

# BEST OF COSTA RICA TOUR REPORT 2023

15 February - 1 March 2023

by Leonardo Garrigues

Our Best of Costa Rica tour was very successful. We were able to see a nice combination of all the major habitats of Costa Rica in a two-week itinerary and we managed to record 525 bird species. Among the many highlights during the tour, the Three-wattled Bellbird and the Resplendent Quetzal were the favourite birds for most of the group. Other highlights included good views of Great and Slaty-breasted Tinamou, the secretive Spot-bellied Bobwhite, Black-breasted and Spotted Wood Quails, good views at night of Dusky Nightjar and Great Potoo, 41 hummingbird species including the endemic Mangrove Hummingbird and Coppery-headed Emerald, as well as stunning views of White-crested and Black-crested Coquette males, the three species of mountaingems (White-bellied, Purple-throated and the endemic Grey-tailed), Magenta-throated Woodstar and White-tailed Emerald. We had several close encounters with Buff-fronted Quail-Dove and also saw the always tricky Chiriqui Quail-Dove. Our nice selection of crakes and rails included Uniform, Yellow-breasted and White-throated Crakes, as well as Rufous-necked, Russet-naped and Mangrove Rails. The best shorebirds of the tour included a rare sighting of American Golden Plover as well as a Wandering Tattler. We also enjoyed a big group of Black Skimmers (100+), nice views of Roseate Spoonbill, the weird looking Boat-billed Heron and Pinnated Bittern. Special raptors included Omate Hawk-Eagle, Northern Harrier, Bicoloured Hawk, Semiplumbeous Hawk and Collared Forest Falcon, eleven species of owls were recorded including Costa Rican and Central American Pygmy Owls, Striped, Spectacled, Crested, Black-and-White and Mottled Owls. Other highlights of the tour included the near-endemic Baird's Trogon, the local Keel-billed Motmot, Sulphur-winged Parakeet, the secretive Tawny-throated and Grey-throated Leaf-tossers, and at a large ant swarm in Arenal we had nice views of Ocellated, Bicoloured and Spotted Antbird. We also had great views of Thicket and Streak-chested Antpittas, the rare Ochraceous Pewee, close views of Turquoise and Snowy Cotinga, six manakin species, 20 wren species, the unique Volcano Junco, the endemic Cabanis's Ground Sparrow, the highly desired Wrenthrush, the near endemic Nicaraguan Grackle, Nicaraguan Seed Finch and a colourful variety of tanagers like Speckled, Spangle-cheeked and Emerald.

The first morning of the tour we had a brief and very productive birding session around the gardens of the Hotel Bougainvillea. Here we managed to see the diurnal Ferruginous Pygmy Owl as well as a roosting pair of Mottled Owls. Other birds here included Vaux's Swift, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Red-billed Pigeon, Inca Dove, Lesson's Motmot, Hoffmann's Woodpecker, Lineated Woodpecker, Crested and Yellow-headed Caracaras, Finsch's Parakeet, Great Kiskadee, Brown Jay, Rufous-backed Wren, Cabanis's Wren, Clay-coloured Thrush, White-eared Ground Sparrow, Montezuma Oropendola, Tennessee and Chestnut-capped Warblers, Summer Tanager, Cinnamon-bellied Saltator and Blue-grey Tanager.

Once we left the hotel, we went directly to Ujarrás, an agricultural town, to look for a very special

Costa Rican endemic: the Cabanis's Ground Sparrow. It was quite elusive at first but in the end, we got very good views. Other birds seen at Ujarrás included Roadside and Grey Hawks, Streak-headed Woodcreeper, Barred Antshrike, Mistletoe Tyrannulet, Yellow-throated Vireo, Cabanis's Wren, Lesser Goldfinch, Baltimore Oriole, Mourning Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Buff-throated and Black-headed Saltators, White-lined Tanager and Morelet's Seedeater. Later, we went to a site where roosting Tropical Screech Owl sometimes can be found but unfortunately the owl wasn't around. As compensation, we found a Bicoloured Hawk, which is an uncommon species in the country.

We continued our way to the highlands of Talamanca where we visited Casa Dowii for lunch and watched the feeders at the same time. Here,, we managed to see our first Buff-fronted Quail-Doves of the trip as well other birds like Purple-throated Mountaingem, Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher, Mountain Thrush, Common Bush Tanager, Chestnut-capped Brushfinch and Slaty Flowerpiercer.

On the way to our lodge, we birded some sideroads where we had several good species including our first Resplendent Quetzal, along with our third owl species of the day in the form of a rufous morph Costa Rican Pygmy Owl. Certainly, this was a great beginning of the tour with three owl species, the quetzal and the endemic Cabanis's Ground Sparrow. Other species we encountered during the rest of the afternoon included Scintillant Hummingbird, Ruddy Pigeon, Red-tailed Hawk [costaricensis], Acorn Woodpecker, Spot-crowned Woodcreeper, Buffy Tuftedcheek, Streak-breasted Treehunter, Yellow-winged Vireo, Flame-throated, Black-throated Green, Black-cheeked and Wilsons Warblers, Collared Whitestart and Spangle-cheeked Tanager.

In the evening before dinner, we managed to see the Dusky Nightjar to end the day nicely.

Our full day in the Talamanca highlands started at the grounds of Paraiso Quetzal. It was a bit cold but with good birding activity. The highlight this morning was the Wrenthrush, of the monotypic family Zeledoniidae, which is endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama. Other highlights included the only member of the genus Phainoptila in the Black-and-yellow Phainoptila, and at least six individuals of the cute Golden-browed Chlorophonia. We also enjoyed more sightings of the Resplendent Quetzal (at least 3 individuals), Band-tailed Pigeon, Hairy Woodpecker, Mountain Elaenia, Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher, Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush, Sooty, Mountain and Clay-coloured Thrushes, Yellow-bellied Siskin, Sooty-capped Bush Tanager, Large-footed Finch, Slaty Flowerpiercer and Spangled-cheeked Tanager.

Our group was also entertained with the photography session at the hummingbird feeders during the best light of the day. Here, the star is the Fiery-throated Hummingbird while other species include Talamanca and Volcano Hummingbirds and the Lesser Violetear.

After a nice breakfast we headed towards the Savegre Valley where we targeted key species at different stake-outs. One of those was an active territory for the rare Ochraceous Pewee which we managed to see nicely along with the Northern Tufted Flycatcher. This allowed us a unique opportunity to study both species at the same time. Other species we found in the Savegre Valley were Grey-tailed Mountaingem (another Costa Rican endemic), Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, Sulphur-winged Parakeet, Torrent Tyrannulet, Brown-capped Vireo, Ochraceous Wren, Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush, American Dipper, Yellow-bellied Siskin, and both Flame-coloured and Silver-throated Tanagers.

We spent the afternoon on the oak forest trails with the purpose to locate Silvery-throated Jay, a bird that has become very difficult in the last few years. Despite all our efforts, we didn't even hear them. Other interesting species we did find included Black Guan, a single individual Spotted Wood Quail, Buff-fronted Quail-Dove, Ruddy Treerunner, Grey-breasted Wood Wren, Black-faced

Solitaire and Yellow-thighed Brushfinch.

Our owling session was interrupted by rain and we only managed to see another Dusky Nightjar.

The following day we birded Providencia Road. Though we had seen most of the birds here already, we targeted the few that had eluded us thus far. One of these included the Silvery-throated Jay but unfortunately there was no sign of them at all. Birds we added to our list included Black-capped Flycatcher, Timberline Wren and great views of Black-thighed Grosbeak. Our next birding stop was a visit to the highest altitude section of the trip for the localized Volcano Junco which didn't put up much of a fight. Descending over 1500 meters in elevation, we found ourselves at a local restaurant with hummingbird feeders. Here we enjoyed views of Snowy-bellied Hummingbird, the near endemic White-tailed Emerald, Green-crowned Brilliant, the always impressive Violet Sabrewing, along with Golden-winged and Chestnut-sided Warblers and Palm Tanager.

Once we arrived in the San Isidro area, we started looking for the electric Turquoise Cotinga. Our stake-out did not disappoint us as we saw three individuals with one of the males seen at close range. Other birds seen in the San Isidro area included Smooth-billed Ani, Squirrel Cuckoo, Red-crowned Woodpecker, Orange-chinned Parakeet, White-crowned Parrot, Rufous-breasted Wren, Tropical Mockingbird, Red-breasted Blackbird, Black-and-white, Tennessee, Mourning and Blackburnian Warblers and Golden-hooded Tanager. To end our birding day, we had nice views of Tropical Screech Owl by our rooms at our lodge.

This morning we invested the first part of the morning looking for one of the finest hummingbird species of the country: the White-crested Coquette. Our effort paid off with fantastic views of a male at close range. Other hummingbird species we found visiting the flowers at this site included Garden Emerald, a female Crowned Woodnymph, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird and Scintillant Hummingbird. Non-hummingbird species here included Grey-headed Chachalacas, White-crowned Parrot, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Black Phoebe, Yellow-green Vireo, Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush, Lesser Goldfinch, Yellow-crowned Elaenia and Streaked Saltator.

Our next stop was at Los Cusingos Reserve which is the former home of the legendary naturalist Dr. Alexander Skutch who made very important contributions to the ornithology and botany of the Neotropics. Dr. Skutch was also one of the authors of the first 'Field Guide of the Birds of Costa Rica'. Birds of note at Los Cusingos included a male Crowned Woodnymph, Cocoa Woodcreeper, Chiriqui Foliage-gleaner, Rufous Piha, Velvety and Red-capped Manakins, Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher, Lesser Greenlet, Spot-crowned Euphonia, Red-crowned Ant Tanager and Green Honeycreeper. After leaving Los Cusingos we made several stops along the way to Villa Lapas adding targets such as Fiery-billed Aracari and Isthmian Wren. Forest patches over the final hills and then along the coast we did a bit of list padding which included Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Groove-billed Ani, Laughing Gull, Anhinga, Brown Pelican, Swainson's Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Turquoise-browed Motmot, Scarlet Macaw, Pale-breasted Spinetail, Piratic Flycatcher, Mangrove and Southern Rough-winged Swallows, Blue-black Grassquit, Morelet's Seedeater and Speckled and Bay-headed Tanagers.

One highlight for the members of the group was a Wandering Tattler that is not a common shorebird in Costa Rica with very localized territories along rocky shorelines.

Once at Villa Lapas, a Spectacled Owl was calling nearby and after some complications we managed to see it high up in a giant tree. We also added our first Pauraque.

Our next day, we did some early morning birding at Villa Lapas before visiting Carara National Park. Our early AM session produced some interesting species such as Purple-crowned Fairy, Black-headed Trogon, Turquoise-browed Motmot, Yellow-throated Toucan, Hoffmann's and Pale-

billed Woodpeckers, Greenish Elaenia, Southern Beardless Tyrannulet, Bright-rumped Attila, Brown Jay and Orange-billed Sparrow.

The main dish for the morning was the visit to Carara National Park, a place that has never disappointed me during all my visits over the years, with today being no exception. Species recorded here included Long-billed Hermit, Short-billed Pigeon, Baird's Trogon, White-whiskered Puffbird, Scarlet Macaw, Cocoa, Black-striped and Streak-headed Woodcreepers, Plain Xenops, Dot-winged and Slaty Antwrens, Barred and Black-hooded Antshrikes, Dusky and Chestnut-backed Antbirds, Streak-chested Antpitta (a major highlight), Northern Bentbill, Golden-crowned Spadebill, Velvety and Orange-collared Manakins, Riverside Wren, Trilling Gnatwren, Northern Waterthrush, Tropical Parula and Bay-headed Tanager.

After a nice lunch at the hotel and a siesta during the hottest time of the day, we did a pleasant boat ride on the Tarcoles River. This area has an interesting combination of mangrove birds along with riverine and coastal birds. The selection of birds we recorded here included Muscovy Duck, Lesser Nighthawk, Mangrove Hummingbird (Costa Rican endemic and major highlight), Double-striped Thick-Knee, Black-necked Stilt, Hudsonian Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, Royal Tern, Wood Stork, Magnificent Frigatebird, American White Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Boat-billed Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Tricoloured Heron, Brown Pelican, Osprey, Plumbeous Kite, Common Black Hawk, Grey, Short-tailed and Zone-tailed Hawks, Amazon, American Pygmy, Green and Ringed Kingfishers, Bat and Peregrine Falcons, Yellow-naped Amazon, Orange-fronted Parakeet, Panama Flycatcher, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Mangrove Vireo, Mangrove Swallow, Prothonotary and Mangrove Warblers and Morelet's Seedeater.

At the end of this diverse day, we managed to record 142 species, probably the day with most birds of the trip.

Our last day in the area we did a combination of Villa Lapas trails and a different trail in Carara, targeting the species we were still hoping to find. We were rewarded with a pair of Northern Royal Flycatcher as well as three Golden-naped Woodpeckers together. We also enjoyed an active lek of Orange-collared Manakin males displaying right in front of us which was quite a show.

Other birds during our morning included the Band-tailed Barbthroat, Scaly-breasted Hummingbird, Blue-vented Hummingbird, the subspecies of Grey-chested Dove [rufinuca], Double-toothed Kite, Slaty-tailed and Gartered Trogons, Lesson's Motmot, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Collared Forest Falcon, Northern Mealy Amazon, Tawny-winged, Wedge-billed and Northern Barred Woodcreepers, Black-faced Antthrush, a nice male Long-tailed Manakin, Sulphur-rumped Myiobius, Tawny-crowned Greenlet, Riverside Wren, Wood Thrush, Kentucky Warbler, Buff-rumped Warbler, American Redstart, and Grey-headed and White-shouldered Tanagers.

On the way to Monteverde we spent time looking for dry forest species as well as some mangrove species in patches near the coast. New trip birds in these areas included Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Canivet's Emerald, Cinnamon Hummingbird, Lesser Ground Cuckoo, a day roosting Pacific Screech Owl, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Nutting's and Great-crested Flycatchers, White-throated Magpie-Jay, White-lored Gnatcatcher, Stripe-headed Sparrow, and both Shiny and Bronzed Cowbirds.

After this very productive day we arrived at our lodge in Monteverde to enjoy a nice dinner and go over our daily bird list.

Today started with a short birding session around the grounds of our hotel where we saw Red-billed Pigeon, Keel-billed Toucan, White-fronted Amazon, Cabanis's Wren, Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush, Yellow-throated Euphonia, White-eared Ground Sparrow, Ovenbird, Chestnut-capped Warbler and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. After breakfast we went to Santa Elena

Reserve where we spent the rest of the morning. We had good birding activity during our morning and managed to see tricky species like Grey-throated Leaf-tosser, Silvery-fronted Tapaculo and Sooty-faced Finch. Other birds in this cloud forest haven included Prong-billed Barbet, Blue-throated Toucanet, Smoky-brown Woodpecker, Brown-hooded Parrot, Brown-billed Scythebill, Lineated Foliage-gleaner, Streak-breasted Treehunter, Spotted Barbtail, Ruddy Treerunner, Red-faced Spinetail, Slaty Antwren, White-throated Spadebill, Yellowish and Golden-bellied Flycatchers, Black-faced Solitaire, Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush, Black-eared Warbler and Slate-throated Whitestart.

In the afternoon we visited Monteverde Reserve and the adjacent Hummingbird Gallery feeders. A nice selection of birds was found here including stunning views of Black-breasted Wood Quail, Lesser Violetear, Green-crowned Brilliant, Purple-throated Mountaingem, Magenta-throated Woodstar, Violet Sabrewing, the endemic Coppery-headed Emerald, Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, super close views of Buff-fronted Quail-Dove, the orange-bellied subspecies of Collared Trogon [underwoodi], nice views of Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser, Olivaceous Woodcreeper, Spotted Woodcreeper, Plain Antvireo, Brown-capped Vireo, Ochraceous Wren and Golden-winged and Golden-crowned Warblers.

Our last morning in the Monteverde area we visited the Santuario Ecologico, a drier mid-elevation montane forest. We found our main target of the morning in the form of a pair of Chiriqui Quail-Dove walking along the trail. Other notable species here included Black Guan, Keel-billed Toucan, Golden-olive Woodpecker, Ruddy Woodcreeper, nice views adult and young male Long-tailed Manakins, Philadelphia and Yellow-throated Vireos, Rufous-and-white Wren, Yellow-crowned Euphonia, Ovenbird and Red-crowned Ant Tanager.

Our next birding location was the Finca Ecologica San Luis where there had been reports of Three-wattled Bellbird from the days before. This was our best chance to find the Bellbird, but despite our time in the area, we didn't even hear a single individual. We did manage to see Grey-headed Chachalaca, nice views of a male Red-headed Barbet, Blue-throated Toucanet, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Golden-browed Chlorophonia and Crimson-collared Tanager. After lunch we birded a combination of dry forest with mangrove edges as well as the salt pans of Cocorocas. Highlights of this afternoon were good views by all members of the group of two very elusive rails in Rufous-necked Wood Rail and Mangrove Rail. We also got the rarest sight of the tour in a single individual American Golden Plover, a species which is a passing migrant in Costa Rica with few yearly records. Other notable species during our afternoon session included nice views of Mangrove Cuckoo, Grey, Semipalmated and Wilson's Plovers, Marbled Godwit, Short-billed Dowitcher, Lesser Yellowlegs, Black Skimmer, Laughing and Franklin's Gulls, Cabot's and Gull-billed Terns, Belted Kingfisher, Orange-fronted Parakeet, Northern Scrub Flycatcher, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Rose-throated Becard, Mangrove Vireo, Olive Sparrow and Mangrove Warbler. After that we continued north to our hotel, where we had a very nice dinner.

This morning we focused on finding the last dry forest species we were still lacking. Highlights included Spot-bellied Bobwhite and Elegant Trogon while a close encounter with a Coyote was also memorable. Other birds seen this morning included Green-breasted Mango, Cinnamon Hummingbird, Common Ground Dove, Double-striped Thick-knee, White-fronted and Yellow-naped Amazons, Northern Beardless Tyrannulet, Banded Wren, Scrub Euphonia and Grey-crowned Yellowthroat.

Late morning, we crossed the continental divide of the country and reached the Caribbean Slope where many new species were waiting for us. A few stops in the foothills of Bijagua area produced Crested Guan, White-necked Jacobin, Green Hermit, Broad-billed Motmot, Collared

Aracari, Striped-breasted Wren, Carmiol's Tanager, Shining Honeycreeper and Scarlet-thighed Dacnis. Further along, we added Pale-vented Pigeon, Bare-throated Tiger Heron, Spot-breasted and Canebrake Wrens, Olive-crowned Yellowthroat and the localized Nicaraguan Seed Finch. We continued to Los Chiles near the Nicaraguan border for our scheduled afternoon boat ride in the Medio Queso wetlands. Our boat ride here was very productive with a few great surprises as well. The most important target of the area is the extremely localized near endemic Nicaraguan Grackle. We managed great views of several individuals including displaying males. The main surprise was a male Masked Duck, a very uncommon and difficult species to see in Costa Rica. Another mega was Yellow-breasted Crane which performed marvellously for the group. Other notables included Common and Purple Gallinules, Pied-billed Grebe, several Pinnated Bittern, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, Black-collared Hawk, American Pygmy Kingfisher, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Orchard Oriole, Red-winged Blackbird and Ruddy-breasted Seedeater. On the way to our Hotel in Caño Negro we managed to see several Pauraque, two Great Potoos and a Striped Owl.

The next day we took a boat ride in Caño Negro focusing on finding new birds for the trip. Along the river we noted Russet-naped Wood Rail, Solitary Sandpiper, Wood Stork, Boat-billed Heron, Pied Puffbird, Olivaceous Piculet, Dusky and Bare-crowned Antbird, Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher, Yellow Tyrannulet, Snowy Cotinga, Black-throated, Spot-breasted and Bay Wrens and Grey-headed Tanager.

After yet another productive boat ride, we left the area of Caño Negro to visit the Sarapiquí region and the famed La Selva Biological Station. On the way we made several birding stops where we had several additions such as Gray-rumped Swift, Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift, Blue-chested Hummingbird, King Vulture, Great Green and Scarlet Macaws, Black-striped Woodcreeper, White-ringed Flycatcher, Scarlet-rumped Caciue, Giant Cowbird, Bay-breasted Warbler, Shinning Honeycreeper and Thick-billed Seed Finch. Once at La Selva we settled in our rooms and worked on another big day list. An owling session followed that produced Vermiculated Screech Owl and Crested Owl while Black-and-white Owl vocalized quite close but we were unable to locate it.

La Selva Biological Station is considered to be the best Caribbean lowland forest birding available in the country. It is known for having a great density and diversity of species. Our full day here we were able to see quality species that included Great and Slaty-breasted Tinamou (both species seen by everyone), Band-tailed Barbthroat, King Vulture, Double-toothed Kite, Central American Pygmy Owl, Slaty-tailed and Black-throated Trogons, Broad-billed and Rufous Woodpeckers, White-necked Puffbird, Rufous-winged, Cinnamon and Chestnut-colored Woodpeckers, Red-lored Amazon, Great Green Macaw, Plain-brown Woodcreeper, Slaty Spinetail, Black-crowned and Fasciated Antshrikes, Spotted Antbird, Black-capped Pygmy Tyrant, Eye-ringed Flatbill, Long-tailed Tyrant, Rufous Mourner, several sightings of Snowy Cotinga, White-collared Manakin, White-breasted Wood Wren, Black-cowled Oriole, Worm-eating and Kentucky Warblers, Red-throated Ant Tanager and Plain-colored Tanager. At dusk we tried for Short-tailed Nighthawk and had nice views flying overhead.

Birding during the first part of the following morning in La Selva produced nice views of a swimming Sungrebe in the Puerto Viejo River. Other species seen during our morning session were Grey Hawk, Pale-billed Woodpecker, Northern Mealy Amazon, Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, another Snowy Cotinga, Trilling Gnatwren and White-vented Euphonia.

Once we left La Selva we birded the lower slopes of Poás Volcano. Highlights here included Brown Violetear, Green Thorntail, Green-crowned Brilliant, White-bellied Mountaingem, Coppery-headed Emerald, Swallow-tailed Kite, Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner, Zeledon's Antbird, Olive-

streaked Flycatcher and Tawny-capped Euphonia.

The last birding session of the day was at Bogarin Trails which proved to be quite successful with all of our major targets seen, as well as a few surprises. Our main target, the Uniform Crake, came to the open and everyone got nice views and the same happened with our White-throated Crake. A nice roosting Black-and-white Owl was part of the menu as well as the Grey-headed Dove (first time for me in the area), both Rufous and Keel-billed Motmots, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Tropical Mockingbird, Yellow-billed Cacique and a pair of uncommon migrant warblers in a male Hooded Warbler and a Magnolia Warbler. We also had great views of Brown-throated (Three-toed) Sloth. After our visit in Bogarin Trails, we continued to our nice hotel nestled on the slopes of towering Arenal Volcano.

A full day at the Arenal Volcano gave us plenty of time to explore its forest trails and gardens. Finally! Our first encounters with Great Curassow followed by the fancy male Black-crested Coquette that was coming to the verbena flowers in the garden. Other species this day included Crested Guan, White-necked Jacobin, Purple-crowned Fairy, Violet-headed Hummingbird, Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer, nice views of a perched Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Semiplumbeous Hawk, Northern Barred Woodcreeper, Western Woodhaunter, Spotted Barbtail, Russet Antshrike, Streak-crowned Antvireo, great views of Ocellated Antbird as well Bicoloured, Spotted and Dull-mantled Antbirds, Slaty-capped Flycatcher, White-ruffed Manakin, Sulphur-rumped Myiobius, Tawny-crowned Greenlet, Black-throated, Stripe-breasted and Song Wrens, Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush, Pale-vented Thrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Golden-winged and Buff-rumped Warblers, Tropical Parula, Tooth-billed and Carmiol's Tanagers, White-throated Shrike-Tanager, and Crimson-collared, Bay-headed and Emerald Tanagers.

A nice diner with celebratory drinks was a brilliant way to end our great birding day.

On our last day of the tour, we encountered rain in the morning. We didn't give up however and managed great views of Thicket Antpitta before breakfast. As we missed the Bellbird in Monteverde area, we had our last chance to give it a try on the way to the airport. Despite the rain of the morning, we arrived at the potential site for the Bellbird where it wasn't raining but was indeed very foggy making our quest a bit more challenging. After a while we detected a gonging male and with a bit of patience and strategy, we managed to get fairly close views albeit through a bit of fog making it an authentic "Cloud Forest" experience.

We tried hard for the Sunbittern but it didn't want to appear on this tour. Our search for Sunbittern did produce Lesson's Motmot, Ochre-bellied and Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers, Black Phoebe, Yellow-throated Euphonia, Common Bush Tanager, Baltimore Oriole, Chestnut-capped and Wilsons Warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Yellow-faced Grassquit. After our farewell lunch we continued to the airport where our tour ended.

Special thanks to our driver Luis for all his driving and birding expertise throughout the tour, and many thanks to all the enthusiastic members of this group.

Pura vida!

### **BIRDS OF THE TRIP 2023:**

1st: Three-wattled Bellbird

2nd: Resplendent Quetzal

3rd: White-crested Coquette

4th: Ocellated Antbird

5th: Thicket Antpitta

6th: Ornate Hawk-Eagle

7th: Wrenthrush

8th: Turquoise Cotinga

9th: Masked Duck

10th: Crested Owl

## SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED

### BIRDS

**Great Tinamou** *Tinamus major*

**Slaty-breasted Tinamou** ♦ *Crypturellus boucardi* Seen by everyone at La Selva.

**Black-bellied Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis*

**Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata*

**Blue-winged Teal** *Spatula discors*

**Masked Duck** *Nomonyx dominicus* A rare sight for the trip, one male seen at Medio Queso.

**Grey-headed Chachalaca** ♦ *Ortalis cinereiceps*

**Crested Guan** *Penelope purpurascens*

**Black Guan** ♦ *Chamaepetes unicolor* Near endemic, best views at Santa Elena Reserve.

**Great Curassow** ♦ *Crax rubra*

**Spot-bellied Bobwhite** ♦ (Crested B) *Colinus leucopogon*

**Marbled Wood Quail** *Odontophorus gujanensis* Hear only at Villa Lapas.

**Black-breasted Wood Quail** ♦ *Odontophorus leucolaemus* Near endemic, excellent views of a big group (10+) at Monteverde Reserve.

**Spotted Wood Quail** ♦ *Odontophorus guttatus* A single bird was seen at the Oak forest at Savegre.



**Lesser Nighthawk** *Chordeiles acutipennis*

**Short-tailed Nighthawk** *Lurocalis semitorquatus*

**Pauraque (Common P)** *Nyctidromus albicollis*

**Dusky Nightjar** ♦ *Antrostomus saturatus* Near endemic, seen at Paraiso Quetzal and Savegre Valley.

**Great Potoo** *Nyctibius grandis*

**White-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne zonaris*

**Grey-rumped Swift** *Chaetura cinereiventris*

**Vaux's Swift** *Chaetura vauxi*

**Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift** *Panyptila cayennensis*

**White-necked Jacobin** *Florisuga mellivora*

**Bronzy Hermit** *Glaucis aeneus*

**Band-tailed Barbthroat** *Threnetes ruckeri*

**Stripe-throated Hermit** *Phaethornis striigularis*

**Green Hermit** *Phaethornis guy*

**Long-billed Hermit (Western long-tailed H)** *Phaethornis longirostris*

**Brown Violetear** *Colibri delphinae*

**Lesser Violetear** *Colibri cyanotus*

**Purple-crowned Fairy** *Heliophryx barroti*

**Green-breasted Mango** *Anthracothorax prevostii*

**Green Thorntail** *Discosura conversii*

**Black-crested Coquette** ♦ *Lophornis helenae*

**White-crested Coquette** ♦ *Lophornis adorabilis* Near endemic, one of the best birds of the tour.

**Green-crowned Brilliant** *Heliodoxa jacula*

**Talamanca Hummingbird** ♦ *Eugenes spectabilis* Near endemic, common in the Talamanca highlands.

**Fiery-throated Hummingbird** ♦ *Panterpe insignis*

**White-bellied Mountaingem** ♦ *Lampornis hemileucus* Near endemic, a nice surprise at Virgen del Socorro.

**Purple-throated Mountaingem** ♦ *Lampornis calolaemus* Near endemic, best views at Monteverde.

**Grey-tailed Mountaingem** ♦ *Lampornis cinereicauda* Endemic for Costa Rica (if you follow the IOC taxonomy), several sights at Savegre Valley.

**Magenta-throated Woodstar** ♦ *Philodice bryantae* Near endemic, nice views coming to Monteverde Hummingbird Gallery.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** *Archilochus colubris*

**Volcano Hummingbird** *Selasphorus flammula* Near endemic, nice views of the subspecies *torridus*, that occurs exclusively at the Talamanca Mountain Range in Costa Rica and Western Panama.

**Scintillant Hummingbird** ♦ *Selasphorus scintilla* Near endemic, seen at different localities, even at San Isidro area that is a lower elevation than their normal range.

**Canivet's Emerald** *Cyanthus canivetii* One bird seen at Caldera.

**Garden Emerald** ♦ *Chlorostilbon assimilis* Near endemic, seen at San Isidro.

**Violet-headed Hummingbird** *Klais guimeti*

**Violet Sabrewing** ♦ *Campylopterus hemileucurus*

**Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer** ♦ (Red-footed P) *Chalybura urochrysia*

**Crowned Woodnymph** *Thalurania colombica*

**Coppery-headed Emerald** ♦ *Microchera cupreiceps*

**White-tailed Emerald** ♦ *Microchera chionura* One bird seen at Mirador del Valle.

**Stripe-tailed Hummingbird** ♦ *Eupherusa eximia*

**Scaly-breasted Hummingbird** *Phaeochroa cuvierii*

**Blue-vented Hummingbird** *Saucerottia hoffmanni* Near endemic (CR-Nicaragua), seen several times in the drier sections of the tour, and our last day of the tour at San Ramon.

**Snowy-bellied Hummingbird** ♦ *Saucerottia edward* Near endemic, Mirador del Valle.

**Cinnamon Hummingbird** *Amazilia rutila*

**Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** *Amazilia tzacatl*

**Mangrove Hummingbird** ♦ *Amazilia boucardi* Endemic, seen during our boat ride in the Tarcoles mangroves.

**Blue-chested Hummingbird** ♦ *Polyerata amabilis*

**Blue-throated Sapphire** ♦ *Chlorestes eliciae*

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*

Lesser Ground Cuckoo ♦ *Morococcyx erythropygus*

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*

Mangrove Cuckoo *Coccyzus minor*

Rock Dove (introduced) *Columba livia*

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris*

Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea*

Short-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas nigrirostris*

Inca Dove *Columbina inca*

Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerina*

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti*

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*

Grey-headed Dove ♦ *Leptotila plumbeiceps*

Grey-chested Dove ♦ *Leptotila cassinii*

Buff-fronted Quail-Dove ♦ *Zentrygon costaricensis* Near endemic, stunning views at Monteverde.

Chiriqui Quail-Dove ♦ *Zentrygon chiriquensis* Near endemic, a tricky one that we managed to see at Santuario Ecologico Monteverde.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*

Sungrebe *Heliornis fulica*

Uniform Crake *Amaurolimnas concolor*

Rufous-necked Wood Rail *Aramides axillaris*

Russet-naped Wood Rail *Aramides albiventris*

Mangrove Rail ♦ *Rallus longirostris*

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*

Purple Gallinule (American P G) *Porphyrio martinica*

Yellow-breasted Crake ◊ *Laterallus flaviventer*  
White-throated Crake *Laterallus albigularis*  
Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus*  
Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*  
Double-striped Thick-knee *Burhinus bistriatus*  
Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*  
Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*  
American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* A rare sight for the trip at Cocorocas.  
Grey Plover (Black-bellied P) *Pluvialis squatarola*  
Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*  
Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia*  
Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa*  
Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus*  
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*  
Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*  
Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*  
Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*  
Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*  
Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*  
Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*  
Wandering Tattler *Tringa incana*  
Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*  
Willet *Tringa semipalmata*  
Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger*  
Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla*  
Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan*  
Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*  
Cabot's Tern *Thalasseus acuflavidus*

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*

Neotropic Cormorant *Nannopterum brasilianum*

Green Ibis *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*

American White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*

Bare-throated Tiger Heron ◊ *Tigrisoma mexicanum*

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius*

Pinnated Bittern ◊ *Botaurus pinnatus*

Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Tricolored Heron (Louisiana H) *Egretta tricolor*

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*

King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa*

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus*

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*

Ornate Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus ornatus* One bird seen sitting on a tree at Arenal Observatory Lodge.

**Double-toothed Kite** *Harpagus bidentatus*

**Northern Harrier** *Circus hudsonius*

**Bicolored Hawk** *Accipiter bicolor*

**Plumbeous Kite** *Ictinia plumbea*

**Black-collared Hawk** *Busarellus nigricollis*

**Common Black Hawk** *Buteogallus anthracinus*

**Roadside Hawk** *Rupornis magnirostris*

**Semiplumbeous Hawk** ♦ *Leucopternis semiplumbeus*

**Grey Hawk** *Buteo plagiatus*

**Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus*

**Short-tailed Hawk** *Buteo brachyurus*

**Swainson's Hawk** *Buteo swainsoni*

**Zone-tailed Hawk** *Buteo albonotatus*

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*

**Costa Rican Pygmy Owl** ♦ *Glaucidium costaricanum* Near-endemic, seen at Cerro de La Muerte.

**Central American Pygmy Owl** ♦ *Glaucidium griseiceps*

**Ferruginous Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium brasilianum*

**Striped Owl** ♦ *Asio clamator*

**Tropical Screech Owl** *Megascops choliba*

**Pacific Screech Owl** ♦ *Megascops cooperi*

**Vermiculated Screech Owl** ♦ *Megascops vermiculatus* Near endemic, seen at La Selva.

**Spectacled Owl** *Pulsatrix perspicillata*

**Crested Owl** *Lophotrix cristata*

**Mottled Owl** *Strix virgata*

**Black-and-white Owl** *Strix nigrolineata*

**Resplendent Quetzal** ♦ *Pharomachrus mocinno* Seen on different occasions at Cerro de La Muerte.

**Slaty-tailed Trogon** *Trogon massena*

**Black-headed Trogon** *Trogon melanocephalus*

**Baird's Trogon** ♦ *Trogon bairdii* Near endemic, seen at Carara.

**Gartered Trogon (Northern Violaceous T)** *Trogon caligatus*

**Black-throated Trogon** *Trogon rufus*

**Elegant Trogon** ♦ *Trogon elegans*

**Collared Trogon** *Trogon collaris*

**Amazon Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle amazona*

**American Pygmy Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle aenea*

**Green Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle americana*

**Green-and-rufous Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle inda* Leader only, at Caño Negro.

**Ringed Kingfisher** *Megaceryle torquata*

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon*

**Lesson's Motmot** *Momotus lessonii*

**Rufous Motmot** *Baryphthengus martii*

**Keel-billed Motmot** ♦ *Electron carinatum*

**Broad-billed Motmot** *Electron platyrhynchum*

**Turquoise-browed Motmot** ♦ *Eumomota superciliosa*

**Rufous-tailed Jacamar** *Galbula ruficauda*

**White-necked Puffbird** *Notharchus hyperrhynchus*

**Pied Puffbird** *Notharchus tectus*

**White-whiskered Puffbird** *Malacoptila panamensis*

**Red-headed Barbet** *Eubucco bourcierii*

**Prong-billed Barbet** ♦ *Semnornis frantzii* Near endemic, nice views at Santa Elena and Monteverde Reserves.

**Blue-throated Toucanet** ♦ *Aulacorhynchus caeruleogularis* Near endemic, best views at Finca Ecologica San Luis, Monteverde.

**Collared Aracari** *Pteroglossus torquatus*

**Fiery-billed Aracari** ♦ *Pteroglossus frantzii* Near endemic, seen near San Isidro area.

**Keel-billed Toucan** *Ramphastos sulfuratus*

Yellow-throated Toucan (Chestnut-mandibled T) *Ramphastos ambiguus*

Olivaceous Piculet *Picumnus olivaceus*

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus*

Golden-naped Woodpecker ◊ *Melanerpes chrysauchen* Near endemic, seen at Carara area.

Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani*

Red-crowned Woodpecker *Melanerpes rubricapillus*

Hoffmann's Woodpecker *Melanerpes hoffmannii*

Smoky-brown Woodpecker *Leuconotopicus fumigatus*

Hairy Woodpecker *Leuconotopicus villosus*

Rufous-winged Woodpecker ◊ *Piculus simplex*

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus*

Cinnamon Woodpecker *Celeus loricatus*

Chestnut-colored Woodpecker *Celeus castaneus*

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*

Pale-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus guatemalensis*

Crested Caracara (Northern C C) *Caracara [plancus] cheriway*

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans*

Collared Forest Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus*

Bat Falcon *Falco rufigularis*

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Orange-chinned Parakeet (Tovi P) *Brotogeris jugularis*

Brown-hooded Parrot *Pyrrhula haematotis*

White-crowned Parrot *Pionus senilis*

White-fronted Amazon (W-f Parrot) *Amazona albifrons*

Red-lored Amazon (R-l Parrot) *Amazona autumnalis*

Yellow-naped Amazon ◊ (Y-n Parrot) *Amazona auropalliata*

Northern Mealy Amazon ◊ (N M Parrot) *Amazona guatemalae*



**Sulphur-winged Parakeet** ◊ *Pyrrhura hoffmanni* Near endemic, good views at Savegre.

**Olive-throated Parakeet** *Eupsittula nana*

**Orange-fronted Parakeet** *Eupsittula canicularis*

**Great Green Macaw** ◊ *Ara ambiguus* Good views at Sarapiquí region, and La Selva Biological Station.

**Scarlet Macaw** *Ara macao* Seen regularly in Carara and Tarcoles area.

**Finsch's Parakeet** ◊ *Psittacara finschi*

**Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser** ◊ *Sclerurus mexicanus*

**Grey-throated Leaf-tosser** *Sclerurus albigularis*

**Olivaceous Woodcreeper** *Sittasomus griseicapillus*

**Ruddy Woodcreeper** *Dendrocincla homochroa*

**Tawny-winged Woodcreeper** *Dendrocincla anabatina*

**Plain-brown Woodcreeper** *Dendrocincla fuliginosa*

**Wedge-billed Woodcreeper** *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*

**Northern Barred Woodcreeper** *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*

**Cocoa Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus susurrans*

**Black-striped Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*

**Spotted Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*

**Brown-billed Scythebill** *Campylorhamphus pusillus*

**Streak-headed Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*

**Spot-crowned Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes affinis*

**Plain Xenops** *Xenops minutus*

**Buffy Tuftedcheek** ◊ *Pseudocolaptes lawrencii*

**Lineated Foliage-gleaner** *Syndactyla subalaris*

**Streak-breasted Treehunter** ◊ *Thripadectes rufobrunneus* Near endemic, good views at Monteverde and Cerro de La Muerte.

**Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner** *Automolus ochrolaemus*

**Chiriqui Foliage-gleaner** ◊ *Automolus exsertus* Near endemic, one bird was seen at Los Cusingos Reserve.

**Western Woodhaunter** *Automolus virgatus*

**Spotted Barbtail** *Premnoplex brunnescens*

**Ruddy Treerunner** ◊ *Margarornis rubiginosus*

**Red-faced Spinetail** *Cranioleuca erythropis*

**Slaty Spinetail** *Synallaxis brachyura*

**Pale-breasted Spinetail** *Synallaxis albescens*

**Russet Antshrike** *Thamnistes anabatinus*

**Dot-winged Antwren** *Microrhophias quixensis*

**Slaty Antwren** *Myrmotherula schisticolor*

**Plain Antvireo** *Dysithamnus mentalis*

**Streak-crowned Antvireo** ◊ *Dysithamnus striaticeps*

**Barred Antshrike** *Thamnophilus doliatus*

**Black-hooded Antshrike** ◊ *Thamnophilus bridgesi* Near endemic, regular bird at Carara NP.

**Black-crowned Antshrike** ◊ (Western Slaty A) *Thamnophilus atrinucha*

**Fasciated Antshrike** *Cymbilaimus lineatus*

**Ocellated Antbird** ◊ *Phaenostictus mcleannani* Great views of 5 birds attending an army ants swarm at Arenal.

**Bicolored Antbird** *Gymnopithys bicolor*

**Dusky Antbird** *Cercomacroides tyrannina*

**Spotted Antbird** *Hylophylax naevioides*

**Chestnut-backed Antbird** *Poliocrania exsul*

**Dull-mantled Antbird** ◊ *Sipia laemosticta*

**Bare-crowned Antbird** ◊ *Gymnocichla nudiceps*

**Zeledon's Antbird** ◊ *Hafferia zeledoni*

**Black-faced Antthrush** *Formicarius analis*

**Streak-chested Antpitta** ◊ (Spectacled A) *Hylopezus perspicillatus*

**Thicket Antpitta** ◊ *Hylopezus dives*

**Silvery-fronted Tapaculo** ◊ *Scytalopus argentifrons* Near endemic, good views in Monteverde area.

**Greenish Elaenia** *Myiopagis viridicata*

**Yellow-bellied Elaenia** *Elaenia flavogaster*

**Mountain Elaenia** *Elaenia frantzii*

**Northern Beardless Tyrannulet** *Camptostoma imberbe*

**Southern Beardless Tyrannulet** *Camptostoma obsoletum*

**Torrent Tyrannulet** *Serpophaga cinerea*

**Yellow Tyrannulet** *Capsiempis flaveola*

**Mistletoe Tyrannulet (Paltry T)** *Zimmerius parvus*

**Olive-streaked Flycatcher** *Mionectes olivaceus* Near endemic, seen at Virgen del Socorro Road.

**Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** *Mionectes oleagineus*

**Slaty-capped Flycatcher** *Leptopogon superciliaris*

**Northern Scrub Flycatcher** *Sublegatus arenarum*

**Black-capped Pygmy Tyrant** *Myiornis atricapillus*

**Northern Bentbill** *Oncostoma cinereigulare*

**Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant** *Lophotriccus pileatus* Heard only, at Monteverde and Arenal.

**Slaty-headed Tody-Flycatcher** *Poecilotriccus sylvia*

**Common Tody-Flycatcher** *Todirostrum cinereum*

**Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher** *Todirostrum nigriceps*

**Eye-ringed Flatbill** *Rhynchocyclus brevirostris*

**Yellow-olive Flatbill (Y-o Flycatcher)** *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*

**Yellow-margined Flatbill (Y-m flycatcher)** *Tolmomyias flavotectus* Heard only at La Selva.

**White-throated Spadebill** *Platyrinchus mystaceus*

**Golden-crowned Spadebill** *Platyrinchus coronatus*

**Black Phoebe** *Sayornis nigricans*

**Northern Tufted Flycatcher** *Mitrephanes phaeocercus*

**Ochraceous Pewee** ♦ *Contopus ochraceus* Near endemic, good views at Savegre Valley, next to a Northern Tufted Flycatcher for comparison. Uncommon species.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** *Empidonax flaviventris*

**Yellowish Flycatcher** *Empidonax flavescens*

**Black-capped Flycatcher** ◊ *Empidonax atriceps* Near endemic, seen at Talamanca Highlands.

**Long-tailed Tyrant** *Colonia colonus*

**Piratic Flycatcher** *Legatus leucophaeus*

**Social Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes similis*

**Grey-capped Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes granadensis*

**Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus*

**White-ringed Flycatcher** *Conopias albobittatus*

**Golden-bellied Flycatcher** ◊ *Myiodynastes hemichrysus*

**Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes luteiventris*

**Streaked Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes maculatus*

**Boat-billed Flycatcher** *Megarynchus pitangua*

**Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus*

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus forficatus*

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus savana*

**Rufous Mourner** *Rhytipterna holerythra*

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tuberculifer*

**Panama Flycatcher** ◊ *Myiarchus panamensis* Good views at Tarcoles mangroves.

**Nutting's Flycatcher** *Myiarchus nuttingi*

**Great Crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus crinitus*

**Brown-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tyrannulus*

**Bright-rumped Attila** ◊ *Attila spadiceus*

**Rufous Piha** *Lipaugus unirufus*

**Three-wattled Bellbird** ◊ *Procnias tricarunculatus* The bird of the trip!

**Turquoise Cotinga** ◊ *Cotinga ridgwayi* Near endemic, three individuals at San Isidro, one of them fairly close!

**Snowy Cotinga** ◊ *Carpodectes nitidus* Several sights, first at Caño Negro, also at La Selva.

**Long-tailed Manakin** ◊ *Chiroxiphia linearis* Good views of males, specially at Santuario Ecologico.

**White-ruffed Manakin** *Corapipo altera*

**Velvety Manakin** ◊ *Lepidothrix velutina*

**White-collared Manakin** *Manacus candei*

**Orange-collared Manakin** ◊ *Manacus aurantiacus* Near endemic, great views at Carara NP.

**Red-capped Manakin** *Ceratopipra mentalis* Nice male at Los Cusingos Reserve.

**Northern Royal Flycatcher** *Onychorhynchus mexicanus*

**Sulphur-rumped Myiobius (S-r Flycatcher)** *Myiobius sulphureipygius*

**Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher** *Terenotriccus erythrurus*

**Black-crowned Tityra** *Tityra inquisitor*

**Masked Tityra** *Tityra semifasciata*

**Barred Becard** *Pachyramphus versicolor* Heard only at Monteverde and Talamanca highlands.

**Cinnamon Becard** *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*

**Rose-throated Becard** *Pachyramphus aglaiae*

**Rufous-browed Peppershrike** *Cyclarhis gujanensis*

**Tawny-crowned Greenlet** *Tunchiornis ochraceiceps*

**Lesser Greenlet** *Pachysylvia decurtata*

**Yellow-green Vireo** *Vireo flavoviridis*

**Philadelphia Vireo** *Vireo philadelphicus*

**Brown-capped Vireo** *Vireo leucophrys*

**Yellow-throated Vireo** *Vireo flavifrons*

**Yellow-winged Vireo** ◊ *Vireo carmioli*

**Mangrove Vireo** *Vireo pallens*

**Brown Jay** *Psilorhinus morio*

**White-throated Magpie-Jay** *Calocitta formosa*

**Black-and-yellow Phainoptila** ◊ *Phainoptila melanoxantha* Near endemic, nice views at Paraiso Quetzal.

**Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher** ◊ *Ptiliogonys caudatus* Near endemic, good views in the Talamanca highlands.

**Mangrove Swallow** *Tachycineta albilinea*

**Blue-and-white Swallow** *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

**Southern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*

**Grey-breasted Martin** *Progne chalybea*

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

**American Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*

**Rufous-backed Wren** *Campylorhynchus capistratus*

**Black-throated Wren** ◊ *Pheugopedius atrogularis*

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

**Rufous-breasted Wren** *Pheugopedius rutilus*

**Banded Wren** *Thryophilus pleurostictus*

**Rufous-and-white Wren** *Thryophilus rufalbus*

**Cabanis's Wren** ◊ *Cantorchilus modestus*

**Canebrake Wren** ◊ *Cantorchilus zeledoni*

**Isthmian Wren** ◊ *Cantorchilus elutus* Near endemic.

**Riverside Wren** ◊ *Cantorchilus semibadius* Near endemic, seen well at Carara NP.

**Bay Wren** *Cantorchilus nigricapillus*

**Stripe-breasted Wren** *Cantorchilus thoracicus*

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon*

**Ochraceous Wren** ◊ *Troglodytes ochraceus*

**Timberline Wren** ◊ *Thryorchilus browni*

**White-breasted Wood Wren** *Henicorhina leucosticta*

**Grey-breasted Wood Wren** *Henicorhina leucophrys*

**Northern Nightingale-Wren (Nightingale W)** *Microcerculus philomela*

**Southern Nightingale-Wren** *Microcerculus marginatus* Heard only.

**Song Wren** *Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus* Seen at Arenal Observatory Lodge.

**Trilling Gnatwren** *Ramphocaenus melanurus*

**Tawny-faced Gnatwren** *Microbates cinereiventris*

**White-browed Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila bilineata*

**White-lored Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila albiloris*

**Tropical Mockingbird** *Mimus gilvus*

**Black-faced Solitaire** ◊ *Myadestes melanops* Near endemic, best views at Monteverde.

**Wood Thrush** *Hylocichla mustelina*

**Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush** *Catharus aurantiirostris*

**Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush** ◊ *Catharus mexicanus*

**Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush** *Catharus fuscater*

**Swainson's Thrush** *Catharus ustulatus*

**Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush** ◊ *Catharus gracilirostris* Near endemic, common at Paraiso Quetzal.

**Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush** ◊ *Catharus frantzii*

**Sooty Thrush** ◊ (S Robin) *Turdus nigrescens* Near endemic.

**Mountain Thrush** ◊ (M Robin) *Turdus plebejus*

**Pale-vented Thrush** (P-v Robin) *Turdus obsoletus*

**Clay-colored Thrush** (C-c Robin) *Turdus grayi*

**American Dipper** *Cinclus mexicanus*

**House Sparrow** (introduced) *Passer domesticus*

**Lesser Goldfinch** *Spinus psaltria*

**Yellow-bellied Siskin** *Spinus xanthogastrus*

**Golden-browed Chlorophonia** ◊ *Chlorophonia callophrys* Near endemic, several individuals feeding on bushes in the gardens of Paraiso Quetzal.

**Scrub Euphonia** *Euphonia affinis*

**Yellow-crowned Euphonia** *Euphonia luteicapilla*

**White-vented Euphonia** *Euphonia minuta*

**Yellow-throated Euphonia** *Euphonia hirundinacea*

**Spot-crowned Euphonia** ◊ *Euphonia imitans* Near endemic, seen at Los Cusingos Reserve.

**Olive-backed Euphonia** *Euphonia gouldi*

**Tawny-capped Euphonia** ◊ *Euphonia anneae* Restricted-range species, good views at Arenal.

**Sooty-capped Bush Tanager** ◊ *Chlorospingus pileatus* Near endemic, common at Talamanca Highlands.

**Common Bush Tanager** *Chlorospingus flavopectus*

**Stripe-headed Sparrow** *Peucaea ruficauda*

**Olive Sparrow** *Arremonops rufivirgatus*

**Black-striped Sparrow** *Arremonops conirostris*

**Orange-billed Sparrow** *Arremon aurantiirostris*

**Chestnut-capped Brushfinch** *Arremon brunneinucha*

**Sooty-faced Finch** ◊ *Arremon crassirostris* Near endemic, good views at Santa Elena Reserve.

**Volcano Junco** ◊ *Junco vulcani* Near endemic, seen nicely at the Paramo habitat.

**Rufous-collared Sparrow** *Zonotrichia capensis*

**Large-footed Finch** ◊ *Pezopetes capitalis* Near endemic, regular in the grounds of Paraiso Quetzal.

**White-eared Ground Sparrow** ◊ *Melozone leucotis* Seen at Monteverde area and Hotel Bougainvillea.

**Cabanis's Ground Sparrow** ◊ *Melozone cabanisi* Endemic, finally we got good views at Ujarrás.

**White-naped Brushfinch (Yellow-throated B F)** *Atlapetes albinucha*

**Yellow-thighed Brushfinch** ◊ *Atlapetes tibialis* Near endemic, Talamanca highlands.

**Wrenthrush** ◊ (Zeledonia) *Zeledonia coronata* Good views at Paraiso Quetzal, a monotypic family.

**Red-breasted Blackbird** *Leistes militaris*

**Yellow-billed Cacique** *Amblycercus holosericeus*

**Chestnut-headed Oropendola** *Psarocolius wagleri*

**Montezuma Oropendola** *Psarocolius montezuma*

**Scarlet-rumped Cacique** *Cacicus microrhynchus*

**Streak-backed Oriole** *Icterus pustulatus*

**Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula*

**Black-cowled Oriole** *Icterus prosthemelas*

**Orchard Oriole** *Icterus spurius*

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*



**Giant Cowbird** *Molothrus oryzivorus*

**Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis*

**Bronzed Cowbird** *Molothrus aeneus*

**Melodious Blackbird** *Dives dives*

**Nicaraguan Grackle** ♦ *Quiscalus nicaraguensis* Near endemic, a very special Grackle species that just occur in southern Nicaragua and Cano Negro-Upala area in northern Costa Rica.

**Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus*

**Ovenbird** *Seiurus aurocapilla*

**Worm-eating Warbler** *Helmitheros vermivorum*

**Louisiana Waterthrush** *Parkesia motacilla*

**Northern Waterthrush** *Parkesia noveboracensis*

**Golden-winged Warbler** *Vermivora chrysoptera*

**Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia*

**Prothonotary Warbler** *Protonotaria citrea*

**Flame-throated Warbler** *Oreothlypis gutturalis*

**Tennessee Warbler** *Leiothlypis peregrina*

**Grey-crowned Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis poliocephala*

**Mourning Warbler** *Geothlypis philadelphia*

**Kentucky Warbler** *Geothlypis formosa*

**Olive-crowned Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis semiflava*

**Hooded Warbler** *Setophaga citrina*

**American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla*

**Tropical Parula** *Setophaga pitiayumi*

**Magnolia Warbler** *Setophaga magnolia*

**Bay-breasted Warbler** *Setophaga castanea*

**Blackburnian Warbler** *Setophaga fusca*

**American Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga aestiva*

**Mangrove Warbler** *Setophaga petechia*

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Setophaga pensylvanica*  
Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens*  
Buff-rumped Warbler *Myiothlypis fulvicauda*  
Chestnut-capped Warbler *Basileuterus delatirii*  
Black-cheeked Warbler ◊ *Basileuterus melanogenys*  
Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*  
Black-eared Warbler *Basileuterus melanotis* Near endemic, common in Monteverde.  
Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*  
Slate-throated Whitestart (S-t Redstart) *Myioborus miniatus*  
Collared Whitestart *Myioborus torquatus*  
Flame-colored Tanager (Stripe-backed T) *Piranga bidentata*  
Tooth-billed Tanager (Highland Hepatic T) *Piranga lutea*  
Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*  
Red-crowned Ant Tanager *Habia rubica*  
Red-throated Ant Tanager *Habia fuscicauda*  
Carmioli's Tanager ◊ *Chlorothraupis carmioli*  
Black-thighed Grosbeak ◊ *Pheucticus tibialis* Near endemic, good views at Providencia Road.  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*  
Black-faced Grosbeak *Caryothraustes poliogaster*  
Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanoloxia cyanoides*  
Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza*  
Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus*  
Shining Honeycreeper ◊ *Cyanerpes lucidus*  
Scarlet-thighed Dacnis *Dacnis venusta*  
Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana*  
Cinnamon-bellied Saltator *Saltator grandis*  
Streaked Saltator *Saltator striatipectus*  
Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus*

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**Black-headed Saltator** *Saltator atriceps*

**Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola*

**Yellow-faced Grassquit** *Tiaris olivaceus*

**Blue-black Grassquit** *Volatinia jacarina*

**Grey-headed Tanager** *Eucometis penicillata*

**White-shouldered Tanager** *Loriotus luctuosus*

**Tawny-crested Tanager** *Tachyphonus delatrii*

**White-lined Tanager** *Tachyphonus rufus*

**White-throated Shrike-Tanager** ♦ *Lanio leucothorax* Restricted-range species, close and prolonged views at Arenal.

**Crimson-collared Tanager** ♦ *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus* Good views at Finca Ecologica San Luis, also at La Selva.

**Scarlet-rumped Tanager** ♦ (Passerini's T) *Ramphocelus [passerinii] passerinii*

**Scarlet-rumped Tanager** ♦ (Cherrie's T) *Ramphocelus [passerinii] costaricensis*

**Morelet's Seedeater** ♦ *Sporophila moreletti*

**Variable Seedeater** *Sporophila corvina*

**Thick-billed Seed Finch** *Sporophila funerea*

**Nicaraguan Seed Finch** ♦ *Sporophila nuttingi* Restricted-range species, seen at close distance at Caño Negro.

**Ruddy-breasted Seedeater** *Sporophila minuta*

**Slaty Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa plumbea* Near endemic, common in the highlands.

**Speckled Tanager** *Ixothraupis guttata*

**Blue-grey Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus*

**Palm Tanager** *Thraupis palmarum*

**Golden-hooded Tanager** *Stilpnia larvata*

**Spangle-cheeked Tanager** ♦ *Tangara dowii* Near endemic, seen at Paraiso Quetzal.

**Bay-headed Tanager** *Tangara gyrola*

**Emerald Tanager** *Tangara florida*

**Silver-throated Tanager** *Tangara icterocephala*

Plain-colored Tanager ◊ *Tangara inornata*

## MAMMALS

Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth *Choloepus hoffmanni* Seen at La Selva.

Brown-throated Sloth *Bradypus variegatus*

Coyote *Canis latrans*

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica*

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*

Northern Ghost Bat *Diclidurus albus* One individual seen at Carara NP.

Greater Sac-winged Bat *Saccopteryx bilineata*

Panamanian White-faced Capuchin *Cebus imitator*

Mantled Howler Monkey (M H Monkey) *Alouatta palliata*

Black-handed Spider Monkey (Black-handed S M) *Ateles geoffroyi* Seen at Caño Negro.

Dice's Cottontail (Mountain R) *Sylvilagus dicei* Two individuals were seen at night, in Savegre Valley.

Central American Tapeti *Sylvilagus gabbi* Seen at La Selva, at night.

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata*

Mexican Hairy Dwarf Porcupine *Coendou mexicanus* A young individual was seen at Santuario Ecologico, Monteverde.

Red-tailed Squirrel (Tropical Red S) *Sciurus granatensis*

Variiegated Squirrel *Sciurus variegatoides*

Dusky Rice Rat *Melanomys caliginosus*

## REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Nicaraguan Slider *Trachemys grayi* Seen at Caño Negro.

Black River Turtle *Rhinoclemmys funerea* Seen in the Puerto Viejo River, from La Selva hanging bridge.

Common Basilisk *Basiliscus vitatus* The brown species of Basilisk that we saw in the Caribbean slope.

Green Basilisk *Basiliscus plumifrons* Seen at Caño Negro.

**Brown Basilisk** *Basiliscus basiliscus* Seen at Villa Lapas.

**Bighead Anole** *Anolis capito* Seen at La Selva.

**Green Spiny Lizard** *Sceloporus malachiticus* Seen at Savegre Valley.

**Spine-tailed Iguana** *Ctenosaura similis* Seen at Villa Lapas and dry forest regions.

**Green Iguana** *Iguana iguana*

**Middle American (Whiptail) Ameiva** *Holcosus festivus* Seen at Carara NP, foraging on the ground.

**Palm Pit Viper** Seen at Santa Elena Reserve.

**Spectacled Caiman** *Caiman crocodilus* Very common at Caño Negro area.

**American Crocodile** *Crocodylus acutus* Seen at Tarcoles River.

**Hourglass Treefrog** *Dendropsophus ebreccatus* Seen at Arenal Observatory Lodge.

**Red-eyed Tree Frog** *Agalychnis callidryas* Seen at Arenal Observatory Lodge.

**Cane Toad** *Rhinella marina* Seen at different locations.

**Green and Black Poison Frog** *Dendrobates auratus* Seen at Carara National Park and Bogarin Trails.

**Strawberry Poison-dart Frog** *Oophaga pumilio* Nice views at La Selva of this tiny creature.