

ULTIMATE COSTA RICA TOUR REPORT 2025

20 March - 11 April 2025

Fito Downs

This year, our Classic Costa Rica Tour was very successful (again), with an impressive total of 553 species recorded. We added one cumulative species to the Costa Rica list: Cattle Tyrant, which was seen near the wetlands of Caño Negro. We also targeted almost all possible endemics and regional endemics, achieving remarkable success with several bird families. Despite the poor weather we experienced at the beginning of the tour, with about four days of rain (which was entirely unpredictable, especially at this time of year), we managed to find all the trogon species in the country (a total of nine), all the motmot species (six in total), 15 out of the 16 woodpecker species (excluding the migrant Yellow-bellied Sapsucker), an astonishing 43 hummingbird species (49 in total in the country), and 12 owl species out of the 15.

There were many highlights during the tour, but the most significant included the incredible close-up views of a male Snowy Cotinga at La Selva Biological Station, excellent views of an elusive Thicket Antpitta (even through the spotting scope), and a Dull-mantled Antbird eating a caterpillar right next to the group. We had great views of Tody Motmot at Tenorio Volcano National Park and many Nicaraguan Seed-Finches observed nicely at Los Chiles. We also had spectacular views and experiences with Three-wattled Bellbird at Children's Rainforest, as well as a pair of Resplendent Quetzals building a nest near Monteverde, and a daytime encounter with a Bare-shanked Screech Owl at Santa Elena Reserve. Additionally, we spotted Mangrove Hummingbird (endemic) in the mangroves of Tarcoles, observed White-crested Coquettes, Choco Screech Owl, and Marbled Wood Quails near Corcovado National Park. There was a stunning male Rosy Thrush Tanager, now placed in its own monotypic family, a rare Yellow-billed Cotinga, the elusive and unpredictable Buffy-crowned Wood Partridge, and a superb Snowcap seen extraordinarily well at El Copal. Finally, we had a glimpse of the almost mythical Maroon-chested Ground-Dove on the last day of the tour.

Other species that deserve special mention include Spot-bellied Bobwhite, Veraguan Mango, Black-crested Coquette, Coppery-headed Emerald (endemic), Lesser Ground Cuckoo seen very well, Agami Heron, Bicolored Hawk, Middle American Screech Owl, Keel-billed Motmot, Prong-billed Barbet, Fiery-billed Aracari, Golden-naped Woodpecker, Sulphur-winged Parakeet, and Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser (an exceptionally rare species). We also observed the Chiriqui Foliage-Gleaner, Streak-crowned Antvireo, Black-headed Antthrush, Scaled Antpitta, Bare-crowned Antbird, Silvery-fronted Tapaculo, Tawny-chested Flycatcher, White-throated Flycatcher, Ochraceous Pewee, Turquoise Cotinga, Dark Pewee, and both Black-throated and Timberline Wrens.

The list continues with the attractive Costa Rican Brushfinch, Wrenthrush (Zeledonia), Black-billed Nightingale Thrush, the local Volcano Junco, Large-footed Finch, and Cabanis's Ground Sparrow (seen twice). The Nicaraguan Grackle, Chiriqui Yellowthroat, Collared Redstart, Costa Rican Warbler and Slaty Flowerpiercer were just some of the many specialties observed during the tour.

Our Classic Costa Rica Tour started at the lovely grounds of Hotel Bougainvillea, near downtown San José. As always, we met in the lobby for a quick cup of coffee and then headed out to the gardens to find our first birds. Most were common and widespread such as Social Flycatcher, Great-tailed Grackle, Blue-gray Tanager, Black Vulture, Great Kiskadee, and Rufous-tailed Hummingbird. Gradually, we discovered less common species like Lesson's Motmot, Red-billed Pigeon and Rufous-backed Wren, and with some effort, we spotted our first Ferruginous Pygmy Owl!

Later, we encountered Squirrel Cuckoo, noisy Brown Jays, Crested Caracara and a Chestnut-capped Warbler quietly perched near the coffee plantation just outside the garden. Migrants included Philadelphia Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, and the always attractive Baltimore Oriole. However, the pre-breakfast birding was not over yet as we enjoyed great views of a Mottled Owl perched in the bamboo stands, which allowed us to get fantastic views!

Later in the morning at Braulio Carrillo National Park, we walked the first trail called Las Palmas. The activity was a bit low, but we had amazing views of a male White-throated Shrike Tanager. We also saw numerous White-breasted Wood Wren, White-whiskered Puffbird, and glimpsed a Barred Hawk, which we were fortunate enough to see again a week later on the tour near the town of Cinchona. We also visited another trail known as the "viewpoint," where we saw Black-faced Grosbeak, Boat-billed Flycatcher and a distant White Hawk.

After driving for about 35 minutes we arrived at the town of La Unión for lunch where we had the chance to see Black Phoebe, Variable Seedeater, Palm Tanager, White-tipped Dove, and at the hummingbird feeders, we spotted Green-breasted Mango, the aggressive White-necked Jacobin and Scaly-breasted Hummingbird.

Other important birds here included Black-headed Saltator, Yellow-throated Euphonia, Red-legged Honeycreeper, and the fruiting bush near the feeder attracted Golden-hooded Tanager and a very active White-collared Manakin, which cooperated very well. A White-lined Tanager was occasionally visiting the fruit feeders and we also had the spectacular Shining Honeycreeper showing regularly, but the limelight was stolen with fabulous views of a Three-toed Sloth.

It was a wonderful place for lunch and birdwatching, but we had to leave for another great location situated at the Caribbean foothills. We walked a short distance along the trails near the lodge; however, the activity was very low, so we decided to return to the main entrance road where we found Chestnut-headed Oropendola, Scarlet-rumped Cacique and Olive-backed Euphonia. Later on the road, we saw a great flock of Chestnut-sided Warblers, White-shouldered Tanagers, more Shining Honeycreepers, White-ringed Flycatcher, Emerald Tanager, and the big surprise... a male Snowcap! In the same location we also saw Violet-headed Hummingbird, Crowned Woodnymph, Scarlet-rumped Tanager (Passerini's), Carmiol's Tanager and Russet Antshrike.

Our night session was amazing for other wildlife, such as Red-eyed Tree Frog, Masked Tree Frog, Leaf-cutter Ants, and the big surprise of the night—a wonderful Northern Tamandua seen at close range, along with a cooperative Black-and-White Owl to finish off a wonderful day.

With an early start, we met outside our comfortable rooms to search for hummingbirds at the verbena flowers. The activity was slow, but while waiting, we spotted our first Northern Barred Woodcreeper, along with a small flock of Dusky-faced Tanagers, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, and we heard the shy Barred Forest Falcon near our cabins, though despite trying hard to see it, we were unsuccessful.

After that, we had noisy Mealy Amazons flying over the clearing while a Stripe-throated Hermit came into view at the verbena flowers, along with the common Rufous-tailed Hummingbird and Crowned Woodnymph. Continuing on that path, we saw four White-crowned Parrots sitting quietly in a tree, along with a small canopy flock containing White-shouldered Tanagers, Green Honeycreepers, the always abundant Chestnut-sided Warbler, White-necked Jacobin, Lesser Greenlet, Speckled Tanager, Shining Honeycreeper and Olive-backed Euphonia. Inside the trail, we had a few birds with White-flanked Antwren, White-breasted Wood-Wren and a glimpse of Bright-rumped Attila way up in the canopy.

After breakfast, we were entertained by a pair of Baird's Tapir that crossed the boarding area, allowing us to have spectacular views of this enormous mammal. Right after this, we then headed up the loop trail for forest interior species finding a calling Lattice-tailed Trogon, albeit remaining hidden. The light near the reception area was a bit active with a large flock of Tawny-crested Tanagers, Green Honeycreepers, Chestnut-headed Oropendolas and Lesser Greenlets. We then continued birding along the main entrance road to the reserve when, within ten minutes maximum, we heard our second Lattice-tailed Trogon calling close to the main building. This special trogon was difficult to find at the very beginning, but we managed to locate it and spent some much time watching it. After this important goal was achieved, we moved on to our next destination near the town of La Unión in the lower elevation area. Here we met a local guide who knew stakeouts for two important owls: Crested Owl and Spectacled Owl.

After a short walk, we first tried the enigmatic Crested Owl with great success and, after that, we drove to another area for the Spectacled Owl. Once there, we walked along the small river and some grassy areas where we got great looks at the owl, which had apparently been there for a few days. After this unforgettable experience, it was time to continue our journey towards La Selva Station.

One quick stop along the main road provided Crested Caracara, Northern Jacana, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Red-winged Blackbird, Great Egret and some Mangrove Swallows flying over the field. We arrived at La Selva in the afternoon just in time for the evening activity. We completed the check-in process and spent some time near the restaurant because the fig tree was fruiting right outside, attracting lots of birds including Yellow-crowned Euphonia, Palm Tanager, Yellow-throated Euphonia, Black-faced Grosbeak, a couple of Shining

Honeycreepers, Golden-hooded Tanager, Scarlet-rumped Tanager, Yellow-throated Toucan, Collared Aracari, Common Tody-Flycatcher, and the best-ever looks at a male Snowy Cotinga that came into view.

The birding near the river was good as well, with sightings of Crested Guan and a daytime roost for the Middle American Screech Owl! After observing the Screech Owls, we then walked back towards the main building area to search for other specialties, not before finding the uncommon Sungebe from the suspension bridge of the station at the end of the day.

With a full day at La Selva, we started the day right outside our accommodations and headed out to the main building area. We heard Mealy Amazons calling outside the restaurant, along with Crested Guan, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird and a shy Cinnamon Woodpecker, while we also heard a Northern Black-throated Trogon here.

Later, we saw lots of Chestnut-headed and Montezuma Oropendolas flying over the forest, along with the regular Great Kiskadee, Collared Aracari, and Gartered Trogon, which was also heard. The rain started again, so we decided to go for breakfast.

At the restaurant, we saw Golden-hooded Tanager, Keel-billed Toucan, Buff-throated Saltator and Yellow-crowned Euphonia visiting the fruiting tree by the restaurant and we also spotted our first Rufous Motmot and Black-cowled Orioles. After breakfast, we walked the main entrance road to La Selva where we found Olive-crowned Yellowthroat, Variable Seedeater (Black Seedeater), Gray-capped Flycatcher, a lonely Plain-colored Tanager, Black-cowled Oriole and one Scarlet Tanager high in the trees. Later on, we saw the elegant Slaty-tailed Trogon, Gartered Trogon and a single Snowy Cotinga flew over the fields. We also observed Smoky-brown Woodpecker, Streak-headed Woodcreeper, Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Rufous Mourner and Grey-chested Dove. Additionally, we spotted Yellow-olive Flatbill, Broad-winged Hawk, Cocoa Woodcreeper, White-collared Manakin, Southern Rough-winged Swallow and one more Cinnamon Woodpecker.

During the second part of the walk we went to another forest trail where we saw Red-throated Ant Tanager, Long-tailed Tyrant, Black-crowned Tityra and a Fasciated Antshrike on a nest, along with White-breasted Wood-Wren and Pied Puffbird singing from the tops of the trees.

We then crossed the hanging bridge, where we saw Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, Cinnamon Becard, Buff-rumped Warbler, and more Golden-hooded Tanagers. We went to the open areas just outside La Selva hoping to find the rare Great Green Macaw, but we had no success this time. Instead of the macaws, we spotted Red-lore Amazons, Barred Antshrikes, many Ruddy Ground Doves, Yellow-bellied Elaenias, a few Finch's Parakeets, many Broad-winged Hawks, Northern Tropical Pewees, Mistletoe Tyrannulets, White-lined Tanagers, a very tame Lineated Woodpecker, both male and female Barred Antshrikes, Morelet's Seedeaters, Blue-black Grosbeaks, Gray-headed Chachalacas, Black-striped Sparrows, Blue-black Grassquits, and the special Bat Falcon!

We returned to our accommodation and started walking the nearby trail, our mission here was to find Great Tinamou, but we only heard it. Along the same trail, we heard Black-crowned Antshrikes, Chestnut-colored Woodpeckers and saw four Broad-billed Motmots singing together. It was a very interesting moment to see so many motmots together. With this special sighting of the motmots, we concluded our day.

We had only a few hours to enjoy this wonderful place before heading towards Arenal Volcano National Park. There was some rain, but luckily it stopped shortly after breakfast, allowing us to walk the trail for the last time. Our main target was to find the Semiplumbeous Hawk, which we had only heard the day before. The famous fruiting tree had the same species as yesterday, with the noisy flock of Black-faced Grosbeaks and Keel-billed Toucans as the highlights of the morning. After spending some time there and once the rain stopped, we ventured into the main trails by the laboratories.

Just before entering the trail, we caught a glimpse of the Chestnut-coloured Woodpecker, which was feeding low on the ground at the heliconia flowers. Further along the trail, we heard Great Tinamou and Great Green Macaws. During our last hour at La Selva, we walked the trail where we had heard the hawk the previous day, and incredibly, the first bird we saw during was the rare Semiplumbeous Hawk, perched very high up in the canopy.

Not far from the hawk site, we had a small mixed flock with Bay Wren, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Striped-breasted Wren, Fasciated Antshrike, and the big surprise was to see a Royal Flycatcher, a rare bird on this slope. Another nice surprise was a single Chestnut-colored Woodpecker, which was very busy looking for food in the termite's nest right next to the trail, with everyone getting great looks at it! That was an excellent way to finish our visit to this wonderful location.

Later, we stopped en route to search for raptors at the impressive canyon of the Sarapiquí River. finding at least eight Swallow-tailed Kites, one Barred Hawk, and a light morph of the acrobat Short-tailed Hawk. Once we arrived at the restaurant, we ordered our food, and while they prepared our lunches, we enjoyed the fruit feeders with species like Silver-throated Tanager, Buff-throated Saltator, Scarlet-rumped Tanager (Passerini's), and a few minutes later, we got two of the wanted species: a Buff-fronted Quail Dove and a male Red-headed Barbet. Although the barbet never came to the fruits, it stayed long enough for us to have great looks at it.

We had lunch and stayed longer because the Prong-billed Barbet had not yet appeared. Patience paid off when the Prong-billed finally came into view for a prolonged stay. Other interesting birds we saw there included the common Green-crowned Brilliant, Violet Sabrewing, Crimson-collared Tanager and Blue-throated Toucanet.

We made another important birding stop for the striking Striped Owl, the only one we would see during the entire tour. Our last stop of the day was at the river near the main entrance road to the lodge. Just before the rain came again, we managed to find Black Phoebe, Bay Wren, Scarlet-rumped Tanager (still Passerini's), among others, but the great surprise was the exquisite Green-fronted Lancebill, which was catching insects at the side of the river.

An early start began with watching the fruit feeders at the lodge. Here, we saw Crested Guan, Green Honeycreeper, Golden-hooded Tanager, and the impressive Great Curassow, which appeared in large numbers! We also observed Violet-headed Hummingbirds attending the verbena flowers near the balcony. A few minutes after the Guans and Curassows left, we spotted the very common Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Red-legged Honeycreeper, Palm Tanager, and at the nearby fig tree, we saw Shining Honeycreeper, Tooth-billed Tanager and Scarlet-thighed Dacnis, which is unusual to see at such a low level in the forest. We also noted Yellow-throated Euphonia and Yellow-throated Toucan.

Before breakfast, we ventured to the other side of the garden hoping to find different birds. We took a short walk along one of the trails of the reserve, where we heard Black-headed Nightingale Thrush, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, and another pleasant surprise was to find a young male Black-crested Coquette, along with Brown Violetear and Bronze-tailed Plumeteer. The forest trail was a bit quiet, even so, we saw Stripe-breasted Wren, Tropical Parula, Buff-rumped Warbler and Spotted Woodcreeper. As the mixed flock began to form, we heard a Thicket Antpitta calling from the dense bushes nearby, so we decided to give it a try and momentarily forgot about the rain. We searched for the antpitta, and not long after our first attempt, we had long views through the spotting scope!

With the antpitta seen very well, we continued along the waterfall trail where we encountered other interesting birds like Olive-streaked Flycatcher, Song Wren, Spotted Woodcreeper, and we heard Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant. The last portion of the day involved birding from the van, and shortly after we left the lodge, we spotted a Spectacled Owl sitting out in the rain along the main road! It was a real surprise and a unique moment to see it like that. Not long after, we spotted another raptor, this time a lovely White Hawk sitting in a Cecropia tree near the road. As the rain had ceased, we walked near Arenal Lake finding Ringed Kingfisher, Grey Hawk, Northern Jacanas, Mangrove Swallow, Green Heron, Anhinga, Pale-vented Pigeon, Ruddy Ground Dove, Variable Seedeater, White-crowned Parrot, Grey-crowned Yellowthroat, Morelet's Seedeater, Cinnamon Becard, Northern Tropical Pewee, Least Grebe, and Red-lored Amazon.

We met early in the morning at the usual spot and then went birding near the gardens, where we saw a nice fruiting tree yesterday. Once there, the first birds to arrive were the abundant Montezuma Oropendolas, followed by Collared Aracari and Crested Guans. As the morning weather cleared a bit, we encountered Scarlet-rumped Tanager, Green Honeycreeper, Black-headed Saltator, and a pair of Crimson-collared Tanagers, Blue-gray Tanagers, and other common species. After breakfast we started to walk one of the trails and heard White-ruffed Manakin, but saw Streak-headed Woodcreeper and the attractive Northern Black-throated Trogon.

A little further along the second trail, we spotted a nice pair of Bay-headed Tanagers, which were very cooperative and gave us a great time watching them. Not far from that point, we glimpsed a Streak-crowned Antwren, Slaty Antwren, and other species. Suddenly, we saw something moving very low next to the trail; it was a stunning Dull-mantled Antbird killing a bug that stayed for a long time, allowing us to have spectacular views of it.

The next stop we made was short but very productive as we finally saw the Red-legged Honeycreeper right in front of us eating papaya at the feeder, along with Yellow-throated Euphonia and Buff-throated Saltator among others. We then entered the park; no more than ten minutes later, we were already watching the secretive White-throated Crake walking very slowly along a small stream.

A few minutes later, we heard a motmot, but it turned out to be the common Broad-billed. We also saw Hooded Warbler, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Russet-naped Wood-Rail and found a roosting Black-and-White Owl! On the same trail, we heard another Motmot, and after

some effort, we all managed to get great looks at the most wanted bird that morning, the local Keel-billed Motmot! With this important bird seen very well, we started our drive to Medio Queso wetlands in northern Costa Rica.

A short stop near Medio Queso wetlands added new species to the tour, such as Wood Stork, Red-breasted Meadowlark, American Kestrel, Solitary Sandpiper and Nicaraguan Seed-Finch, which was the main reason for coming here; a Jabiru was also flying over the grassland! Another important bird that was a "write in" on the checklist was a new addition to the Costa Rica birdlist recently: the Cattle Tyrant. After finding the Tyrant, we drove a few more minutes to reach Medio Queso wetlands.

We saw the common Purple Gallinule, a few Pied-billed Grebes, the elusive Least Bittern seen very well, Common Moorhen, Grey-crowned Yellowthroat and the local Pinnated Bittern. We also spotted more Wood Storks and a few Nicaraguan Grackles! Other birds seen here included Slaty Spinetail, Grey Hawk, Amazon Kingfisher, and others. After a very good boat trip, it was time to continue towards our final destination, Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge.

We woke up early this morning for another boat trip at Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge. On our way to the river, we searched for Grey-fronted Dove which we quickly found just in the main park of town. Later, near the river, we had a great moment with Cinnamon-bellied Saltator, Yellow-throated Vireo, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, and two very special species: Olivaceous Piculet and Spot-breasted Wren.

Once on the boat, we began finding the regular and common species like Neotropic Cormorant, lots of Green Herons, Northern Jacanas everywhere, large flocks of White Ibises and some other species seen at the river including Ringed Kingfisher, Southern Lapwing, Nicaraguan Grackles, Great Egret and two Tricolored Herons. Not far from the docking area, we saw Solitary Sandpiper, Northern Waterthrush, Mangrove Swallows and the elegant Black-collared Hawk perched high up in the treetop.

Continuing with our boat trip, we went up the river where we saw Semipalmated Plover, Osprey, Green Ibis, Amazon Kingfisher, American Pygmy Kingfisher, Wood Stork in large numbers, as well as American White Ibises. But the big surprise was the cryptic Common Potoo up in a tree by the river! One of the targets of the boat trip, and we found it: the rare Sungrebe. We also saw Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Orchard Orioles, Glossy Ibis, and both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. One nice surprise was to find two Yellow-tailed Orioles, which are now very rare and local throughout Costa Rica's northern and Caribbean lowlands. It was time to navigate downriver and search for Agami Heron, which we spotted as a juvenile hunted along the riverbank.

We also saw Boat-billed Herons, Russet-naped Wood-Rail, Black-headed Trogon, more American Pygmy Kingfishers, and others. Shortly after the boat trip, we went to a small town called Las Cubas to see a Great Potoo. The bird was there, and we wrapped up an excellent birding morning. Then we spent most of the afternoon traveling towards Tenorio Volcano National Park. At this new location, we had little time for birding, but we managed to explore some of the secondary roads and trails where we managed to see some species like Streak-crowned Antvireo, which we only observed for a few seconds. At the same place, we spotted a nice pair of Tody Motmots, who performed exceptionally well for us!

We started this morning with great looks at White-throated Magpie Jay, Hoffman's Woodpecker, Blue-grey Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Brown Jays, Keel-billed Toucans, Yellow-throated Euphonia and Blue-throated Sapphire right outside the hotel. Then, we had a quick breakfast and headed into the forest trail for the rest of the morning.

The trail was quiet at the beginning, but later we had a Spotted Antbird next to the trail and a rarely tame pair of Tody Motmots close to the trail, which gave us prolonged views; this was not normal behavior for this kind of bird. Along the same trail, we encountered a flock of Black-faced Grosbeaks, Carmiol's Tanagers, and Spotted Woodcreeper.

The activity began to wane, and we tried to find different species along the trail without success. A few minutes later, we heard a Northern Black-throated Trogon calling, as well as Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant, Crested Guans and we also saw the Long-tailed Manakin to finish the morning. Our lunch was in the town of Bijagua where we continued birding for the rest of the day.

We took a secondary road where we saw White-fronted Amazon, Banded Wren, Striped-headed Sparrow for the first time during the tour, and we also encountered the elusive Lesser Ground-Cuckoo. Another really important bird in the area was the Elegant Trogon, which was the only individual seen throughout the tour. Later, along the same road, we had great looks at Thicket Tinamou which we observed for a long time at the end of the day. Other birds seen in the afternoon included Grey-crowned Yellowthroat, Turquoise-browed Motmot, and at the end of the day, we had at least five different Common Pauragues. Our best bird was about to be seen, but we

needed to wait until it got a bit dark for the first attempts to find the Northern Potoo where we got great looks at this bird and it was the best way to finish a long birding day!

With short time to bird before breakfast we found a fruiting fig tree near our cabins, which was full of Cley-colored Thrushes, Turquoise-browed Motmots, Black-headed Trogons and White-winged Doves. Other common birds there included many Baltimore Orioles, American Yellow-Warblers, Philadelphia Vireo, Garter Trogons, Groove-billed Anis and Great Kiskadees.

Shortly after breakfast we headed to the birding spot known as Sandillal Reservoir, which was completely quiet and the only birds seen there were Yellow-green Vireos and one single Nutting's Flycatcher, the only one of the tour. Not far from there, we stopped at some salt ponds where we found Marbled Godwit, Willet (Western), Black-necked Stilts, Semipalmated and Western Sandpipers. We also saw a few Wilson's Plovers, and at the mangrove forest, we found a female Painted Bunting, Great-crested Flycatcher, Turquoise-browed Motmot, and one Spot-breasted Oriole, which was a target here.

After this, we headed towards Monteverde for a two-night stay. Just outside of town, we made a short stop at Los Llanos, where we saw the first Northern Rough-winged Swallow of the tour, Southern Lapwing, White-fronted Amazon, Great-tailed Grackle, Cley-colored Thrush, Blue-and-White Swallow and Great Kiskadee and we also had great looks at the secretive but vocal Cabanis's Wren.

Our first morning in Monteverde started with some pre-breakfast birding in the hotel's grounds. Some of the first birds of the day included the common Blue-and-White Swallows, noisy Brown Jays, Band-tailed Pigeons, Rufous-collared Sparrows, and at the edge of the garden, we spotted the first Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush followed by a few White-fronted Amazons flying over the hotel. We also saw the uncommon Canivet's Emerald working on the flowers near the restaurant.

Later in the morning, we visited a private reserve with one mission in mind: the extraordinary Three-wattled Bellbird. A few minutes after entering the trail, we got great looks at Rufous-and-White Wren, Northern Barred Woodcreeper, Chestnut-capped Warbler and the first Black Guan of the tour. Later on the trail, we heard the first call of the enigmatic Three-wattled Bellbird, which gave us hope to see it. We continued walking the trail a bit further until we reached the spot where we heard it even louder and closer. The adrenaline started to flow because it is one of the most desired birds in Costa Rica and it was calling at very close range. It was the perfect moment to try to see it. With some effort, we managed to find a nice gap between the vegetation where we could use the spotting scope, and finally, we got extraordinary views of this amazing bird. We dedicated some extra time looking for and admiring this bird.

With the Three-wattled Bellbird successfully seen very well by everyone, it was time to move on and search for another enigmatic bird: the Resplendent Quetzal. The rest of the morning was dedicated to walking the famous Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, where we had heard rumors about the situation with the quetzals and the nesting behavior they had been exhibiting since early that day and since we arrived in Monteverde.

We started walking the trail of the reserve, and as soon as we arrived, we saw the Resplendent Quetzal working inside its future nest. The female was there, and we saw them when they switched; it was a real natural experience! This pair of Quetzals stayed long enough for everyone, making the morning truly phenomenal with two very special species seen very well. We then had a short break after lunch and headed towards Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve for the afternoon. Upon arrival, we saw the shy Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush, the abundant Gray-breasted Wood-Wren, and Slate-collared Redstart. Later, we spotted a pair of Prong-billed Barbets, which we observed very well.

Just before the day was over we saw a wonderful and cooperative Collared Redstart, which was following us along the trail. Before it was time to turn around and head back, we heard the call of the unique Bare-shanked Screech-Owl. We worked hard to see this special bird and we had it just by ourselves; that was an extraordinary way to finish a birding day in Monteverde.

With a travel day ahead we had breakfast as early as possible and left Monteverde after visiting Curi-Cancha Reserve. The first birds seen there included the abundant Lesser Violetear, Common Chlorospingus, Crested Guan, and Brown Jays, which were everywhere. The famous verbena flowers proved productive for Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, and we also had a male Scintillant Hummingbird, which is a rare bird for the area.

In another area with flowers we saw a male Magenta-throated Woodstar and a male of the endemic Coppery-headed Emerald, an uncommon hummingbird and one of the reasons to visit this reserve. Up the trail, we heard and saw one Ruddy Pigeon, White-naped Brushfinch and Yellow-faced Grassquit. We continued walking along the forest trails, hoping to find mixed species flocks or army ant

swarms, but we had no success. The open area of the reserve gave us the only Collared Trogon of the day and some Slate-throated Redstarts were present there, too.

We continued walking up the trails and later saw an unforgettable pair of Golden-browed Chlorophonias building a nest. We spent some time watching them work and enjoying their bright colors; it was a real highlight of the morning. On our way back to the main entrance, we glimpsed a Streak-breasted Treehunter, which we flushed from its nest on the side of the trail.

We began the day with some pre-breakfast birding in the gardens of the lodge. The first birds we saw were Red-legged Honeycreeper, Blue-grey Tanager, Brown Jay, Grey-capped Flycatcher and the only two Costa Rican Swifts flew over the treetops while we were in the gardens. The uncommon White-winged Becard performed very well for us, and as we walked towards the restaurant, we spotted Common Tody Flycatcher, American Yellow Warbler, Buff-rumped Warbler and Yellow-green Vireo. A large and spectacular flock of Scarlet Macaws led the show for quite some time.

After breakfast, it was time to head to Carara National Park, which was part of the plan for the morning. We encountered some common species such as Rufous-backed Wren, Riverside Wren, White-tipped Dove, and Rufous and White Wren. Moving on to the next location, we observed a lovely female Purple-crowned Fairy feeding two chicks! We stayed for a few minutes, waiting for the bird activity to increase, and we were fortunate to see the female feeding them at that particular moment. We then continued walking the trails, where we saw other birds such as female Red-capped Manakin, Muscovy Duck, Black-hooded Antshrike and Chestnut-backed Antbird. We also heard Rufous Piha, Streak-chested Antpitta, Black-striped Woodcreeper and Grey-chested Dove (Pacific form). Shortly thereafter, we observed Grey-headed Tanager, Cocoa Woodcreeper and Northern Plain Xenops, but as the bird activity started to wane, we decided to move to another trail in the park where we again encountered Yellow-olive Flatbill, Northern Plain Xenops, Tawny-crowned Greenlet, Cocoa Woodcreeper, among others. In the afternoon, we had a boat trip planned to search for mangrove forest species, our main target here being the endemic Mangrove Hummingbird.

Along the way, we saw many Hudsonian Whimbrels, a few Willets (Western), numerous American White Ibises and only one Ruddy Turnstone. Other species seen near the mangrove included abundant Mangrove Swallows, Great Egret, Tricolored Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Northern Tropical Pewee and a Plumbeous Kite perched high up in a tree. Inside the mangrove forest, we worked hard to spot the Mangrove Hummingbird, but every time it appeared, it was being chased away by other hummingbirds. On the way back to the docking area, we saw Lesser Nighthawks flying high in the sky, and we also spotted a few more Scarlet Macaws and two Yellow-naped Amazons heading to their roosting spot for the evening. We concluded this birding day with a tame Pauraque sitting outside our cabins back at the hotel.

The first part of the morning was planned to visit a good fragment of the mangrove forest near the town of Tarcoles. Once there, we spotted American Yellow Warbler, Philadelphia Vireo, the aggressive Scaly-breasted Hummingbird, our first White-browed Gnatcatcher of the tour, and also two Panama Flycatchers, Boat-billed Flycatcher, Northern Scrub Flycatcher, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, and a pair of Mangrove Black Hawks building a nest.

During the second part of the morning, we birded the trail of the hotel, where we saw similar species to those of the previous day, such as Red-legged Honeycreeper, Scarlet Macaws, White-whiskered Puffbird and Buff-rumped Warbler. Other birds of interest included Long-tailed Manakin, the tiny Golden-crowned Spadebill, which gave us fantastic views, a pair of Grey-chested Doves (Pacific form), Cocoa Woodcreeper, Riverside Wren, Pale-billed Woodpecker, Rufous and White Wren, Lineated Woodpecker and two Royal Flycatchers, which provided us with better views than the first time at La Selva Station. We also had good views of the shy Chiriqui Foliage-gleaner and excellent views of the small Northern Bentbill.

After a productive time on the lodge's trail, it was time to leave and continue our journey to the Southern Pacific slope. Before doing so, we made a short detour into the town of Tarcoles to look for Eurasian Collared Doves, which are very local in Costa Rica and we spotted three of them. After that, we began our journey to the southern part of the country. It was our longest driving day of the trip, but we stopped for lunch en route and continued south. Later in the day, our first birding stop was at the famous Rincon River, where the uncommon and local Yellow-billed Cotinga is always the main target.

From the bridge, we observed species like Ringed Kingfisher, Green Heron, Red-lored Amazon, and our first flock of Fiery-billed Aracaris, which was a nice find. We also encountered Scarlet-rumped Tanagers (Cherris), and while waiting for the Yellow-billed Cotinga, we saw a female of the also uncommon Turquoise Cotinga feeding on a fig tree with the aracaris. Later in the afternoon, our first Yellow-billed

Cotinga flew high over the bridge and perched at the top of a tree a bit far away. Almost immediately after this, we spotted a nice male also flying overhead, and we were able to see it well.

We then spent the rest of the day waiting for more birds to perch nearby, but we only saw a few individuals resting in the mangrove trees at a distance. We arrived at the lodge in the evening and went out after dinner to search for the special Choco Screech Owl. During the outing, we heard at least two different individuals calling, but only one (I think) was a bit closer to us. We tried to find it, but in the meantime, we heard a noisy Crested Owl calling above us and also spotted a Kinkajou near the trail. With time and patience, we located the Screech Owl and enjoyed terrific views of this much-desired bird.

Our morning started with the usual pre-breakfast birding, so we set out to the main trail of the lodge. With many targets here, we first spotted a Band-tailed Barbthroat perched right at the side of the trail, followed by a small flock of the shy Marbled Wood Quails. We managed to see only one individual, but it stayed long enough for everyone to get excellent close-up views and perhaps some photos as well. After that, we continued along the main trail until we reached the canopy tower.

Up the tower, we found common species such as Buff-throated Saltator, Masked Tityra, Red-lored Amazon and White-shouldered Tanager. A few minutes later, we encountered a flock of Brown-hooded Parrots, enjoyed great looks at Golden-naped Woodpecker, Mistletoe Tyrannulet, Blue Dacnis, White-browed Gnatcatcher and some Fiery-billed Aracaris that came to eat Cecropia fruits right next to the tower. Later, we spotted Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Pale-vented Pigeon, Piratic Flycatcher and a distant White-necked Puffbird. Before we headed for breakfast, we observed a few Costa Rican Swifts, Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts, and a few Black Swifts. At the base of the tower, we saw a Black-bellied Wren very well, which is unusual for this secretive species and the verbena flowers right outside the restaurant were very good for Blue-throated Sapphire, Charming Hummingbird, and the White-crested Coquette.

While exploring the skies, we found King Vultures, Grey-lined Hawks and Swallow-tailed Kites. The main entrance road to the lodge was good for Grey-cowled Wood Quail, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Olivaceous Piculet, American Yellow Warbler, Common Tody-Flycatcher, Variable Seedeater (Pacific form), Cocoa Woodcreeper and White-browed Gnatcatcher, among others. Back at the lodge, we still had some energy to continue birding the trails and heard Tawny-winged Woodcreeper (again) and Baird's Trogon. We also spotted Black-hooded Antshrike and Dot-winged Antwren. As the morning was almost over, we heard a Black Hawk Eagle soaring and calling high in the sky.

During the lunch break, we saw the regular birds around the main building area, such as Golden-tailed Sapphire, Charming Hummingbird and Rufous-tailed Hummingbird. The afternoon outing was very good as well; our first stop provided better views of Grey-lined Hawk and we also found our first Isthmian Wren (after some effort) and a Slaty Spinetail was also present. As we continued birding the road, we stopped at the upper part, but the activity slowed down a little. Some of the first birds to show up were the common Rufous Mourner, Cocoa Woodcreeper, and Dot-winged Antwren. We finally managed to get views of Spot-crowned Euphonia before heading back to the lodge.

Our second morning at our pleasant lodge was dedicated to looking for species that we had only heard the previous day or those we were still missing. We left early in the morning on the forest trail to search for Black-faced Antthrush, which we saw after some effort. We also spotted the handsome Baird's Trogon after some hard work and saw more Black-hooded Antshrikes. The big surprise of the morning was a cooperative Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser, which we had great views of while it foraged on the forest floor! Later, on the same trail, we came across the common Chestnut-backed Antbird, Ruddy Quail Dove, and a few Dot-winged Antwrens. On our way to our next destination, we stopped near the town of Rincon, where we got good views of Pale-breasted Spinetail, excellent views of Great Antshrike, Smooth-billed Ani, Roadside Hawk, Variable Seedeater (black-breasted) and Red-breasted Meadowlark.

The next stop was at the mangrove forest, where the activity was quiet, but we had more and better views of the male endemic Mangrove Hummingbird. After that, we continued our journey towards San Vito, not before stopping at La Gamba, where we saw our first Scrub Greenlet, which was very active collecting nesting material. We also spotted a small flock of Brown-throated Parakeets that landed near us, along with Common Tody Flycatcher, Palm Tanager, Yellow-faced Grassquit and other common species of open areas. A little town named Coto 47 was our main goal to search for Sapphire-throated Hummingbird, the local Red-rumped Woodpecker and Veraguan Mango. Upon arrival at the stakeout, we saw (almost immediately) a male Veraguan Mango fighting against a Snowy-bellied Hummingbird, Garden Emerald, and a nice-looking Golden-tailed Sapphire. After trying hard, we finally found a male Sapphire-throated Hummingbird, albeit briefly, but we had great views. Along the same road, we also spotted the Red-rumped Woodpecker, which gave us some good views, but very quickly as well. Other important birds seen at the spot included Glossy Ibis, Wood Stork, Blue-winged Teal and

the abundant Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. By the end of the day, we had achieved our main targets and it was time to drive towards San Vito.

Our full day of exploration at the village of San Vito started with a visit to a side road in search of the local Chiriqui Yellowthroat, which was more cooperative than on previous occasions. At the same location, we encountered some interesting birds such as Streaked Saltator, Yellow Tyrannulet, Golden-hooded Tanager and the small Bran-colored Flycatcher, which we saw several times throughout the day. Our surprise came while leaving the site when we heard some birds calling at the side of the road; one of them was the elusive Costa Rican Brushfinch. Of course, we gave it a try. A few minutes later, we were ready to try for the Brushfinch, and as soon as we played the first playback, the bird responded and appeared (almost in the open) for a few more seconds, allowing us to have great looks at it.

After seeing the Yellowthroat and Brushfinch, we continued towards Jilguero Road, a gravel road known for being a great place for birding. Some of the species we encountered at this site included Red-faced Spinetail, Common Chlorospingus, Mistletoe Tyrannulet, Bananaquit, Streaked Saltator, Yellow-faced Grassquit, Variable Seedeater, Tropical Mockingbird and the local Lesser Elaenia, which we observed for an extended period. Continuing along that road, we also spotted the abundant Blue-and-White Swallow, Yellow-throated Euphonia, Scarlet-thighed Dacnis, Silver-throated Tanager, the common Yellow-headed Caracara, Costa Rican Swift, and more Bran-colored Flycatchers, among others.

A short exploration of some verbena flowers produced Violet-headed Hummingbird, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Garden Emerald, Blackburnian Warbler and Snowy-bellied Hummingbird. After lunch, we visited a new project near the town of Sabalito, but the weather changed dramatically. We spent no more than five minutes at the site before we had to find cover due to heavy rain. It was truly amazing to see the amount of water on the ground because of this rain. The good news is that while we waited for the rain to stop, our local guide showed us a roost of Tropical Screech Owl, which was phenomenal to see again during the day.

The last portion of the day took place in another area, but it was already getting quiet and dark. A few birds found after the rain included a nesting Olivaceous Piculet, White-crowned Parrot, Streaked Saltator, Garden Emerald, Yellow-throated Euphonia, and more common species. We then decided to leave for our lodge.

This day was probably the longest travel day of the trip. We departed San Vito around 5:00 AM towards the high-elevation cloud forest of the Talamanca Mountain Range, also known as Cerro de la Muerte. We made a short stop near the Terraba River, which did not produce many birds; the most notable included Scarlet Tanager, Yellow-headed Caracara, Northern Rough-winged Swallow and the always present Blue-grey Tanager.

The second birdwatching stop was much more productive. Upon arrival at the forest fragment owned by a pineapple company, we saw a single Blue-grey Tanager, Masked Tityra, and Clay-colored Thrush. As we entered the forest trail, we heard our main target singing: the spectacular Rosy Thrush-Tanager, which is now placed in its own monotypic family, making it a highly desired bird. The male was very active and even allowed us to take some photos! Later, we planned to stop near the town of San Isidro, where we had some hummingbird feeders and fruit for birds as well.

Surprisingly, it was very quiet again, but we did see the common Buff-throated Saltator, Grey-headed Chachalaca, Scarlet-rumped Tanager, Speckled Tanager and Bay-headed Tanager. The most relevant hummingbirds included Crowned Woodnymph, Brown Violetear, Green-crowned Brilliant and Rufous-tailed Hummingbird. After a few minutes at this lovely place we left for higher elevation at Cerro de la Muerte.

We stopped at El Paramo, the highest elevation of the tour. Once there, we concentrated our efforts on finding the local Volcano Junco, which we saw very well and close-up for pictures. Other birds observed at this site included the common Sooty Thrush, Black-billed Nightingale Thrush, Sooty-capped Chlorospingus, Chestnut-collared Swift and we heard some Barred Parakeets flying overhead. The rain started, so we left this spectacular location. In the middle of the afternoon, we encountered heavy rain, which affected our limited time for birding that day.

We then drove to a lower elevation, where we saw some birds including Common Chlorospingus, Mountain Elaenia, the spectacular Flame-coloured Tanager (male), Lesser Goldfinch, a huge flock of White-collared Swifts, Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher, and others.

Today was a fantastic day of birding. We birded around the lodge before breakfast, and afterwards, we went to Los Quetzales National Park. The pre-breakfast birding was good for species such as Talamanca Hummingbird, Lesser Violetear, Band-tailed Pigeons, Silver-

throated Tanager, Brown-capped Vireo, Red-faced Spinetail, and one juvenile male Scintillant Hummingbird. Once in the park, the first bird we heard was the always hard-to-see Wrenthrush. We gave it a try, but we only managed a couple of short views. After this, we attempted to find Silvery-fronted Tapaculo; the bird walked in front of us a couple of times, but it was hard to see clearly. We tried for another tapaculo in a different area but were unsuccessful. Other important birds seen while birding on this road included Brown-capped Vireo, Red-faced Spinetail, Golden-crowned Warbler, and we heard Spotted Wood Quail. We also spotted Black-thighed Grosbeak, Scintillant Hummingbird, Lesser Violetear, Yellow-faced Grassquit and Sooty Chlorospingus, as well as Slaty Flowerpiercer.

Continuing along the trail, we found a rare and territorial Ochraceous Pewee, which was sitting very high in the canopy. Later on, we observed some other species such as Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher, Flame-throated Warbler, Fiery-throated Hummingbird, Band-tailed Pigeons and Mountain Elaenia. Later in the day, we visited Miriam's Café, where we enjoyed the hummingbird feeders with species like Talamanca Hummingbird, Grey-tailed Mountain Gem, Lesser Violetear, the stunning Fiery-throated Hummingbird, Volcano Hummingbird, and we also had close-up views of a male Slaty Flowerpiercer, the striking Flame-colored Tanager and the Large-footed Finch, which was added to the list, along with Acorn Woodpecker, Sooty Thrush, and the common Rufous-collared Sparrow. After these birds and an excellent coffee, we moved to a lower elevation near the Savegre River.

Once there, we saw Torrent Tyrannulet and Stripe-tailed Hummingbird. We heard the Wrenthrush again, as well as Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, and we saw a few flocks of Sulphur-winged Parakeets flying over the valley. The afternoon session took place in another area of these mountains, where we had more Black-billed Nightingale Thrushes, Long-tailed Silky Flycatchers and the amazing Golden-browed Chlorophonia.

When everyone was inside the van, we received a call from one of the local guides in the area saying that the Wood Quail was already at the feeders! We immediately rushed down the slope to reach the feeders as soon as possible, but only two participants were able to see them before they disappeared into the bushes. Unfortunately, we decided to stay a bit longer and see what nature would provide for us. Finally, after a long wait, we saw the bird returning to the feeders, but to our great surprise, it was not the Wood Quail; it was the stunning Buffy-crowned Wood Partridge instead. This was one of the few times this species comes to the feeders, and we were there! This was a great day in the mountains and an excellent way to finish it.

This day, we only had a couple of hours for birding before leaving for our next destination. The early morning was primarily focused on finding the noisy but elusive Spotted Wood Quail, which we heard the day before and which were very active (vocal) that morning. We walked the main road towards the lodge, trying to find them since there were no trails or similar paths where we stayed. We heard some of them calling near the road but did not manage to see them. After a few minutes, we heard another group singing but also failed to find them. At this point, playback was ineffective (we had tried it many times without success), so the only alternative was to find them from the road. There is a good patch of Chusquea bamboo along this road where we knew there was a good hiding spot for the Wood Quails. Not long after the last time they called, we found a single individual perched on a small rock right between two bamboo clumps. What a bird! It was a great relief to see them, and we had excellent views as well.

On the way back to the lodge, we found another one also near the road. We then had breakfast and left this lovely place. Before heading back to the city, we stopped on another road for more birding. This particular stop was good for our last views of some classic Talamanca species, such as Black-and-Yellow Phainoptila, Yellow-winged Vireo, Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher, striking Flame-throated Warbler and Mountain Thrush.

Along the way to our next hotel, we made a short stop in the town of Ujarras, one of the better known places to search for Cabanis's Ground-Sparrow. It was still a bit hot to look for them, but it was the most convenient place. At the spot, we walked a couple of hundred meters without success when suddenly we spotted one bird sitting up in a tree just behind a water squash plantation. A true surprise for me; I had never seen this species perched high and out in the open! Everyone saw it, and most participants were able to view it through the spotting scope just before it flew down and disappeared into the short, dense vegetation.

After this exquisite Costa Rican endemic, we headed towards our hotel for a one-night stay. For the last hours of the day, we birded the grounds of the hotel, where we saw Scarlet-rumped Tanager (Passerini's), Montezuma Oropendola, Green-crowned Brilliant, Green Hermit and a female White-bellied Mountain Gem, an uncommon resident of these forests. Later, we spotted other specialties of the lodge, such as White-eared Ground-Sparrow, Slaty-backed Nightingale Thrush, the striking Chestnut-capped Brushfinch, the famous Sunbittern, and, saving the best for last, we saw the spectacular Scaled Antpitta! Everyone got great views, and several people even took photos of one of the rarest birds in Costa Rica. Another memorable day with great birds seen very well.

The early morning session began at the feeders where we had seen the Scaled Antpitta the previous day. The start was a bit quiet, but we managed to see some of the regular visitors, such as White-eared Ground Sparrow, Chestnut-capped Brushfinch, and the hummingbirds, including the common Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Lesser Violetear, Green-crowned Brilliant, the occasional visitor Green Thorntail, and Green Hermit. The main goal was to see another local and range-restricted bird: the Black-bellied Hummingbird. While trying to find the hummingbird, we also searched for the shy Sooty-faced Finch, which we heard many times early that morning, but the bird never emerged from its habitat. Nevertheless, we eventually spotted the Black-bellied Hummingbird after some time waiting patiently. Just when we thought we might run out of time for our goal, a Black-bellied Hummingbird appeared, working in the verbena flowers right next to the trail, allowing great views of this regional endemic. Shortly after this moment, we spread out a little, and some lucky participants found a pair of Sooty-faced Finches right next to the trail.

After breakfast, we left for our next lodge. On the way to Rancho Naturalista, we stopped at El Copal, where we planned to stay as long as possible in this beautiful reserve. It was very sunny, and the bird activity was low, but one of the first birds we saw upon arrival was the spectacular Snowcap, which we had seen on the second day of the tour. This time, we had excellent views for a long time.

We spent some time on the balcony and in the open areas of the reserve, but the activity was not what I had expected. A few minutes later, we decided to enter the forest trail for a while. The first birds we saw there included Black-and-Yellow Tanager, Northern Plain Xenops, a pair of Slaty Antwrens, we heard Black-headed Antthrush, and had great views of the tiny Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant and Mourning Warbler.

We returned to the forest after lunch, but the activity was still quiet. After a few minutes, we left this reserve and drove to Rancho Naturalista. Upon arrival at the lodge, we immediately went to the famous hummingbird pools. A short walk from the lodge took us to this trail, where we just had to wait for the birds to come. The common Chestnut-sided Warbler was the first to arrive, followed by female Crowned Woodnymph and Golden-winged Warbler. Later, we spotted Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer, Slaty-capped Flycatcher, and one of the targets at Rancho Naturalista, the local Tawny-chested Flycatcher, which was an unusual visitor to the pool indeed.

Later on, we saw a few Swainson's Thrushes, two Canada Warblers, an Orange-billed Sparrow and a Rufous Motmot seen nearby. We also spotted one shy Fawn-throated Foliage Gleaner, Dull-mantled Antbird, a female White-collared Manakin, and some Red-throated Ant Tanagers at the end of the day.

We had a full day to explore the feeders and trails of our comfortable lodge. Birding before breakfast was a bit slow; from the main balcony, we saw regular and common visitors to the feeders, such as Yellow-faced Grassquit, White-winged Dove, Bananaquit, and some Black-striped Sparrows, as well as a few Red-billed Pigeons. From there, we ventured to the forest trails, stopping first in the semi-open areas near the forest, where we saw our first Olive-sided Flycatcher of the tour. Other birds found there included the widespread White-crowned Parrot, Keel-billed Toucan, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Bananaquit, Brown Jays, Montezuma Oropendolas and some Crested Guans.

Inside the forest, we heard birds calling, including White-breasted Wood Wren, Southern Nightingale Wren, Tropical Parula and Golden-crowned Warblers. A few minutes later, we found a cooperative Ruddy Quail Dove walking along the trail. The trail up the hill was not as productive as we had hoped; the only bird recorded was a Black Hawk Eagle that we heard while in the forest interior!

The second part of the trail was more productive, with some North American migrants such as the abundant Chestnut-sided Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler and Black-and-White Warbler. We also finally had our first views of Fawn-throated Foliage Gleaner, which was active and joined a flock of Carmiol's Tanagers. At the same location, we observed a male Checker-throated Stipplethroat, which was always hidden inside the tangle of vines.

After lunch, we visited a small lake called La Angostura, just a few minutes from the lodge. There, we saw Wood Stork, Muscovy Duck, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Little Blue Heron, Anhinga, Snail Kite, Neotropic Cormorant, Northern Jacanas, and two good birds for Costa Rica: the uncommon Pectoral Sandpiper and American Golden-Plover, which is much more difficult to see.

Back at the lodge, we headed to the hummingbird pool again, hoping for more new species to show up. The regular visitors were there: Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Swainson's Thrush and Crowned Woodnymph. Later, we had more action with Red-throated Ant Tanagers, Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer and a female White-collared Manakin was present too. Other birds that came to the pool included the shy Dull-mantled Antbird, which we had great views of, as well as Carmiol's Tanagers, four White-shouldered Tanagers (an unusual visitor), and the Fawn-throated Foliage Gleaner, which finally decided to show itself. We also saw the elegant male Purple-

crowned Fairy right at the end of the day.

We began the morning with a visit to the new Tranquilo Garden. On the way to this new garden, we stopped to try and locate the local White-throated Flycatcher. The first few minutes were very quiet as it was getting hot, and the habitat for the bird is open grassland and scrub. We knew the bird was around the town of Dulce Nombre, and after a while, we spotted one foraging right at the edge of the grassland and sugar cane field. It was a bit unexpected to see it there, and we had very good views through the spotting scope! This was the first sighting of this species on the tour. Other species recorded there included American Yellow Warbler, Variable Seedeater, Scarlet-rumped Tanager, Yellow-bellied Elaenia and Black-striped Sparrow. When we arrived at the garden, we saw Green Heron, Social Flycatcher and some Kiskadees. Later, we spotted the first White-throated Crake of the morning, a tame bird that came to eat the corn left at the edge of the grass.

After that, we moved on to another area of the garden. Along the trail, we observed a King Vulture soaring alongside Black and Turkey Vultures. Some species of hummingbirds seen at the feeders included the common Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, female Crowned Woodnymph a couple of handsome males Green-breasted Mango, Brown Violetear, White-necked Jacobin and a nice male Green Thorntail foraging at the verbena flowers. In addition to the hummingbirds, we had great looks at White-lined Tanager, Black-cowled Oriole, Buff-throated Saltator, Yellow-throated Euphonia, Lesson's Motmot, Cley-colored Thrush and an Ovenbird seen moving underneath the verbena plants. We also saw many White-winged Doves and Bronzed Cowbirds, and we had a great surprise: the endemic Cabanis's Ground Sparrow, a new addition to this wonderful spot.

After visiting the garden, we returned to Rancho Naturalista for lunch before heading towards the highlands of Irazu Volcano National Park. The weather was unpredictable (again!), and our afternoon outing was very wet and rainy. Nevertheless, we managed to see some highland specialties, like Black-capped Flycatcher, Sooty Thrush, Black-billed Nightingale Thrush, Mountain Thrush, Fiery-throated Hummingbird, and Volcano Hummingbird (Irazu-Turrialba Volcano race). That evening, we went out to search for owls and nightjars. The length of this session largely depended on the weather conditions, as always, at this location. Our first attempts were near the forest fragments before entering the park, where we had our first glimpse of Dusky Nightjar. Later on, up the road, we encountered more Dusky Nightjars, but this one remained hidden.

Our final morning of the tour was dedicated to visiting a single location: private land owned by a local family who use the land to grow potatoes, cabbage and tomatoes. Why did we go there? Easy; that farm is probably the best place in all of Costa Rica to look for the enigmatic (and erratic) Maroon-chested Ground Dove. Upon arrival, you immediately notice why the birds "like" to be there. It is a perfect combination of large oak trees full of moss and bamboo thickets found along the ridge next to the fields, allowing birds to venture outside their habitat to forage on the ground and quickly return to the forest.

However, birds are not always present there, and we knew we had to make an extra effort to have a chance of finding them. While exploring the land, we saw other species we had encountered before, such as Large-footed Finch, Acorn Woodpeckers and many Lesser Goldfinches (with better views this time). We also observed Red-tailed Hawk, and while walking near the forest edge, we spotted a splendid male Resplendent Quetzal. We really enjoyed watching this male, especially because we were the only ones there, allowing us to see it for a long time and even take photos. Later, we spotted a new bird for the tour: the migrant Myrtle Warbler—what a nice surprise!

At the same location, we heard a bird calling; it was a dove, but the call was not loud enough to confirm which species it was. We then moved and approached slowly in that direction, and there it was: a wonderful male Maroon-chested Ground Dove calling from mid-level in the forest, apparently displaying. As soon as we located the bird, it flew over and landed on a nearby tree. Luckily, we all saw it, and the bird stayed for a while; in addition to the male, we also spotted a female! Honestly speaking, this was one of my favourite moments of the tour.

We spent more than two and a half hours searching without any sign of the birds, and there they were—a pair just for us on the final morning of the tour. Minutes later, the birds flew down to forage on the ground. I saw no signs that they were affected by our presence, and we could see them again through the spotting scope! We watched them fly back into the forest, moving along the branches, and the male began displaying again! Definitely, this was the best way to finish our Classic Costa Rica tour.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

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).

The species names and taxonomy used in the bird list follows Gill, F., Donsker, D., & Rasmussen, P.(Eds). **2024. IOC World Bird List (v14.2).**

Where the subspecies seen is/are known, these are often given in parentheses at the end of the species comment.

Great Tinamou *Tinamus major*

Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui*

Thicket Tinamou ◊ *Crypturellus cinnamomeus* Very well seen near Bijagua.

Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

Grey-headed Chachalaca ◊ *Ortalis cinereiceps*

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens*

Black Guan ◊ *Chamaepetes unicolor* Seen at Monteverde and Talamanca

Great Curassow ◊ *Crax rubra*

Buffy-crowned Wood Partridge ◊ *Dendrortyx leucophrys* Seen at Talamanca mountains

Spot-bellied Bobwhite ◊ *Colinus leucopogon* Four seen near Orotina

Marbled Wood Quail *Odontophorus gujanensis*

Spotted Wood Quail ◊ *Odontophorus guttatus*

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis*

Short-tailed Nighthawk *Lurocalis semitorquatus*

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*

Dusky Nightjar ◊ *Antrostomus saturatus*

Great Potoo *Nyctibius grandis*

Northern Potoo ◊ *Nyctibius jamaicensis* One seen near Bijagua

Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus*

American Black Swift *Cypseloides niger*

Chestnut-collared Swift *Streptoprocne rutila*

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*

Grey-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris*

Costa Rican Swift ◊ *Chaetura fumosa* Few seen near Corcovado NP

Vaux's Swift *Chaetura [vauxi] richmondi*

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 *Phaethornis longirostris*

Green-fronted Lancebill *Doryfera ludovicae*

Brown Violetear *Colibri delphinae*

Lesser Violetear *Colibri cyanotus*

Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliostyris barroti*

Green-breasted Mango *Anthracothorax prevostii*

Veraguan Mango ◊ *Anthracothorax veraguensis* a male seen near Coto 47

Green Thorntail *Discosura conversii*

Black-crested Coquette ◊ *Lophornis helenae* Few females at Arenal Volcano NP

White-crested Coquette ◊ *Lophornis adorabilis*

Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula*

Talamanca Hummingbird ◊ *Eugenes spectabilis*

Fiery-throated Hummingbird ◊ *Panterpe insignis* Common at highlands

Plain-capped Starthroat *Heliomaster constantii*

White-bellied Mountaingem ◊ *Lampornis hemileucus*

Purple-throated Mountaingem ◊ *Lampornis calolaemus*

Grey-tailed Mountaingem ◊ *Lampornis cinereicauda*

Magenta-throated Woodstar ◊ *Philodice bryantae* Nice male at Monteverde

Volcano Hummingbird ◊ *Selasphorus flammula*

Scintillant Hummingbird ◊ *Selasphorus scintilla*

Canivet's Emerald ◊ *Cyananthus canivetii*

Garden Emerald ◊ *Chlorostilbon assimilis*

Violet-headed Hummingbird *Klais guimeti*

Violet Sabrewing ◊ *Campylopterus hemileucurus*

Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer ◊ *Chalybura urochrysa*

Crowned Woodnymph *Thalurania colombica*

Snowcap ◊ *Microchera albocoronata* Well seen at El Copal

Coppery-headed Emerald ◇ *Microchera cupreiceps*

Stripe-tailed Hummingbird ◇ *Eupherusa eximia*

Black-bellied Hummingbird ◇ *Eupherusa nigriventris*

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird ◇ *Phaeochroa cuvierii*

Blue-vented Hummingbird ◇ *Saucerottia hoffmanni*

Snowy-bellied Hummingbird ◇ *Saucerottia edward*

Cinnamon Hummingbird *Amazilia rutila*

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl*

Mangrove Hummingbird ◇ *Chrysuronia boucardi* Great looks at Rincon

Sapphire-throated Hummingbird ◇ *Chrysuronia coeruleogularis*

Blue-chested Hummingbird *Polyerata amabilis*

Charming Hummingbird ◇ *Polyerata decora*

Blue-throated Sapphire ◇ *Chlorestes eliciae*

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia*

Lesser Ground Cuckoo ◇ *Morococcyx erythropygus* One seen near Bijagua

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*

Rock Dove (introduced) (Feral Pigeon) *Columba [livia] domestica*

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa*

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris*

Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea*

Short-billed Pigeon ◇ *Patagioenas nigrirostris*

Eurasian Collared Dove (introduced) *Streptopelia decaocto*

Inca Dove *Columbina inca*

Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerina*

Plain-breasted Ground Dove *Columbina minuta*

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti*

Blue Ground Dove *Claravis pretiosa*

Maroon-chested Ground Dove ◇ *Paraclaravis mondetoura* A pair near Irazu Volcano NP

Ruddy Quail-Dove *Geotrygon montana*
White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*
Grey-headed Dove ◊ *Leptotila plumbeiceps*
Grey-chested Dove ◊ *Leptotila cassinii*
Buff-fronted Quail-Dove ◊ *Zentrygon costaricensis* Seen at Cinchona feeders
Chiriqui Quail-Dove ◊ *Zentrygon chiriquensis* Heard only
Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*
White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*
Sungrebe *Heliornis fulica*
Russet-naped Wood Rail ◊ *Aramides albiventris*
Grey-cowled Wood Rail *Aramides cajaneus*
Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*
Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica*
Grey-breasted Crake *Laterallus exilis*
White-throated Crake *Laterallus albigularis*
Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*
Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus*
Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*
Double-striped Thick-knee *Hesperoburhinus bistriatus*
Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*
Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*
Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*
Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*
Wilson's Plover *Anarhynchus wilsonia*
Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa*
Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus*
Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa*
Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*
Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*
Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*
Willet (Western W) *Tringa [semipalmata] inornata*

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*

Royal Tern (American RT) *Thalasseus maximus*

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla*

Sunbittern *Eurypyga helias*

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*

Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria*

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*

Neotropic Cormorant *Nannopterum brasilianum*

Green Ibis *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*

American White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*

Rufescent Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma lineatum*

Bare-throated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum*

Fasciated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum*

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius*

Agami Heron *Agamia agamí* A juvenil seen at Caño Negro

Pinnated Bittern ◊ *Botaurus pinnatus* Many seen at Medio Queso

Least Bittern *Botaurus exilis*

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor*

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*

Great Egret (American G E) *Ardea [alba] egretta*

Western Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*

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*

Grey-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis*

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*

Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus*

Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus*

Bicolored Hawk *Astur bicolor*

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea*

Black-collared Hawk *Busarellus nigricollis*

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*

Common Black Hawk ◊ *Buteogallus anthracinus*

Barred Hawk *Morphnarchus princeps*

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris*

Harris's Hawk (Bay-winged H) *Parabuteo unicinctus*

White Hawk *Pseudastur albicollis*

Semiplumbeous Hawk ◊ *Leucopternis semiplumbeus* One adult at La Selva Station

Grey Hawk *Buteo plagiatus*

Grey-lined Hawk *Buteo nitidus*

Broad-winged Hawk (W) *Buteo platypterus*

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*

Swainson's Hawk (W) *Buteo swainsoni* Seen migrating near Caño Negro

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus*

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*

American Barn Owl *Tyto furcata*

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*

Striped Owl *Asio clamator* An adult seen on nest near La Fortuna

Bare-shanked Screech Owl ◊ *Megascops clarkii* Excellent views at Santa Elena Reserve

Tropical Screech Owl *Megascops choliba*

Pacific Screech Owl ◊ *Megascops cooperi*

Middle American Screech Owl ◊ (Vermiculated S O) *Megascops [guatemalae] vermiculatus* One bird seen roosting at La Selva Station

Choco Screech Owl ◊ *Megascops centrales* One bird at night in Danta Corcovado

Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata*

Crested Owl *Lophotrix cristata*

Mottled Owl *Strix virgata*

Black-and-white Owl *Strix nigrolineata*

Resplendent Quetzal ◊ *Pharomachrus mocinno* A pair nesting in Monteverde

Lattice-tailed Trogon ◊ *Trogon clathratus* One male seen at El Tapirus Lodge

Slaty-tailed Trogon ◊ *Trogon massena*

Black-headed Trogon ◊ *Trogon melanocephalus*

Baird's Trogon ◊ *Trogon bairdii*

Gartered Trogon (Northern Violaceous T) *Trogon caligatus*

Northern Black-throated Trogon *Trogon tenellus*

Elegant Trogon ◊ *Trogon elegans*

Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris*

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*

American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea*

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*

Tody Motmot ◊ *Hylomanes momotula* Few seen at Tenorio Volcano NP

Lesson's Motmot ◊ (Blue-diademed M) *Momotus lessonii*

Rufous Motmot *Baryphthengus martii*

Keel-billed Motmot ◊ *Electron carinatum* One found in Bogarin Trail – Fortuna

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*

Blue-throated Toucanet ♦ *Aulacorhynchus caeruleogularis*

Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus*

Fiery-billed Aracari ♦ *Pteroglossus frantzii* Common in southern Costa Rica

Keel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos sulfuratus*

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

Olivaceous Piculet *Picumnus olivaceus*

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus*

Golden-naped Woodpecker ♦ *Melanerpes chrysauchen* Seen at Danta Corcovado

Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani*

Red-crowned Woodpecker *Melanerpes rubricapillus*

Hoffmann's Woodpecker ♦ *Melanerpes hoffmannii*

Red-rumped Woodpecker *Veniliornis kirkii* One seen at Coto 47

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* Great looks at La Selva Station

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*

Barred Forest Falcon *Micrastur ruficollis*

Collared Forest Falcon*

Micrastur semitorquatus

American Kestrel (W) *Falco sparverius*

Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis*

Barred Parakeet *Bolborhynchus lineola* Flocks flying over in the highlands of Cerro de la Muerte

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

Brown-hooded Parrot ♦ *Pyrilia haematotis*

Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus*

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*

Mealy Amazon ◊ (Northern M A) *Amazona [farinosa] farinosa*

Sulphur-winged Parakeet ◊ *Pyrrhura hoffmanni* Few seen at Savegre valley

Olive-throated Parakeet ◊ *Eupsittula nana*

Orange-fronted Parakeet *Eupsittula canicularis*

Brown-throated Parakeet *Eupsittula pertinax*

Great Green Macaw ◊ *Ara ambiguus* Very well seen near La Selva Station

Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao*

Finsch's Parakeet ◊ *Psittacara finschi*

Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser ◊ *Sclerurus mexicanus*

Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser *Sclerurus guatemalensis* One bird foraging at Danta Corcovado trails

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*

Little Long-tailed Woodcreeper ◊ *Deconychura típica* Seen by the guide at Danta Corcovado trails

Tawny-winged Woodcreeper ◊ *Dendrocincla anabatina*

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*

Northern Barred Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*

Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans*

Black-striped Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*

Spotted Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*

Spot-crowned Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes affinis*

Northern Plain Xenops *Xenops mexicanus*

Lineated Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla subalaris*

Streak-breasted Treehunter ◊ *Thripadectes rufobrunneus* A bird found nesting at Monteverde

Fawn-throated Foliage-gleaner *Automolus cervinigularis*

Chiriqui Foliage-gleaner ◊ *Automolus exsertus* Great looks near Villa Lapas

Red-faced Spinetail *Cranioleuca erythroptera*

Slaty Spinetail *Synallaxis brachyura*

Pale-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albescens*

Russet Antshrike *Thamnistes anabatinus*

Dot-winged Antwren *Microrhopias quixensis*

Checker-throated Stipplethroat *Epinecrophylla fulviventris*

White-flanked Antwren *Myrmotherula axillaris*

Slaty Antwren *Myrmotherula schisticolor*

Plain Antvireo *Dysithamnus mentalis*

Streak-crowned Antvireo ◊ *Dysithamnus striaticeps* A male seen briefly near Heliconias Lodge – Bijagua

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus*

Black-hooded Antshrike ◊ *Thamnophilus bridgesi*

Black-crowned Antshrike *Thamnophilus atrinucha*

Fasciated Antshrike *Cymbilaimus lineatus*

Great Antshrike *Taraba major*

Dusky Antbird *Cercomacroides tyrannina*

Spotted Antbird *Hylophylax naevioides*

Chestnut-backed Antbird *Poliocrania exsul*

Dull-mantled Antbird ◊ *Sipia laemosticta* Well seen in Arenal Volcano NP

Bare-crowned Antbird ◊ *Gymnocichla nudiceps* A pair in Caño Negro

Black-faced Antthrush *Formicarius analis*

Black-headed Antthrush *Formicarius nigricapillus* (H)

Scaled Antpitta *Grallaria guatemalensis*

Streak-chested Antpitta ◊ *Hylopezus perspicillatus* (H)

Thicket Antpitta ◊ (Fulvous-bellied A) *Myrmothera dives*

Silvery-fronted Tapaculo ◊ *Scytalopus argentifrons*

Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata*

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*

Lesser Elaenia *Elaenia chiriquensis*

Mountain Elaenia *Elaenia frantzii*

Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet ◊ *Ornithion semiflavum*

Northern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma imberbe*

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum*

Torrent Tyrannulet *Serpophaga cinerea*

Yellow Tyrannulet *Capsiempis flaveola*

Mistletoe Tyrannulet *Zimmerius parvus*

Olive-streaked Flycatcher *Mionectes olivaceus*

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus*

Slaty-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon superciliaris*

Northern Scrub Flycatcher *Sublegatus arenarum*

Bran-colored Flycatcher *Myiophobus fasciatus*

Northern Bentbill ♦ *Oncostoma cinereigulare*

Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant *Lophotriccus pileatus*

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*

Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum nigriceps*

Eye-ringed Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus brevirostris*

Yellow-olive Flatbill *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*

Golden-crowned Spadebill *Platyrinchus coronatus*

Tawny-chested Flycatcher ♦ *Aphanotriccus capitalis*

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*

Northern Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus*

Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi*

Dark Pewee ♦ *Contopus lugubris* A bird seen well at Toucanet Lodge

Ochraceous Pewee ♦ *Contopus ochraceus* A bird found at KM 71 – Talamanca

Western Wood Pewee *Contopus sordidulus*

Eastern Wood Pewee *Contopus virens*

Northern Tropical Pewee *Contopus bogotensis*

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *Empidonax flaviventris*

White-throated Flycatcher ♦ *Empidonax albigularis*

Yellowish Flycatcher ♦ *Empidonax flavescens*

Black-capped Flycatcher ♦ *Empidonax atriceps*

Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus*

Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosa* A single bird found neat the town of Caño Negro

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 (W) *Tyrannus forficatus*

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana*

Rufous Mourner *Rhytipterna holerythra*

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*

Panama Flycatcher ◊ *Myiarchus panamensis*

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* A male performing near Monteverde Reserve

Turquoise Cotinga ◊ *Cotinga ridgwayi* Female seen at Rincon

Yellow-billed Cotinga ◊ *Carpodectes antoniae* Males seen at Rincon – mangroves

Snowy Cotinga ◊ *Carpodectes nitidus* A spectacular male seen at La Selva Station

Long-tailed Manakin ◊ *Chiroxiphia linearis* Few seen near Monteverde Reserve

White-ruffed Manakin ◊ *Corapipo altera*

White-collared Manakin ◊ *Manacus candei*

Orange-collared Manakin ◊ *Manacus aurantiacus*

Red-capped Manakin *Ceratopipra mentalis*

Tropical Royal Flycatcher ◊ (Northern R F) *Onychorhynchus [coronatus] mexicanus*

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher *Terentriacus erythrorus*

Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor*

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*

Northern Schiffornis *Schiffornis veraepacis* (LO)

Cinnamon Becard *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*

White-winged Becard *Pachyramphus polychopterus*

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae*

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*

Green Shrike-Vireo ◊ *Vireolanius pulchellus* (H)

Scrub Greenlet *Hylophilus flavipes*

Tawny-crowned Greenlet *Tunchiornis ochraceiceps*

Lesser Greenlet *Pachysylvia decurtata*

Yellow-green Vireo *Vireo flavoviridis*

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*

Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus*

Brown-capped Vireo *Vireo leucophrys*

Yellow-throated Vireo (W) *Vireo flavifrons*

Yellow-winged Vireo ◊ *Vireo carmioli* Common in Talamanca highlands

Mangrove Vireo ◊ *Vireo pallens* (H)

White-throated Magpie-Jay ◊ *Cyanocorax formosus*

Brown Jay *Cyanocorax morio*

Black-and-yellow Phainoptila ◊ (B-and-Y Silky-flycatcher) *Phainoptila melanoxantha* Seen few times at Talamanca mountains

Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher ◊ *Ptiliogonys caudatus* Common in Talamanca highlands

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea*

Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*

Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

American Cliff Swallow (W) *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*

Rufous-backed Wren ◊ *Campylorhynchus capistratus*

Black-throated Wren ◊ *Pheugopedius atrogularis*

Black-bellied Wren *Pheugopedius fasciatoventris*

Spot-breasted Wren ◊ *Pheugopedius maculipectus*

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*

Riverside Wren ◊ *Cantorchilus semibadius*

Bay Wren *Cantorchilus nigricapillus*

Stripe-breasted Wren ◊ *Cantorchilus thoracicus* Seen few times in caribbean lowlands

Southern House Wren *Troglodytes musculus*

Ochraceous Wren ◊ *Troglodytes ochraceus*

Timberline Wren ◊ *Thryorchilus browni* Very well seen at Quetzales NP

White-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucosticta*

Grey-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys*

Northern Nightingale-Wren ◊ *Microcerculus philomela* (H)

Southern Nightingale-Wren *Microcerculus marginatus* (H)

Song Wren *Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus*

Trilling Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus*

White-browed Gnatcatcher *Polioptila bilineata*

White-lored Gnatcatcher ◊ *Polioptila albiloris*

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus*

Black-faced Solitaire ◊ *Myadestes melanops*

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* Common in the Talamanca highlands

Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush ◊ *Catharus frantzii*

Sooty Thrush ◊ *Turdus nigrescens* Abundant at Highlands and Volcanoes

Mountain Thrush ◊ *Turdus plebejus* Regular sightings in highlands

White-throated Thrush *Turdus assimilis* Few seen at Monteverde

Clay-colored Thrush *Turdus grayi*

House Sparrow (introduced) *Passer domesticus*

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria*

Yellow-bellied Siskin *Spinus xanthogastrus*

Golden-browed Chlorophonia ♦ *Chlorophonia callophrys* Seen twice at Monteverde and once at Talamanca mountains

Scrub Euphonia *Euphonia affinis*

Yellow-crowned Euphonia ♦ *Euphonia luteicapilla*

Yellow-throated Euphonia *Euphonia hirundinacea*

Spot-crowned Euphonia ♦ *Euphonia imitans* A pair seen near Danta Corcovado lodge

Olive-backed Euphonia ♦ *Euphonia gouldi*

Tawny-capped Euphonia ♦ *Euphonia annae*

Rosy Thrush-tanager *Rhodinocichla rosea* Wonderful male seen near the town of Buenos Aires – Volcan

Sooty-capped Chlorospingus ♦ *Chlorospingus pileatus* Abundant in highlands

Common Chlorospingus *Chlorospingus flavopectus*

Stripe-headed Sparrow *Peucaea ruficauda* Common in dry forest

Olive Sparrow *Arremonops rufivirgatus*

Black-striped Sparrow *Arremonops conirostris*

Costa Rican Brushfinch ♦ *Arremon costaricensis* A cooperative bird at San Vito

Orange-billed Sparrow *Arremon aurantirostris*

Chestnut-capped Brushfinch *Arremon brunneinucha*

Sooty-faced Finch ♦ *Arremon crassirostris* A pair seen at Quelitales Hotel

Volcano Junco ♦ *Junco vulcani* Few birds seen at the Paramo habitat

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*

Large-footed Finch ♦ *Pezopetes capitales* Common at Talamanca mountains

White-eared Ground Sparrow ♦ *Melospiza leucotis*

Cabanis's Ground Sparrow ♦ *Melospiza cabanisi* Seen well at the town of Ujarras

White-naped Brushfinch *Atlapetes albinucha*

Yellow-thighed Brushfinch ♦ (Y-t Finch) *Atlapetes tibialis*

Wrenthrush ♦ (Zeledonia) *Zeledonia coronata* Great views at Cerro de la Muerte

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna*

Red-breasted Meadowlark *Leistes militaris*

Yellow-billed Cacique *Amblycercus holosericeus*

Chestnut-headed Oropendola *Psarocolius wagleri*

Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus*

Montezuma Oropendola ♦ *Psarocolius montezuma*

Scarlet-rumped Cacique *Cacicus microrhynchus*

Streak-backed Oriole *Icterus pustulatus*

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*

Yellow-tailed Oriole *Icterus mesomelas*

Spot-breasted Oriole ◊ *Icterus pectoralis*

Black-cowled Oriole ◊ *Icterus prothemelas*

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* Common at Medio Queso and Caño Negro wetlands

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla*

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis*

Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*

Flame-throated Warbler ◊ *Oreothlypis gutturalis* Seen few times at Talamanca mountains

Tennessee Warbler *Leiothlypis peregrina*

Grey-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis poliocephala*

Chiriqui Yellowthroat ◊ *Geothlypis chiriquensis* A male seen near the town of San Vito

Mourning Warbler *Geothlypis philadelphia*

Kentucky Warbler *Geothlypis formosa*

Olive-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis semiflava*

Hooded Warbler *Setophaga citrina*

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiauyumi*

Bay-breasted Warbler *Setophaga castanea*

Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca*

American Yellow Warbler *Setophaga aestiva*

Mangrove Warbler *Setophaga petechia*

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Setophaga pensylvanica*

Myrtle Warbler *Setophaga coronata* One seen at Irazu Volcano

Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens*

Buff-rumped Warbler *Myiothlypis fulvicauda*

Chestnut-capped Warbler *Basileuterus delatirii*

Black-cheeked Warbler ◊ *Basileuterus melanogenys* Brief sighting at Cerro de la Muerte

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*

Black-eared Warbler ◊ *Basileuterus melanotis* Seen few times at Monteverde

Canada Warbler *Cardellina canadensis*

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*

Slate-throated Whitestart *Myioborus miniatus*

Collared Whitestart ◊ *Myioborus torquatus* Common in highlands

Dusky-faced Tanager *Mitrospingus cassinii*

Flame-colored Tanager *Piranga bidentata*

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

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*

Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea*

White-winged Tanager *Piranga leucoptera*

Red-throated Ant Tanager *Driophlox fuscicauda*

Carmioli's Tanager ◊ *Chlorothraupis carmioli*

Black-thighed Grosbeak ◊ *Pheucticus tibialis*

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

Black-faced Grosbeak ◊ *Caryothraustes poliogaster*

Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanoloxia cyanoides*

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea*

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza*

Black-and-yellow Tanager ◊ *Chrysothlypis chrysomelas* Males seen on fruiting trees at Arenal NP

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*

Black-headed Saltator *Saltator atriceps*

Slate-colored Grosbeak *Saltator grossus*

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* Male seen well at Braulio Carrillo NP

Crimson-collared Tanager ◊ *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*

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

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

Morelet's Seedeater ◊ *Sporophila moreletii*

Variable Seedeater (Black-breasted S) *Sporophila corvina*

Variable Seedeater (Black S) *Sporophila [corvina] corvina*

Thick-billed Seed Finch *Sporophila funerea*

Nicaraguan Seed Finch ◊ *Sporophila nuttingi* Few seen along the road to Caño Negro wetlands

Slaty Flowerpiercer ◊ *Diglossa plúmbea* Common at highlands

Speckled Tanager *Ixothraupis guttata*

Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*

Golden-hooded Tanager *Stilpnia larvata*

Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola*

Emerald Tanager *Tangara florida*

Silver-throated Tanager *Tangara icterocephala*

Plain-colored Tanager *Tangara inornata* A single bird seen briefly at La Selva Station

Mammals

Northern Tamandua *Tamandua mexicana*

Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth *Choloepus hoffmanni*

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth (B-t Sloth) *Bradypus variegatus*

novemcinctus

Coyote *Canis latrans*

Northern Grey Fox *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica*

Kinkajou *Potos flavus*

Tayra *Eira barbara*

Central American Tapir (Baird's T) *Tapirus bairdii*

Collared Peccary *Pecari tajacu*

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*

Common Tent-making Bat *Uroderma bilobatum*

Proboscis Bat (Long-nosed B) *Rhynchonycteris naso*

Greater Sac-winged Bat (G White-lined B) *Saccopteryx bilineata*

Panamanian White-faced Capuchin *Cebus imitator*

Central American Squirrel Monkey *Saimiri oerstedii*

Mantled Howler *Alouatta palliata*

Central American Spider Monkey *Ateles geoffroyi*

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata*

Variegated Squirrel *Sciurus variegatoides*

Bangs's Mountain Squirrel (Panama Mountain S) *Syntheosciurus*

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

Dusky Rice Rat *Melanomys caliginosus*