



The tour was truly a cotinga fest. Here, a cracking adult male Yellow-billed Cotinga. (Dani Lopez-Velasco)

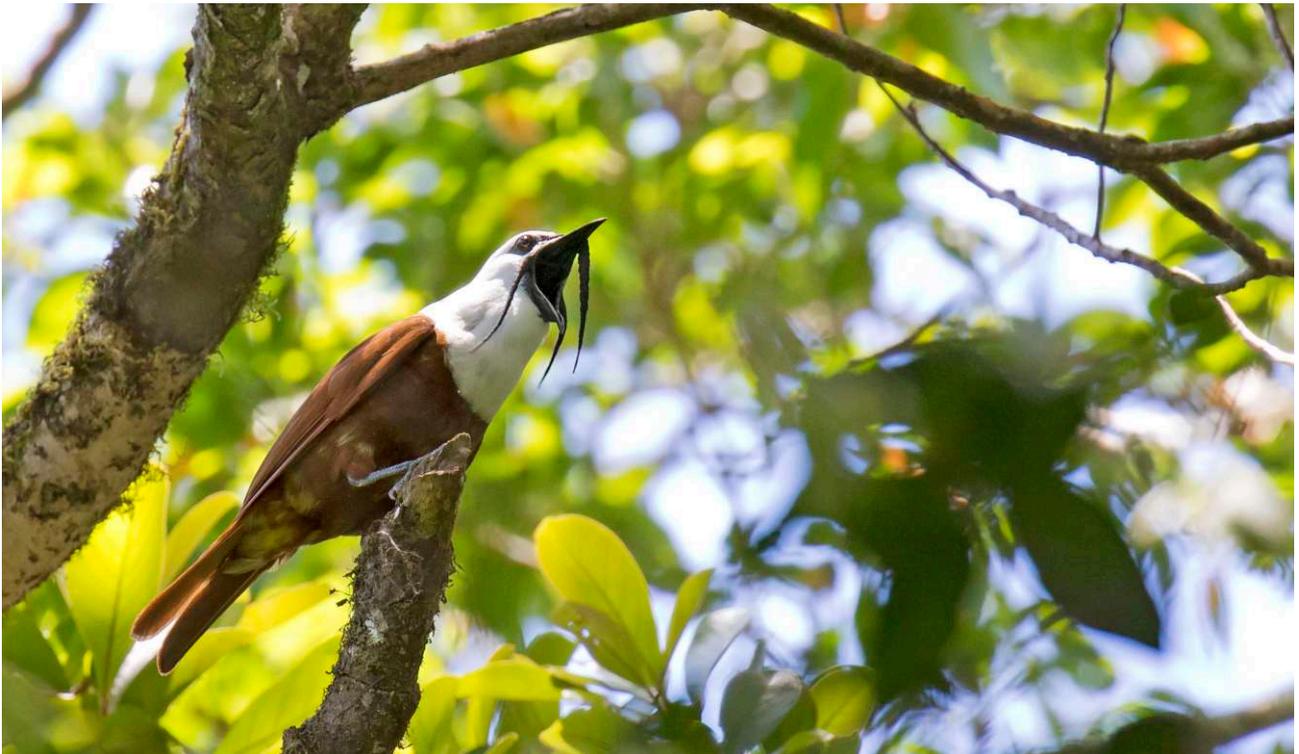
ULTIMATE COSTA RICA

29 MARCH – 20 APRIL 2016

LEADER: DANI LOPEZ-VELASCO

This year's Ultimate Costa Rica tour was, yet again, a very successful tour to this wonderful country. We focused purely in the many specialities that the country has to offer, and we managed to see a high percentage of them, despite being a very dry year, with bird activity being generally pretty poor throughout the country. Birdquest has been operating birding tours in Costa Rica for 29 years now, and we have adapted our itinerary to offer the very best that this superb destination has to offer. With its three endemic bird areas, regional endemism is a strong influence in the Costa Rican avifauna, and many of these charismatic species were among the tour highlights. Black Guan, Purplish-backed, Buff-fronted and Olive-backed Quail-Doves, 42 species of hummingbirds including the endemic Mangrove Hummingbird, the

stunning Black-crested Coquette and the delightful Snowcap, Dusky Nightjar, Sulphur-winged Parakeet, Baird's and Lattice-tailed Trogons, incredible views of several Resplendent Quetzals, Golden-naped Woodpecker, Yellow-naped Amazon, Buffy Tuftedcheek, Streak-breasted Treehunter, Ochraceous and Dark Pewees, brilliant views of male Turquoise, Snowy, Yellow-billed and Lovely Cotingas, a pair of Tody Motmots, singing Three-wattled Bellbirds, 7 species of manakins including Long-tailed Manakin, prolonged views of Wrenthrush (Zeledonia), Streak-crowned Antvireo, Blue-and-gold Tanager, White-throated Shrike-Tanager, Silvery-fronted Tapaculo, Yellow-winged Vireo, Tawny-chested and Golden-bellied Flycatchers, Zeledon's (White-fronted) Tyrannulet, Chiriqui Yellowthroat, Costa Rican Brush Finch, Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager, Spot-crowned Euphonia, Golden-browed Chlorophonia, the scarce Cabanis's Ground Sparrow (now a CR endemic after the splitting of Prevost's Ground Sparrow), Flame-throated Warbler, Sooty-faced Finch, Nicaraguan Seed Finch and Nicaraguan Grackle were but a few of these. We always make a special effort with nightbirds, and this time we saw no less than 11 species of owls, including Costa Rican Pygmy Owl, Bare-shanked and Vermiculated Screech Owls and Black-and-white, Crested and Striped Owls. Among the 20 species of wren recorded some of the favourite performers were Timberline, Northern Nightingale and Song Wrens. Additional highlights included Slaty-breasted Tinamou, excellent views of Marbled and Spotted Wood Quails, plenty of Great Curassows, Spot-bellied Bobwhite, Jabiru, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, White and Zone-tailed Hawks, Tiny Hawk, Barred Forest Falcon, the rare Yellow-breasted Crake, Uniform Crake, Sungrebe, Sunbittern, Mangrove Cuckoo, Lesser Ground Cuckoo, a pair of stunning Great Green Macaws, Spot-fronted Swift, Brown-billed Scythebill, Keel-billed Motmot, Rufous-winged and Chestnut-colored Woodpeckers, Zeledon's, Ocellated, Bare-crowned and Dull-mantled Antbirds, Black-faced Anthrush, Scaled, Ochre-breasted, Thicket and Streak-chested Antpittas, Tawny-winged Woodcreeper, Pale-vented Thrush, Grey-throated Leaf-tosser, tiny Black-capped Pygmy Tyrant, Black-and-yellow Phainoptila, exquisite Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher, Panamanian Flycatcher, Green Shrike-Vireo, all five nightingale-thrushes and Rufous-browed Tyrannulet.



We had unbeatable views of several stonking Three-wattled Bellbirds. (DLV)

A well-seasoned – most had already been to Costa Rica before!- and enthusiastic group met early in the morning at our hotel in the outskirts of San Jose, and soon we were on our way up to Volcán Irazú. First target we looked for was the retiring Buffy-crowned Wood Partridge at our usual stake out, but even though we searched hard for them, the birds were not showy at all and we only heard them a couple of times up in

the gully. While looking for them we came across a vocal pair of Resplendent Quetzals, which after a bit of playback eventually showed very well. A great way to start the tour! Supporting cast here included Fiery-throated Hummingbird, Acorn Woodpecker, Flame-throated Warbler and a Black-cheeked Warbler in the bamboo. A bit further on we saw a Red-tailed Hawk of the resident subspecies and a couple of Mourning Doves perched on wires. We also had close looks at a few Sooty Thrushes and a pair of Mountain Elaenias. Higher up we birded the paramo where there were numerous displaying Volcano Hummingbirds. Fortunately, it didn't take long to find some Volcano Juncos on the road. Timberline Wren, our other main target here, took a bit of a search before eventually posing for photos just a few feet from us. Some of the other high altitude specialities we enjoyed in the paramo included Mountain Thrush, Large-footed Finch, Slaty Flowerpiercer and Sooty-capped Bush Tanager. After a pleasant lunch, we moved down in elevation to bird a vegetable plantation (chayote squash), in order to look for the scarce Cabanis's Ground Sparrow, a Costa Rica endemic after recently being split off from Prevost's Ground Sparrow. After just a few minutes, and in spite of the heat, we found a pair of these lovely sparrows, which gave very good views as they fed quietly on the track. Other birds in the area included our first of many Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds, Steely-vented Hummingbird, Blue-diademed Motmot, Black Phoebe, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Brown Jays, Plain Wren, a few north american wood warblers, including Tennessee, American Yellow, Chestnut-sided and Mourning Warblers, a single Tropical Parula, our first Montezuma Oropendolas doing their crazy displays, White-eared Ground Sparrow, Golden-hooded Tanager, three species of saltators (Greyish, Black-headed and Buff-throated), a few Variable Seedeaters and a pair of Blue-black Grassquits. Then we continued our journey to the foothills of the Talamanca Mountains at Rancho Naturalista. Once we arrived and were welcomed by Liz, our wonderful host, we went straight down with our excellent local guide Harry to the "hummingbird pools", where in addition to seeing Green Hermit, White-necked Jacobin, a cracking male Snowcap, Violet-crowned Woodnymph, Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer and Purple-crowned Fairy all coming to bathe, we also saw an admirable selection of forest passerines that included a Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser (an important species, now that the birds in South America have been split off as Dusky Leaf-tosser), Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner, Ochre-bellied and Slaty-capped Flycatchers, both Swainson's and Wood Thrushes, White-ruffed and White-collared Manakins, Golden-crowned and Kentucky Warblers, Orange-billed Sparrow, Red-throated Ant Tanager and Carmiol's Tanagers.



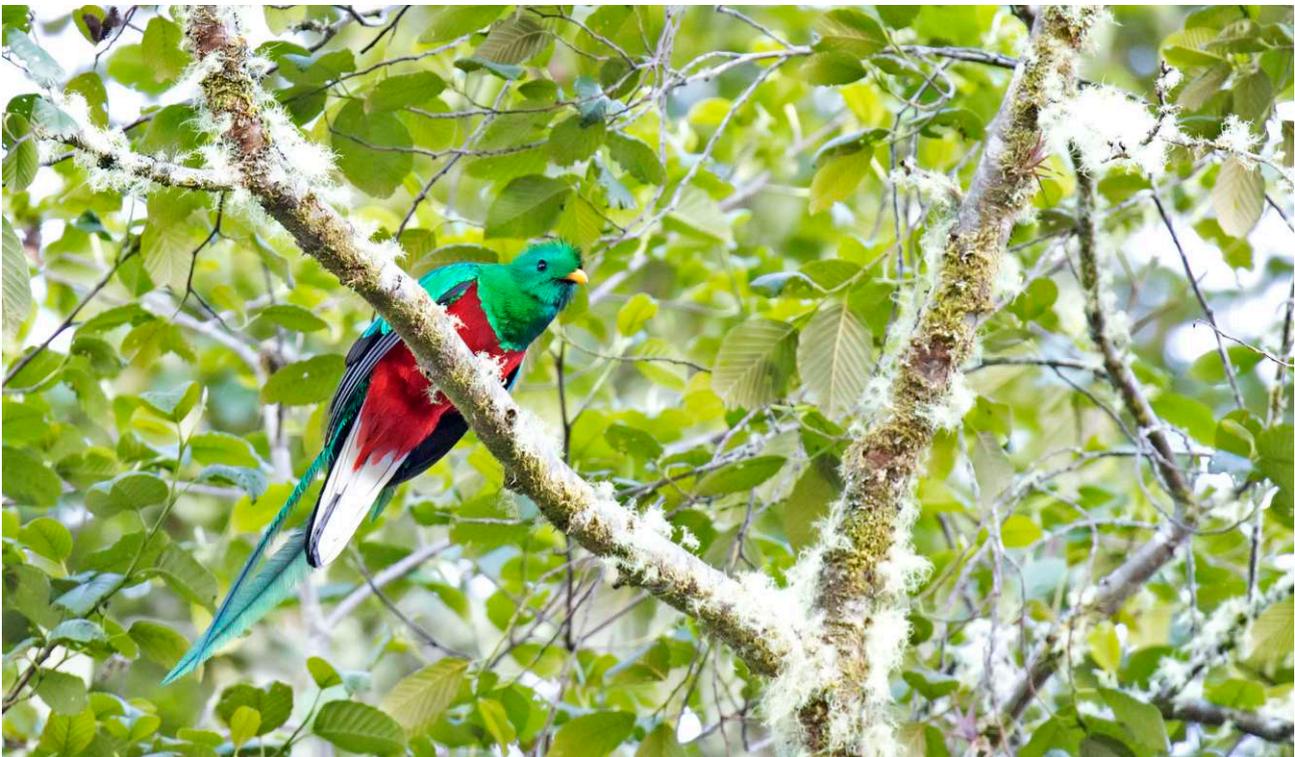
Two highland species, Timberline Wren and the delightful Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher. (DLV)

Our pre-dawn start the next morning saw us making our way down to the moth lamp. The activity of moth-savvy birds taking advantage of the easy pickings wasn't as good as in previous years, but nevertheless we managed to see a good selection of species, including Cocoa Woodcreeper, Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner, Plain Antvireo, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Red-throated Ant Tanager, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, White-breasted Wood Wren and Kentucky Warbler, which all made many visits, even coming out into the open on occasion. Our main target here, the localized near-endemic Tawny-chested Flycatcher, played hide and seek for a while, never coming to the moth trap, but after hearing its distinctive song coming from a bamboo stand not far, we finally got good views of a pair. Pressure off! We then walked fairly briskly towards the

forest, where one of Rancho's specialties, White-crowned Manakin, proved easy to find, with a displaying male seen very well on its lek. We also had some mixed flocks here, which held plenty of new birds. Additions to our list during the walk included Crested Guan, Black-throated Trogon, Squirrel Cuckoo, Plain Xenops, Russet Antshrike, Checker-throated and Slaty Antwrens, a showy Dull-mantled Antbird, Yellow-Olive Flatbill, Lesser Greenlet, Olive-backed and Tawny-capped Euphonias, Black-striped Sparrows, Chestnut-headed Oropendola and a variety of tanagers, including White-shouldered and Speckled. Having seen our main targets in the forest, we returned to the lodge. While having breakfast in the veranda, we had good bird activity in the feeders, with Gray-headed Chachalacas and Montezuma Oropendolas coming in for the bananas along with Blue-gray, Palm and lovely Golden-hooded Tanagers and Baltimore Orioles, as well as cracking Green Honeycreepers. A pair of stunning Keel-billed Toucans was scoped in a nearby cecropia tree, together with some Collared Aracaris. The hummingbird show was pretty good, and we were happy to add Green-breasted Mango to our list. Afterwards, we packed up and said goodbye to our hosts to visit a couple of nearby birding spots, our first of which came up trumps for the unassuming but localized and easy to miss White-throated Flycatcher, which after some searching gave good views in the scope. Next, we walked down to the river where we had brilliant views of a Sunbittern, even showing its striking wing pattern. We also saw a Fasciated Tiger Heron, a brief Louisiana Waterthrush and pair of Bay Wrens at this spot. Then, we continued our journey back towards Cartago, where we had lunch before making our way up the Panamerican highway. We encountered little traffic along the way and soon we were once again in the highlands enjoying its splendid avifauna rich in regional endemics, the first one being a confiding Black Guan sitting in a tree by the road. We then kept going, and immediately upon stepping off the bus into the refreshing mountain air we enjoyed one of the country's best hummingbird spectacles with dozens of Fiery-throated and Admirable (split from Magnificent) Hummingbirds crowded around several feeders at nearly arm's length. Pulling ourselves away from this hummerfest we began our afternoon excursion. Almost immediately I heard the characteristic call of the rare Ochraceous Pewee, a highland forest near-endemic that most groups miss, and within seconds we had it in the bins. We enjoyed terrific views of this flycatcher; sitting pretty low down, until a stupid and rude landowner forced us, without any reason, to leave. Anyway, with the pewee under the belt we had one more target in the mind for the afternoon. A species that every birder coming to Costa Rica has on its wish list: the charismatic, and enigmatic, Wrenthrush (or Zeledonia), a renowned skulker. We heard its distinctive, high-pitched call down in the bamboo, and after some careful positioning we played its tape. The bird was pretty shy and only a couple of us glimpsed it. We would try somewhere else later on, no worries. However, a big bonus here came in form of the showiest Silvery-fronted Tapaculo I've ever seen, showing exceedingly well to everyone. A pair of Black-and-yellow Phainoptilas was found near the parking lot as well, and not far we also located a male Golden-browed Chlorophonia, while Black-billed Nightingale-Thrushes hopped around in the garden. We stayed at this great place until dusk, and with the help of my friend, and owner, Jorge Serrano, we managed to secure excellent views of the two main nightbird species, both Dusky Nightjar and the sought-after Bare-shanked Screech Owl. The owl was, let's put it this way, a bit too responsive, actually hitting my face with its wings and talons once I played the tape... Anyway, no harm to any of us, and brilliant views, which is the important thing! After such a great afternoon we headed towards our excellent hotel down in the Savegre valley, where we had a sumptuous dinner.

Early morning at Hotel de Montaña Savegre is magic for any birder to wake up to, and today was no exception, as clear skies greeted us at dawn. The lovely gardens and numerous birds make for quite an impression. The most common birds included Flame-coloured Tanagers and Acorn Woodpeckers, Slaty Flowerpiercers, Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush and Blue-and-white Swallow, while the hummingbird feeders attracted endemic Grey-tailed Mountaingems and Stripe-tailed and Volcano Hummingbirds, amongst others. Nearby, a Dark Pewee posed nicely in the scope, but the highlight was undoubtedly a pair of Spotted Wood Quails seen very well walking on the forest floor. Other interesting birds noted included Yellow-winged and Brown-capped Vireos, Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher, Melodious Blackbird, Chestnut Capped Brush Finch and Yellow-thighed Finch. After breakfast, we were driven up to the lodge's impressive Los Robles forest reserve named for the beautiful forest of oaks. Amidst the oak trees festooned with moss and bromeliads, where Black-faced Solitaires sang their beautiful, fluty and ethereal songs, we had a bit of a wait for the formerly reliable Silvery-throated Jays, but there was no sign of them. The birding was, overall, pretty quiet – something we experienced during the whole tour-, due to various reasons, one being that we were a bit late

in the season and most of the birds were either nesting or with chicks, and the other being the eye-catching drought taking place all over the country for the last few years-. However, we still connected with a good range of interesting species, including heard-only Buff-fronted Quail-Dove, a male Resplendent Quetzal, a male Collared Trogon, several Blue-throated Toucanets, some Black-cheeked and Flame-throated Warblers, as well as a good mixed flock containing our only Buffy Tuftedcheeks of the trip, numerous cute Ruddy Treerunners, Spotted Barbtail, Lineated Foliage-gleaner, Spot-crowned Woodcreeper, Ochraceous Wren, Black-throated Green and Golden-winged Warblers, Spangle-cheeked and Silver-throated Tanagers and Sooty-capped Bush Tanager, amongst others. The once faithful pair of Costa Rican Pygmy Owls that have been nesting in the area for years were, apparently, not breeding at the usual spot this season. Nevertheless we spent some time hanging around the area, but no owls were on show, although we found a pair of Elegant Euphonias. Our walk continued along the lovely mountain stream, highlighted by a smart and very confiding Collared Redstart, which put on a great show. Flycatchers were also in evidence here, with Mistletoe Tyrannulet and Northern Tufted, Yellowish and Black-capped Flycatchers all being seen. A single Black-faced Solitaire showed superbly, as did a pair of Tooth-billed (Highland Hepatic) Tanagers. During lunch we were distracted by some flocks of Sulphur-winged Parakeets, which were eventually scoped in some trees, while Swallow-tailed Kites soared overhead. In the afternoon we decided to return to the same area, in order to look for Costa Rican Pygmy Owl, but the bird refused to show.



Male Resplendent Quetzal. One of the most beautiful birds in the world. (DLV)

Early next morning we went back to the Cerro de la Muerte and Providencia area, with a few targets in mind. Several stops at favoured locations didn't produce the hoped-for Black-thighed Grosbeak, but we obtained absolutely cracking views for everyone of Wrenthrush, even sitting on the track! We spent most of the morning searching for the unpredictable Silvery-throated Jay, but in spite of all of our efforts, none were heard or seen. However, we had an excellent bonus when a calling Costa Rican Pygmy Owl –which by now was thought to be “gone”- was eventually found by Denzil sitting in a huge oak tree, allowing for terrific scope views. As the morning went on, bird activity slowed down, but a very responsive Streak-breasted Treehunter gave good views. We carried on and had lunch surrounded by lots of Fiery-throated and Admirable Hummingbirds, and then continued our journey down in elevation into the foothills of the Chirripo region above San Isidro. Our first port of call was a certain spot near San Isidro, where after a bit of scanning under the afternoon sun, and surrounded by lots of noisy people working in some building construction, we located our target: a stunning male Turquoise Cotinga. We had nice scope views of this most-wanted and brilliant

species, while nearby we had good looks at a couple of Pearl Kites at their nest. We then moved on to a patch of flowering eucalyptus trees, but unfortunately there were not as many hummers on attendance as expected. Still, we eventually saw a couple of Snowy-bellied Hummingbird, as well as various Baltimore Orioles, Tennessee Warblers and Bananaquits. Some late afternoon birding in the hotel garden was quite productive, with Scaly-breasted Hummingbird, Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush, Rufous-breasted Wren, Grey-headed Tanager, Olivaceous Piculet and Streaked Saltator all being new for us. Some owling after dinner was successful, with point-blank views of a Tropical Screech Owl, and then, around midnight, a Mottled Owl sitting outside the leader's cabin.



The rare Ochraceous Pewee showed better than in any of my previous trips. (DLV)

Next morning we started off with some more enjoyable early morning birding at Talari. The grounds of the hotel were, as usual, very birdy, and we still saw some new birds, including our first Fiery-billed Aracaris, before heading off to Los Cusingos, the home of the late ornithological legend, Dr. Alexander Skutch. On the journey we watched a pair of Tropical Mockingbirds feeding by the road. Upon arriving at Los Cusingos we had a look around the garden first, but unfortunately no White-crested Coquettes were attending the verbain flowers. We soon entered the forest and hit the trails, but things were very quiet. Los Cusingos is a great place for manakins, and even though they were not actively displaying, we still managed to see Blue-crowned, Orange-collared and Red-capped Manakins. A calling male Baird's Trogon gave itself up at the first attempt, and a pair of stonking Pale-billed Woodpeckers, with their bright crimson heads, showed exceedingly well. Another key bird here, Tawny-winged Woodcreeper, obliged, and Eye-ringed Flatbill, Rufous Piha, Chestnut-backed Antbird and Golden-crowned Spadebill were also logged. We then continued our long journey, stopping for lunch en route, before we arrived at Esquinas Rainforest Lodge to get settled into this wonderful hotel.

The next morning at Esquinas we took advantage of the good weather to go out for some owling. We spent some time chasing around a pair of Spectacled Owls around the lodge garden, but they refused to show. Afterwards, we had some coffee before going down one of the trails where we had great success in seeing a family group of the endemic Black-cheeked Ant Tanager, a species confined to the Osa Peninsula and surroundings. A showy Black-faced Anthrush performed brilliantly on the trail, and we also enjoyed very good views of a couple of Great Tinamous walking quietly in the forest. A male Charming Hummingbird was

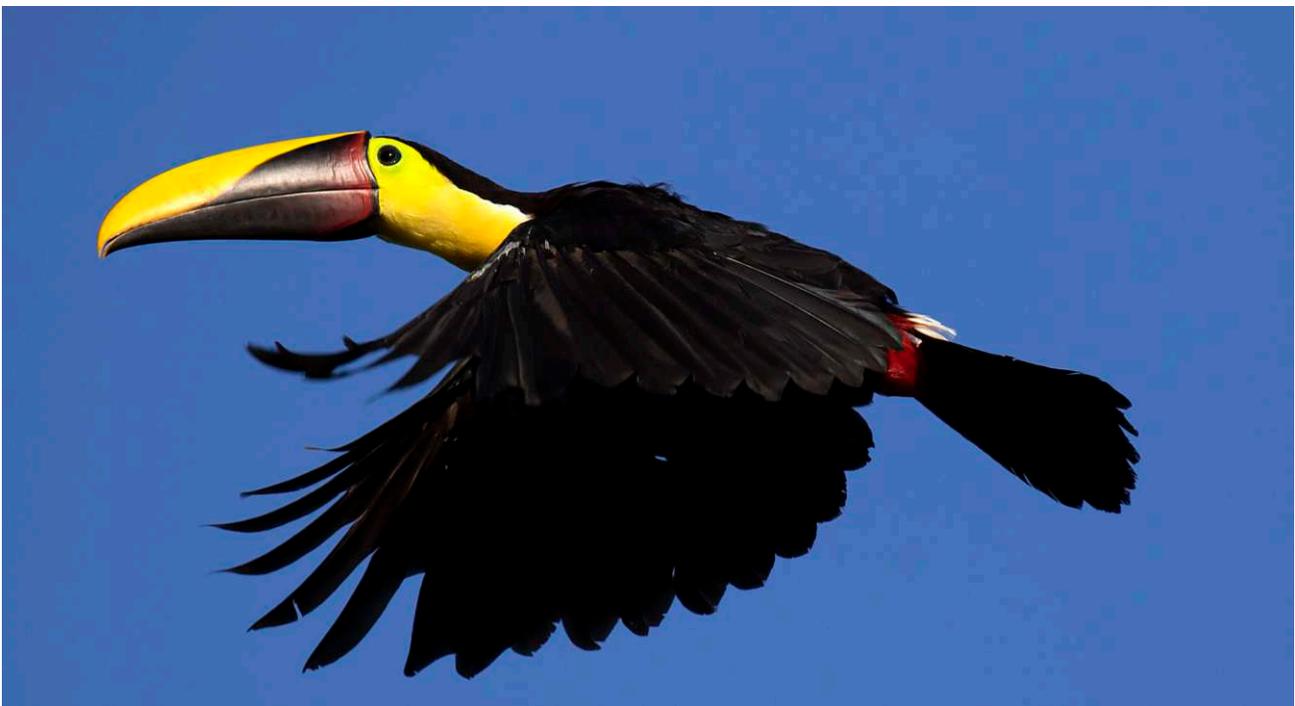
seen feeding on the verbain flowers, together with a Violet-headed Hummingbird, while a pair of Golden-naped Woodpeckers were also scoped high up in a large cecropia tree. One of the highlights of the morning was undoubtedly the tame Northern Royal Flycatcher seen nesting in the garden, although it never showed its crest spread out. Back in the forest, noisy Scarlet-rumped Caciques eventually revealed their distinctive rumps – usually difficult to see-, and a male Baird’s Trogons showed nicely. Singing Riverside Wrens were lured out of their thick home, and we also found a nesting Black-striped Woodcreeper. On the downside, mixed flocks were notable for their absence in the forest, and overall bird activity was very poor. However, we managed to find our target Rufous-winged Woodpecker, Western Woodhaunter and Spot-crowned Euophonia. Other species such as Black-throated and Gartered Trogons, Short-billed Pigeon, Grey-chested Dove, Tawny-crowned Greenlet, Black-hooded and Russet Anthshrikes, Black-tailed Myobius and Northern Bentbill, were also seen during the course of the morning, and we also caught up with the tiny Slate-headed Tody Flycatcher. A pair of fantastic Great Curassows were seen crossing the road and admired at length, and Costa Rican Swifts flew overhead, showing their distinctive white rumps. In the afternoon, we went birding to the open country of La Gamba, but we got severely rained out, and after waiting in vain for an hour, we came back to the hotel. Fortunately for us, the weather cleared after dinner, and our owling session was very successful. We spotlighted a cracking Striped Owl perched in a tree and then in a wire, as well as a very confiding Tropical Screech Owl. On the way back, several Common Pauraques were seen sitting on the road.



Mottled Owl. (DLV)

In the early morning, way before dawn, we set off for Rincon in order to seek out Yellow-billed Cotinga, one of the most localized of the south Pacific slope regional endemics presently classified as endangered. This year we were again in luck with the “white bird”, and it didn’t take more than a few minutes to find one after stepping out of the bus. During the course of the morning we scoped no less than 6 birds – including a very close male - as well as a male Turquoise Cotinga. Terrific! Here we also had our first Scarlet Macaws of the trip –always a very welcome sight-, as well as small numbers of Gray-breasted Martins and Mangrove Swallows; close up views of a Bronzy Hermit, Ringed, Amazon and Green Kingfishers, a White-necked Puffbird perched in a dead tree, some Fiery-billed Aracaris, Smoky-brown Woodpecker, two pairs of the

recently split Northern Mealy Amazon, both Masked and Black-crowned Tityras, Plain Wren and a Prothonotary Warbler. Next on the agenda was the endemic Mangrove Hummingbird, another endangered species, mostly due to little habitat remaining and continuing mangrove clearance. The species has a patchy distribution along the Pacific Coast, is very local. We tried at our usual stakeout, but after a lengthy wait the hummer only paid a very brief visit, and most of us didn't even glimpse it. While waiting, a Tiny Hawk flew in and sat up on a branch for a while, allowing for excellent views. So given the hummingbirds were not showing, we followed the tip of a local friend, and drove to another site. This proved to be a good move, as it didn't take long to get walk-away views of a perched male. After that we stopped for some well-deserved juices, and carried on towards Las Cruces, our next venue, stopping en route to watch some Crested Oropendolas — a recent coloniser from Panama-. We arrived in good time for a pleasant afternoon excursion around San Vito where our target, Chiriqui Yellowthroat (split from Masked), ended up showing nicely, after being quiet for a while. Afterwards, we had great success in seeing another important southern speciality, the scarce Costa Rican Brush Finch (split from Stripe-headed). With still some light left, we drove a short distance to our accommodation at Las Cruces Field Station, where a short wait at a flowering tree gave us yet another key near-endemic, the lovely White-tailed Emerald. Pleased with our success, we had some dinner and went to bed.



Chestnut-mandibled Toucan, part of the Yellow-throated Toucan complex. (DLV)

We spent all of the next morning walking around the Wilson Botanical Gardens enjoying good weather, although the birding in the forest was, again, very quiet, with not a single mixed flock found. Early morning flocks of Blue-headed and Brown-hooded Parrots were seen from the station veranda, while some impressive Crested Guans were seen preening on a nearby tree. A pair of eye-level Scarlet-thighed Dacnis was most welcome too. In addition to the amazing variety of botanical specimens, the garden has a wonderful mix of forest edge as well as forest trails. During the course of the morning we obtained good views of a White-whiskered Puffbird, sitting motionless in a branch, not far from a Rufous-tailed Jacamar, while our first Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher was found building its nest by the river. A pair of very vocal Barred Forest Falcons was glimpsed, tiny Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrants, uttering their distinctive calls, were eventually seen, a pair of Buff-rumped Warblers showing their contrasting rumps, scorted us along the trail, and several White-throated Thrushes were feeding on the ground. We also tried to lure into view a group of calling Marbled Wood Quails, but they had other plans and never came close enough. Before lunch, we waited at some verbain flowers that sometimes attract White-crested Coquette, but none came, with Garden Emerald being the only hummer of note. In the afternoon we made our way north, towards Carara, driving

along the Pacific coast. The drive was rather uneventful, and we arrived in the late afternoon to our hotel, where a short exploration gave us some common birds.



The bizarre-looking Boat-billed Heron. (DLV)

We spent most of the next day at Carara National Park, which is surely one of the best national parks for birds and birding in the Americas. Before leaving our hotel we had already enjoyed terrific looks at a very responsive pair of Spectacled Owls. Our visit to the reserve itself gave us plenty of highlights. A cracking Streak-chested Antpitta, singing close to the trail, performed nicely, and even better, a pair of Marbled Wood Quails – a very secretive and usually difficult species – were easily coaxed into view, almost charging at us at only stopping when they were about to hit us. A very confident Great Tinamou was seen, and further views of a couple of Black-faced Anthruses were welcome. The scarce Stub-tailed Spadebill gave us a hard time, as we spent considerable time and effort chasing a couple of calling birds. Dusky Antbirds skulked in the tangles, and Riverside, Rufous-backed and Rufous-breasted Wrens were as abundant as usual with a few showing well. Manakins are common in Carara and included a splendid male Long-tailed, our first of the trip. Other birds seen included Slaty-tailed and Baird's Trogons, Hoffman's Woodpecker, White-whiskered Puffbird, Tawny-winged and Northern Barred Woodcreepers, Black-hooded Antshrike, Dot-winged Antwren, Eye-ringed Flatbill, Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher and a heard-only Southern Nightingale Wren. In the afternoon we set off on our mangrove boat tour along the Rio Tarcoles estuary. We started upriver in the marsh and pasture habitat where we had enjoyed close-up views of various herons as well as many Northern Jacanas, together with our first Turquoise-browed Motmot. As usual here, the number of American Crocodiles was at times pretty impressive, particularly given their immense size (some of them at least 6 meters or 18 feet). Eventually we arrived in the estuary's mangrove habitat where we enjoyed fine views of several Roseate Spoonbills and American White Ibis. Magnificent Frigatebirds soared overhead, and our good luck continued with the mangrove specialities, with Mangrove Vireo, Panamanian and Northern Scrub Flycatchers and Mangrove Warblers (split from Yellow) all secured under the bag, while 2 perched Plumbeous Kites were also seen. We had some great encounters with Boat-billed Herons and admired their strange bills at very close range, while a pair of Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts were seen flying over the river numerous times. Parrots were abundant, and watching a few Scarlet Macaws flying to roost in the mangroves in the nice late afternoon light was a highlight. We also connected with our first Yellow-naped Amazons, roosting in a tree,

and Barbara found a Zone-tailed Hawk. Other birds seen included our only Muscovy Duck of the tour, Peregrine Falcon, Yellow-headed Caracara and some Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. On the way back there were lots of Lesser Nighthawks leaving their roost in the mangroves, and gave close views.



Close-up of a cute Golden-crowned Spadebill. (DLV)

We spent a couple of hours in the early morning at Carara, trying again for Stub-tailed Spadebill, but our considerable efforts proved fruitless, with a single Ruddy Quail-Dove seen. The remaining of the morning was spent in some dry habitat to the north, and was highlighted by a pair of Lesser Ground Cuckoos that gave prolonged, frame-filling scope views just next to the road. What a gorgeous species! A covey of Spot-bellied Bobwhites sought for some shade and both Banded Wren and Olive Sparrow were pretty easy to see along this stretch of road. Other notable birds seen during the morning included Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Grey Hawk, White-lored Gnatcatcher, Black-headed Trogon, Turquoise-browed Motmot, Rose-throated Becard, our first White-throated Magpie Jays and many Stripe-headed Sparrows. After lunch, our journey took us up the road to Monteverde arriving in good time to check in to our hotel and then visit a nearby patch of evergreen woodland where our primary target was Chiriqui Quail-Dove. We had never missed it at this spot before, but for some reason and in spite of all afternoon walking back and forth along the trails and checking its favourite areas, we didn't have a sniff. Birds seen here included Rufous-and-white Wren and Rufous-capped Warbler, while a male Canivet's Emerald was found near the hotel.

Early the next morning after some coffee we left for Santa Elena reserve. A two-hour foray into the beautiful cloud forest gave us some quality highland species. A singing Buff-fronted Quail-Dove performed, and after some playback eventually came into view, much to everyone's relief. A flock of Azure-hooded Jays entertained us and a Hairy Woodpecker was new for us. We also had sightings of Black Guan, Red-faced Spinetail, Barred Becard, Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush, as well as Collared Whitestart, Black-eared (split from Three-Striped) Warbler, Ochraceous Wren and Spangle-cheeked Tanager, and audio records of Three-wattled Bellbird. We then returned to the reserve headquarters for a breakfast of traditional gallo pinto, eggs and coffee. Afterwards we set off to San Gerardo, loading our small bags and cases of beer onto Giovanni's quad-bike, and started walking down the jeep track. Birding was slow at best, and we didn't find any mixed flocks, the only bird of note being a singing Zeledon's Antbird. The weather was completely clear which made for very good viewing of the impressive Arenal Volcano as we approached the station. There are many great places in Costa Rica, but this is by far my favourite one. The birding is (or right now might be more

accurate to say it used to be... let's see what happens in the future) excellent, the scenery breath-taking and the quietness and relaxing atmosphere just fantastic. You can just sit down on the veranda and see displaying bellbirds while having coffee: tropical birding at its best! The station hosts Giovanni and Ivannia took really good care of us during our visit with Ivannia's tasty home cooking keeping us strong for all the walking we did up and down the hilly trails. We arrived in time for lunch and right afterwards we decided to get into the forest to look for Bare-necked Umbrellabird, what used to be star bird of the area. For some reason, they have become very rare in recent times, with no lekking males in attendance for the last couple of years, and only the odd sighting of a bird every now and then. Cutting a trail all the way down to the perch wasn't probably a good idea, but there must be other reasons for their decline here. Noticeable weather changes in the area (I haven't had a single rain drop in my last 3 visits there), are definitely affecting the local avifauna, and, for example, what used to be one of the best dawn chorus in the country has become, at least in recent years, so poor that it's sad to even think about it. I can only hope the umbrellabirds have moved higher up or to some other more remote area, as a couple of recent sightings seem to point out. During the following two days we spent most of the time inside the forest, from dawn to dusk, working very, very hard and looking non-stop for the umbrellabird at past favoured places, but unfortunately there was no sign of them. We didn't even hear it calling once, so it was clear that the birds just weren't there.



Breathtaking views from San Gerardo Field Station, with Arenal volcano in the back. (DLV)

Apart from this disappointment, the birding was, overall, painfully slow, and most of the specialities played hard to see. However, eventually we managed to track down almost all of the main targets. The stonking Three-wattled Bellbird wasn't straightforward in San Gerardo, being pretty quiet this year and calling from non-visible perches, but in the end one was seen from the veranda, albeit distantly and briefly. So better views desired. A delightful Ochre-breasted Antpitta showed ridiculously well in some bamboo near a stream, and the rare Zeledon's (White-fronted) Tyrannulet, first located by call, was found in the canopy of a tree. A singing Pale-vented Thrush gave multiple good views and was a lifer for most, but on the other hand, after spending considerable time with two different calling Highland Tinamous, which refused to come to the tape as they sometimes do, only the leader laid eyes on them. The striking Blue-and-gold Tanager showed very

well feeding in a big tree at a clearing, and several restless Rufous-browed Tyrannulets were also found. We heard a number of Purplish-backed Quail-Doves, but they were unresponsive and not everyone managed to get views. Mixed flocks of insectivores inside the forest were thin on the ground, but contained a good variety of birds including Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner, Slaty-capped and Olive-striped Flycatchers and Slaty Antwrens. A pair of brilliant Brown-billed Scythebills eventually gave themselves up, several Great Curassows were seen along the trails, and a Grey-throated Leafosser was found in the nest, located in a bank. Other birds seen in the forest and in more open areas around the station included "Orange-bellied" Trogon (nowadays considered to be merely a colour morph of Collared Trogon), the endemic Coppery-headed Emerald, Golden-olive Woodpecker, Song Wren, Golden-bellied Flycatcher, Band-backed, Stripe-breasted and Black-throated Wrens, Chestnut-capped Brush Finch, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush, Slaty Spinetail, Song Wren, Crimson-collared Tanager, White-naped Brush Finch, a Red-headed Barbet seen by Mike, and Olive-crowned Yellowthroat. From the station veranda, with its spectacular view of the volcano, we saw American Swallow-tailed Kite, King Vulture and Short-tailed Hawk.



Mangrove Hummingbird, an endangered Costa Rica endemic. (DLV)

After our adventures down at San Gerardo we returned to Monteverde. On the hike up we kept searching for Sooty-faced Finch, another key bird here that so far had eluded us. And, as luck would have it (well, in the end it's all about persistence and not giving up) at the last promising site, we had a response, and after a tense wait, the finch popped up of the thick riverside vegetation a couple of times. Excellent! In the afternoon we paid another visit to the Chiriqui Quail-Dove place, but again we drew a blank.

Next morning we went, yet again, in search of the quail-dove, but they were surprisingly elusive this season and our efforts didn't pay off. Afterwards we checked a couple of nearby reserves in order to improve our views of Three-wattled Bellbird, and at the second site visited we scored, with smashing looks at three different males at very close quarters. What a bird and what a call! We then headed over to the hummingbird gallery of Michael and Patricia Fogden. Here the show was just as good as ever with hummingbirds of all sizes and colours. We spent plenty of time here observing their differences and getting to know these amazing creatures. The usual suspects were all present with Green Hermit, Green Violetear, Magenta-throated Woodstar, Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, Coppery-headed Emerald, Purple-throated Mountaingem, Green-crowned Brilliant and Violet Sabrewing. After an hour admiring these marvellous birds, we then drove down from Monteverde towards the Pacific coast. In the late afternoon we paid a short visit to an area of coastal saltpans and mangroves. Good numbers of waders and terns were present, and as this was pretty

much the only time devoted to this kind of birding on the whole tour – we were focused in the country specialities and not in building a big list, which meant that we missed quite a few widespread coastal species – we saw a bunch of new species, including Wilson’s Plover, Short-billed Dowitcher, Semipalmated, Least, much-appreciated Stilt and Western Sandpipers, good numbers of Franklin’s and Laughing Gulls, Black Skimmers and Royal, Cabot’s (split from Sandwich) and a single Common Tern, as well as some Orange-fronted Parakeets in the nearby trees. We also tried hard for Rufous-necked Wood Rail, which ended up responding to our playback very close to our position, but in spite of all of our efforts, we failed to see the bird, which remained invisible in the thick mangroves. Afterwards we drove to our next destination, the wonderful Hacienda Solimar.



Jabiru standing tall at Solimar. (DLV)

We spent the whole morning birding the various habitats of this extensive ranch, led by Demetrio, an excellent and very knowledgeable local who lives at Solimar. The number of waterbirds present was incredible, and the few water sources available held literally tens of thousands of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, together with Blue-winged Teals, a family of impressive Jabirus, lots of Wood Storks, American White Ibises, Roseate Spoonbills, Bare-throated Tiger Herons, Great Blue, Tricoloured and Little Blue Herons, Anhingas, Limpkins and Double-striped Thick-knees, to name a few. In the raptor front we had good views of Western Osprey, Snail Kite, the uncommon White-tailed Hawk and Peregrine Falcon. Around the lodge we saw a few Yellow-naped Amazons, as well as two roosting Pacific Screech Owls. Grasshopper Sparrow is a very uncommon species in Costa Rica, so we were pleased to see a couple of birds near the vehicle, and a Mangrove Cuckoo was a welcome addition to our list. We also explored a number of dry woodlands near the lodge where we found a number of interesting species, including Spot-bellied Bobwhite, Plain-breasted Ground Doves, Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Black-headed Trogon, Cinnamon Hummingbird, Brown-crested Flycatcher, White-throated Magpie Jay, Banded Wren, White-lored Gnatcatcher, Northern Beardless Tyrannulets, Scrub Euphonia, Grey-crowned Yellowthroat, both Spot-breasted and Streak-backed Orioles, Eastern Meadowlark, and White-collared Seedeater. An area of tall evergreen gallery forest held a calling Collared Forest Falcon that was lured into view thanks to Demetrio’s fantastic imitation of its call. We had certainly done well at this great place – usually a favourite for tour participants – and after an excellent lunch and an even better lemonade (best and most refreshing one in the world?) it was time to leave for our next

venue: Heliconias Lodge, located on the forested slopes of Tenorio Volcano, one of two dormant volcanoes in the northern section of the country that are of huge importance for a huge number of migratory forest species. We arrived in the late afternoon, and headed straight away to look for the sought-after and stunning Lovely Cotinga. After a long wait Denzil found a male in a nearby tree, and most of us got to see it before it flew off. We waited in the area until dark, but the bird didn't reappear. A perched King Vulture found by Mike was a good sight.



Yellow-crowned Night Heron. (DLV)

Next morning was spent birding the various trails around Heliconias. The rare Tody Motmot is arguably the star of the place, and unbelievably it was the very first bird we saw as we entered the forest. The bird soon flew off, but minutes later we found another pair, which showed well to everyone. With the help of a local friend, Henry, we located a cracking Crested Owl roosting in a tree, and not far from there, a Mottled Owl! A singing Green Shrike-Vireo gave prolonged views, and was a lifer for some, a singing male Blue-throated Sapphire was located over the trail, but the usual Northern Schiffornis was quiet this morning. We were lucky in coming across a pretty large antswarm, and we spent some time admiring one of the major wildlife spectacles in the neotropics. Good numbers of antbirds were in attendance, including several stunning Ocellated, as well as plenty of Spotted and Bicolored and a single Zeledon's, together with a few Ruddy, Northern Barred and Spotted Woodcreepers, all taking advantage of the easy prey that ran away trying to escape from the ants. Given the number of birds it was a bit disappointing not having a ground-cuckoo in attendance... After lunch we paid another visit to the trails, but it was predictably quiet and we didn't see much, apart from the same antbirds. Afterwards we visited a nearby garden where, after a bit of a wait, a beautiful male Black-crested Coquette showed up and gave terrific views. Then it was time to drive towards Caño Negro, where we arrived in the dark. A quick try outside the hotel with Barbara gave us a Mottled Owl.

Next day we went on a very enjoyable boat ride, under clear skies. The marsh held numerous Neotropical Cormorants, Anhingas, three Lesser Scaup, Northern Jacana, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, Collared Plovers, together with some Pectoral Sandpipers and 3 surprise American Golden Plovers, Great Blue, Little Blue, Tricolored and Green Herons, Snowy and Great Egrets, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Purple Gallinules,

Roseate Spoonbill, Glossy and Green Ibis and Limpkins. A few Boat-billed Herons were found at their roost and pairs of Gray-necked Wood Rails were seen at close quarters, garrulous Finsch's (Crimson-fronted) and some brief Olive-throated Parakeets crowded amidst the brilliant orange flowering *Erythrina* trees. One of our main targets, the localized Nicaraguan Grackle, showed superbly, and Sungrebes were everywhere this year, with no less than 5 birds seen right next to our boat, with one even showing its amazing feet. However, bird of the day was undoubtedly the super skulking Yellow-breasted Crake that, after some careful positioning by the group and a lot of patience, eventually came out to a clear spot in response to playback and gave the best possible views. Large numbers of migrating raptors, mostly Swainson's and Broad-winged Hawks and Turkey Vultures, were seen too, while a single Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture was seen patrolling the marsh. Amongst the passerines, a singing Black-throated Wren was coaxed into view. After a late breakfast, we visited a nearby spot where two of Caño Negro's specialties, Grey-headed Dove and Spot-breasted Wren, both showed nicely. Then it was time to load up the bus and head towards our next birding destination, Arenal Volcano. On the way, we stopped at some promising habitat to look for the near-endemic Nicaraguan Seed Finch, and in no time we found a couple of males of this prized finch, showing their massive bills. Upon reaching la Fortuna, we decided to check a recently discovered place that was supposed to be good for the rarely seen Uniform Crake. We went on a short walk through good-looking habitat, and were ultimately rewarded with good views of a pair of crakes. Then it was just a short drive to the amazing Arenal Observatory Lodge, our home for the next two nights. Those keen enough to look for owls went out with the leader after dinner, and fortunately the usual Black-and-white Owl put on a great show.



Black-and-white Owl. (DLV)

The birding in the extensive hotel property was very good next day. One of the goodies of the area, the skulking Thicket Antpitta, proved easier to see than usual, and was in the bag well before breakfast! The localized Keel-billed Motmot was at our regular stake out, and obliged at length. We heard the lovely and charismatic song of the retiring Northern Nightingale Wren a few times, and some of us managed to see this inveterate skulker. Mixed flocks gave us some good birds, notably so a female White-throated Shrike Tanager and a Streak-crowned Antvireo. Arenal is a great place to catch up with the uncommon Bare-crowned antbird, and this time we managed to get brief views of a male. Hummingbirds are also feature at Arenal, and amongst others, Brown Violetear and Green Thorntail were new for us. However, the most

unexpected sighting came in form of a cracking Scaled Antpitta that was foraging on the trail. And not far, a small antswarm held yet some more Ocellated, Bicolored and Spotted Antbirds in attendance, showing down to a few feet. We tried for Semiplumbeous Hawk at the same place where we saw them last year, but they weren't around. Some other birds seen in Arenal included White Hawk, a nice Sunbittern near the waterfall, Rufous Motmot, Song Wrens, Yellow Tyrannulet, a very showy Blue-black Grosbeak, Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush and Emerald Tanager. Upon leaving Arenal we visited the crane spot again, and this time the performers were a pair of White-throated Crakes that spent a good half an hour completely out in the open, just posing for photos.



We had several wonderful encounters with the striking Ocellated Antbird. (DLV)

Our final port-of-call on our annual Costa Rican odyssey is OTS La Selva, a biologist's paradise, and one of the leading tropical research facilities in the world, which also happens to be extremely birdy. As usual we found most of the bird activity around our accommodation as well as near the dining hall, with Great Curassow – possibly the easiest place in the world to see this stunning cracid?-, Crested Guan, Short-billed Pigeon, Brown-hooded Parros, Blue-chested Hummingbird, Chestnut-colored Woodpecker, numerous Keel-billed and Chestnut-mandibled Toucans, White-ringed Flycatcher, Band-backed Wren, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Eastern Kingbird, Shining Honeycreeper, Black-headed Tody Flycatcher, Plain-colored Tanager, Olive-backed Euphonia and Scarlet Tanager all seen from the station clearing. Already on our first morning, right before breakfast, we came across a Slaty-breasted Tinamou crossing the path in front of us. Snowy Cotinga – definitely one of the best birds of La Selva, and usually a fairly easy species here-, had been very elusive in the weeks prior to our arrival, so we were very happy to find a male in the clearing on our second morning. With the help of Joel, one of the local guides we enjoyed a fairly productive and educational walk through La Selva's primary forest seeing a trio of vocal Purple-throated Fruitcrows – a species that, like others that have even become locally extinct here, is getting rare in La Selva in recent years-, both Black-crowned and Fasciated Antshrikes on territory, a tiny Black-capped Pygmy Tyrant and lekking White-collared Manakins. We spent some time looking at swifts from the clearing, and amongst the common Grey-rumped we found some Spot-fronted Swifts, which showed its distinctive features well. A short foray into the forest at night gave us smashing views of Vermiculated Screech Owl, singing just a metre from us! Surely one of the highlights of our stay in La Selva was the pair of endangered Great Green Macaws that have taken up residence in a cavity near the station property. We timed our visit perfectly on our first afternoon, as we were able to first hear the macaws returning from their day spent foraging. We first saw them distantly in flight, and later had close-up views of the pair. What a great moment. On our second afternoon, we paid a visit to a

local hummingbird garden in the montane foothills where exquisite Black-bellied Hummingbirds and White-bellied Mountaingems stole the show. A walk in the nearby forest produced another (!!) Scaled Antpitta, while a pair of Black-breasted Wood Quails came very close but didn't really show. We also made a nice excursion out to Braulio Carrillo National Park. Birding is never easy there, but with patience and effort one is always rewarded with some good sightings. The Olive-backed Quail-Dove seen walking on the trail was definitely one, while excellent views of the most important trogon of the trip, Lattice-tailed, was another. We put considerable time in trying to find Black-crowned Antpitta, a species that has become very rare here, but failed to see or hear any. Mixed flocks in Braulio held Black-and-Yellow and Tawny-crested Tanagers, and a visit to some nearby flowers produced terrific views of several male Snowcaps. Afterwards we drove to San Jose, where we finished off another great tour to this fascinating country.



Great Green Macaws, above, and Scarlet Macaws, below. (DLV)





Black Guan and Collared Whitestart. (DLV)





Copper-headed Emerald and White-bellied Mountaingem. (DLV)





Flame-throated Warbler, the central American version of a Firethroat, and Great Curassow. (DLV)





Male Spotted Antbird at an antswarm. (DLV)

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 at Esquinas, Carara and La Selva.

Highland Tinamou ! *Nothocercus bonapartei* (LO) Seen at San Gerardo, but very unresponsive this year.

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

Slaty-breasted Tinamou ! *Crypturellus boucardi* Good views of this difficult tinamou at La Selva.

Grey-headed Chachalaca *Ortalis cinereiceps* Commonly seen throughout.

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens* Good numbers recorded at several sites.

Black Guan ! *Chamaepetes unicolor* Seen well at Savegre, Monteverde and San Gerardo.

Great Curassow ! *Crax rubra* A total of 23 (!!) birds recorded.

Buffy-crowned Wood Partridge ! *Dendrortyx leucophrys* (LO) Heard only, despite a lot of effort, at Irazu.

Spot-bellied Bobwhite ! *Colinus leucopogon* Seen well north of Carara and Solimar .



A confident White-throated Crake. (DLV)

Marbled Wood Quail *Odontophorus gujanensis* 2 showed down to a few feet at Carara.

Black-breasted Wood Quail ! *Odontophorus leucolaemus* Recorded at Finca Ecologica and Cataratas del Toro.

Spotted Wood Quail ! *Odontophorus guttatus* A pair seen very well at Savegre.

Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* A few seen in the Pacific lowlands.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata* One sighting.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* Seen at a few wetland sites throughout.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* Seen at Caño Negro.

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus* One seen.

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* Seen at various wetlands.

Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria* Seen well at Solimar.

Green Ibis *Mesembrinibis cayennensis* Seen at Caño Negro.

American White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* Seen at a few sites.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* Seen at Caño Negro.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* Seen at various wetlands.

Fasciated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum* One seen well near Rancho Naturalista.
Bare-throated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum* Seen at many sites throughout.
Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius* Seen well in Carara and others at Caño Negro.
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* A few birds recorded.
Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* A few at Rio Tarcoles.
Green Heron *Butorides virescens* Commonly recorded.
Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Common to abundant in open areas throughout.
Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* Good numbers at Rio Tarcoles and Caño Negro.
Great Egret (G White E) *Ardea alba* Common to abundant at all wetland sites.
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.



Marbled Wood Quail and Grey-necked Wood Rail. (DLV)

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* Commonly recorded at wetland sites.
Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* Commonly recorded on the coast.
Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* Commonly recorded on the Pacific coast.
Neotropic Cormorant (Olivaceous C) *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* Recorded throughout in small numbers.
Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* Recorded at several places.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* Common to abundant throughout.
Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* Common to abundant at most sites.
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus* A single seen well at Caño Negro.
King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa* A total of 6 birds seen.
Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Small numbers seen at several wetland and coastal sites.
Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* Recorded at many sites throughout.
Pearl Kite *Gampsonyx swainsonii* Seen near Talari.
White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus* A few noted at scattered sites.
Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus* A couple of sightings.
Tiny Hawk *Accipiter superciliosus* Great views of one at Rincon.
Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea* A few birds noted at the Rio Tarcoles.
Snail Kite *Rostrhamum sociabilis* Seen at Solimar.
Barred Hawk (Black-chested H) *Leucopternis princeps* One seen briefly at San Gerardo.



Boat-billed Heron from different angles. (DLV)

Common Black Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus* Seen along the Tarcoles river.
Grey Hawk *Buteo plagiatus* Seen at various places.
Grey-lined Hawk *Buteo nitidus* One photographed near San Vito.
White Hawk *Pseudastur albicollis* Seen well near Rincon.
Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris* Commonly recorded throughout.
Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* Large numbers of migrating birds seen heading north at Caño Negro.
Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus* A few seen at widely scattered sites.
Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus* Three birds seen.
White-tailed Hawk *Geranoaetus albicaudatus* Seen at Solimar.
Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* Large numbers migrating north, with 500+ at Caño Negro.
Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* Seen at Savegre and Irazu.

Sunbittern *Eurypyga helias* Seen well at Rancho Naturalista and Arenal.
Sungrebe *Heliornis fulica* No less than five birds seen at Cano Negro.
White-throated Crake *Laterallus albigularis* Mega views of a pair near Arenal
Rufous-necked Wood Rail *Aramides axillaris* (H) Heard very close at a mangrove sites, but never came into view.
Grey-necked Wood Rail *Aramides cajaneus* Several sightings.
Uniform Crake ! *Amaurolimnas concolor* Seen briefly at Esquinas and very well at Arenal.
Yellow-breasted Crake ! *Porzana flaviventer* This mega skulker was seen superbly at Caño Negro!
Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinicus* Seen at various places.
Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* Seen at San Vito marsh.
Limpkin *Aramus guarauna* Seen at Solimar and Caño Negro.



Tiny Hawk and Mangrove Black Hawk. (DLV)

Double-striped Thick-knee *Burhinus bistriatus* Seen at Solimar.
Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* Good numbers on the coast.
Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis* Seen at three places.
American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* Three seen well at Caño Negro.
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.
Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris* Seen at Caño Negro.
Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa* Seen at various places.

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* Seen on the coast.
Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus* Recorded at several places along the coast.
Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* Seen once.
Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* Seen twice.
Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* Seen at widely scattered sites.
Western Willet *Tringa (semipalmata) inornata* Seen along the coast.
Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* A few seen at sites throughout.
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* 10 birds seen.
Surfbird *Aphriza virgata* Seen along the coast.
Sanderling *Calidris alba* Seen on the coast.
Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* Seen on the coast.
Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* Seen on the coast.



Vermiculated Screech Owl, above, and Tropical Screech Owl, below. (DLV)

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* Common along the coast.
Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* Seen at Cano Negro and Solimar .
Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus* Seen very well along the coast.

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

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

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan* At least 100 along the coast. Good numbers!

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* Common along the coast.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* A first summer seen on the salt pans.

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

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa* Seen in the south west.

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

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

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

Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea* Seen in the highlands.

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

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura* Seen at Irazu.

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

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

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

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti* A common species in dry open habitats in the lowlands.

Blue Ground Dove *Claravis pretiosa* One sighting.



Striped Owl, above, and a pair of Spectacled Owls, below. (DLV)

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* The commonest *Leptotila* dove at sites throughout our trip.
Grey-headed Dove *Leptotila plumbeiceps* Seen very well at Caño Negro.
Grey-chested Dove ! *Leptotila cassini* Seen a few times.
Ruddy Quail Dove *Geotrygon montana* Seen very well at Carara.
Purplish-backed Quail-Dove ! *Geotrygon lawrencii* Seen at San Gerardo.
Buff-fronted Quail-Dove ! (Cost Rican Q-D) *Geotrygon costaricensis* Seen very well at Santa Elena.
Olive-backed Quail Dove ! *Leptotrygon veraguensis* This rare dove was seen well at Braulio.
Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* Common in the south-west.
Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris* Common in open habitats throughout except the south-west.
Striped Cuckoo (American S C) *Tapera naevia* (H) Heard.



Sungrebe. (DLV)

Lesser Ground Cuckoo *Morococcyx erythropygus* Two birds seen very well north of Carara.
Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* Seen in small numbers throughout.
Mangrove Cuckoo *Coccyzus minor* Seen well at Solimar .
Pacific Screech Owl ! *Megascops cooperi* A pair seen well at Solimar.
Tropical Screech Owl *Megascops choliba* Seen very well at Talari and Esquinas.
Bare-shanked Screech Owl ! *Megascops clarkia* A bird seen well at Cerro de la Muerte.
Vermiculated Screech Owl ! *Megascops vermiculatus* One seen exceedingly well at la Selva.
Mottled Owl *Strix virgata* Seen three times.
Black-and-white Owl *Strix nigrolineata* Seen very well at Arenal.
Crested Owl *Lophotrix cristata* Amazing views of a day roosting bird at Heliconias.
Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata* A pair seen very well at Carara.
Costa Rican Pygmy Owl ! *Glaucidium costaricanum* One bird seen very well at Cerro de la Muerte.
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum* A few seen.
Striped Owl *Pseudoscops clamator* A bird seen well at dusk near Esquinas.
Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus* (H) One heard at Rancho.
Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis* Hundreds seen in the mangroves.
Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* Common.
Dusky Nightjar *Antrostomus saturatus* Seen very well in the mountains.
Spot-fronted Swift ! *Cypseloides cherriei* A couple seen well at La Selva.
Chestnut-collared Swift *Streptoprocne rutila* Seen at Arenal.

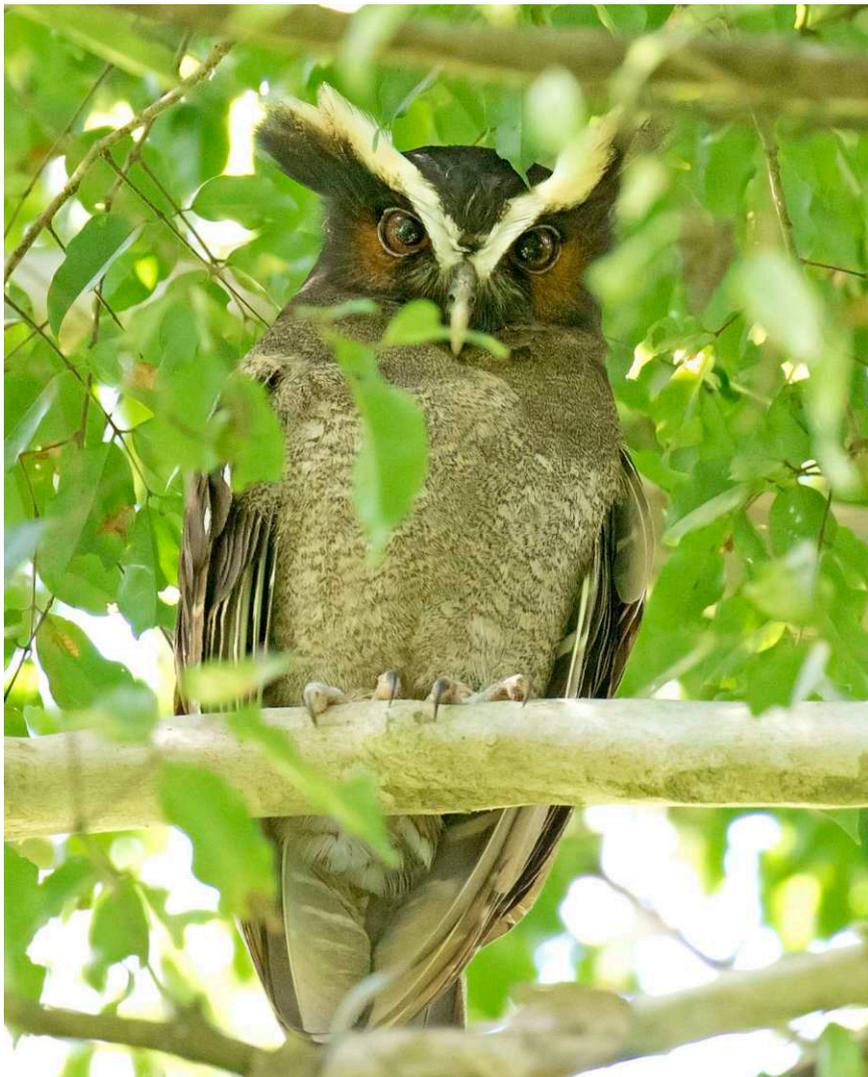
White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris* Seen in small numbers at widely scattered sites.
Dusky-backed Swift (Richmond's S) Swift *Chaetura vauxi* Seen at various places.
Costa Rican Swift ! *Chaetura fumosa* Seen at Esquinas.
Grey-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris* Seen on the Caribbean slope.
Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift *Panyptila cayennensis* Seen at Carara.
Bronzy Hermit *Glaucis aeneus* Seen very well near Rincon.
Band-tailed Barbthroat *Threnetes ruckeri* Seen at Esquinas.



Clockwise, from top left. Female Snowcap, Black-bellied Hummingbird, Magenta-throated Woodstar and White-necked Jacobin. (DLV)

Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy* Common throughout the highlands.
Long-billed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris* Seen at several spots.
Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis* Common at La Selva, Carara and Esquinas.
Scaly-breasted Hummingbird *Phaeochroa cuvierii* A few seen throughout the tour.
Violet Sabrewing ! *Campylopterus hemileucurus* Very common at Cataratas del Toro and Monteverde.
White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora* Common at numerous sets of feeders.
Brown Violetear *Colibri delphinae* Seen at Arenal.
Green Violetear *Colibri thalassinus* Seen at sites in the highlands.
Green-breasted Mango *Anthracothorax prevostii* Common on feeders at various sites.
Violet-headed Hummingbird *Klais guimeti* Seen at numerous sites throughout.
Black-crested Coquette ! *Lophornis helenae* Great views at Heliconias.
Green Thorntail *Discosura conversii* Seen at Cataratas del Toro and el Tapir.
Salvin's Emerald ! *Chlorostilbon canivetii* Seen in the north west.
Garden Emerald *Chlorostilbon assimilis* Two sightings
Fiery-throated Hummingbird ! *Panterpe insignis* Abundant at Paraiso de Quetzales and La Georgina.
White-tailed Emerald ! *Elvira chionura* A pair seen well at Las Cruces.
Coppery-headed Emerald ! *Elvira cupreiceps* Seen at San Gerardo, Cataratas del Toro and Monteverde.

Stripe-tailed Hummingbird ! *Eupherusa eximia* Seen at Savegre and Monteverde.
Black-bellied Hummingbird ! *Eupherusa nigriventris* Up to 10 at Cataratas delToro.
Violet-crowned Woodnymph *Thalurania colombica* Seen at numerous sites.



Crested Owl. (DLV)

Blue-throated Sapphire ! (B-t Goldentail) *Hylocharis eliciae* A few near Heliconias and Arenal.
Cinnamon Hummingbird *Amazilia rutila* Seen at Solimar.
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl* The most common and widespread hummingbird.
Blue-chested Hummingbird *Amazilia amabilis* A male at La Selva.
Charming Hummingbird ! *Amazilia decora* Seen at Esquinas.
Mangrove Hummingbird ! *Amazilia boucardi* Seen very well near Rincon.
Steely-vented Hummingbird ! *Amazilia saucerrottei* A few seen at widely scattered sites in the north and west.
Snowy-bellied Hummingbird ! *Amazilia Edward* Seen near Talari.
Snowcap ! *Microchera albocoronata* Seen at Rancho and el Tapir.
Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer ! *Chalybura urochrysis* Seen at several places.
White-bellied Mountaingem ! *Lampornis hemileucus* Seen at Cataratas del Toro.
Purple-throated Mountaingem ! *Lampornis calolaemus* Common at Monteverde.
Grey-tailed Mountaingem ! *Lampornis cinereicauda* A few seen at Savegre lodge.
Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula* Common to abundant at many sets of feeders.
Admirable Hummingbird (Rivoli's H) *Eugenes spectabilis* Good numbers seen in the highlands
Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliiothryx barroti* Small numbers seen.
Plain-capped Starthroat *Heliomaster constantii* One seen.

Magenta-throated Woodstar ! *Calliphlox bryantae* Several at Monteverde.
Volcano Hummingbird ! *Selasphorus flammula* Common in the highlands.
Scintillant Hummingbird ! *Selasphorus scintilla* A couple of birds seen.
Resplendent Quetzal ! *Pharomachrus mocinno* Several birds seen well, first at Irazu, then Savegre, Monteverde.
Lattice-tailed Trogon ! *Trogon clathratus* This key trogon was seen very well at Braulio.
Slaty-tailed Trogon *Trogon massena* Common in the lowlands.
Black-headed Trogon *Trogon melanocephalus* Common in the NW.
Baird's Trogon ! *Trogon bairdii* Seen well at Los Cusingos and Esquinas.
Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus* Seen at widely scattered sites in the lowlands.
Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus* Seen at various places.
Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris* Seen at Savegre. "Orange-bellied" Trogon seen a few times as well.
American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea* At least 6 seen very well at Cano Negro.
Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* A few seen at many sites.



From left to right: Baird's, Black-throated and Slaty-tailed Trogons. (DLV)

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona* A few seen at a number of sites.
Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata* Small numbers seen at several sites.
Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcion* One sighting.
Tody Motmot ! *Hylomanes momotula* A pair seen well at Heliconias.
Blue-diademed (Lesson's M) *Momotus lessonii* Common throughout.
Rufous Motmot *Baryphthengus martii* Recorded at Arenal and La Selva
Keel-billed Motmot ! *Electron carinatum* One seen well at Arenal.
Broad-billed Motmot *Electron platyrhynchum* A few seen.
Turquoise-browed Motmot ! *Eumomota superciliosa* Common to abundant in the dry north-west.
Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda* Seen at several places.
White-necked Puffbird *Notharchus hyperrhynchus* 3 birds seen.
White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis* Seen very well three times.
Red-headed Barbet *Eubucco bourcierii* One male seen.
Prong-billed Barbet ! *Semnormis frantzii* Seen well at Santa Elena.
Blue-throated Toucanet ! *Aulacorhynchus caeruleogularis* Commonly seen throughout the highlands

Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus* Recorded at various places.
Fiery-billed Aracari ! *Pteroglossus frantzii* Small numbers seen in the Pacific lowlands.
Keel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos sulfuratus* Common.
Chestnut-mandibled Toucan *Ramphastos swainsonii* A common toucan.
Olivaceous Piculet *Picumnus olivaceus* Seen well at Talari and Los Cusingos.
Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus* Common at Savegre and elsewhere in the oak forests.
Golden-naped Woodpecker ! *Melanerpes chrysauchen* Seen at Esquinas.
Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani* Common on the Caribbean slope.
Red-crowned Woodpecker *Melanerpes rubricapillus* Abundant in the south-west.
Hoffmann's Woodpecker ! *Melanerpes hoffmannii* Common from the Central valley to the north-west.
Hairy Woodpecker *Picoides villosus* Seen in the highlands.
Smoky-brown Woodpecker *Picoides fumigatus* Seen once.
Rufous-winged Woodpecker ! *Piculus simplex* Seen at three locations.



The sought-after Lattice-tailed Trogon, left, and a male "Orange-bellied" Trogon, right. (DLV)

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus* Three sightings.
Chestnut-colored Woodpecker *Celeus castaneus* Two pairs seen at La Selva.
Cinnamon Woodpecker *Celeus loricatus* (H) Heard at La Selva.
Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus* Commonly seen.
Pale-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus guatemalensis* Seen several times.
Northern Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriwayi* Commonly seen.
Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima* Good numbers seen throughout.
Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans* Seen at a couple of sites.
Barred Forest Falcon *Micrastur ruficollis* A vocal pair seen briefly at Las Cruces.
Collared Forest Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus* One seen well at Solimar.
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* A couple of sightings.

Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis* A couple seen.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Barred Parakeet *Bolborhynchus lineola* (H) Heard overhead at Paraiso de Quetzales.

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

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

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

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

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



Woodcreeper bonanza: Black-striped, Spotted and Tawny-winged. (DLV)

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

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

Northern Mealy Amazon (Mealy Parrot) *Amazona guatemala* 2 pairs seen in the lowlands

Pale-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albescens* (H) Heard near San Vito.

Slaty Spinetail *Synallaxis brachyura* Seen several times.

Red-faced Spinetail *Cranioleuca erythropus* A couple of birds noted throughout the tour.

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

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

Buffy Tuftedcheek *Pseudocolaptes lawrencii* A couple in the highlands.

Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia variegaticeps* Seen at San Gerardo.

Lineated Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla subalaris* A few seen.

Western Woodhaunter *Hyloctistes virgatus* Two sightings.

Streak-breasted Treehunter ! *Thripadectes rufobrunneus* Great views at Cerro de la muerte.

Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner *Automolus ochrolaemus* A few seen.

Tawny-throated Leaf Tosser *Sclerurus mexicanus* One seen in the nest at San Gerardo.
Grey-throated Leaf Tosser! *Sclerurus albigularis* Seen at Rancho.
Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus* A few seen at widely scattered sites.
Plain-brown Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla fuliginosa* Seen twice.
Tawny-winged Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla anabatina* Seen well at Los Cusingos and Carara.
Ruddy Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla homochroa* Seen well at an antswarm at Heliconias.
Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus* Seen a few times.
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* Seen at numerous sites.
Northern Barred Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae* Seen well at Heliconias.
Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans* A common woodcreeper.



Bicolored Antbird, above, and Ochre-breasted Antpitta, below. (DLV)

Black-striped Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus* A smart woodcreeper we saw at Esquinas.

Spotted Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius* A few seen in foothill forest.
Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii* A common woodcreeper seen throughout.
Spot-crowned Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes affinis* Seen in the highlands.
Brown-billed Scythebill *Campylorhamphus pusillus* Seen very well at San Gerardo.
Fasciated Antshrike *Cymbilaimus lineatus* Seen at La Selva.
Great Antshrike *Taraba major* One seen.
Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus* Recorded a few times.
Black-hooded Antshrike ! *Thamnophilus bridgesi* Common at Carara NP.
Black-crowned Antshrike *Thamnophilus atrinucha* A few birds at La Selva.
Russet Antshrike *Thamnistes anabatinus* Several birds seen.



Northern Tufted Flycatcher and Northern Royal Flycatcher. (DLV)

Plain Antvireo *Dysithamnus mentalis* Not uncommon in forest understorey.
Streak-crowned Antwren ! *Dysithamnus striaticeps* Seen well at Arenal.
Checker-throated Antwren *Epinecrophylla fulviventris* Seen at Rancho.
Slaty Antwren *Myrmotherula schisticolor* A few sightings.

Dot-winged Antwren *Microrhopias* Several seen.
Dusky Antbird *Cercomacra tyrannina* Common at Carara NP.
Bare-crowned Antbird ! *Gymnocichla nudiceps* A male seen at Arenal.
Chestnut-backed Antbird *Myrmeciza exsul* Seen at several locations.
Dull-mantled Antbird ! *Myrmeciza laemosticta* Seen well at Rancho.
Zeledon's Antbird *Myrmeciza zeledoni* Seen at Rancho, San Gerardo and Heliconias.
Bicolored Antbird *Gymnopithys leucaspis* A few birds seen at antswarms.
Spotted Antbird *Hylophylax naevioides* This smart antbird was seen very well a few times.
Ocellated Antbird *Phaenostictus mcleannani* Seen superbly at antswarms at Heliconias and Arenal.
Black-faced Antthrush *Formicarius analis* Several seen at Esquinas and Carara NP.
Black-headed Antthrush *Formicarius nigrocapillus* (H) Heard at San Gerardo.
Streak-chested Antpitta ! (Spectacled A) *Hylopezus perspicillatus* Seen very well at Carara.
Thicket Antpitta ! (Fulvous-bellied A) *Hylopezus dives* Seen by everyone well at Arenal



Panamanian Flycatcher in the mangroves, and the endemic Black-cheeked Ant Tanager. (DLV)

Ochre-breasted Antpitta *Grallaricula flavirostris* One seen very well at San Gerardo.
Scaled Antpitta *Grallaria guatemalensis* Two (!) sightings, at Arenal and Cataratas del Toro.
Silvery-fronted Tapaculo ! *Scytalopus argentifrons* One seen very well at Paraiso de Quetzales.

Zeledon's (White-fronted) Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias zeledoni* This rare flycatchers was seen well at San Gerardo.

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

Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata* Seen once.

Mountain Elaenia *Elaenia frantzii* Common in the highlands.

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

Torrent Tyrannulet *Serpophaga cinerea* Just a pair noted in a highland river.

Yellow Tyrannulet *Capsiempis flaveola* Seen well several times.

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

Rufous-browed Tyrannulet ! *Phylloscartes superciliaris* Seen very well at San Gerardo.

Olive-striped Flycatcher *Mionectes olivaceus* Seen at San Gerardo.

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

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

Northern Scrub Flycatcher *Sublegatus arenarum* Seen well in the mangroves.



A glowing male Turquoise Cotinga and a calling Three-wattled Bellbird. (DLV)

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

Northern Bentbill *Oncostoma cinereigulare* Seen well at Esquinas.

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

Slaty-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilotriccus sylvia* Seen at Esquinas and Carara.

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum* Common throughout.

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

Eye-ringed Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus brevirostris* Several noted at various places.

Yellow-olive Flatbill *Tolmomyias sulphurescens* A few noted at various locations.

Stub-tailed Spadebill ! *Platyrinchus cancrominus* (H) Heard and glimpsed at Carara.

White-throated Spadebill *Platyrinchus mystaceus* Seen and heard.

Golden-crowned Spadebill *Platyrinchus coronatus* Three birds seen.

Tawny-chested Flycatcher ! *Aphanotriccus capitalis* Several seen at Rancho Naturalista.
Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* Commonly seen throughout.
Northern Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus* Several seen.
Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi* A few seen at widely scattered sites.
Dark Pewee ! *Contopus lugubris* Seen well at Savegre.
Ochraceous Pewee ! *Contopus ochraceus* A single bird seen very well at Paraiso de Quetzales.
Western Wood Pewee *Contopus sordidulus* A few seen throughout.
Eastern Wood Pewee *Contopus virens* A couple birds seen well.
Tropical Pewee *Contopus cinereus* Common in the north around Cano Negro.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *Empidonax flaviventris* A few seen.



Clockwise, from top left. Yellow-winged Vireo, Yellowish Flycatcher, Orange-billed Nightingale Thrush and White-throated Thrush. (DLV)

White-throated Flycatcher *Empidonax albigularis* A single bird seen near Rancho Naturalista.
Yellowish Flycatcher *Empidonax flavescens* Several seen in the highlands.
Black-capped Flycatcher ! *Empidonax atriceps* Seen in the highlands.
Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus* Seen at Arenal
Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus* Common.
Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis* Common.
Grey-capped Flycatcher *Myiozetetes granadensis* Several birds seen.
Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* Common throughout.

White-ringed Flycatcher *Conopias albobittatus* Seen at La Selva.
Golden-bellied Flycatcher ! *Myiodynastes hemichrysus* A pair seen at San Gerardo.
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher *Myiodynastes luteiventris* A few seen at many sites.
Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus* Small numbers throughout.
Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua* Fairly common throughout.
Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* Common to abundant.
Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis* A group on the pacific coast.
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* Still a few present.
Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana* Seen in the south.
Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus* Large numbers in the caribbean
Rufous Mourner *Rhytipterna holerythra* Seen at several locations.



Clockwise, from top left. Blue-crowned Manakin, Snowy Cotinga, Yellow-billed Cotinga and White-crowned Manakin. (DLV)

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer* Fairly common throughout.
Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus* Small numbers seen throughout.
Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus* A few seen and heard in the northwest.

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

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

Lovely Cotinga ! *Cotinga amabilis* One adult male seen well by most at Heliconias.

Turquoise Cotinga ! *Cotinga ridgwayi* Male in Talari and Rincon.

Three-wattled Bellbird ! *Procnias tricarunculatus* Two males seen displaying in Monteverde.

Snowy Cotinga ! *Carpodectes nitidus* An adult male at La Selva. Difficult this year.

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

Purple-throated Fruitcrow *Querula purpurata* Seen La Selva. Getting rare these days.

White-ruffed Manakin *Corapipo altera* Seen at several locations from Braulio Carillo to Rancho Naturalista.

Blue-crowned Manakin *Lepidothrix coronata* Seen at Las Cruces, Los Cusingos and Carara.

White-collared Manakin *Manacus candei* Abundant at La Selva.

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

Long-tailed Manakin ! *Chiroxiphia linearis* Seen around Monteverde.

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

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

Northern Royal Flycatcher *Onychorhynchus mexicanus* Seen nest building at Esquinas and caño negro.

Sulphur-rumped Myiobius (S-F Flycatcher) *Myiobius sulphureipygius* A few seen.



Violet Sabrewing and Blue-black Grosbeak. (DLV)

Black-tailed Myiobius *Myiobius atricaudus* One seen near Esquinas.

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher *Terentriacus erythrurus* Three pairs seen.

Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor* 2 pairs seen.

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata* Seen in small numbers throughout the lowlands.

Northern Schiffornis *Schiffornis veraepacis* (H) Heard only.

Barred Becard *Pachyramphus versicolor* Seen at Santa Elena.

Cinnamon Becard *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus* A few birds seen throughout the tour.

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae* Seen at widely scattered sites.
Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis* Seen several times.
Green Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanius pulchellus* Seen very well at Heliconias.
Mangrove Vireo *Vireo pallens* A pair taped in along the Rio Tarcoles.
Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* A few sightings.
Yellow-winged Vireo ! *Vireo carmioli* A fairly common near-endemic in the highlands.
Brown-capped Vireo *Vireo leucophrys* Seen at Savegre.
Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus* A few seen.
Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* A few seen.
Yellow-green Vireo *Vireo flavoviridis* Fairly common..
Tawny-crowned Greenlet *Hylophilus ochraceiceps* Found in several understory flocks at various places.
Lesser Greenlet *Hylophilus decurtatus* Widespread.



Clockwise, from top left: Black-crowned (Western Slaty) and Black-hooded Antshrikes, and Ocellated and Zeledon's Antbirds. (DLV)

Azure-hooded Jay *Cyanolyca cucullata* Seen well at Santa Elena and San Gerardo.
Brown Jay *Psilorhinus morio* Very common throughout.
White-throated Magpie-Jay *Calocitta Formosa* Quite numerous in the dry open country of the north and west.
Black-and-yellow Phainoptila ! *Phainoptila melanoxantha* Several noted at Paraiso de Quetzales.

Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher ! *Ptilogonys caudatus* Common in the highlands.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* 2 sightings.

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea* A common species throughout.

Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea* Not uncommon around human settlement in the lowlands.

Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca* The most common and widespread swallow.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* Seen at numerous locations.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* Seen at various locations.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Small numbers noted throughout.



The uncommon Rufous-browed Tyrannulet, above, and a Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant. (DLV)

American Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* Seen a few times, mixed in with other swallows.

Band-backed Wren *Campylorhynchus zonatus* Seen at several locations.

Rufous-backed Wren *Campylorhynchus capistratus* A fairly common species seen in the north and west.

Black-throated Wren ! *Pheugopedius atrogularis* Seen well at caño negro.

Black-bellied Wren *Pheugopedius fasciatoventris* (H) heard several times.

Spot-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius maculipectus* Seen at Caño Negro.

Rufous-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius rutilus* Seen at various places.

Banded Wren *Thryophilus pleurostictus* Seen in the northwest.
Rufous-and-white Wren *Thryophilus rufalbus* Seen near Monteverde.
Plain Wren *Cantorchilus modestus* A fairly common species seen throughout.
Riverside Wren *Cantorchilus semibadius* Seen well at Esquinas.
Bay Wren *Cantorchilus nigrocapillus* Seen a couple of times.
Stripe-breasted Wren *Cantorchilus thoracicus* Seen at San Gerardo, Arenal and la Selva.
House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* A widespread species seen at numerous sites throughout.
Ochraceous Wren *Troglodytes ochraceus* Seen at San Gerardo and Savegre.
Timberline Wren *Thryorchilus browni* Seen well at Irazu and Cerro de la Muerte.
White-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucosticta* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Grey-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys* A few in the highlands.



Clockwise, from top left. White-whiskered Puffbird, Ringed Kingfisher, Chestnut-colored and Pale-billed Woodpeckers. (DLV)

Northern Nightingale-Wren *Microcerculus philomela* One seen well by some of us at Braulio.
Southern Nightingale-Wren *Microcerculus marginatus* (H) Heard only.
Song Wren *Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus* Recorded at San Gerardo and Arenal.
Tawny-faced Gnatwren *Microbates cinereiventris* Seen at Arenal.
Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus* Recorded at several locations.
White-lored Gnatcatcher *Polioptila albiloris* Seen in the dry northwest.
Tropical Gnatcatcher *Polioptila plumbea* A rather common species seen at widely scattered sites throughout.
Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus* Seen near Talari.
Black-faced Solitaire ! *Myadestes melanops* Commonly seen and heard in the highlands.



Black-and-yellow Phainoptila, Black-faced Solitaire and Eye-ringed Flatbill. (DLV)

Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush ! *Catharus gracilirostris* A very confiding species seen in the highlands.
Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus aurantiirostris* A fairly common species at Talari and Las Cruces.
Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus fuscater* An inconspicuous species recorded in the highlands.
Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush ! *Catharus frantzii* Commonly recorded in the highlands. A fine songster.
Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush ! *Catharus mexicanus* Seen at Arenal and San Gerardo.
Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* A commonly recorded migrant at widely scattered sites.
Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina* A species seen at various places.
Sooty Thrush ! *Turdus nigrescens* A common species in the highlands.
Mountain Thrush ! *Turdus plebejus* Rather numerous in the highlands.
Pale-vented Thrush *Turdus obsoletus* Seen well at San Gerardo.
Clay-colored Thrush *Turdus grayi* A very common species seen at sites throughout. CR national bird.
White-throated Thrush *Turdus assimilis* A few noted at several locations.
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Not uncommon around human settlement.
Scrub Euphonia *Euphonia affinis* Seen in the northwest.
Yellow-crowned Euphonia ! *Euphonia luteicapilla* A common species in the humid tropics.
Yellow-throated Euphonia *Euphonia hirundinacea* Scattered sightings.
Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia lanirostris* (LO) One at Las Cruces.
Spot-crowned Euphonia ! *Euphonia imitans* Seen at Las Cruces and Esquinas.
Olive-backed Euphonia *Euphonia gouldi* Seen at Rancho and la Selva.
Elegant Euphonia *Euphonia elegantissima* Seen at Savegre.
White-vented Euphonia *Euphonia* Seen at Braulio.
Tawny-capped Euphonia ! *Euphonia anaeae* A couple of sightings.

Golden-browed Chlorophonia ! *Chlorophonia callophrys* Good views at various places.
Yellow-bellied Siskin *Carduelis xanthogastra* A species recorded near Cerro de la Muerte.
Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla* Seen a few times.
Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis* A migrant species commonly recorded at widely scattered sites.
Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla* One seen briefly at the river near Rancho.
Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera* An uncommon migrant species recorded at several locations.
Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* Recorded infrequently at widely scattered sites.
Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea* One late bird seen.
Flame-throated Warbler ! *Oreothlypis gutturalis* A stunning species seen at several sites in the highlands.
Tennessee Warbler *Leiothlypis peregrina* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Grey-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis poliocephala* One record.



Broad-billed and Keel-billed Motmots. Both have an almost identical call and are known to hybridize. (DLV)

Chiriqui Yellowthroat ! *Geothlypis chiriquensis* Seen well at San Vito.
Mourning Warbler *Geothlypis philadelphia* A scarce migrant species seen at a couple of places.
Kentucky Warbler *Geothlypis formosa* An uncommon migrant species seen well at Rancho Naturalista.
Olive-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis semiflava* Seen a few times.
American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* A few seen.
Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiauyumi* A few seen at widely scattered sites.
Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca* A somewhat uncommon but cracking warbler.
American Yellow Warbler *Setophaga aestiva* A common migratory species seen at widely scattered sites.
Mangrove Warbler *Setophaga petechia* This distinctive species was common along the Rio Tarcoles.
Chestnut-sided Warbler *Setophaga pensylvanica* A fairly common migrant species seen at widely scattered sites.
Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens* A fairly common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Buff-rumped Warbler *Myiothlypis fulvicauda* Another common rainforest species recorded at many sites.
Rufous-capped Warbler *Basileuterus rufifrons* A not uncommon species at widely scattered sites.
Black-cheeked Warbler ! *Basileuterus melanogenys* Commonly recorded in the highlands. A near endemic.
Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus* A widespread species seen at widely scattered sites.

Black-eared Warbler *Basileuterus melanotis* Recorded a few times. A recent split from Three-striped W.
Canada Warbler *Cardellina canadensis* A couple migrants seen.
Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla* A common migrant recorded at widely scattered sites throughout.
Slate-throated Whitestart *Myioborus miniatus* Not uncommon at widely scattered sites throughout the foothills.
Collared Whitestart ! *Myioborus torquatus* Commonly recorded at highland sites. A delightful species.
Wrenthrush ! *Zeledonia coronata* Two birds seen very well at Cerro de la Muerte.
Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna* Recorded in cattle pasture and cut over areas.
Red-breasted Blackbird *Sturnella militaris* Another Icterid recorded in the south.
Chestnut-headed Oropendola *Psarocolius wagleri* Seen at Rancho and La Selva.



Two Costa Rica endemics. Cabanis's Ground Sparrow and Grey-tailed Mountaingem. (DLV)

Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus* A recent colonist seen at Las Cruces.
Montezuma Oropendola *Psarocolius montezuma* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Scarlet-rumped Cacique *Cacicus microrhynchus* An uncommon species recorded at Esquinas and La Selva.
Spot-breasted Oriole *Icterus pectoralis* Seen well at Solimar.
Black-cowled Oriole *Icterus prothemelas* A fairly common species.
Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula* A common migrant species seen at widely scattered sites.
Streak-backed Oriole *Icterus pustulatus* A localised species seen in the dry northwest.
Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus* A common species recorded at widely scattered sites throughout.
Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis* A juvenile bird at Arenal, being fed by Black-striped Sparrows.
Melodious Blackbird *Dives dives* A recent colonist now seen at widely scattered sites throughout.
Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* An abundant species in the north at Cano Negro.
Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus* One bird recorded.
Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Nicaraguan Grackle ! *Quiscalus nicaraguensis* A rare species seen at Cano Negro.
Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis* A common species seen at widely scattered sites in the highlands.
Volcano Junco ! *Junco vulcani* Seen at Irazu.
Stripe-headed Sparrow *Peucaea ruficauda* A common species in the northwest.
Cabanis's Ground Sparrow ! *Melospiza cabanisi* 2 birds seen well at Ujarras. Very uncommon nowadays.
White-eared Ground Sparrow ! *Melospiza leucotis* Seen a few times.
Olive Sparrow *Arremonops rufivirgatus* Seen north of Carara.
Black-striped Sparrow *Arremonops conirostris* A commonly recorded species at widely scattered sites.
Orange-billed Sparrow *Arremon aurantirostris* A common species seen at widely scattered sites in the lowlands..
Chestnut-capped Brush Finch *Arremon brunneinucha* A few seen, first at Savegre.
Costa Rican Brush Finch ! *Arremon costaricensis* Seen well near San Vito.
Sooty-faced Finch ! *Arremon crassirostris* After a lot of trying, great views in San Gerardo.

Large-footed Finch ! *Pezopetes capitalis* A common species at sites throughout the highlands.
White-naped Brush Finch *Atlapetes albinucha* A couple of sightings.
Yellow-thighed Finch ! *Pselliophorus tibialis* Another common finch at sites in the highlands.
Common Bush Tanager *Chlorospingus flavopectus* A species commonly recorded at several spots.
Sooty-capped Bush Tanager ! *Chlorospingus pileatus* Common only in the highlands where seen many sites.
Dusky-faced Tanager *Mitrospingus cassinii* (H) Seen well at La Selva.
Grey-headed Tanager *Eucometis penicillata* Seen at Talari and los Cusingos.
White-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus luctuosus* Seen at Rancho.



Crimson-collared and Passerini's Tanagers. (DLV)

Tawny-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus delatrii* Seen at Braulio.
White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus* A pair seen.
White-throated Shrike-Tanager ! *Lanio leucothorax* A stunning near-endemic tanager, seen at Arenal.
Crimson-collared Tanager *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus* Another stunning species in an impressive genus.
Passerini's Tanager *Ramphocelus passerinii* A very common species in the Caribbean.
Cherrie's Tanager ! *Ramphocelus costaricensis* Common in the Pacific.
Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus* An abundant species seen at widely scattered sites.
Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Blue-and-gold Tanager ! *Bangsia arcaei* Seen well at San Gerardo.
Plain-colored Tanager *Tangara inornata* An aberrant tangara seen well at La Selva.
Emerald Tanager *Tangara florida* A rather pretty species recorded at a couple of locations.
Silver-throated Tanager *Tangara icterocephala* A widespread species seen at many sites.
Speckled Tanager *Tangara guttata* Seen well several times.
Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola* A widespread species recorded at widely scattered sites.
Golden-hooded Tanager *Tangara larvata* A lovely species seen at numerous sites throughout.
Spangle-cheeked Tanager *Tangara dowii* Seen at various places.
Scarlet-thighed Dacnis *Dacnis venusta* Somewhat localised but not uncommon species seen at many sites.
Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana* Rather uncommonly recorded on this tour.
Shining Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes lucidus* A somewhat infrequently recorded species on this tour.
Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus* A stunning species seen at numerous widely scattered sites.
Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Black-and-yellow Tanager ! *Chrysothlypis chrysomelas* Seen well at Braulio.

Slaty Flowerpiercer ! *Diglossa plumbea* A species only recorded at all commonly in the highlands.
Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina* Rapidly increasing with continued deforestation and habitat degradation.
Variable Seedeater *Sporophila corvina* Common on both Pacific and Caribbean slopes.
White-collared Seedeater *Sporophila torqueola* Recorded only at all commonly in the north near Cano Negro.
Yellow-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila nigricollis* A couple birds seen.



Clockwise, from top left. Nicaraguan Seed Finch, Buff-rumped Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow and Charming Hummingbird. (DLV)

Thick-billed Seed Finch *Oryzoborus funereus* This species was commonly seen on the Caribbean slope.
Nicaraguan Seed Finch ! *Oryzoborus nuttingi* 2 males of this localised species were seen near Caño Negro.
Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus* A somewhat numerous species seen at widely scattered sites.
Flame-colored Tanager *Piranga bidentata* Fairly common in the highlands.
Tooth-billed Tanager (Highland Hepatic T) *Piranga lutea* Several seen.
Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* Only 2 seen.
Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea* A migrant species recorded in small numbers, especially at La Selva.
Red-crowned Ant Tanager *Habia rubica* A female seen at Esquinas.
Red-throated Ant Tanager *Habia fuscicauda* We had great views of this understory species at Rancho.
Black-cheeked Ant Tanager ! *Habia atrimaxillaris* Great views of this cracking endemic at Esquinas.

Carmioli's Tanager ! *Chlorothraupis carmioli* A numerous species at Braulio Carillo and Rancho Naturalista.
Black-thighed Grosbeak ! *Pheucticus tibialis* (H) Heard only this year, despite a lot of trying.
Black-faced Grosbeak *Caryothraustes poliogaster* Seen well several times.



Golden-bellied Flycatcher, Double-striped Thicknee and Green Shrike-Vireo. (DLV)

Black-headed Saltator *Saltator atriceps* A few recorded.
Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus* A common species seen at widely scattered sites.
Greyish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens* Seen several times.
Streaked Saltator *Saltator striatipectus* Seen at Talari and Las Cruces.
Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanocompsa cyanooides* A few seen.
Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea* A pair near Monteverde.
Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* A female seen at Carara.

MAMMALS

Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth *Choloepus hoffmanni* Seen at La Selva.
Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth *Bradypus variegatus* One found at Braulio.
Nine-banded Armadillo *Dasybus novemcinctus* One seen at Finca Ecologica.
Greater White-lined Bat (W-I Sac-winged B) *Saccopteryx bilineata* A group of 20 roosting at Esquinas.
White-faced Capuchin (W-throated C, W-throated C Monkey) *Cebus capucinus* A few sightings.
Mantled Howler (M H Monkey) *Alouatta palliate* Superb sightings of this magnificent species.
Central American Spider Monkey (Black-handed S M) *Ateles geoffroyi* Seen at Carara.
Variiegated Squirrel *Sciurus variegatoides* Common to abundant with many different colour morphs.
Red-tailed Squirrel (Tropical Red S) *Sciurus granatensis* Small numbers seen throughout.
Alfaro's Pygmy Squirrel (Central American Dwarf S) *Microsciurus alfari* One seen in the mountain forest.
Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata* Fairly common.
White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica* Very common at several sites.
Collared Peccary *Tayassu tajacu* Rather common at La Selva.



A pair of roosting Pacific Screech Owls. Great Tinamou. (DLV)





Shorebird flock: Surfbirds, Ruddy Turnstones and a lone Sanderling. Below, male Scarlet Tanager. (DLV).





Two males –adult and immature- Three-wattled Bellbird. Neotropic Cormorant busy trying to swallow a catfish.





A gorgeous Red-eyed Tree Frog, above. Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth below. (DLV)





The pacific slope, from Monteverde, with the gulf of Nicoya in the back. (DLV)