerpes hoffmannii* Seen at dry areas, but also on Caribbean slope as Fortuna.
- Red-rumped Woodpecker** *Veniliornis kirkii* Seen at Coto 47 and Rincon.
- Smoky-brown Woodpecker** *Picoides fumigatus* Seen well at Arenal.
- Hairy Woodpecker** *Leuconotopicus villosus* Seen in the highlands.
- Rufous-winged Woodpecker** ◊ *Piculus simplex* Seen well at Rancho and El Copal.
- Golden-olive Woodpecker** *Colaptes rubiginosus* Seen well at Sanctuario Ecologico, also at Caño Negro.
- Cinnamon Woodpecker** *Celeus loricatus* Seen at Ara Ambigua Sarapiqui.
- Chestnut-colored Woodpecker** *Celeus castaneus* Seen well at La Selva.
- Lineated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus lineatus* Seen at different locations.
- Pale-billed Woodpecker** *Campephilus guatemalensis* Seen well at Carara and Arenal, among other sites.
- Crested Caracara (Northern C C)** *Caracara [plancus] cheriway* Commonly seen mainly in the lowlands.
- Yellow-headed Caracara** *Milvago chimachima* Seen at different sites in lowlands mostly.
- Barred Forest Falcon** *Micrastur ruficollis* (H) Heard at Savegre, Wilsons and the Tram.
- Collared Forest Falcon** *Micrastur semitorquatus* Seen nesting at Carara.



*Blue-throated Toucanet.*

**Bat Falcon** *Falco ruficularis* Best views were at Cinchona, but also other sites during the trip.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* Seen at Medio Queso.

**Barred Parakeet** *Bolborhynchus lineola* Groups flew around at Paraiso Quetzal, also at Santuario Ecologico.

**Red-fronted Parrotlet** ◊ *Touit costaricensis* (H) Heard at Providencia, but with cloudy conditions at the moment.

**Orange-chinned Parakeet (Tovi P)** *Brotogeris jugularis* Seen at different places sites.

**Brown-hooded Parrot** ◊ *Pyrilia haematotis* First seen very well at Rancho, and several other localities.

**Blue-headed Parrot** *Pionus menstruus* Good views at La Gamba and San Vito.

**White-crowned Parrot** ◊ *Pionus senilis* Seen at different locations.

**White-fronted Amazon** ◊ (W-f Parrot) *Amazona albifrons* Close views at Ensenada.

**Red-ored Amazon (R-I Parrot)** *Amazona autumnalis* Good views at La Gamba, and different localities.

**Yellow-naped Amazon** ◊ (Y-n Parrot) *Amazona auropalliata* Scope views at Tarcoles, but recorded several times.

**Northern Mealy Amazon** ◊ (N M Parrot) *Amazona guatemalae* Good views at The Aerial Tram.

**Sulphur-winged Parakeet** ◊ *Pyrrhura hoffmanni* Brief views at Providencia, and the base of Silence Mountain.

**Olive-throated Parakeet** ◊ *Eupsittula nana* Good views at Caño Negro, and other spots in the Caribbean lowlands.

**Orange-fronted Parakeet** *Eupsittula canicularis* Good views at Ensenada, and dry areas of northwest.  
**Brown-throated Parakeet** *Eupsittula pertinax* Flyby views at La Gamba.  
**Great Green Macaw** ◊ *Ara ambiguus* Seen very well near La Selva.  
**Scarlet Macaw** *Ara macao* Seen at Rincon and Carara, but also at La Selva in the Caribbean side.  
**Finsch's Parakeet** ◊ *Psittacara finschi* Seen at numerous sites throughout the country.



Scarlet Macaw feeding on Sea Almond (*Terminalia catappa*) seeds.

**Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser** ◊ *Sclerurus mexicanus* Excellent views at Bosque de Paz, as well in Wilsons.  
**Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser** *Sclerurus guatemalensis* Excellent views of one bird at Carara.  
**Grey-throated Leaf-tosser** ◊ *Sclerurus albigularis* Great views at Monteverde area.  
**Olivaceous Woodcreeper** *Sittasomus griseicapillus* Recorded at different locations, best views at Monteverde area.  
**Long-tailed Woodcreeper** ◊ *Deconychura longicauda* (H) Heard at Carara.  
**Ruddy Woodcreeper** *Dendrocincla homochroa* Attending an ant swarm at Curicancha.  
**Tawny-winged Woodcreeper** ◊ *Dendrocincla anabatina* Excellent views at Los Cusingos, and Carara.  
**Plain-brown Woodcreeper** *Dendrocincla fuliginosa* Seen at El Copal.  
**Wedge-billed Woodcreeper** *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* Seen at different locations during the trip.  
**Northern Barred Woodcreeper** *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae* Great views at La Selva, Carara and Curicancha.  
**Cocoa Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus susurrans* A common species in humid forest areas.  
**Black-striped Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus* Seen at Esquinas.  
**Spotted Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius* Recorded at different sites, first seen at El Copal.  
**Brown-billed Scythebill** ◊ *Campylorhamphus pusillus* Great views at El Copal and Wilsons.  
**Streak-headed Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii* A common woodcreeper seen throughout.  
**Spot-crowned Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes affinis* Seen well at Providencia road, and Savegre.  
**Plain Xenops** *Xenops minutus* A few seen at different sites.  
**Buffy Tuftedcheek** ◊ *Pseudocolaptes lawrencii* Finally we got excellent views at Savegre.  
**Lineated Foliage-gleaner** *Syndactyla subalaris* Great views at Santa Elena reserve.  
**Ruddy Foliage-gleaner** *Clibanornis rubiginosus* A hard and local species to see in Costa Rica, seen at Wilsons.

**Streak-breasted Treehunter** ◊ *Thripadectes rufobrunneus* Great views at Savegre.  
**Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner** *Automolus ochrolaemus* Seen first at Rancho, as well at Arenal.  
**Chiriqui Foliage-gleaner** ◊ *Automolus exsertus* Finally we got it at Carara, great views of this near endemic species.  
**Western Woodhaunter** *Automolus virgatus* Seen well at Arenal, and Braulio Carrillo area.  
**Spotted Barbtail** *Premnoplex brunnescens* Best views at Santa Elena, but also at Bosque de Paz.  
**Ruddy Treerunner** ◊ *Margarornis rubiginosus* Excellent views at Savegre.  
**Red-faced Spinetail** *Cranioleuca erythropus* Best views at Santa Elena, but also in other locations.  
**Slaty Spinetail** *Synallaxis brachyuran* Great views of this skulker at Platanillo and San Vito area.  
**Pale-breasted Spinetail** *Synallaxis albescens* Seen at San Vito area.



*Streak-breasted Treehunter from Savegre, and Western Woodhaunter from Braulio Carrillo.*

**Russet Antshrike** *Thamnistes anabatinus* First seen at Heliconias, but also at Braulio Carrillo area.  
**Dot-winged Antwren** *Microrhopias quixensis* First seen at El Copal, but also in the humid Pacific areas.  
**Checker-throated Stipplethroat** *Epinecrophylla fulviventris* Seen at Braulio Carrillo.  
**White-flanked Antwren** *Myrmotherula axillaris* A female was seen at the Tram and heard only at Braulio Carrillo.  
**Slaty Antwren** *Myrmotherula schisticolor* Seen at different locations, first sightings at Wilsons.  
**Plain Antvireo** *Dysithamnus mentalis* Seen at different sites, best views at Curicancha attending an antswarm.  
**Streak-crowned Antvireo** ◊ *Dysithamnus striaticeps* Seen at Celeste, Arenal and Braulio Carrillo  
**Barred Antshrike** *Thamnophilus doliatus* Seen at Carara, heard only at other locations.  
**Black-hooded Antshrike** ◊ *Thamnophilus bridgesi* Seen well in humid Pacific regions.  
**Black-crowned Antshrike** *Thamnophilus atrinucha* First seen at the Tram, but also great views at La Selva.  
**Fasciated Antshrike** *Cymbilaimus lineatus* Seen at La Selva.  
**Great Antshrike** *Taraba major* Excellent views of one male at Buenos Aires.  
**Bicolored Antbird** *Gymnopithys bicolor* Best views at Carara attending an ant swarm.  
**Dusky Antbird** *Cercomacroides tyrannina* Seen at Rancho and Esquinas.  
**Spotted Antbird** *Hylophylax naevioides* Seen at different sites but the best view at La Selva.  
**Chestnut-backed Antbird** *Poliocrania exsul* Seen it well at Esquinas and Carara, heard at other sites.  
**Dull-mantled Antbird** ◊ *Sipia laemosticta* Seen at El Copal and Celeste.  
**Bare-crowned Antbird** ◊ *Gymnocichla nudiceps* Skulker species, but good views of a pair at Caño Negro.  
**Zeledon's Antbird** ◊ *Percnostola zeledoni* Excellent views at Monteverde, and brief views at El Copal.  
**Black-faced Antthrush** *Formicarius analis* Excellent views near Wilsons, and also at Carara.

**Black-headed Antthrush** *Formicarius nigricapillus* (H) Heard close at El Copal, several times.  
**Streak-chested Antpitta** ◊ *Hylopezus perspicillatus* Good views at Carara.  
**Thicket Antpitta** ◊ (Fulvous-bellied A) *Hylopezus dives* Everyone got to see this mega skulker at Arenal.  
**Silvery-fronted Tapaculo** ◊ *Scytalopus argentifrons* Excellent views in the open at Santa Elena.  
**White-fronted Tyrannulet** ◊ *Phyllomyias zeledoni* Seen at San Vito area near Wilsons.  
**Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet** *Tyrannulus elatus* Seen well at La Gamba.  
**Greenish Elaenia** *Myiopagis viridicata* Good views at Tarcoles mangroves, and Ensenada.  
**Yellow-bellied Elaenia** *Elaenia flavogaster* A common specie recorded several times.  
**Lesser Elaenia** *Elaenia chiriquensis* Great views near Wilsons, and also at Grecia.  
**Mountain Elaenia** *Elaenia frantzii* Seen several times in the mountains.



*Streak-chested Antpitta in the understory of Carara.*

**Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet** ◊ *Ornithion semiflavum* Seen at Esquinas.  
**Northern Beardless Tyrannulet** *Camptostoma imberbe* Best views at Caño Negro, but also at Ensenada.  
**Yellow Tyrannulet** *Capsiempis flaveola* Seen at San Vito.  
**Mistletoe Tyrannulet** *Zimmerius parvus* Fairly common species, seen at different locations. First seen at Rancho.  
**Rufous-browed Tyrannulet** ◊ *Phylloscartes superciliaris* Great views at El Copal, a difficult species to see well.  
**Olive-striped Flycatcher** *Mionectes olivaceus* Seen it well at Rancho, Copal and Curicancha.  
**Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** *Mionectes oleaginous* Heard at many sites, but good views at Wilsons.  
**Slaty-capped Flycatcher** *Leptopogon superciliaris* Seen well at the base of Silence mountain, and Arenal.  
**Northern Scrub Flycatcher** *Sublegatus arenarum* Good views at Tarcoles mangroves, and Nicoya gulf mangroves.  
**Bran-colored Flycatcher** *Myiophobus fasciatus* Good views at San Vito area.  
**Black-capped Pygmy Tyrant** *Myiornis atricapillus* Excellent views of this tiny bird at La Selva.  
**Northern Bentbill** ◊ *Oncostoma cinereigulare* Seen at Carara.  
**Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant** *Lophotriccus pileatus* Seen well at Monteverde and Celeste.  
**Slaty-headed Tody-Flycatcher** *Poecilotriccus sylvia* Good views at Caño Negro.  
**Common Tody-Flycatcher** *Todirostrum cinereum* A common and widespread species.  
**Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher** *Todirostrum nigriceps* Seen at El Copal and Heliconias, heard it at other locations.  
**Eye-ringed Flatbill** *Rhynchocyclus brevirostris* A few seen at widely scattered sites, good views at La Selva.  
**Yellow-olive Flatbill** *Tolmomyias sulphurescens* The best views at Los Cusingos, but seen at different locations.

**Yellow-margined Flatbill** *Tolmomyias flavotectus* (H) Just heard at La Selva, wasn't very responsive to playback.

**Stub-tailed Spadebill** ◊ *Platyrinchus cancrornis* Seen at Carara.

**White-throated Spadebill** *Platyrinchus mystaceus* Seen at Rancho and heard it at Santa Elena.

**Golden-crowned Spadebill** *Platyrinchus coronatus* Excellent views at Los Cusingos.

**Tawny-chested Flycatcher** ◊ *Aphanotriccus capitalis* Barely seen at Rancho, and heard at El Copal.

**Black Phoebe** *Sayornis nigricans* Seen at different rivers, good views at Bosque de Paz.

**Northern Tufted Flycatcher** *Mitrephanes phaeocercus* Good views at Savegre and Santa Elena.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** *Contopus cooperi* Good views at the Aerial Tram, and other locations as well.

**Dark Pewee** ◊ *Contopus lugubris* Seen at La Paz Waterfall Gardens, and Bosque de Paz.

**Ochraceous Pewee** ◊ *Contopus ochraceus* One of the hardest highland endemics, seen at Providencia road.

**Western Wood Pewee (W)** *Contopus sordidulus* Seen at Savegre and Grecia.

**Eastern Wood Pewee (W)** *Contopus virens* A few seen at widely scattered sites.

**Tropical Pewee** *Contopus cinereus* Seen first at Ensenada but also in other locations.

**Trail's (Alder/Willow) Flycatcher** *Empidonax sp (alnorum/ trillii)* One bird seen at Grecia, but didn't vocalize.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** *Empidonax flaviventris* A few seen at widely scattered sites.

**White-throated Flycatcher** ◊ *Empidonax albigularis* Seen at Platanillo pastures.

**Yellowish Flycatcher** ◊ *Empidonax flavescens* Seen at Savegre, Monteverde area and Bosque de Paz.

**Black-capped Flycatcher** ◊ *Empidonax atriceps* A common species in the highlands.



*Eurasian Collared Dove from Parrita, and Rusty Margined Flycatcher from Coto 47. Two species that showed up in recent years in Costa Rica by expansion of their ranges.*

**Long-tailed Tyrant** *Colonia colonus* Seen at La Selva.

**Piratic Flycatcher** *Legatus leucophaeus* Seen at several locations.

**Rusty-margined Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes cayanensis* Seen at Coto 47.

**Social Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes similis* A common and widespread species.

**Grey-capped Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes granadensis* Seen at different sites in humid lowlands.

**Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus* A common species seen at different localities.

**White-ringed Flycatcher** *Conopias albobittatus* First seen at the Aerial Tram, and also at La Selva.

**Golden-bellied Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes hemichrysus* Distant views at Providencia road, and heard it in other sites.

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

**Streaked Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes maculatus* First seen at Talari, and other localities as well.

**Boat-billed Flycatcher** *Megarynchus pitangua* Seen at different locations.

**Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus* Almost a daily bird.

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus savana* Great views in open fields in the far South, and Medio Queso.

**Eastern Kingbird (W)** *Tyrannus tyrannus* Good numbers the days that we were at La Selva.

**Rufous Mourner** *Rhytipterna holerythra* Heard many times, finally seen at Celeste and other sites, too.

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tuberculifer* A few seen at widely scattered sites.

**Panamanian Flycatcher** ◊ *Myiarchus panamensis* Great views at Caldera and Punta Morales.

**Nutting's Flycatcher** ◊ *Myiarchus nuttingi* Seen it different sites in dry areas of northwest.

**Great Crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus crinitus* Good views at Rincon area, and heard in different sites.

**Brown-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tyrannulus* Seen at Caldera and Ensenada.

**Bright-rumped Attila** *Attila spadiceus* Seen at Wilsons and Ensenada.

**Purple-throated Fruitcrow** *Querula purpurata* Good views of a nice male at La Selva.

**Rufous Piha** *Lipaugus unirufus* Seen at Los Cusingos and Carara.

**Three-wattled Bellbird** ◊ *Procnias tricarunculatus* Excellent views at Santa Elena, and Sanctuario Ecologico.

**Lovely Cotinga** ◊ *Cotinga amabilis* Good views of a nice male at Rancho. A rare species in Costa Rica.

**Turquoise Cotinga** ◊ *Cotinga ridgwayi* Two different males at San Isidro.

**Yellow-billed Cotinga** ◊ *Carpodectes antoniae* At least three birds at Rincon bridge.

**Snowy Cotinga** ◊ *Carpodectes nitidus* Seen at La Selva after an intense search for it.

**Long-tailed Manakin** ◊ *Chiroxiphia linearis* Best views of nice adult males at Ensenada.

**White-ruffed Manakin** ◊ *Corapipo altera* Good views at El Copal, but other sites too.

**Blue-crowned Manakin** *Lepidothrix coronate* Great views at Los Cusingos, also seen at other localities.

**White-collared Manakin** ◊ *Manacus candei* Excellent views at Bogarin trail.

**Orange-collared Manakin** ◊ *Manacus aurantiacus* Good views at Los Cusingos.

**White-crowned Manakin** *Pseudopipra pipra* One male seen at Rancho, and females were seen at El Copal.

**Red-capped Manakin** *Ceratopipra mentalis* One male doing the dancing display at Los Cusingos.



*Collared Forest Falcon on the nest, and the near endemic Baird's Trogon.*

**Northern Royal Flycatcher** ◊ *Onychorhynchus mexicanus* Finally we got good views at Carara.

**Sulphur-rumped Myiobius (S-r Flycatcher)** *Myiobius sulphureipygius* Seen at Esquinas and Carara.

**Black-tailed Myiobius (B-t Flycatcher)** *Myiobius atricaudus* One bird seen at Buenos Aires.

**Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher** *Terenotriccus erythrus* Seen well at Carara and the Aerial Tram.

**Black-crowned Tityra** *Tityra inquisitor* Seen at Rincon bridge and Ensenada.

**Masked Tityra** *Tityra semifasciata* A few seen at different sites.



*Fork-tailed Flycatcher chasing away a Yellow-headed Caracara. (LG)*

**Northern Schiffornis** *Schiffornis veraepacis* Seen at El Copal, Carara, Santa Elena and the Tram.

**Barred Becard** *Pachyramphus versicolor* Finally we got to see one male at Bosque de Paz.

**Cinnamon Becard** *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus* Best views at La Selva and Arenal.

**White-winged Becard** *Pachyramphus polychopterus* Seen at Talari and Esquinas.

**Rose-throated Becard** *Pachyramphus aglaiae* Best views at Ensenada, also at Esquinas.

**Rufous-browed Peppershrike** *Cyclarhis gujanensis* Seen at Tarcoles mangroves, heard in the highlands.

**Green Shrike-Vireo** ♦ *Vireolanius pulchellus* (H) Heard at Los Cusingos.

**Scrub Greenlet** *Hylophilus flavipes* Good views at La Gamba and Tarcoles mangroves.

**Tawny-crowned Greenlet** *Tunchiornis ochraceiceps* Seen at Esquinas, Carara and Curicancha.

**Lesser Greenlet** *Pachysylvia decurtata* Best views at Carara, and other localities as Esquinas and Ensenada.  
**Yellow-green Vireo** *Vireo flavoviridis* Common at Carara, Monteverde and Ensenada.  
**Red-eyed Vireo\* (W)** *Vireo olivaceus* One bird seen at Carara, and other at La Selva.  
**Philadelphia Vireo (W)** *Vireo philadelphicus* A few seen at widely scattered sites.  
**Brown-capped Vireo** *Vireo leucophrys* Seen at Tolomuco and Bosque de Paz.



*Northern Barred Woodcreeper and Ruddy Woodcreeper, two species of Woodcreepers who tends to follow Army Ants.*

**Yellow-throated Vireo (W)** *Vireo flavifrons* A few seen at widely scattered sites.  
**Yellow-winged Vireo** ◊ *Vireo carmioli* Seen at Providencia road and Savegre.  
**Mangrove Vireo** ◊ *Vireo pallens* Good views at Tarcoles mangroves.  
**Azure-hooded Jay** ◊ *Cyanolyca cucullata* Great views at Santa Elena, and brief views at Waterfall Gardens.  
**Silvery-throated Jay** ◊ *Cyanolyca argentigula* One bird seen well at Savegre oak forest.  
**Brown Jay** *Psilorhinus morio* A few seen at widely scattered sites.  
**White-throated Magpie-Jay** ◊ *Calocitta Formosa* Seen at dry forest areas.  
**Black-chested Jay** *Cyanocorax affinis* One bird seen at Agua Buena San Vito.  
**Black-and-yellow Phainoptila** ◊ (B-and-Y Silky-flycatcher) *Phainoptila melanoxantha* Several excellent views.  
**Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher** ◊ *Ptilogonys caudatus* Seen in the highlands, at Irazu and Cerro de La Muerte.  
**Sand Martin (Bank Swallow)** *Riparia riparia* Seen in mixed flock at San Isidro, San Vito and Rincon.  
**Mangrove Swallow** *Tachycineta albilinea* A few seen scattered sites, like Tarcoles, Rincon and Medio Queso.  
**Blue-and-white Swallow** *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca* Common species in the mountains.  
**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* Seen at numerous locations.  
**Southern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* A few seen at widely scattered sites.  
**Grey-breasted Martin** *Progne chalybea* Common bird around human settlements in the lowlands.  
**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* Good numbers of migrants seen.  
**American Cliff Swallow (W)** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* Seen several times in good numbers joining other swallows.  
**Band-backed Wren** *Campylorhynchus zonatus* A couple was seen at Arenal.

**Rufous-backed Wren** ◊ *Campylorhynchus capistratus* Seen in dry areas in the northwest.

**Grass Wren** *Cistothorus platensis* Great views at Cartago vicinity.

**Black-throated Wren** ◊ *Pheugopedius atrogularis* Great views at Bogarin, and also at La Selva.

**Black-bellied Wren** *Pheugopedius fasciatoventris* Excellent views at Coto 47.

**Spot-breasted Wren** ◊ *Pheugopedius maculipectus* Great views at Caño Negro.

**Rufous-breasted Wren** *Pheugopedius rutilus* Seen at Los Cusingos and Carara.

**Banded Wren** *Thryophilus pleurostictus* Good views at Guacalillo and Ensenada.

**Rufous-and-white Wren** *Thryophilus rufalbus* Seen at Carara, heard at Monteverde area.

**Cabanis's Wren** ◊ *Cantorchilus modestus* Best sightings at Jaco, as well at Ujarrás and Cala Lodge.

**Canebrake Wren** ◊ *Cantorchilus zeledoni* Excellent views at Caño Negro.

**Isthmian Wren** ◊ *Cantorchilus elutus* Seen well at La Gamba, heard at other areas in South Pacific.

**Riverside Wren** ◊ *Cantorchilus semibadius* Seen at Wilsons, Esquinas and Carara.

**Bay Wren** *Cantorchilus nigricapillus* Good views at Rancho, and other localities like Virgen del Socorro.

**Stripe-breasted Wren** ◊ *Cantorchilus thoracicus* Good views at Celeste, and Arenal.

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon* A common and widespread species.

**Ochraceous Wren** ◊ *Troglodytes ochraceus* Seen well at Savegre, and Santa Elena.

**Timberline Wren** ◊ *Thryorchilus browni* Best views at Cerro de La Muerte, as well at Irazu and Providencia road.

**White-breasted Wood Wren** *Henicorhina leucosticta* Wilsons (*pittieri*); La Selva and Braulio Carrillo (*costaricensis*).

**Grey-breasted Wood Wren** *Henicorhina leucophrys* Different encounters in the highlands and middle elevations.

**Northern Nightingale-Wren** ◊ *Microcerculus philomela* Excellent views at Celeste trails.



*Black-crowned Antshrike from La Selva.*



*Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher from Irazu.*

- Southern Nightingale-Wren** *Microcerculus marginatus* Good views at Carara of this difficult wren to see.
- Song Wren** *Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus* Very good views at Heliconias trails.
- Trilling Gnatwren** *Ramphocaenus melanurus* Good views at Carara, but also other localities as well.
- Tawny-faced Gnatwren** *Microbates cinereiventris* Good views at Arenal Observatory lodge.
- White-browed Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila bilineata* Seen at Tarcoles mangroves, and La Selva.
- White-lored Gnatcatcher** ◊ *Polioptila albiloris* Seen in dry forest areas, like Ensenada, and Guacalillo area.
- Tropical Mockingbird** *Mimus gilvus* This species is becoming very common around towns throughout the country.
- Black-faced Solitaire** ◊ *Myadestes melanops* Seen at Savegre and Bosque de Paz.
- Wood Thrush (W)** *Hylocichla mustelina* Seen in the early mornings hopping along the trails, like Celeste and Arenal.
- Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush** *Catharus aurantiirostris* Best views at San Isidro, but also in other localities.
- Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush** ◊ *Catharus mexicanus* Attending a group of army ants at Curicancha.
- Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush** *Catharus fuscater* Good views in Monteverde and Santa Elena.
- Swainson's Thrush (W)** *Catharus ustulatus* Different sittings on different locations, or hotel grounds.

**Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush** ◊ *Catharus gracilirostris* Common at Irazu and Cerro de la Muerte.  
**Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush** ◊ *Catharus frantzii* Seen at Savegre.  
**Sooty Thrush** ◊ *Turdus nigrescens* A highland specialty, commonly seen at Irazu and Paraiso Quetzal.  
**Mountain Thrush** ◊ *Turdus plebejus* Seen at the highlands in Irazu and Cerro de la Muerte.  
**White-throated Thrush** *Turdus assimilis* Different locations like Wilsons, Monteverde and Celeste.  
**Pale-vented Thrush** ◊ *Turdus obsoletus* Seen it in our last opportunity at Virgen del Socorro.  
**Clay-colored Thrush** *Turdus grayi* Seen on every day of the trip.  
**American Dipper** *Cinclus mexicanus* One bird seen at the Waterfall Gardens.



*Black-headed Nightingale-thrush and White-eared Ground Sparrow, both from Curicancha.*

**House Sparrow (introduced)** *Passer domesticus* Seen at different cities and towns.  
**Yellow-bellied Siskin** *Spinus xanthogastrus* One bird seen at Savegre lodge.  
**Elegant Euphonia** *Chlorophonia elegantissima* Seen at Tolomuco.  
**Golden-browed Chlorophonia** ◊ *Chlorophonia callophrys* Excellent views at Paraiso Quetzal, and Curicancha.  
**Scrub Euphonia** *Euphonia affinis* Seen at Tarcoles mangroves, and Ensenada.  
**Yellow-crowned Euphonia** ◊ *Euphonia luteicapilla* Seen at different sites, the first at San Isidro.  
**White-vented Euphonia** *Euphonia minuta* Seen well at El Copal and La Selva.  
**Yellow-throated Euphonia** *Euphonia hirundinacea* Seen at sites such as Turrialba, Villa Lapas, and Monteverde.  
**Thick-billed Euphonia** *Euphonia lanirostris* Seen well at Wilsons, and La Gamba area.  
**Spot-crowned Euphonia** ◊ *Euphonia imitans* Best views at Wilsons, but also at Esquinas and Carara.  
**Olive-backed Euphonia** ◊ *Euphonia gouldi* Seen very well at La Selva and Braulio Carrillo area.  
**Tawny-capped Euphonia** ◊ *Euphonia annae* Few birds in different sites at Caribbean foothills and Santa Elena.  
**Rosy-thrashed Tanager** *Rhodinocichla rosea* (H) One bird heard at Buenos Aires.  
**Ashy-throated Bush Tanager** *Chlorospingus canigularis* Several sittings but just at El Copal.  
**Sooty-capped Bush Tanager** ◊ *Chlorospingus pileatus* A common species in the highlands.  
**Common Bush Tanager** *Chlorospingus flavopectus* Common at mid elevations; Monteverde and Bosque de Paz.  
**Stripe-headed Sparrow** *Peucaea ruficauda* Seen at different sites in dry country areas.  
**Olive Sparrow** *Arremonops rufivirgatus* Seen at Guacalillo road.  
**Black-striped Sparrow** *Arremonops conirostris* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.  
**Costa Rican Brushfinch** ◊ *Arremon costaricensis* One bird seen at Buenos Aires.

**Orange-billed Sparrow** *Arremon aurantirostris* Seen it in humid lowlands of both slopes and Caribbean foothills.  
**Chestnut-capped Brushfinch** *Arremon brunneinucha* Seen at different sites in the mountains.  
**Sooty-faced Finch** ◊ *Arremon crassirostris* Seen at Santa Elena reserve.  
**Volcano Junco** ◊ *Junco vulcani* Seen at Irazu.  
**Rufous-collared Sparrow** *Zonotrichia capensis* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.  
**Large-footed Finch** ◊ *Pezopetes capitalis* Common species at sites throughout the highlands.  
**White-eared Ground Sparrow** ◊ *Melozone leucotis* Seen at Monteverde area and at Grecia.  
**Cabanis's Ground Sparrow** ◊ *Melozone cabanisi* Seen it near Turrialba, and better views at Ujarras.  
**White-naped Brushfinch** *Atlapetes albinucha* Coming to feeders at Dowii reserve.  
**Yellow-thighed Brushfinch** ◊ (Y-t Finch) *Atlapetes tibialis* Common bird in the highlands.



*Large-footed Finch.*

**Wrenthrush** ◊ (Zeledonia) *Zeledonia coronata* Very good views at Irazu, and Providencia.  
**Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna* A few sittings in the open fields in the slopes of Volcan Turrialba.  
**Red-breasted Blackbird** *Leistes militaris* Seen at La Gamba and Ciudad Neilly area.  
**Yellow-billed Cacique** *Amblycercus holosericeus* Good views at Caño Negro.  
**Chestnut-headed Oropendola** *Psarocolius wagleri* Seen at El Copal, Rancho, La Selva and Braulio Carrillo area.  
**Crested Oropendola** *Psarocolius decumanus* Two birds flew by at San Vito.  
**Montezuma Oropendola** ◊ *Psarocolius Montezuma* Common on the Caribbean slope, and a big colony at Jaco.  
**Scarlet-rumped Cacique** *Cacicus microrhynchus* Common in humid lowlands and Caribbean foothills.  
**Streak-backed Oriole** *Icterus pustulatus* Different sittings in dry forest areas.  
**Baltimore Oriole (W)** *Icterus galbula* A common migrant throughout the country.  
**Spot-breasted Oriole** ◊ *Icterus pectoralis* Seen at Ensenada.

**Black-cowled Oriole** ◊ *Icterus prosthemelas* Seen at Bogarin trails and La Selva.  
**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus* Abundant at Medio Queso, and the northern part of the country.  
**Giant Cowbird** *Molothrus oryzivorus* Seen at Ujarras, and Ciudad Neily area.  
**Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis* Seen at La Gamba, and Rincon.  
**Bronzed Cowbird** *Molothrus aeneus* A common widespread specie throughout the country.  
**Melodious Blackbird** *Dives dives* Seen at different sites in the trip.  
**Nicaraguan Grackle** ◊ *Quiscalus nicaraguensis* A near endemic specie of Grackle, seen at Medio Queso.  
**Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus* Very common bird throughout the country.



*Spot-breasted Oriole from La Ensenada.*

**Ovenbird (W)** *Seiurus aurocapilla* One bird at Sanctuario Ecologico.  
**Worm-eating Warbler (W)** *Helmitheros vermivorum* (NL) Seen by one member of the group at Villa Lapas.  
**Northern Waterthrush (W)** *Parkesia noveboracensis* Seen at different sites near water sources.  
**Golden-winged Warbler (W)** *Vermivora chrysoptera* Best views near Wilsons.  
**Black-and-white Warbler (W)** *Mniotilta varia* Seen at different sites in the trip.  
**Flame-throated Warbler** ◊ *Oreothlypis gutturalis* Seen at several sites in the highlands.  
**Tennessee Warbler (W)** *Leiothlypis peregrine* A common migratory species seen at widely scattered sites.  
**Grey-crowned Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis poliocephala* Seen at San Vito area and on the road to Monteverde.  
**Chiriqui Yellowthroat** ◊ *Geothlypis chiriquensis* Seen at San Vito area.  
**Mourning Warbler (W)** *Geothlypis philadelphia* Best view at San Vito area.  
**Kentucky Warbler (W)** *Geothlypis formosa* Brief views at La Selva.  
**Olive-crowned Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis semiflava* Seen at Platanillo, and Bosque de Paz area.  
**Hooded Warbler (W)** *Setophaga citrine* An uncommon migrant, seen at Caño Negro, and Bogarin trails.  
**American Redstart (W)** *Setophaga ruticilla* Seen at Tarcoles mangroves.  
**Cerulean Warbler (W)** *Setophaga cerulea* One male seen at the Tram, but not everyone saw it.  
**Tropical Parula** *Setophaga pitiayumi* A few seen at widely scattered sites.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler (W)** *Setophaga castanea* Seen it different times at La Selva and the Tram.  
**Blackburnian Warbler (W)** *Setophaga fusca* Seen at Wilson, Waterfall gardens and Bosque de Paz.  
**American Yellow Warbler (W)** *Setophaga aestiva* A common migratory species seen at widely scattered sites.  
**Mangrove Warbler** *Setophaga petechia* Seen at Tarcoles mangroves, and Nicoya gulf mangroves.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler (W)** *Setophaga pensylvanica* The most common North American warbler in this trip.

**Black-throated Green Warbler (W) *Setophaga virens*** A common warbler in the Highlands.

**Buff-rumped Warbler *Myiothlypis fulvicauda*** Best views at Carara and Bogarin trail.

**Chestnut-capped Warbler *Basileuterus delatarii*** Seen at different sites as Ujarras, Guacalillo, and Grecia.

**Black-cheeked Warbler** ◇ ***Basileuterus melanogenys*** Seen at Providencia road and Savegre area.

**Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*** Seen at different sites in foothills and middle elevations.

**Black-eared Warbler** ◇ ***Basileuterus melanotis*** Seen at Santa Elena, Curicancha, and Bosque de Paz.

**Wilson's Warbler (W) *Cardellina pusilla*** A common migrant in the mountains.

**Slate-throated Whitestart *Myioborus miniatus*** Seen at different sites in Caribbean foothills and middle elevations.

**Collared Whitestart** ◇ ***Myioborus torquatus*** Seen at Providencia road, Savegre, and Bosque de Paz.

**Dusky-faced Tanager *Mitrospingus cassinii*** A brief sitting at La Selva, and heard at Braulio Carrillo area.

**Flame-colored Tanager *Piranga bidentata*** Common in the highlands.

**Tooth-billed Tanager (Highland Hepatic T) *Piranga lutea*** A pair seen at El Copal.

**Summer Tanager (W) *Piranga rubra*** Seen in many sites of the trip.

**Scarlet Tanager (W) *Piranga olivacea*** Many birds seen at La Selva, also at Grecia.

**White-winged Tanager *Piranga leucoptera*** A pair was seen at Savegre oak forest.



*Blue-and-gold Tanager from Virgen del Socorro, and Black-and-yellow from El Copal.*

**Red-throated Ant Tanager *Habia fuscicauda*** Seen at Rancho and La Selva.

**Black-cheeked Ant Tanager** ◇ ***Habia atrimaxillaris*** Good views at Esquinas.

**Carmioli's Tanager** ◇ ***Chlorothraupis carmioli*** Common species at the Caribbean foothills.

**Black-thighed Grosbeak** ◇ ***Pheucticus tibialis*** Seen at Santa Elena, another sitting at Grecia.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*** Seen at different moments like La Selva and Tolomuco.

**Black-faced Grosbeak** ◇ ***Caryothraustes poliogaster*** Very common at Braulio Carrillo area, and also at La Selva.

**Cabanis's Seedeater** ◇ ***Amaurospiza concolor*** Good views of a male of this local and rare specie at Grecia.

**Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanoloxia cyanoides*** Seen at Carara and Celeste.

**Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea*** First seen at Jaco, but other sittings at Ensenada.

**Painted Bunting (W) *Passerina ciris*** Seen it briefly at Guacalillo.

**Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza*** Seen at different locations.

**Black-and-yellow Tanager** ◇ ***Chrysothlypis chrysomelas*** Seen first at El Copal, but also at Braulio Carrillo area.

**Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus*** A common species seen at several sites.

**Shining Honeycreeper** ◇ ***Cyanerpes lucidus*** Best views at La Selva, but in different sites as well.

**Scarlet-thighed Dacnis *Dacnis venusta*** First seen at El Copal, and others sites too.

**Blue Dacnis** *Dacnis cayana* Seen at Los Cusingos and also at Buenos Aires.  
**Cinnamon-bellied Saltator** *Saltator grandis* Seen at different sites as Turrialba, Ujarras and Punta Morales.  
**Streaked Saltator** *Saltator striatipectus* Seen at San Isidro area and Wilsons.  
**Buff-throated Saltator** *Saltator maximus* Common specie seen at widely scattered sites.  
**Black-headed Saltator** *Saltator atriceps* Seen at different locations, like Rancho, el Copal and Arenal.  
**Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola* A common specie seen at widely scattered sites.



*The near endemic Spangle-cheeked Tanager.*

**Yellow-faced Grassquit** *Tiaris olivaceus* Seen it many times.  
**Blue-black Grassquit** *Volatinia jacarina* A very common specie.  
**Grey-headed Tanager** *Eucometis penicillata* Seen at Talari, Carara and Caño Negro.  
**White-shouldered Tanager** *Loriotus luctuosus* Seen a few times in both slopes.  
**Tawny-crested Tanager** *Tachyphonus delatrii* Seen at El Copal and Braulio Carrillo area.  
**White-lined Tanager** *Tachyphonus rufus* Seen at Platanillo, near Rancho Naturalista.  
**White-throated Shrike-Tanager** ◊ *Lanio leucothorax* Seen very well at Arenal, male and female.  
**Crimson-collared Tanager** ◊ *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus* Seen at Arenal, Cinchona, and La Selva.  
**Scarlet-rumped Tanager** ◊ (Passerini's T) *Ramphocelus [passerinii] passerinii* Common species in the Caribbean.  
**Scarlet-rumped Tanager** ◊ (Cherrie's T) *Ramphocelus [costaricensis] passerinii* Common species in the Pacific.  
**Morelet's Seedeater** ◊ *Sporophila moreletti* Seen it several times during the trip, in open fields.  
**Variable Seedeater (Black-breasted S)** *Sporophila corvina* Seen at different areas in the Pacific side.  
**Variable Seedeater (Black S)** *Sporophila [corvina] corvina* Common species at the Caribbean side.  
**Yellow-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila nigricollis* Seen at open fields in the southern Pacific section of the country.  
**Thick-billed Seed Finch** *Sporophila funereal* Seen at different sites in humid lowlands.  
**Nicaraguan Seed Finch** ◊ *Sporophila nuttingi* Seen at Caño Negro and Medio Queso.  
**Ruddy-breasted Seedeater** *Sporophila minuta* Seen at Coto 47, and as well at Medio Queso.  
**Peg-billed Finch** ◊ *Acanthidops bairdi* Excellent views at Paraiso Quetzal.

**Slaty Flowerpiercer** ◊ *Diglossa plumbea* A common specie in the mountains.  
**Blue-and-gold Tanager** ◊ *Bangsia arcaei* In our last chance we got one bird at Virgen del Socorro.  
**Speckled Tanager** *Ixothraupis guttata* First seen at El Copal, and good views at Wilson.  
**Blue-grey Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus* A common specie all over the country.  
**Palm Tanager** *Thraupis palmarum* A very common specie seen at different sites.  
**Golden-hooded Tanager** *Stilpnia larvata* A very common specie in humid areas of the country.  
**Spangle-cheeked Tanager** ◊ *Tangara dowii* Seen at Dowii reserve, and Bosque de Paz.  
**Bay-headed Tanager** *Tangara gyrola* Seen at different sites in small numbers.  
**Rufous-winged Tanager** *Tangara lavinia* Seen at Celeste.  
**Emerald Tanager** *Tangara florida* Seen at el Copal and Arenal.  
**Silver-throated Tanager** *Tangara icterocephala* A widespread species seen at several sites.  
**Plain-colored Tanager** *Tangara inornata* Good views at La Selva.



*Great Potoo with a nestling from Caño Negro.*



*Hoffman's two-toed Sloth from Arenal.*

## MAMMALS

- Common Opossum (Common O, Black-faced O) *Didelphis marsupialis*** One seen at Caño Negro.
- Northern Tamandua *Tamandua Mexicana*** One individual seen at the edge of the road on the way to Rincon.
- Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth *Choloepus hoffmanni*** Seen active at Bogarin trails, also at La Selva in the night.
- Brown-throated Sloth (B-t Sloth) *Bradypus variegatus*** Best views at the Tram, also at Bogarin trails.
- Nine-banded Armadillo (Common Long-nosed A) *Dasypus novemcinctus*** One seen at night in Ensenada.
- Coyote *Canis latrans*** One seen on the side of the road at Monteverde.
- Hooded Skunk *Mephitis mephitis*** Seen in Ensenada at night.
- White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica*** Seen at many places, first seen in Rancho.
- Kinkajou *Potos flavus*** Seen in Talari at night.
- Crab-eating Raccoon *Procyon cancrivorus*** One seen on the edge of a creek leaving Esquinas in the pre-dawn.
- Northern Raccoon (Common R) *Procyon lotor*** Seen when we were owling at Irazu.



*The Baird's Tapir gave us very close encounters at The Aerial Tram.*

**Tayra *Eira Barbara*** Brief sittings at Esquinas and La Selva.

**Neotropical Otter *Lontra longicaudis*** One seen swimming in Puerto Viejo river at La Selva.

**Baird's Tapir *Tapirus bairdii*** The best views at the tram, and also seen in the gardens of Celeste.

**Collared Peccary *Pecari tajacu*** Common at La Selva.

**White-tailed Deer\* *Odocoileus virginianus*** Brief views in Buenos Aires of one individual that was chased away.

**Greater White-lined Bat\* (W-I Sac-winged B) *Saccopteryx bilineata*** On the walls of the main building of Esquinas.

**Panamanian White-faced Capuchin *Cebus imitator*** Seen at Carara and Monteverde.

**Mantled Howler Monkey (M H Monkey) *Alouatta palliata*** Seen at La Selva, heard at different locations.

**Black-handed Spider Monkey (Black-handed S M) *Ateles geoffroyi*** A big troop was seen at Carara.

**Gabb's Cottontail (Central American Tapeti) *Sylvilagus gabbi*** Seen at La Selva during the night.

**Spotted Paca *Cuniculus paca*** Seen at night in Bosque de Paz.

**Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata*** A common diurnal mammal, seen at a few spots, first at Rancho.

**Central American Dwarf Squirrel (Alfaro's Dwarf S) *Microsciurus alfari*** Two seen early in the morning at Celeste.

**Deppe's Squirrel *Sciurus deppei*** An uncommon small squirrel, with white belly and throat, seen at Celeste.

**Red-tailed Squirrel (Tropical Red S) *Sciurus granatensis*** Seen at different locations like Wilsons and Savegre.

**Variegated Squirrel *Sciurus variegatoides*** Seen it at different locations, with different subspecies.

**Dusky Rice Rat *Melanomys caliginosus*** Seen at Rancho and Dowii reserve.



Northern Tamandua was seen on the way to Rincon.

## OTHER CREATURES

- Mesoamerican Slider** *Trachemys venusta* Some sightings at Caño Negro.
- Black river Turtle** *Rhinoclemmys funerea* Seen at La Selva.
- Brown Basilisk** *Basiliscus basiliscus* Seen at Esquinas and Carara area.
- Striped Basilisk** *Basiliscus vittatus* Seen at Bogarin.
- Green Basilisk** *Basiliscus Plumifrons* Seen at Caño Negro.
- Green Iguana** *Iguana iguana* Seen at different locations as La Selva and Coto 47.
- Green Spiny Lizard** *Sceloporus malachiticus* Seen at Savegre.
- Green Tree Anole** *Anolis biporcatus* Seen at the Aerial Tram.
- Border Anole** *Anolis limifrons* (Slender Anole) Seen at the aerial Tram.
- Humble Anole** *Anolis humilis* (Ground Anole) Seen at Esquinas.
- Middle American Ameiva** *Holcosus festivus* (Whip-tailed Ameiva) Seen at Carara and other localities.
- Tiger Rat Snake** *Spilotes pullatus* One at Medio Queso.
- Stejneger's Snail Sucker** *Sibon longifrenis* (Mottled Snail-eater) One at the Aerial Tram.
- Cope's Forest Racer** *Dendrophidion paucicarinatus* (Cloud Forest Racer) Seen at the Waterfall Gardens.
- Common Caiman** *Caiman crocodilus* (Spectacled Caiman) Tarcoles River.
- American Crocodile** *Crocodylus acutus* Common at Caño Negro.
- Cane Toad** *Rhinella marina* Common in the lowlands.
- Green-and-black Poison Dart Frog** *Dendrobates auratus* Seen at Carara.
- Strawberry Poison Dart Frog** *Oophaga pumilio* Seen at La Selva.
- Common Dink Frog** Seen at Rancho.
- Orange-sided Gliding Leaf Frog** *Agalychnis spurrelli* Seen at the Aerial Tram.



*Tiger Rat Snake.*



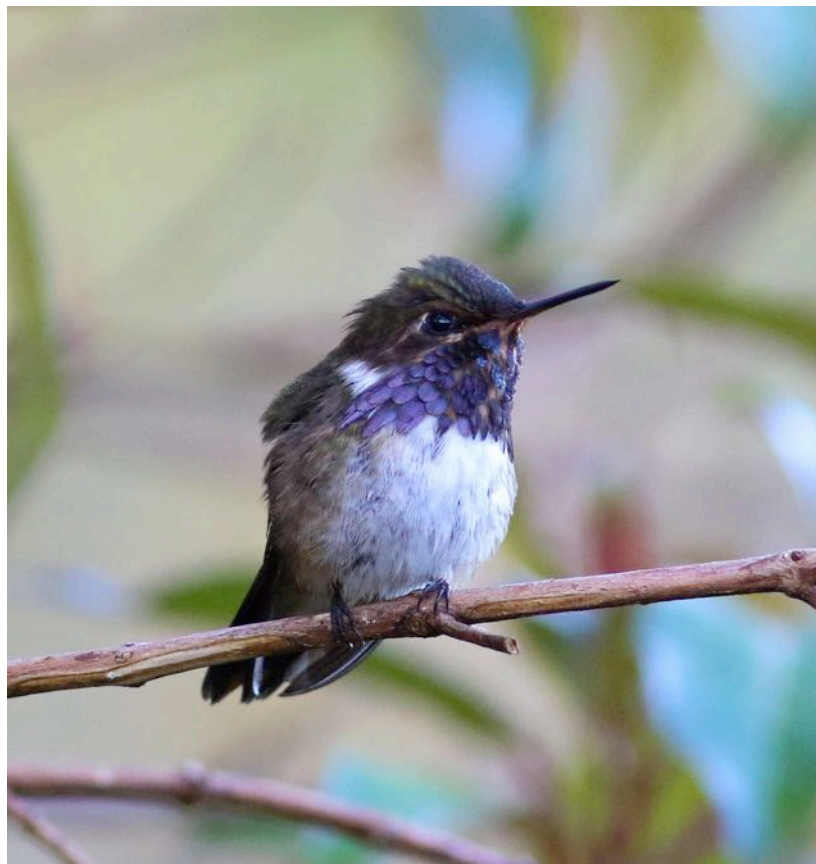
*Collared Aracari from Arenal.*

### **Birds of the trip**

- 1) White-chinned Swift (8 points)**
- 2) Three-wattled Bellbird (7 points)**
- 3) Unspotted Saw-whet Owl (7 points)**
- 4) Lovely Cotinga (4 points)**
- 5) Mangrove Rail (4 points)**
- 6) Crested Owl (3 points)**
- 7) Central American Pygmy Owl (3 points)**
- 8) Violet Sabrewing (3 points)**
- 9) Long Tailed Silky Flycatcher (2 points)**
- 10) Long-tailed Manakin (2 points)**



*Photo of our group.*



*And the last photo of a male Volcano Hummingbird, thanks for reading!*