



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Costa Rica

### Rancho Naturalista Extension

*12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017 (4 days)*

### Cloud Forest & Quetzals

*15<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May 2017 (14 days)*

## Trip Report



Great Curassow by Dušan M. Brinkhuizen

**Trip report compiled by Tour Leader, Dušan Brinkhuizen**



### Top ten birds as voted for by participants:

- |                           |                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Resplendent Quetzal    | 6. Turquoise-browed Motmot    |
| 2. Three-wattled Bellbird | 7. Streak-chested Antpitta    |
| 3. Thicket Antpitta       | 8. Black-crested Coquette     |
| 4. Scarlet Macaw          | 9. Black-and-white Owl        |
| 5. Snowcap                | 10. American Pygmy Kingfisher |

### Tour Summary:

**12<sup>th</sup> May - Hotel Robledal:** Today was scheduled as an arrival day for those that joined the pre-tour extension to Rancho Naturalista. Our hotel near the international airport of San José had some nice central valley birding in the garden, and some of the species that we saw included Spot-breasted Oriole, Hoffman's Woodpecker, Greyish Saltator, Clay-colored Thrush, Cinnamon Hummingbird, Melodious Blackbird and Rufous-backed Wren.



American Dipper by Dušan M. Brinkhuizen

the entry road included Red-headed Barbet, Black-faced Solitaire, Spangle-cheeked Tanager, Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Elegant Euphonia, White-bellied and Purple-throated Mountaingem, Collared Trogon, Yellowish Flycatcher and plenty Common Bush Tanagers (*Chlorospingus*). A distant Ornate Hawk-Eagle in flight, soon followed by perch views in the scope, was quite a spectacular sight. An adult Barred Hawk flew overhead nicely.

At the Orosi River, we successfully targeted the American Dipper. An adult was watched for a prolonged time at close range while it was busy foraging. A few Chestnut-headed Oropendolas were also seen along the river. After lunch, in the small town of Orosi, we continued to the Ujarrás area to look for one of Costa Rica's very few true endemics: Cabanis's Ground Sparrow. It took a little while, but we eventually found a pair in a road hedge that showed really well – *a very attractive endemic sparrow indeed!* We arrived at Rancho Naturalista just in time to check the hummingbird pools on the property, which produced a male Crowned Woodnymph taking a bath. A Mottled Owl was heard along the creek but did not show itself.

**13<sup>th</sup> May - Tapanti, Ujarrás & Rancho Naturalista:** Our pre-tour extension started at the well-known Tapanti National Park south-east of San José. En route we picked up some good species, including Lesser and Yellow-bellied Elaenia and an obliging Grey-crowned Yellowthroat. The bird activity inside the park was good and apart from the birding, we very much enjoyed the beautiful, pristine forest and scenery at Tapanti. Species that we got along



Cabanis's Ground Sparrow by Dušan M. Brinkhuizen

**14<sup>th</sup> May - Rancho Naturalista, Platanillo & La Mina:** We started the early morning at the magic insect lights of Rancho Naturalista. The lodge has a set-up with white





sheets that, in combination with a bright light, attract insects at night. In the early morning, a good variety of forest birds came in to feed and species that we enjoyed from close range included White-breasted Wood-wren, Tawny-chested Flycatcher (*a Rancho speciality*), Cocoa and Plain-brown Woodcreeper, Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner, Orange-billed Sparrow, Golden-crowned Warbler and a couple of noisy Brown Jays. A singing Bright-rumped Attila was nicely scoped.



Gartered Trogon by Dušan M. Brinkhuizen

The trails in the forest were challenging but productive, with good views of both White-ruffed and White-crowned Manakin. A Southern Nightingale (Scaly-breasted) Wren was seen well for being a notorious skulker. Laurie spotted our first Keel-billed Toucan at the forest edge, where we also got a Black-headed Tody-flycatcher. A male Gartered Trogon showed itself fantastically at the viewpoint. While having lunch, we watched Grey-headed Chachalaca and Montezuma Oropendola at the banana feeders. The hummingbird feeders in the garden attracted Green-breasted Mango, Violet Sabrewing, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Crowned Woodnymph and many White-necked Jacobins.

In the afternoon, we travelled to nearby La Mina to search for Sunbittern. En route, at the cemetery of Platanillo, we saw many open-country species, including the drab but sought-after White-throated Flycatcher. To our great surprise, our local guide from Rancho showed us a nest of a Sunbittern along the river. An adult was sitting on the nest with a chick – *so cute!* The scope views we got were excellent. We also encountered a nest of the Northern Royal Flycatcher but did not see the bird itself.

Back at Rancho, we went again to the famed hummingbird pools. We had more success and saw at least three Snowcaps taking a bath: a female, an immature male and a striking adult male! Seeing this iconic near-endemic hummer was an absolute highlight of the day! Other hummers that came in at the pool included White-necked Jacobin, Crowned Woodnymph and Stripe-throated Hermit. A Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner also came in but the hoped for Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser did not show up.

**15<sup>th</sup> May - Rancho Naturalista to Robledal, San José:** At dawn, we checked the insect light again in the hope of something new. It paid off, as a stunning pair of Red-throated Ant-tanager came in, allowing close views. All the species of the previous day were present as well. Further along the trail, we watched a surprisingly tame male Dull-mantled Antbird, *another great catch!* We tried again for the Purplish-backed Quail-Dove along the trail system, but without success. New species that we pulled out of flocks included Long-billed Gnatwren, Slaty Antwren and Plain Antvireo. After lunch, we travelled back to Robledal, where we met the other members of the group for our main Costa Rica tour. Some people were lucky to hear a Striped Owl calling in the garden just after dusk.



Tawny-chested Flycatcher by Dušan M. Brinkhuizen



**16<sup>th</sup> May - El Tapir gardens, La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) to La Selva:** Our Costa Rica Cloud Forest and Quetzals tour started with a traffic jam along the highway to Braulio Carrillo National Park. We patiently waited for the traffic to move and after about two hours, we finally got to El Tapir Gardens. Here we kicked-off with a bang: as soon as we got out of the bus, a superb male



**Spectacled Owl by Jesús Risueño Molina**

Snowcap was seen in a small bush. A few seconds later, two adult King Vultures were spotted right above our heads – wow! Everyone was able to connect with the iconic Snowcap and we even watched the display interaction between a male and a female! Another blocker was a stunning male Black-crested Coquette sitting on its favourite perch. Inside the forest trail, we picked up our first Tawny-crested Tanagers, Checker-throated Antwren, Tawny-faced Gnatwren and a pair of Streak-crowned Antwren.

Our next stop was near the town of Guápiles, where we met our local guide, “Cope”. He is also known as the “antpitta whisperer” of Costa Rica. Cope led us to a small farm where we waited patiently at a tree trunk in dense secondary growth. Within a few minutes, a Thicket Antpitta suddenly appeared. The bird hesitated at first but eventually came out in the open to get the worms that Cope had put out. We really enjoyed great views of this very shy and secretive species before we moved on to our next target. The Crested

Owl was off the radar for the moment but we did scope a very impressive Spectacled Owl at its day-roost. A second, more hidden adult was located nearby. The party wasn’t over because, at another spot in the forest, he showed us an adult Black-and-white Owl – *simply amazing!* To our surprise we watched the owl sing in the middle of the day, *a unique experience!*

An active lek site with whip-cracking White-collared Manakins at close range was surely another highlight. The party continued with views of an incubating male Black-throated Trogon and three Honduran White Bats hanging under a large leaf. *How did this guy find all this stuff?* After a short drive, Cope showed us a Great Potoo with a chick – *he was simply unstoppable!* At his house, we enjoyed a Brown-throated Sloth at close range. The hummingbird feeders attracted White-necked Jacobin, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Long-billed Hermit and a Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer, with its distinct red feet. A nice bonus here was a Rufous-naped Wood Rail that came out in the open at the small pond. *Without a doubt, today was an epic start to the main tour!*



**Thicket Antpitta by John Gordon**

**17<sup>th</sup> May - La Selva Biological Station:** Today we had a full day of birding at this famed and bird-filled reserve in the Caribbean lowlands. We started at dawn around our cabins with a pair of obliging Rufous-winged Woodpeckers. Black-cowled Orioles were seen well at the flowering trees and bushes in the garden. We soon continued to the hanging bridge near the main dining hall. Here we got our first Chestnut-colored Woodpecker and a perched Northern





Mealy Amazon. A Green Ibis showed well at eye-level right next to the bridge. A singing Slaty-tailed Trogon was located in the canopy and we scoped a spectacular Keel-billed Toucan while it was taking a sunbath.



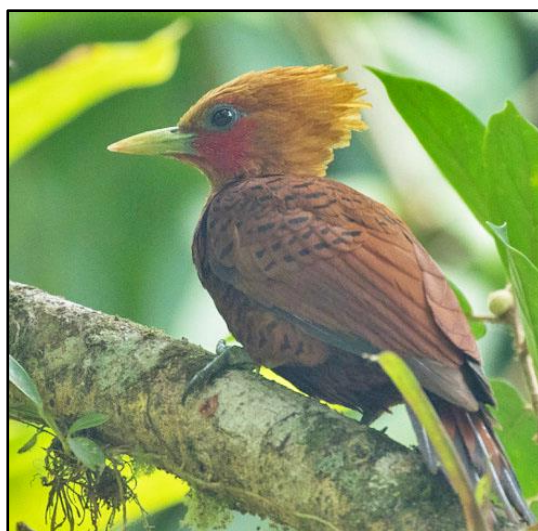
**Black-and-white Owl by Jesús Risueño Molina**

In a tall fruiting tree, we watched two female Snowy Cotingas – *a rare prize bird at La Selva!* A few Collared Peccaries walking around in the open were rather tame; while a Grey-chested Dove kept its distance. Shortly after, we heard the booming call of a Great Curassow. Within a few minutes, both a male and female of this large and impressive cracid were located. The female was surely attractive with her fancy Mohican crest moving up and down. A nearby fruiting tree attracted several birds and allowed close-up views of both Black-cheeked and Chestnut-colored Woodpecker. A forest trail was very productive, with a number of consecutive quality sightings, including Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Black-capped Pygmy-tyrant, Yellow-throated Toucan, Black-throated Trogon, Rufous Mourner and a pair of Eye-ringed Flatbill. We also got great views of both Mantled Howler and Geoffroy's Spider Monkey.

After lunch it rained, but in the bushes next to dining room we were able to watch several species, including White-collared Manakin, Shining Honeycreeper, Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, Golden-hooded Tanagers and a Rufous-tailed Hummingbird taking a shower. The weather improved slightly in the afternoon, when we successfully targeted Black-throated Wren in some dense tangle. A tall, bare tree with perched Bat Falcons was scoped in the open fields bordering our cabins. A spectacular but distant Great Green Macaw was a great conclusion to a bird-packed day!

**18<sup>th</sup> May - Quebrada Gonzales, Braulio Carrillo & La Selva Biological Station:** In the early morning, we travelled to the extensive and pristine Caribbean foothills of Braulio Carrillo National Park. Access to the park is limited to the Quebrada Gonzales Ranger Station, and the birding here is great but also challenging. Our first mixed-flock activity produced some good birds, including Emerald Tanager, a male Tawny-capped Euphonia, a female Black-and-yellow Tanager and a few of the chunky Carmiol's Tanagers. Brown-hooded Parrots were seen briefly, perched in a tall tree. A Dull-mantled Antbird was successfully called in along the river.

Higher up the trail, we spent significant time at a large mixed-species flock. It was tough birding with birds high up in the canopy, but we did manage to pick out a few, including Russet Antshrike, Bay-headed, Tawny-crested, Carmiol's and Black-and-yellow Tanager, Brown-billed Scythebill, Ashy-throated Bush Tanager and an obliging pair of White-throated Shrike-Tanagers. A Crested Guan showed well, but no sign of the sought-after Lattice-tailed Trogon. It was Jesús that called out a small toucan. His description was spot on for the rare Yellow-eared Toucanet. A pair briefly



**Chestnut-colored Woodpecker by John Gordon**



showed up in the mid-canopy, enough to confirm the identification; but unfortunately for many, it went too quick to get good views.



Northern Barred Woodcreeper by  
Dušan M. Brinkhuizen

At the viewpoint overlooking the Rio Sucio Valley, we watched a pair of large raptors doing a flight display. All the characters pointed towards the rare Solitary Eagle, but the large distance and bad light complicated our identification. A few minutes later, a pair of Barred Hawks flew by at closer range, interestingly also doing some sort of flight display. *Was it coincidence or were they the presumed Solitary Eagles?* We eventually decided that it was better to consider our first observation uncertain.

In the afternoon, we returned to La Selva. Along the entry road, we encountered nice mixed-species flocks with Northern Barred Woodcreeper, Plain Xenops, Dusky-faced Tanager and Long-billed Gnatwren showing well. Dusky Antbird and Black-throated Wren were seen in the understorey. At our cabins, we scoped another female Snowy Cotinga and many Piratic Flycatchers. Blue-chested Hummingbird was frequent at the flowers and White-ringed Flycatcher was a nice addition to the garden list as well. Jesús photographed a Northern Royal Flycatcher during our afternoon break inside the forest.

Later in the afternoon, we went back to the open countryside to look for Great Green Macaws. En route we watched two White-throated Crakes taking a bath in a puddle on the road – *spectacular!* A few minutes later, we located the macaws in the same general area but perched in a different tree nearer to us. Scope views that we got of this rare and impressive macaw were great. In the late afternoon, some of us got lucky with Great Green Macaws flying right overhead at our cabins. At dusk, we tried for Vermiculated Screech Owl at a known territory but without success. Therefore, it was a huge surprise to hear the same species vocalising right behind the cabins as we got back from dinner. After a couple of minutes, we located the Vermiculated Screech Owl in the spotlight and it was a splendid rufous morph!

**19<sup>th</sup> May - La Selva Biological Station, Catarata del Toro & Sendero Bogarin to Arenal Observatory Lodge:** In the early morning, we birded a nearby forest trail. We heard a Slaty-breasted Tinamou calling and to our great surprise, it was standing in the middle of the trail! Everybody got their bins on the bird and views were quite exceptional. Further down the trail, we located a Pied Puffbird in the canopy. Spectacular Great Green Macaws were again observed flying over the cabins. After breakfast, we travelled to Catarata del Toro, a famous waterfall in the central highlands. The flowers and feeders at the restaurant attracted an impressive number of hummingbirds, including the endemic Coppery-headed



Vermiculated Screech Owl by Jesús  
Risueño Molina





Emerald and near-endemic Black-bellied Hummingbird, Brown Violetear, Violet Sabrewing, White-bellied and Purple-throated Mountaingem, Green-crowned Brilliant and Green Thorntail. A male Scintillant Hummingbird on the porterweed was a nice bonus.



**Black-bellied Hummingbird by  
John Gordon**

Along the loop trail inside the cloud forest, we got several new species, including Chestnut-capped Brushfinch, Spotted Barbtail, Slaty-back Nightingale-Thrush, Grey-breasted Wood-wren, Smoky-brown Woodpecker and our only Dark Pewee of the trip. We continued to the town of La Fortuna, where we visited Sendero Bogarin. The banana feeders at this site were amazing and we enjoyed Grey-headed Chachalaca, Red-legged Honeycreeper, Passerini's Tanager, Yellow-throated Euphonia, Orange-chinned Parakeet, Tropical Mockingbird and many Clay-colored Thrushes, at close range. A small pool was visited by both White-throated Crake and Rufous-naped Wood Rail. Some people briefly saw a Crimson-collared Tanager near the feeders. Finch's Parakeets were scoped nicely up in a bare tree. A pair of Barred Antshrike showed very well and a Slaty Spinetail was watched building its nest.

Along the trail system, we targeted the Uniform Crake. Sendero Bogarin is one of the best places in the world to see this shy species and it seemed to occur here in high density. We heard them calling from several directions but it did take a while before we finally saw one. We arrived at Arenal Observatory Lodge at dusk, and watching the Arenal Volcano in the heavy rain, thunder and lightning was quite spectacular.

**20<sup>th</sup> May - Arenal Observatory Lodge, Sky Trek Sky Tram & Arenal Peninsula Road:** Our lodge was located on the lower flanks of the Arenal Volcano within the vast Volcán Arenal National Park. The balcony views of the famous cone-shaped stratovolcano were simply breathtaking. The extensive bushes of Blue Porterweed in the garden attracted many hummingbirds, and this is where our group met for a pre-breakfast birding walk. At least two females of Black-crested Coquette were present, but we could not find the female Magenta-throated Woodstar that was reported here by others. A male Blue-throated (Goldentail) Sapphire, and Steely-vented and Scaly-breasted Hummingbird were new hummers for the trip. Crested Guan and Montezuma Oropendola were really common in the garden.

At the start of a forest trail behind our rooms, we scoped a beautiful male Collared Trogon. It was the orange-bellied form, a race that is sometimes considered a distinct species. Deeper in the forest, we did very well and obtained great views of Bicolored and Spotted Antbird, Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush and a pair of Song Wren. After breakfast, we visited the nearby Sky Trek Sky Tram Reserve, which has hanging bridges and excellent canopy viewing. Flock activity was generally slow until we reached the second hanging bridge, where we ran into a small but steady tanager flock. Species that we pulled out included a



**Orange-chinned Parakeet by John Gordon**



pair of Black-and-yellow Tanager, Emerald Tanager, Shining Honeycreeper, Tooth-billed Tanager, Green Honeycreeper, Speckled Tanager and several Bay-headed Tanagers. The rare Blue-and-gold Tanager was swiftly observed by Jesús, but unfortunately, others were unable to relocate the bird.



**Red-legged Honeycreeper by John Gordon**

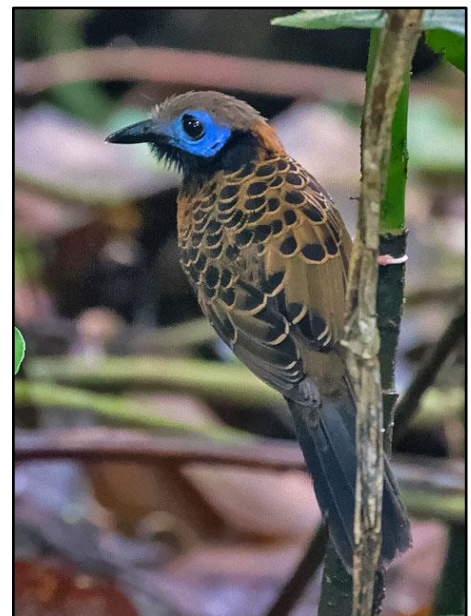
Suddenly, right at the bridge, an adult Ornate Hawk-Eagle flew by only a few metres away from us – *stunning!* A minute later, it was relocated inside the forest and some got brief but excellent perch views of this impressive eagle.

At the second bridge, we also got a responsive Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser in the undergrowth. Further up the trail, near the viewpoint, we watched an obliging Broad-billed Motmot. From the viewpoint itself, we had great looks at the canopy and birds like Keel-billed Toucan and Black-cheeked Woodpecker. On our way back, we got extremely lucky with an army ant swarm that was attended by no less than four antbird

species: Bicolored, Zeledon's, Spotted and the fantastic Ocellated Antbird! We got excellent views of the foraging antbirds, and other species such as Stripe-breasted Wren and Northern Barred Woodcreeper also joined the feeding frenzy.

At lunch, we scoped an adult White Hawk and a male Black-crowned Tityra. In the afternoon it started to rain. Leo suggested travelling to lower elevations in order to seek drier weather. His plan worked out perfectly, as it was still dry as we drove down the so-called Peninsula Road. A pair of Pale-billed Woodpeckers en route was a really nice catch. When we arrived at the motmot stakeout, we almost got an instant response. The bird that had flown in was a Broad-billed Motmot, but not the hoped for Keel-billed. Leo was determined to find us the Keel-billed, as he knew the bird had a territory on site. A Double-toothed Kite and a White-fronted Nunbird were welcome additions while we waited. Suddenly, there it was, the rare Keel-billed Motmot, perched on a snag together with a Broad-billed Motmot! The birds were seemingly paired and the two species are also known to hybridise in the Arenal area. However, phenotypically our bird looked like a pure Keel-billed Motmot – *what a great ending of the day!*

**21<sup>st</sup> May - Arenal Observatory Lodge to Monteverde Reserve:** In the early morning we birded the waterfall trail on the lodge grounds. A male Dull-mantled Antbird was one of the highlights and showed ridiculously well. A small flock produced species such as Black-and-yellow Tanager, Carmiol's Tanager, Plain Xenops, Bay-headed Tanager, Green Honeycreeper, Golden-crowned Warbler, Tawny-capped Euphonia and Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner. On our way back, we watched a male Tooth-billed Tanager and Rufous Mourner.



**Ocellated Antbird by John Gordon**

It was quite a long drive to the Monteverde area, as we had to travel all the way around the scenic Arenal Lake. We arrived at Monteverde Reserve in the afternoon and, unfortunately, it had already





started raining. We watched the busy hummingbird feeders from under a roof and enjoyed the close-up views of Green Hermit, Violet Sabrewing, Lesser Violetear, Coppery-headed Emerald, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Purple-throated Mountaingem, Stripe-tailed Hummingbird and Green-crowned Brilliant. The stunning mountaingem was especially abundant. The rain eased a little so we decided to check the entrance area of the reserve. It was a great decision, as we soon heard a Prong-billed Barbet calling nearby. After some hide-and-seek, we eventually got nice scope views of this sought-after regional endemic. A male Scarlet-thighed Dacnis and White-throated Capuchin were also seen nicely.



**Bicolored Antbird by John Gordon**

were distant, but through the telescope, we could easily identify this unmistakable cotinga. After breakfast, we travelled to the Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve for the day. Leo got our entrance tickets while we waited at the parking. One of the birds we got here was an obliging Yellowish Flycatcher.

The forest trails in the reserve were well-maintained and the birding here was simply superb. A Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush was hopping on the trail in front of us and a little further along, we found a pair of Black-eared Warbler. This recent split of Three-striped Warbler is also known as Costa Rican Warbler. A Silvery-fronted Tapaculo sang from the understorey and with a little help of a tactically-placed Bluetooth speaker, we managed to get excellent views of this notorious skulker. Next was a cooperative Streak-breasted Treehunter, another regional endemic. The scarce Azure-hooded Jay came in as well, but was rather tricky to observe in the tall canopy of the pristine cloud forest. A singing male Black-thighed Grosbeak that we scoped was another highlight.

At a forest stream, we got great views of the sought-after Sooty-faced Finch – *we were literally on a birding streak!* The bizarre call of the Three-wattled Bellbird was getting louder as we were getting closer and closer. Suddenly, there it was, right in the open in the canopy of a nearby bare tree! Watching this extraterrestrial creature in the scope for a prolonged time was surely a major highlight of the tour. *The weird wattles and the call make it a truly unique bird.* All the excitement wasn't over yet, as we knew that Resplendent Quetzal had to be nesting somewhere nearby. A local guide showed us the approximate nest site and sure enough, a male Resplendent Quetzal showed up in full ornate! We enjoyed full-frame scope views of this iconic, bright green bird for some time, before it disappeared in the dense cloud forest.

Soon, Leo had located the nesting cavity and we carefully took our positions in the forest around



**Three-wattled Bellbird by Dušan M. Brinkhuizen**



the nest tree. We waited patiently for the pair to come back and it was an unbelievable experience, something you would only expect to see in nature movies. One at the time, both male and female appeared to feed their two chicks – *what an absolute blast!* To our surprise, the stunning elongated tail streamers of the male were still perfectly intact, even though he must have gone in and out of the nest frequently. It rained hard during our walk back and we got wet but it was absolutely worth the long haul! Some of us watched a Grey-throated Leaf Tosser at its nest in the pouring rain and the back end of the group got a nice male Collared Whitestart.



**Resplendent Quetzal** by  
John Gordon

A late lunch at the Bon Appetit restaurant in town was marvellous. It was Bob that suddenly said: “look at that toucan being mobbed by those Tropical Kingbirds”. Unbelievable but true, we watched how a Blue-throated Toucanet plundered the nest and eggs of the kingbirds, *a cruel but spectacular sighting at the same time!* Other birds that we found right next to the restaurant were Lesson’s Motmot and White-eared Ground Sparrow, both species showing very well. Late afternoon, we went back to the Santa Elena Reserve to try for the Bare-shanked Screech Owl. At the parking, Laurie got us on a White-throated Thrush as it was getting dark. It took almost an hour before we finally heard the screech owl, and the bird was fairly close. Unfortunately, it never came all the way and eventually lost its interest.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> May - Hotel de Montaña, Santuario (Finca) Ecológico to La Ensenada:**

A male Three-wattled Bellbird was scoped in the same area as the day before while we were having early morning coffee. We visited the nearby Finca Ecológico to search for mid-elevation

targets and species that had eluded us before. Fairly soon, we heard the near-endemic Black-breasted Wood Quail calling, which was one of our primary targets here. We carefully looked for the wood quails along the trail system and we eventually got brief but tickable views of this shy species. A Ruddy Woodcreeper showed up out of nowhere and we had great views of this rare species in Costa Rica. We also did well with skulky wrens and got great looks at Rufous-and-white, Cabanis's and Rufous-breasted Wren. Long-tailed Manakins were calling from various directions but we had difficulties connecting with this species visually. After a lot of tryouts at different spots in the forest, we finally got our eyes on two stunning males in full display! Very pleased, we returned to Hotel de Montaña for a late breakfast before heading off into the Pacific lowlands.

En route to La Ensenada, we made a productive stop along the road, where we got our first Turquoise-browed Motmot and a nice Squirrel Cuckoo taking a sunbath. Here we got our only Olive Sparrow for the trip and a male Streak-backed Oriole also showed well. Afternoon birding at La Ensenada produced many new species, including various waterbirds at the local salt pans. A cute pair of Pacific Screech Owls was found on their day-roost and a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl was scoped at the same spot.



**Pacific Screech Owl** by Dušan M.  
Brinkhuizen





White-lored Gnatcatcher, Yellow-green Vireo and Brown-crested Flycatcher were present, but the Lesser Ground-cuckoo was nowhere to be found. Turquoise-browed Motmot, Black-headed Trogon and White-necked Puffbird were scoped along the entry road.



**Ferruginous Pygmy Owl by Jesús  
Risueño Molina**

At the salt pans, we scoped Yellow-crowned Night Heron, American White Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Little Blue Heron and a small group of Woodstork among others. Migrant waders that we got here included Wilson's Phalarope, Greater Yellowlegs and Stilt Sandpiper. A small patch of mangrove produced Mangrove Vireo and Mangrove Warbler. The Myiarchus flycatchers that we observed at this site most probably involved Nutting's Flycatcher. In the late afternoon, we had several nice flybys of the Vulnerable Yellow-naped Amazon.

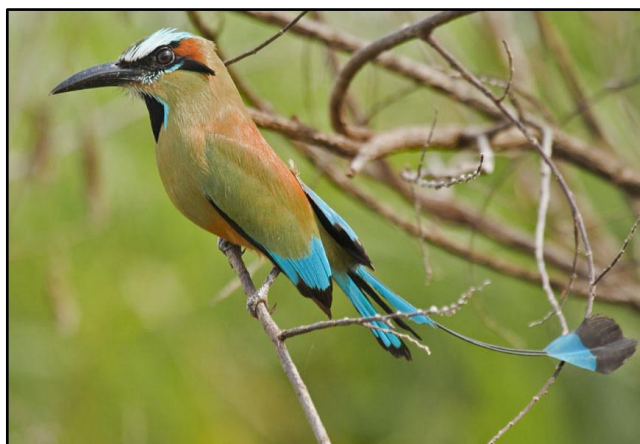
#### **24<sup>th</sup> May - La Ensenada, Punta Morales, Rio Tarcoles Estuary to Villa Lapas:**

The early morning was spent at the forest patches and grasslands near the lodge. A pair of Double-striped Thick-knees was detected but the birds almost instantly flew away. The birding along the track was productive and we scoped several goodies, such as Yellow-headed Caracara, Black-headed Trogon and White-necked

Puffbird. A male Rose-throated Becard (*a subspecies without the rose throat*) was observed at its nest, as was a Streak-backed Oriole. It took a little while before we got the Banded Wren in view but it was worth the effort. A Crested Bobwhite was calling nearby and when we played the tape it flew up and landed in a tree. After a few minutes, we found the right angle and we watched the adult male beautifully in the telescope – *awesome!* Eastern Meadowlark was also present in the same field.

After breakfast, we drove along the Pacific coast to the south. We made a productive stop at some ponds near Puerto Morales, where we added a number of new shorebirds, including Semipalmated, Wilson's and Collared Plover, Semipalmated, Western and Least Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Marbled Godwit, Whimbrel, Willet and Ruddy Turnstone. At the river mouth of Mata de Limon, we made a short stop for a delicious ceviche. An adult Franklin's Gull here was unexpected.

Our afternoon boat ride into the mangroves of the Rio Tarcoles Estuary was fantastic. Along the river, we got close encounters (*and superb photo opportunities*) with species like Common Black Hawk, Turquoise-browed Motmot, Bare-throated Tiger Heron and Roseate Spoonbill. Inside the mangroves, we encountered a stunning male American Pygmy Kingfisher and a couple of well-hidden Boat-billed Herons. Plumbeous Kites and our only Osprey for the trip were seen along the creek as well. Our principal target, Mangrove Hummingbird, proved hard to get. We ran into several Scaly-breasted Hummingbirds feeding on mangrove



**Turquoise-browed Motmot by Dušan M.  
Brinkhuizen**



flowers and when we played a pygmy-owl mobbing tape, various Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds flew in. Other species attracted by the tape included Greenish Elaenia, Rose-throated Becard and Panamanian Flycatcher.



**Bare-throated Tiger Heron by Dušan M. Brinkhuizen**

When we got back to the boat, our boat driver said he had just heard the Mangrove Hummingbird. A minute later, there it showed up, perched right in front of us! It was a female-type bird and everybody got on it. John even managed to get a record shot of this difficult to get endemic. In the late afternoon, we watched Black Skimmer and Lesser Nighthawk at the river mouth. We also had several beautiful Scarlet Macaws in flight – *a great bird to end the day with!*

**25<sup>th</sup> May - Carara National Park & Villa Lapas:** Pre-breakfast birding in the garden of Villa Lapas got us some nice observations, including White-whiskered Puffbird, Buff-rumped Warbler, Orange-billed Sparrow and our first Cherrie's Tanager. After breakfast, we continued to nearby Carara National Park, where we did a very productive forest trail. We heard the distinct song of Black-faced Antthrush and a few minutes later, we got this shy forest floor dweller in full view! Baird's Trogon was heard calling, and this target was also spotted quickly and a beautiful male was scoped.

We went a little off-trail to look for Orange-collared Manakins, and with success: at least two superb males were watched for a prolonged time in the undergrowth. A stunning Northern Royal Flycatcher showed up at the same spot and we also watched the bird build its nest above the main trail. It was Jenny that spotted two spectacular Scarlet Macaws in the midstorey. The macaws were feeding on palm fruits and the views we got were simply spectacular. We heard a Streak-chested Antpitta calling in the distance and worked on it patiently. A long wait eventually paid off and we enjoyed a good view of this shy and sought-after species. Other goodies that we added to the list included Spot-crowned Euphonia, Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher, Stub-tailed Spadebill and Black-hooded Antshrike.

On our way back, a Great Tinamou sneaking over the forest floor was watched at close range – *fantastic!* Leo showed us a few roosting Northern Ghost Bats just before we went back to the lodge for lunch. Some of us decided to have a break after lunch; while others birded the river trail at Villa Lapas. A great catch was the three Fiery-billed Aracaris that we scoped in the canopy. Some highlights that we got along the river trail included Riverside Wren, Black-throated Trogon, Long-tailed Manakin, lekking Long-billed Hermits and another Northern Royal Flycatcher.



**Northern Royal Flycatcher by Dušan M. Brinkhuizen**

After the break, we head back into the National Park to look for species that had eluded us before. A female Red-capped Manakin building a nest at the beginning of the trail was a great start. A few





minutes later, a Ruddy Quail-Dove crossed the trail in front of us – *what a bonus!* Other new species included Grey-headed Tanager, Golden-naped Woodpecker and a male Blue-crowned Manakin, all of them seen well. The star of the afternoon must have been a second Streak-chested



Streak-chested Antpitta by John Gordon

Antpitta – *the bird was rather tame compared to the one we saw in the morning and the point blank views that we got were simply mind-blowing.* Just before dusk, we made a short stop at the bridge over the Tarcoles River, where we watched a large assembly of American Crocodiles on the river bank.

**26<sup>th</sup> May - Villa Lapas, San Isidro de El General, Bosque del Tolomuco, La Georgina to Savegre:** Today was a fairly long travel day to the Talamanca highlands, but we did a number of birding stops and saw many great birds en route. A White-whiskered Puffbird in the garden of Villa Lapas was a nice catch-up for some just before we started our drive to San Isidro. Along the Pacific highway, we stopped for our first Roadside Hawk of the trip and also for a splendid Pearl Kite that was perched on a wire. The reservoir at San Isidro had a couple of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Mangrove Swallows and Northern Jacanas, but there was no sign of the Southern Lapwing.

At the university campus, we scanned the canopy for the sought-after Turquoise Cotinga. The place and habitat did not look like anything special; but according to Leo and driver Luis, the bird had to be around. A Red-crowned Woodpecker and Olive-sided Flycatcher were new species that we spotted while we searched for the cotinga. It was Laurie that spotted something promising in the subcanopy. We scoped it and yes, it was a superb male cotinga! Views of this bright turquoise near-endemic were distant, but through the scope we got to see it fairly well. Our stop at the gardens of Bosque del Tolomuco was excellent. The feeders and flowers attracted some localised mid-elevation hummingbirds, such as Snowy-bellied Hummingbird and White-tailed Emerald – *species that we wouldn't get anywhere else.* Other hummers that we saw included Green-crowned Brilliant, Long-billed Starthroat, Garden Emerald and Grey-tailed Mountaingem. A female Red-headed Barbet appeared in the garden and Cherrie's, Silver-throated and Speckled Tanager were seen here as well. The Streaked Xenops that we watched was a rare sighting in Costa Rica according to Leo. Both Ruddy and Scaled Pigeon were added to the list. We also enjoyed great views of a White-naped Brushfinch.



Fiery-throated Hummingbird by John Gordon

Higher up, at restaurant La Georgina, we enjoyed a single feeder that attracted many Fiery-throated Hummingbirds. This fancy near-endemic species was predominant at the feeder, but we also picked out a few of the larger Admirable Hummingbird. A Large-footed Finch was another new species but not

much else was seen, as it was raining hard. Even though the weather was horrendous, we decided to drive up to the antennas of Cerro de la Muerte to try for the localised Volcano Junco. Leo had a reliable stakeout for this species and outside in his poncho in the pouring rain he searched very hard



while we were scanning from the bus. At some point we had to give up, because the weather did not improve and soon it would start to get dark. On our way down the San Gerardo de Dota Valley, we spotlighted a Dusky Nightjar in the rain from the bus, another near-endemic added to the list!



**Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher by  
Dušan Brinkhuizen**

**27<sup>th</sup> May - Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP & Antennas Cerro de la Muerte:** Today we had a full day of birding in the Talamanca highlands. We were based at the well-known Savegre Lodge in the San Gerardo de Dota Valley. Pre-breakfast birding on the lodge grounds was superb, with new species all around us. The fantastic Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher with its fancy haircut was common, as was the hip Yellow-thighed Finch with its bright yellow trousers! Other regional endemics that we had in the garden included Sulphur-winged Parakeet, Slaty Flowerpiercer and Sooty-capped Bush Tanager. A Black-faced Solitaire was nesting near our cabins. Stunning Flame-colored Tanagers were visiting the banana feeder and even the Acorn Woodpecker came in a couple of times. Hummingbirds at the feeders and flowers included the tiny Volcano and Admirable Hummingbird, Grey-tailed Mountaingem, Lesser Violetear, Stripe-tailed Hummingbird and a single Fiery-throated Hummingbird wandering from higher elevations.

At breakfast, we watched a male Red-headed Barbet foraging along the restaurant windows at close range – *sweet!* The morning was spent higher up along Roble trail in Los Quetzales National Park. The pristine oak forest here was very productive and we added many new species to the list. Mixed-species flocks included Ruddy Treerunner, Buffy Tuftedcheek, Lineated Foliage-gleaner,

Black-capped Flycatcher, Yellow-winged Vireo, White-winged Tanager, Ochraceous Wren, Spot-crowned Woodcreeper, Sooty-capped Bush Tanager, Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Black-cheeked Warbler, Collared Whitestart and the stunning Flame-throated Warbler. We searched hard for the rare Silvery-throated Jay but without success. We did find a Black Guan and a female Resplendent Quetzal in the forest.

Later on, we took another trail to target the rare Ochraceous Pewee but only encountered the more common Northern Tufted Flycatcher. A fantastic pair of Wrenthrush along this trail showed very well at a small stream. In the afternoon, the weather was significantly better than the day before. Since we saw most of our targets in the valley, we decided to drive all the way up to the antennas to try again for the Volcano Junco. Unlike yesterday, we quickly located a pair of this near-endemic in the treeline scrub. Timberline Wren was more difficult to get in view but we eventually saw it very nicely. Both Sooty Thrush and Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush seemed more common at these higher elevations. A small party of birds included Sooty-capped Bush Tanager, Black-capped Flycatcher, Black-cheeked Warbler and, to our surprise, another obliging Wrenthrush!



**Slaty Flowerpiercer by John Gordon**





**28<sup>th</sup> May - Savegre Lodge, Providencia Road & Cartago Valley to San José:** Pre-breakfast, we targeted Spotted Wood Quail along a trail behind the lodge. Black Guan was one of the first birds we saw. Hairy Woodpecker showed well and this subspecies was strikingly different from the North



Acorn Woodpecker by John Gordon

American one, in being smaller and much darker. A pair of Large-footed Finch showed nicely at a little stream. A male Black-thighed Grosbeak was watched in the canopy and we even managed to get a good look at his black thighs. A stunning Spangle-cheeked Tanager was observed at close range as it was feeding on berries. It was a new species for the main tour, so a very welcome addition to our list of targets.

On our way back, Leo found a small convoy of Spotted Wood Quails! The birds were not that shy and the views we got of this stunning species were fantastic. When the news regarding the wood quails came out at the breakfast table, I took the people that “slept in” back to the spot, and with success: the birds were still there! After breakfast, we drove up the valley with a stop for the rare Ochraceous Pewee in the famed, but also rather scary, quetzal curves. No sign of the pewee here,

but we did get a Golden-bellied Flycatcher. Our next stop was the Providencia Road in the upper parts of Los Quetzales National Park. A mixed-species flock produced a few nice birds, which included a male Black-and-yellow Phainoptila that was only seen by a few lucky observers. One of our final new species was the sought-after Ochraceous Pewee that we found singing in the canopy. It was perched on an exposed branch and scope views of the adult bird were excellent. Other species that we picked up along the road included a Timberline Wren and Mountain Thrush.

After a group photo at the ranger station, we started our journey back to San José. Various local Costa Rican coffees were purchased at a tactical stop en route. In the Cartago Valley, we did a final road stop for a very special bird: Grass Wren of the endemic subspecies *lucidus*. At a site in the industrial area of the town, we had great views of a singing bird perched in an isolated bush. This Critically Endangered taxon is restricted to this valley (extinct in Panama, last confirmed record was in 1905) and seeing it was a real bonus!



Spotted Wood Quail by Dušan M. Brinkhuizen

## Annotated List of species recorded

**Note:** Number in brackets ( ) indicate number of days on the tour the species was recorded.

## Birds (465 in total: 446 seen, 19 heard)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2016. IOC World Bird List (v 6.4).

**Status codes:** E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced

**IUCN codes:** CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in



the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

### **Tinamous Tinamidae**

#### **Great Tinamou (NT)**

*Tinamus major fuscipennis*

(7) Up to 1 Rancho Naturalista 13-15.5, up to 1 La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5 and 2 Carara NP 25.5.

Heard at several (lowland) localities. Two adult birds were fantastically observed along a forest trail in Carara NP.

#### **Little Tinamou**

*Crypturellus soui modestus*

(2) 1 heard La Selva Biological Station 17.5 and 1 heard Villa Lapas 26.5.

Heard-only.

#### **Thicket Tinamou**

*Crypturellus cinnamomeus praepes*

(1) 1 heard La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

Heard-only at La Ensenada.

#### **Slaty-breasted Tinamou**

*Crypturellus boucardi costaricensis*

(1) La Selva Biological Station 19.5.

Good views of an adult standing on a forest trail. Also calling.

### **Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl Anatidae**

#### **Black-bellied Whistling Duck**

*Dendrocygna autumnalis fulgens*

(5) 2 La Selva Biological Station 17.5, Salinas northwest of La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5, Bridge over Rio Tarcoles 25.5, San Isidro de El General - Minae 26.5 and en route 26.5.

A handsome and distinct duck seen at various sites during the tour.

#### **Muscovy Duck**

*Cairina moschata*

(1) La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

A genuine wild-type adult was seen with a few Black-bellied Whistling Ducks at a small water pond.

### **Guan, Chachalaca, and Curassows Cracidae**

#### **Grey-headed Chachalaca**

*Ortalis cinereiceps*

(7) Up to 3 Rancho Naturalista 13-15.5, Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, en route 21.5 and 1 heard Monteverde - Santuario Ecológico, Puntarenas 23.5.

Common at the feeders of Rancho Naturalista. Many birds (including adults with chicks) were also very obliging at the feeders of Sendero Bogarin.

#### **Crested Guan**

*Penelope purpurascens aequatorialis*

(6) Rancho Naturalista 14.5, 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 15.5, 2 La Selva Biological Station 17.5, Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

This large brown cracid with a distinct red wattle was seen at several sites. Birds were quite common at Arenal Observatory.

#### **Black Guan (NT) (NE)**

*Chamaepetes unicolor*

(3) Santa Elena Reserve 22.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5.

This regional endemic was seen at two cloud forest sites.

#### **Great Curassow (VU)**

*Crax rubra rubra*

(4) 2 La Selva Biological Station 17.5, La Selva Biological Station 18.5, 2 Arenal Observatory





Lodge 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

A large and spectacular cracid seen at two lowland sites in the Caribbean. Both males and females of this sexually dimorphic species were observed. Some were lucky to watch a peaceful feeding interaction between a White-nosed Coati and the curassow at Arenal.

### **New World Quail *Odontophoridae***

#### **Crested Bobwhite**

*Colinus cristatus mariae*

(1) La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

We got spectacular views of an adult male. It flew up into a tree where it was scoped.

#### **Black-breasted Wood Quail (NE)**

*Odontophorus leucolaemus*

(2) 1 heard Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5 and 2 Monteverde - Santuario Ecológico, Puntarenas 23.5.

A vocal pair was observed along the trail system of Finca Ecologica. Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica.

#### **Spotted Wood Quail**

*Odontophorus guttatus*

(2) 1 heard Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and 6 Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5.

We got superb looks at a family group foraging in the forest behind the lodge.

### **Storks *Ciconiidae***

#### **Wood Stork**

*Mycteria americana*

(3) Salinas northwest of La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5 and en route 26.5.

Adults and juveniles were seen at several sites along the Pacific coast. We got great scope views at the salt pans of La Ensenada.

### **Ibises and Spoonbills *Threskiornithidae***

#### **Green Ibis**

*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*

(2) La Selva Biological Station 17.5 and 1 heard La Selva Biological Station 18.5.

An adult was seen nicely from the hanging bridge at La Selva.

#### **American White Ibis**

*Eudocimus albus albus*

(3) Salinas north-west of La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5 and Bridge over Rio Tarcoles 25.5.

Seen at various sites along the Pacific coast. A roosting site in the mangroves of the Rio Tarcoles estuary was a spectacular sight.

#### **Roseate Spoonbill**

*Platalea ajaja*

(3) Salinas north-west of La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5 and en route 26.5.

We had great views of this iconic spoonbill at three sites in the Pacific lowlands.

### **Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns *Ardeidae***

#### **Bare-throated Tiger Heron**

*Tigrisoma mexicanum*

(3) Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5, Villa Lapas 25.5 and en route 26.5.

We had multiple close-up views of this fantastic species during our boat ride into the mangroves. We also watched it call in the late afternoon.

#### **Boat-billed Heron**

*Cochlearius cochlearius panamensis*

(1) Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

A few birds were hidden in the mangroves on their day roost.

#### **Yellow-crowned Night Heron**

*Nyctanassa violacea bancrofti*



(2) Salinas north-west of La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

We had multiple sightings of this species along the Pacific coast.

**Green Heron***Butorides virescens virescens*

(3) en route 16.5, 1 heard Salinas north-west of La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

An adult on nest (presumably incubating) was observed during our boat ride along the banks of the Tarcoles river.

**Western Cattle Egret***Bubulcus ibis*

(10) en route 13.5, en route 15.5, en route 16.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5, en route 18.5, en route 19.5, Salinas northwest of la Ensenada Lodge 23.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5, en route 24.5, Bridge over Rio Tarcoles 25.5 and en route 26.5.

A common and widespread species observed in pastures and open habitats.

**Great Blue Heron***Ardea herodias herodias*

(1) Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

We had a few sightings only of this common boreal migrant.

**Great Egret***Ardea alba egretta*

(4) Arenal - Peninsula road 20.5, Punta Morales Ponds 24.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5, Bridge over Rio Tarcoles 25.5 and en route 26.5.

A common and widespread species seen at various sites.

**Tricolored Heron***Egretta tricolor ruficollis*

(1) Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

This distinct heron was observed along the bank of the Tarcoles river.

**Little Blue Heron***Egretta caerulea*

(5) Hotel Robledal 16.5, en route 18.5, Salinas northwest of la Ensenada Lodge 23.5, Punta Morales Ponds 24.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5 and Bridge over Rio Tarcoles 25.5.

Several (including white juveniles) were seen during the tour.

**Snowy Egret***Egretta thula thula*

(4) Salinas northwest of la Ensenada Lodge 23.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5, Bridge over Rio Tarcoles 25.5 and San Isidro de El General - Minae 26.5.

A fairly common species seen at various sites.

**Pelicans *Pelecanidae*****Brown Pelican***Pelecanus occidentalis carolinensis*

(3) La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5 and en route 26.5.

Small numbers were recorded along the Pacific coast.

**Frigatebirds *Fregatidae*****Magnificent Frigatebird***Fregata magnificens*

(3) La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5 and en route 26.5.

Birds in flight were a common sight along the Pacific coast.

**Cormorants and Shags *Phalacrocoracidae*****Neotropic Cormorant***Phalacrocorax brasilianus brasilianus*

(1) Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

Good numbers were seen at the Tarcoles river-mouth.





### New World Vultures *Cathartidae*

#### **Turkey Vulture**

*Cathartes aura aura*

(14) Hotel Robledal 12.5, en route 13.5, Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5, en route 16.5, observed La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5, en route 21.5, La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5, en route 26.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5.

Abundant and widespread in Costa Rica.

#### **Black Vulture**

*Coragyps atratus*

(15) Hotel Robledal 12.5, en route 13.5, Rancho Naturalista 14.5, en route 15.5, en route 16.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5, en route 18.5, en route 19.5, La Selva Biological Station 19.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, Arenal Lake 21.5, La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5, Carara NP 25.5, en route 26.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5.

A very common and widespread species.

#### **King Vulture**

*Sarcoramphus papa*

(1) 2 El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5.

Two adults flew over low at El Tapir garden providing us with spectacular views of this iconic species.

### Osprey *Pandionidae*

#### **Western Osprey**

*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*

(1) Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

Just a single bird was seen in the mangroves.

### Hawks, Eagles, and Kites *Accipitridae*

#### **White-tailed Kite**

*Elanus leucurus majusculus*

(1) Cartago Valley 28.5.

An adult was seen from the bus on our way back to San José.

#### **Pearl Kite**

*Gampsonyx swainsonii leonae*

(1) en route 26.5.

We stopped for a single adult along the Pacific highway on our way to San Isidro. It was perched on the electric wires.

#### **Grey-headed Kite**

*Leptodon cayanensis cayanensis*

(1) 1 heard La Selva Biological Station 19.5.

A calling bird was heard in the distance.

#### **Swallow-tailed Kite**

*Elanoides forficatus yetapa*

(7) Platanillo 14.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5, Arenal - Peninsula Road 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5, en route 21.5, Bon Appetit, Monteverde 22.5, en route 23.5, en route 25.5 and en route 26.5.

A distinct and attractive kite seen at various sites during the tour.

#### **Ornate Hawk-Eagle (NT)**

*Spizaetus ornatus vicarius*

(2) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5 and Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5.

An adult was scoped in the distance at Tapanti during the Rancho Naturalista extension. Another adult flew by at very close range at the second hanging bridge of Sky Trek. Looks we got were spectacular including brief perch views.

#### **Double-toothed Kite**

*Harpagus bidentatus fasciatus*



(2) Arenal - Peninsula Road 20.5 and en route 26.5.

This smart raptor was scoped at two sites.

**Bicolored Hawk**

*Accipiter bicolor bicolor*

(1) Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5.

A bird was seen in the hotel garden by a few observers only.

**Plumbeous Kite**

*Ictinia plumbea*

(1) Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

Adults and a juvenile were seen during our boat trip into the mangroves. At dusk many were seen insect-catching above the forest.

**Crane Hawk**

*Geranospiza caerulescens nigra*

(1) Salinas north-west of La Ensenada Lodge 23.5.

An adult flew by at the salt pans.

**Common Black Hawk**

*Buteogallus anthracinus bangsi*

(1) Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

Many were encountered during our boat ride in the mangroves. Both adults and juveniles were observed at close range.

**Barred Hawk**

*Morphnarchus princeps*

(2) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5 and 2 Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5.

We had a neat fly-over of an adult during the Rancho Naturalista extension at Tapanti. A displaying pair was observed at Rio Sucio, Braulio Carrillo. At the exact same site a putative pair of Solitary Eagles was observed but we couldn't confirm the id with certainty.

**Roadside Hawk**

*Rupornis magnirostris petulans*

(1) en route 26.5.

Only two birds were observed during our drive along the Pacific Highway.

**Harris's Hawk**

*Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi*

(1) Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

An adult in flight was seen beautifully at the Tarcoles River.

**White Hawk**

*Pseudastur albicollis costaricensis*

(1) Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5.

An adult was scoped during lunch at Sky Trek restaurant.

**Grey Hawk**

*Buteo plagiatus*

(6) La Selva Biological Station 17.5, La Selva Biological Station 19.5, Arenal Lake 21.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5, en route 23.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5 and en route 26.5.

A fairly common species in the lowlands with both adults and juveniles observed.

**Short-tailed Hawk**

*Buteo brachyurus fuliginosus*

(6) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, en route 15.5, La Selva Biological Station 19.5, Catarata del Toro 19.5, en route 21.5, 2 en route 23.5 and en route 24.5.

Frequently seen during the tour with the majority being pale morph individuals.

**Red-tailed Hawk**

*Buteo jamaicensis costaricensis*

(1) Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5.

A single bird was scoped in the garden of the hotel.

**Sunbittern *Eurypygidae***

**Sunbittern**

*Eurypyga helias major*

(1) La Mina, Jicotea 14.5.

An adult with chick at their nest was seen during the Rancho Naturalista extension.





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### Rails, Gallinules, and Coots *Rallidae*

**White-throated Crake***Laterallus albigularis cinereiceps*

(2) 2 La Selva Biological Station 18.5 and Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5.

We got excellent views of this secretive species at two sites.

**Rufous-naped Wood Rail***Aramides albiventris plumbeicollis*

(2) La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5 and Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5.

Adults were seen fantastically at two sites in the Caribbean. Formerly considered a subspecies of Grey-necked Wood Rail.

**Uniform Crake***Amaurolimnas concolor guatemalensis*

(2) 1 heard La Selva Biological Station 17.5 and Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5.

This secretive crake was heard at La Selva and eventually seen along the trails at Bogarin.

### Thick-knees *Burhinidae*

**Double-striped Thick-knee***Burhinus bistriatus bistriatus*

(1) 2 La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

A few lucky participants observed a pair that was flushed in an open field.

### Stilts and Avocets *Recurvirostridae*

**Black-necked Stilt***Himantopus mexicanus mexicanus*

(2) La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, Punta Morales Ponds 24.5 and Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

Black-necked Stilts were seen at various ponds along the Pacific coast.

### Plovers and Lapwings *Charadriidae*

**Grey Plover***Pluvialis squatarola cynosurae*

(1) Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

A few birds (including an adult in alternate plumage) were seen at the estuary.

**Semipalmated Plover***Charadrius semipalmatus*

(1) Punta Morales Ponds 24.5.

A few were scoped among other peeps.

**Wilson's Plover***Charadrius wilsonia beldingi*

(1) Punta Morales Ponds 24.5.

A fairly common resident at the ponds.

**Collared Plover***Charadrius collaris*

(1) Punta Morales Ponds 24.5.

An adult was scoped together with a Semipalmated Sandpiper.

### Jacanas *Jacanidae*

**Northern Jacana***Jacana spinosa*

(2) La Ensenada Lodge 24.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5 and San Isidro de El General - Minae 26.5.

Jacanas were seen at various sites. At the sewage ponds of San Isidro, we also scoped some juveniles.

### Sandpipers and Allies *Scolopacidae*

**Short-billed Dowitcher***Limnodromus griseus hendersoni*

(1) 4 Punta Morales Ponds 24.5.

Standing among the Whimbrels and Marbled Godwits.



**Marbled Godwit***Limosa fedoa fedoa*

(1) Punta Morales Ponds 24.5.

A few birds mixed in with the Whimbrels.

**Whimbrel***Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*

(2) 2 Salinas north-west of La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and Punta Morales Ponds 24.5.

A fairly large flock was present at Punta Morales.

**Greater Yellowlegs***Tringa melanoleuca*

(1) Salinas north-west of La Ensenada Lodge 23.5.

A single loud-calling bird flew by.

**Lesser Yellowlegs***Tringa flavipes*

(1) Punta Morales Ponds 24.5.

A few were present at the ponds.

**Willet***Tringa semipalmata inornata*

(1) Punta Morales Ponds 24.5.

A few birds mixed in with the Whimbrels.

**Spotted Sandpiper***Actitis macularius*

(2) Salinas northwest of la Ensenada Lodge 23.5, Punta Morales Ponds 24.5 and Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

Seen at various sites with many of them showing the spotted breeding plumage.

**Ruddy Turnstone***Arenaria interpres morinella*

(1) Punta Morales Ponds 24.5.

A few were detected among the other waders.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper (NT)***Calidris pusilla*

(1) Punta Morales Ponds 24.5.

Only a few were identified with certainty.

**Western Sandpiper***Calidris mauri*

(1) Punta Morales Ponds 24.5.

The most numerous of the smaller peeps present.

**Least Sandpiper***Calidris minutilla*

(1) Punta Morales Ponds 24.5.

A few were scoped foraging among the Western Sandpipers.

**Stilt Sandpiper***Calidris himantopus*

(1) Salinas northwest of la Ensenada Lodge 23.5.

A single bird was seen at close range at the salt pans.

**Wilson's Phalarope***Phalaropus tricolor*

(2) 2 Salinas northwest of la Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and Punta Morales Ponds 24.5.

Stunning females in alternate plumage were scoped at both sites.

**Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers Laridae****Black Skimmer***Rynchops niger niger*

(1) Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

A single adult was observed at the river mouth.

**Laughing Gull***Leucophaeus atricilla megalopterus*

(1) en route 24.5.

A few were seen along the Pacific coast.

**Franklin's Gull***Leucophaeus pipixcan*



(1) en route 24.5.

A scarce passage migrant. An adult was seen during our ceviche stop at Mata de Limon.

### **Royal Tern**

*Thalasseus maximus maximus*

(2) La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and Punta Morales Ponds 24.5.

Small numbers were seen at sites along the Pacific coast.

## **Pigeons and Doves *Columbidae***

### **Rock Dove**

*Columba livia* var. *domestica*

(5) en route 15.5, en route 16.5, en route 19.5, en route 22.5 and en route 24.5.

An introduced feral species commonly seen in towns and cities.

### **Scaled Pigeon**

*Patagioenas speciosa*

(1) Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5.

A perched bird was briefly seen in the garden of Tolomuco.

### **Band-tailed Pigeon**

*Patagioenas fasciata crissalis*

(4) Monteverde Reserve 21.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5.

Observed at several sites at higher elevations.

### **Pale-vented Pigeon**

*Patagioenas cayennensis pallidicrissa*

(2) en route 18.5 and en route 19.5.

Seen in open habitats in the Caribbean lowlands.

### **Red-billed Pigeon**

*Patagioenas flavirostris flavirostris*

(10) Hotel Robledal 12.5, Ujarrás 13.5, Platanillo 14.5, en route 16.5, Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, en route 21.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 23.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

A fairly common species seen at various (mainly lowland) sites.

### **Ruddy Pigeon (VU)**

*Patagioenas subvinacea subvinacea*

(3) 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5 and 1 heard Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5.

Good views of this Vulnerable species at Bosque del Tolomuco.

### **Short-billed Pigeon**

*Patagioenas nigrirostris*

(5) 1 heard La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, up to 1 La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5 and 1 heard Carara NP 25.5.

Fairly common by voice in tall forest in the lowlands. We got good views of this species at La Selva.

### **Inca Dove**

*Columbina inca*

(5) Ujarrás 13.5, La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5, Villa Lapas 25.5 and en route 26.5.

A small distinct long-tailed dove seen at several sites.

### **Common Ground Dove**

*Columbina passerina neglecta*

(2) La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

Commonly seen at La Ensenada.

### **Ruddy Ground Dove**

*Columbina talpacoti rufipennis*

(3) Orosi 13.5, en route 19.5 and Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

A common and widespread species but only seen at a few sites.

### **Blue Ground Dove**

*Claravis pretiosa*

(2) Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5 and 1 heard Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.



A male was seen in flight.

**Ruddy Quail-Dove***Geotrygon montana montana*

(1) Carara NP 25.5.

Great views of an adult crossing a forest trail.

**White-tipped Dove***Leptotila verreauxi verreauxi*

(7) Platanillo 14.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5, Monteverde Reserve 21.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5, La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

A common and widespread *Leptotila*.

**Grey-chested Dove***Leptotila cassinii cerviniventris*

(4) 2 La Selva Biological Station 17.5, 1 heard La Selva Biological Station 19.5, 2 Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5 and Carara NP 25.5.

Great views of this forest interior species at various localities.

**White-winged Dove***Zenaida asiatica australis*

(8) Hotel Robledal 12.5, en route 13.5, Platanillo 14.5, en route 15.5, en route 16.5, en route 19.5, La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 23.5 and Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

A common and widespread species in open and urban habitats.

### Cuckoos *Cuculidae*

**Groove-billed Ani***Crotophaga sulcirostris*

(3) La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5, en route 24.5 and Bridge over Rio Tarcoles 25.5.

A common species in the northern Pacific lowlands.

**Squirrel Cuckoo***Piaya cayana thermophila*

(5) La Selva Biological Station 17.5, 1 heard Catarata del Toro 19.5, 1 heard Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, Guacimal road 23.5 and 1 heard Carara NP 25.5.

A common and distinct species seen at various sites.

### Owls *Strigidae*

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

(2) 3 La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and 2 La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

A pair was fantastically seen at their day roost. Another bird was also seen with the spotlight at dusk.

**Bare-shanked Screech Owl (NE)***Megascops clarkii*

(1) 1 heard Santa Elena Reserve 22.5.

A calling bird was heard at close range but we were unable to connect with it visually.

**Vermiculated Screech Owl***Megascops vermiculatus*

(1) La Selva Biological Station 18.5.

Superb spotlight views of a rufous morph behind the cabins.

**Mottled Owl***Strix virgata centralis*

(1) 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 13.5.

A bird was heard at dusk near the hummingbird pools at Rancho Naturalista.

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

(1) La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5.

Spectacular views of an adult calling during daytime!

**Spectacled Owl***Pulsatrix perspicillata chapmani*

(1) 2 La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5.

A fantastic pair at their day roost was showed to us by local guide Cope.

**Ferruginous Pygmy Owl**

*Glaucidium brasilianum ridgwayi*

(2) 1 heard Hotel Robledal 16.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 23.5.

We got extended scope views of a singing bird at La Ensenada.

**Striped Owl**

*Pseudoscops clamator forbesi*

(1) 1 heard Hotel Robledal 15.5.

It was heard by a few participants in the garden of the hotel.

**Potoos Nyctibiidae**

**Great Potoo**

*Nyctibius grandis grandis*

(1) La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5.

An adult with a chick was fantastically observed with local guide Cope.

**Nightjars and Allies Caprimulgidae**

**Lesser Nighthawk**

*Chordeiles acutipennis littoralis*

(1) Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

A few Lesser Nighthawks were observed in flight at the river mouth at dusk.

**Short-tailed Nighthawk**

*Lurocalis semitorquatus stonei*

(2) La Selva Biological Station 16.5 and La Selva Biological Station 17.5.

Adults were seen on two consecutive evenings at our cabins at dusk.

**Pauraque**

*Nyctidromus albicollis albicollis*

(4) La Selva Biological Station 16.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5, Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5 and Villa Lapas 26.5.

A common and widespread nightjar seen at various sites. At Sendero Bogarin and Villa Lapas birds were watched during the day time.

**Dusky Nightjar (NE)**

*Antrostomus saturatus*

(2) San Gerardo de Dota Valley 26.5 and San Gerardo de Dota Valley 27.5.

A regional endemic. Great spotlight views of adults perched on electric wires. Also heard singing.

**Swifts Apodidae**

**Chestnut-collared Swift**

*Streptoprocne rutila brunnitorques*

(3) Hotel Robledal 12.5, Platanillo 14.5 and La Selva Biological Station 17.5.

This medium-sized swift was seen at various sites.

**White-collared Swift**

*Streptoprocne zonaris bouchellii*

(4) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, en route 16.5, La Selva Biological Station 18.5 and 1 heard Catarata del Toro 19.5.

A large and distinct swift observed at various sites.

**Grey-rumped Swift**

*Chaetura cinereiventris phaeopygos*

(2) La Selva Biological Station 17.5 and Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5.

Seen at two sites in the Caribbean lowlands.

**Hummingbirds Trochilidae**

**Band-tailed Barbthroat**

*Threnetes ruckeri ventosus*

(1) 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 15.5.

Singing from the understorey at Rancho Naturalista.





**Green Hermit***Phaethornis guy coruscus*

(7) 1 heard Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, Rancho Naturalista 14.5, 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 15.5, El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5, Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5, Catarata del Toro 19.5 and Monteverde Reserve 21.5.

A fairly common and widespread species in the foothills.

**Long-billed Hermit***Phaethornis longirostris cephalus*

(4) La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, Villa Lapas 25.5 and Villa Lapas 26.5.

A large pale hermit seen at various sites. At Villa Lapas we watched singing birds at a lek site.

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

(3) Rancho Naturalista 14.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5 and Carara NP 25.5.

A small rufous hermit seen at a few sites. At La Selva, we watched a bird foraging on insects at a cabin.

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

(1) Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

A drab hummer with distinct white tips to the tail. Seen at various lowland sites.

*maculicauda:*

(3) Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5, Villa Lapas 25.5 and Villa Lapas 26.5.

A drab hummer with distinct white tips to the tail. Seen at various lowland sites.

**Violet Sabrewing***Camptopterus hemileucurus mellitus*

(7) Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5, Catarata del Toro 19.5, Monteverde Reserve 21.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 23.5 and Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5.

A spectacular, large hummingbird seen at various sites, often at feeders.

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

(6) Observed Rancho Naturalista 13-15.5, La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

A distinct species (the male) seen at various sites. Abundant at the feeders of Rancho Naturalista.

**Brown Violetear***Colibri delphinae*

(4) Catarata del Toro 19.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5 and Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5.

Recorded at various sites where it was often seen foraging on Blue Porterweed.

**Lesser Violetear***Colibri cyanotus cabanidis*

(5) Monteverde Reserve 21.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 23.5, Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5, Batsu Garden 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5.

A fairly recent split of Green (Mexican) Violetear seen at various sites in the highlands.

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

(2) Rancho Naturalista 14.5 and Rancho Naturalista 15.5.

A few were visiting the feeders at Rancho Naturalista.

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

(4) El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5, Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

A small hummer seen at various sites feeding almost exclusively on Blue Porterweed.

**Black-crested Coquette (NE)***Lophornis helenae*

(3) El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5, 2 Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

A stunning male was seen on its perch at El Tapir. In the garden of Arenal Observatory, several



female types were observed foraging on the Blue Porterweed.

**Green Thorntail***Discosura conversii*

(1) Catarata del Toro 19.5.

This distinct species was only observed at a single site.

**Canivet's Emerald***Chlorostilbon canivetii salvini*

(1) Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5.

Seen only by a few participants.

**Garden Emerald (NE)***Chlorostilbon assimilis*

(1) Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5.

A female swiftly visited the Blue Porterweed.

**Fiery-throated Hummingbird (NE)***Panterpe insignis insignis*

(3) La Georgina, Cerro de la Muerte 26.5, Batsu Garden 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and Providencia road, Cerro de la Muerte 28.5.

A stunning regional endemic, seen in the highlands of the Talamanca mountains. Abundant at the feeders of La Georgina.

**White-tailed Emerald (NE)***Elvira chionura*

(1) Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5.

A regional endemic, seen well foraging on the Blue Porterweed at Tolomuco.

**Coppery-headed Emerald (E)***Elvira cupreiceps*

(2) Catarata del Toro 19.5 and Monteverde Reserve 21.5.

Endemic to Costa Rica. Seen at two sites in the highlands.

**Stripe-tailed Hummingbird (NE)***Eupherusa eximia egregia*

(4) Monteverde Reserve 21.5, Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5, Batsu Garden 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5.

Seen at several sites in the highlands.

**Black-bellied Hummingbird (NE)***Eupherusa nigriventris*

(1) Catarata del Toro 19.5.

Several males of this neat regional endemic were watched at Catarata del Toro.

**Crowned Woodnymph***Thalurania colombica venusta*

(8) Observed Rancho Naturalista 13-15.5, La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5, Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

A common species, seen at various sites in the Caribbean foothills and lowlands.

**Blue-throated Sapphire***Hylocharis eliciae eliciae*

(2) Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

A male and a female were observed feeding on the Blue Porterweed at the Lodge. Also named Blue-throated Goldentail.

**Cinnamon Hummingbird***Amazilia rutila corallirostris*

(2) Hotel Robledal 12.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 23.5.

Observed at two localities. Regular on the flowers in the garden of Hotel Robledal.

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

(14) Observed Rancho Naturalista 13-15.5, La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5, observed La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5, Catarata del Toro 19.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5, Monteverde Reserve 21.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 23.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5, Villa Lapas 25.5 and Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5.



A common and widespread species seen throughout the tour.

**Blue-chested Hummingbird** *Amazilia amabilis*

(3) Observed La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5.

Birds were seen frequently at the flowers in front of the cabins.

**Mangrove Hummingbird (EN) (E)** *Amazilia boucardi*

(1) Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

Endemic to Costa Rica. A female-type bird was seen well after an extensive search in the mangroves.

**Steely-vented Hummingbird** *Amazilia saucerotiei hoffmanni*

(5) Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5, Monteverde Reserve 21.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 23.5 and Carara NP 25.5.

A fairly common species seen at various localities.

**Snowy-bellied Hummingbird (NE)** *Amazilia edward niveoventer*

(1) Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5.

This distinct regional endemic was seen well at the flowers of Bosque del Tolomuco.

**Snowcap (NE)** *Microchera albocoronata parvirostris*

(2) Rancho Naturalista 14.5 and El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5.

Males and females of this iconic regional endemic were seen beautifully at El Tapir. During the pre-tour extension, Snowcaps were watched taking an afternoon bath in the so-called "hummingbird pools" at Rancho Naturalista.

**Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer** *Chalybura urochrysis melanorrhoa*

(3) La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5 and Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5.

This dark hummer with distinct red feet was seen at several Caribbean sites.

**White-bellied Mountaingem (NE)** *Lampornis hemileucus*

(2) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5 and Catarata del Toro 19.5.

Several birds were seen during the pre-tour extension at Tapanti. A stunning male was watched and photographed at close range at Catarata del Toro. Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica.

**Purple-throated Mountaingem (NE)** *Lampornis calolaemus*

(2) Catarata del Toro 19.5 and Monteverde Reserve 21.5.

Seen at various sites and especially abundant at the feeders at Monteverde.

*homogenes:*

(1) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5.

Seen at various sites and especially abundant at the feeders at Monteverde.

**Grey-tailed Mountaingem (E)** *Lampornis cinereicauda*

(3) Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5, La Georgina, Cerro de la Muerte 26.5, Batsu Garden 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5.

Endemic to Costa Rica and restricted to the Talamanca mountain range. A recent split of White-throated Mountaingem. Common in the garden of Savegre Lodge.

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

(2) Catarata del Toro 19.5 and Monteverde Reserve 21.5.

Common at the feeders at both sites.

**Admirable Hummingbird (NE)** *Eugenes spectabilis*

(3) La Georgina, Cerro de la Muerte 26.5, Batsu Garden 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5 and Providencia road, Cerro de la Muerte 28.5.

Observed at various sites in the Talamanca mountains. A split of Magnificent Hummingbird.

**Purple-crowned Fairy** *Heliothryx barroti*





(2) La Selva Biological Station 18.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

This distinct hummer was seen at two sites in the Caribbean lowlands.

**Long-billed Starthroat**

*Helimaster longirostris longirostris*

(1) Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5.

Seen by few participants at this site.

**Volcano Hummingbird (NE)**

*Selasphorus flammula torridus*

(2) Batsu Garden 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5.

Fairly common in the Talamanca highlands and commonly seen in the garden of Hotel Savegre.

**Scintillant Hummingbird (NE)**

*Selasphorus scintilla*

(1) Catarata del Toro 19.5.

An adult male with bright gorget was observed foraging on the Blue Porterweed.

### **Trogon Trogonidae**

**Resplendent Quetzal (NT)**

*Pharomachrus mocinno costaricensis*

(2) 4 Santa Elena Reserve 22.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5.

Our observation of a pair feeding two chicks was an absolute highlight of the tour. A male and female were seen along the Roble trail at Savegre.

**Slaty-tailed Trogon**

*Trogon massena hoffmanni*

(3) La Selva Biological Station 17.5, 1 heard La Selva Biological Station 19.5 and 1 heard Villa Lapas 25.5.

We scoped a vocal female at La Selva.

**Black-headed Trogon**

*Trogon melanocephalus*

(2) La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5 and 1 heard Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

Common at La Ensenada. Several birds were watched beautifully in the telescope.

**Baird's Trogon (NT) (NE)**

*Trogon bairdii*

(1) Carara NP 25.5.

Endemic to the Pacific lowlands of Panama and Costa Rica. We got great scope views of a male inside the forest.

**Gartered Trogon**

*Trogon caligatus sallaei*

(3) Rancho Naturalista 14.5, La Selva Biological Station 19.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

Males and females were seen at various sites. Sometimes called Northern Violaceous Trogon.

**Black-throated Trogon**

*Trogon rufus tenellus*

(3) La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5 and Villa Lapas 25.5.

Local guide Cope showed us an incubating male in a tree-trunk cavity. An adult feeding a juvenile was watched at La Selva.

**Collared Trogon**

*Trogon collaris*

(2) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5 and 1 heard Catarata del Toro 19.5.

A male was observed during the pre-tour extension at Tapanti. The race *aurantiiventris* observed at Arenal Observatory is sometimes considered a distinct species “Orange-bellied Trogon”.

*aurantiiventris*:

(1) Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5.

A male was observed during the pre-tour extension at Tapanti. The race *aurantiiventris* observed at Arenal Observatory is sometimes considered a distinct species.

### **Kingfishers Alcedinidae**

**American Pygmy Kingfisher**

*Chloroceryle aenea aenea*



(1) Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

A tiny male was observed at close range during our boat trip into the mangroves.

**Green Kingfisher**

*Chloroceryle americana septentrionalis*

(5) en route 13.5, La Mina, Jicotea 14.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5, en route 18.5 and Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

This fairly common species was seen at several localities.

**Amazon Kingfisher**

*Chloroceryle amazona*

(3) La Selva Biological Station 17.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

This species is very similar to Green Kingfisher but larger. Observed at two sites.

**Ringed Kingfisher**

*Megaceryle torquata torquata*

(2) 1 heard Ujarrás 13.5 and Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

Several of these large kingfishers were seen during our boat trip along the Tarcoles river.

**Motmots Momotidae**

**Lesson's Motmot**

*Momotus lessonii lessonii*

(4) 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Bon Appetit, Monteverde 22.5, 2 Monteverde - Santuario Ecológico, Puntarenas 23.5 and Carara NP 25.5.

A split of the Blue-crowned Motmot complex that was seen at various localities.

**Rufous Motmot**

*Baryphthengus martii semirufus*

(6) Rancho Naturalista 13.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5, up to 1 La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5.

This large rufous motmot was seen well at various places that we visited in the Caribbean lowlands and foothills.

**Keel-billed Motmot (VU)**

*Electron carinatum*

(1) Arenal - Peninsula Road 20.5.

A rare species, known to hybridise with Broad-billed Motmot in the Arenal area. The adult that we saw was apparently paired with a Broad-billed Motmot. Phenotypically it looked like a pure Keel-billed Motmot.

**Broad-billed Motmot**

*Electron platyrhynchum minus*

(5) 1 heard La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, up to 1 La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5 and Arenal - Peninsula Road 20.5.

Seen at multiple sites in the Caribbean lowlands. One bird was apparently paired with the observed Keel-billed.

**Turquoise-browed Motmot**

*Eumomota superciliosa australis*

(3) Guacimal road 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5, en route 24.5 and Bridge over Rio Tarcoles 25.5.

A stunning motmot seen at various sites along the northern Pacific coast. We had close-up views of nesting adults during our boat excursion along the banks of the Tarcoles river.

**Jacamars Galbulidae**

**Rufous-tailed Jacamar**

*Galbula ruficauda melanogenia*

(5) Up to 1 La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5 and Villa Lapas 25.5.

A very obliging pair was observed at close range for a prolonged time at La Selva. It was also recorded at other sites.



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### Puffbirds *Bucconidae*

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

(2) La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

Adults were seen on two consecutive days at La Ensenada.

**Pied Puffbird** *Notharchus tectus subtectus*

(1) La Selva Biological Station 19.5.

A pair was located high up in the canopy along a forest trail behind our cabins.

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

(2) Villa Lapas 25.5, Villa Lapas 26.5 and 1 heard Carara NP 25.5.

Multiple birds were seen in the garden of the hotel Villa Lapas.

**White-fronted Nunbird** *Monasa morphoeus grandior*

(1) Arenal - Peninsula Road 20.5.

A single adult was scoped while searching for the Keel-billed Motmot.

### New World Barbets *Capitonidae*

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

(3) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5.

We had great views of a male foraging at the window of the breakfast table at Savegre. A female came briefly to the fruit feeder at Tolomuco.

### Toucan-Barbets *Semnornithidae*

**Prong-billed Barbet (NE)** *Semnornis frantzii*

(1) Monteverde Reserve 21.5.

An adult was scoped nicely at the entrance of the Monteverde reserve.

### Toucans *Ramphastidae*

**Blue-throated Toucanet** *Aulacorhynchus caeruleogularis caeruleogularis*

(1) Bon Appetit, Monteverde 22.5.

A split of Emerald Toucanet. During lunch, we witnessed a cruel but spectacular scene: an adult Blue-throated Toucanet plundered the nest with eggs of a pair of Tropical Kingbirds. The kingbirds were defenceless.

**Collared Aracari** *Pteroglossus torquatus torquatus*

(3) La Selva Biological Station 17.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

Small numbers were observed at two sites in the Caribbean lowlands.

**Fiery-billed Aracari (NE)** *Pteroglossus frantzii*

(1) 3 Villa Lapas 25.5.

Endemic to Pacific lowlands of Panama and Costa Rica. In the garden of Villa Lapas a family group of this stunning species was scoped.

**Yellow-eared Toucanet** *Selenidera spectabilis*

(1) 2 Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5.

A pair of this rare toucanet was briefly observed along the trail by a few lucky observers.

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

(5) Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5, Monteverde Reserve 21.5 and Arenal Lake 21.5.





A spectacular, fairly common species of toucan. At La Selva we scoped an adult taking a sunbath.

**Yellow-throated Toucan (VU)**

*Ramphastos ambiguus swainsonii*

(6) La Selva Biological Station 16.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5, en route 16.5, La Selva Biological Station 19.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, 1 heard Villa Lapas 25.5 and en route 26.5.

Costa Rica's largest toucan. Fairly common throughout the tour. Previously named Chestnut-mandibled Toucan.

### **Woodpeckers Picidae**

**Olivaceous Piculet**

*Picumnus olivaceus flavotinctus*

(1) 1 heard Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5.

Birds present along the trail remained heard-only

**Acorn Woodpecker**

*Melanerpes formicivorus striatipectus*

(2) Batsu Garden 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5 and observed Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27-27.5.

A superb woodpecker commonly observed in the San Gerardo de Dota Valley and at Hotel Savegre.

**Golden-naped Woodpecker**

*Melanerpes chrysauchen*

(1) Carara NP 25.5.

A pair was observed on a tall bare tree inside the forest.

**Black-cheeked Woodpecker**

*Melanerpes pucherani*

(5) La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, observed La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5, Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5, Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5 and Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5.

A common *Melanerpes* of the Caribbean lowlands.

**Red-crowned Woodpecker**

*Melanerpes rubricapillus rubricapillus*

(1) San Isidro de El General - Minae 26.5.

This woodpecker was observed while we were searching for the Turquoise Cotinga.

**Hoffmann's Woodpecker (NE)**

*Melanerpes hoffmannii*

(7) Hotel Robledal 12.5, Ujarrás 13.5, 1 heard Hotel Robledal 16.5, Arenal Lake 21.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5 and Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

A common *Melanerpes* in Central Valley and northern Pacific. Further south known to hybridise with Red-crowned Woodpecker.

**Smoky-brown Woodpecker**

*Leuconotopicus fumigatus sanguinolentus*

(3) 1 heard Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, Catarata del Toro 19.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5.

A male was seen well at the loop trail of Catarata del Toro.

**Hairy Woodpecker**

*Leuconotopicus villosus extimus*

(2) Batsu Garden 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5.

Fairly common in the valley of Savegre. This distinct subspecies differs from the North-American races.

**Rufous-winged Woodpecker**

*Piculus simplex*

(1) 2 La Selva Biological Station 17.5.

This regional endemic was seen well at the cabins of La Selva.

**Golden-olive Woodpecker**

*Colaptes rubiginosus yucatanensis*

(3) Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5, Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5 and 1 heard Savegre Lodge,



Los Quetzales NP 27.5.

This widespread species was recorded at multiple sites.

**Cinnamon Woodpecker**

*Celeus loricatus diversus*

(2) 1 heard La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5 and La Selva Biological Station 19.5.

We got great scope views of this species at the cabins of La Selva.

**Chestnut-colored Woodpecker**

*Celeus castaneus*

(1) La Selva Biological Station 17.5.

A superb male was seen in a fruiting tree at close range. Also observed from the hanging bridge.

**Pale-billed Woodpecker**

*Campephilus guatemalensis guatemalensis*

(2) Arenal - Peninsula road 20.5 and 1 heard Carara NP 25.5.

A pair of this magnificent woodpecker was observed during our drive to the Keel-billed Motmot territory.

### **Falcons and Caracaras *Falconidae***

**Northern Crested Caracara**

*Caracara cheriway*

(3) La Selva Biological Station 17.5, La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

At La Ensenada, we got close up views from the bus.

**Yellow-headed Caracara**

*Milvago chimachima cordata*

(3) 1 heard Ujarrás 13.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5 and en route 26.5.

We had scope views of this species at La Ensenada.

**Laughing Falcon**

*Herpotheres cachinnans cachinnans*

(3) Hotel Robledal 15.5, 1 heard La Selva Biological Station 18.5 and Catarata del Toro 19.5.

This striking species was seen well at two sites.

**Bat Falcon**

*Falco ruficularis petoensis*

(3) 3 La Selva Biological Station 17.5, La Selva Biological Station 18.5 and 3 Bridge over Rio Tarcoles 25.5.

Birds were seen well in a tall bare tree in the fields behind our cabins. Three individuals were also observed on the power line at the bridge of the Tarcoles river.

### **African & New World Parrots *Psittacidae***

**Barred Parakeet**

*Bolborhynchus lineola lineola*

(1) Antennas Cerro de la Muerte 27.5.

A small noisy flock flew by swiftly.

**Orange-chinned Parakeet**

*Brotogeris jugularis jugularis*

(8) Hotel Robledal 12.5, La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5, La Selva Biological Station 18.5, Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5, La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5 and Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

A common and widespread parakeet in the lowlands. We had close-up views of this species at the fruit feeders of Bogarin.

**Brown-hooded Parrot**

*Pyrilia haematotis haematotis*

(4) La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5 and Arenal Lake 21.5.

A distinct medium-sized parrot observed at various localities.

**White-crowned Parrot**

*Pionus senilis*

(6) La Mina, Jicotea 14.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5, La Selva Biological Station 18.5, La Selva Biological Station 19.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

This species with a distinct white forehead was observed well at various sites.



**White-fronted Amazon***Amazona albifrons nana*

(1) Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5.

Adults in flight were seen from the balcony at the hotel.

**Red-lored Amazon***Amazona autumnalis salvini*

(7) Observed La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5 and 1 heard Carara NP 25.5.

Red-lored Amazons were seen at various sites during the trip.

**Yellow-naped Amazon (VU)***Amazona auropalliata auropalliata*

(2) Salinas northwest of La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5 and Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

This Vulnerable species was seen well in the area of La Ensenada and during our boat trip into the mangroves.

**Northern Mealy Amazon (NT)***Amazona guatemalae virenticeps*

(1) La Selva Biological Station 17.5.

A perched adult was observed near the restaurant at La Selva.

**Sulphur-winged Parakeet (NE)***Pyrrhura hoffmanni hoffmanni*

(1) Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5.

This regional endemic was not uncommon in the garden of Savegre.

**Olive-throated Parakeet (NT)***Eupsittula nana astec*

(1) La Selva Biological Station 17.5.

Our only sighting of this species was at La Selva.

**Great Green Macaw (EN)***Ara ambiguus ambiguus*

(3) Up to 5 La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5.

We had great views (including spectacular fly-overs) of this grand species at La Selva.

**Scarlet Macaw***Ara macao macao*

(3) Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5, Carara NP 25.5 and en route 26.5.

Our best views of this cracking species were inside the forest at Carara where two adults came down to feed on palm fruits.

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

(7) Ujarrás 13.5, Rancho Naturalista 14.5, 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 15.5, en route 16.5, 1 heard La Selva Biological Station 17.5, Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5 and en route 26.5.

Also named Crimson-fronted Parakeet. Fairly widespread in Costa Rica. We had great scope views at Sendero Bogarin.

**Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers *Furnariidae*****Slaty Spinetail***Synallaxis brachyura nigrifumosa*

(2) Platanillo 14.5 and Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5.

At Sendero Bogarin we watched a bird going in and out of its nest.

**Red-faced Spinetail***Cranioleuca erythrops rufigenis*

(1) Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5.

Seen by few participants only when looking for Orange-billed Nightingale-thrush.

**Spotted Barbtail***Premnoplex brunescens brunneicauda*

(1) Catarata del Toro 19.5.

We had nice views of this species along the loop trail.

**Ruddy Treerunner (NE)***Margarornis rubiginosus rubiginosus*

(2) Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and Providencia road, Cerro de la Muerte 28.5.





A common species in mixed-species flocks of Cerro de la Muerte. A family group was seen well along the Roble trail.

**Buffy Tuftedcheek (NE)***Pseudocolaptes lawrencii*

(1) Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5.

Multiple encounters with this distinct species along the Roble trail.

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

(2) 1 heard Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5.

Seen in the midstorey along Roble trail.

**Western Woodhaunter***Hylocistetes virgatus virgatus*

(1) 1 heard Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5.

This species remained heard-only.

**Streak-breasted Treehunter (NE)***Thripadectes rufobrunneus*

(1) Santa Elena Reserve 22.5.

Fantastic views of a responsive adult inside the reserve. A regional endemic.

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

(4) Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5, Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

Common at the insect light at Rancho Naturalista. Also seen at two sites during the main tour.

**Tawny-throated Leaf Tosser***Sclerurus mexicanus pullus*

(1) Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5.

A responsive bird was taped in at the second hanging bridge.

**Grey-throated Leaf Tosser (NT)***Sclerurus albigularis canigularis*

(1) Santa Elena Reserve 22.5.

A nesting bird was seen by few participants inside the reserve.

**Plain Xenops***Xenops minutus ridgwayi*

(4) Rancho Naturalista 14.5, La Selva Biological Station 18.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5 and Carara NP 25.5.

This species was seen at various sites, often with mixed-species flocks.

**Streaked Xenops***Xenops rutilans septentrionalis*

(1) Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5.

A rare bird in Costa Rica. Seen well in the garden of Tolomuco.

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

(4) Up to 1 Rancho Naturalista 13-15.5 and La Selva Biological Station 17.5.

Common visitor to the insect light at Rancho Naturalista. Also seen at La Selva during the main tour.

**Ruddy Woodcreeper***Dendrocincla homochroa acedesta*

(1) Monteverde - Santuario Ecológico, Puntarenas 23.5.

Superb views of an adult along the trails inside the reserve.

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

(5) Rancho Naturalista 14.5, El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5, La Selva Biological Station 18.5 and Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5.

A small, distinct woodcreeper observed at various locations.

**Northern Barred Woodcreeper***Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae sanctithomae*

(3) 2 La Selva Biological Station 18.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

We had great views of this large woodcreeper at La Selva. At Sky Trek birds were attending an



army ant swarm.

### **Cocoa Woodcreeper**

*Xiphorhynchus susurrans costaricensis*

(8) Rancho Naturalista 14.5, 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 15.5, 1 heard La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, up to 1 La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5, 1 heard Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5 and Carara NP 25.5.

Fairly common and often vocal. Recorded at various sites during the tour.

### **Spotted Woodcreeper**

*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius punctigula*

(1) Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5.

In a mixed-species flock.

### **Streak-headed Woodcreeper**

*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii compressus*

(7) Ujarrás 13.5, 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 14.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5, La Selva Biological Station 18.5, Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5, 1 heard La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and 1 heard Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

A fairly common, medium-sized woodcreeper.

### **Spot-crowned Woodcreeper**

*Lepidocolaptes affinis neglectus*

(2) Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5 and observed Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27-27.5.

Common in mixed-species flocks in the Cerro de la Muerte area.

### **Brown-billed Scythebill**

*Campylorhamphus pusillus borealis*

(1) Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5.

Great views of a bird that was associated with a mixed-species flock.

## **Antbirds *Thamnophilidae***

### **Fasciated Antshrike**

*Cymbilaimus lineatus fasciatus*

(1) 1 heard La Selva Biological Station 18.5.

A bird was calling continuously behind the cabins.

### **Barred Antshrike**

*Thamnophilus doliatus intermedius*

(2) 2 Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 23.5.

Great close-up views of a singing pair at Sendero Bogarin. Also seen in the Pacific lowlands.

### **Black-hooded Antshrike (NE)**

*Thamnophilus bridgesi*

(1) Carara NP 25.5.

Multiple encounters with this regional endemic inside the National Park.

### **Black-crowned Antshrike**

*Thamnophilus atrinucha atrinucha*

(1) 2 La Selva Biological Station 17.5.

A pair was seen well in the understorey. Previously called Western Slaty Antshrike.

### **Russet Antshrike**

*Thamnistes anabatinus saturatus*

(4) 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5, Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5 and 1 heard Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5.

Observed in mixed-species flocks in the Caribbean foothills. Looks like a foliage-gleaner.

### **Plain Antvireo**

*Dysithamnus mentalis septentrionalis*

(2) 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 14.5 and Rancho Naturalista 15.5.

Seen well in a mixed-species flock during the pre-tour extension.

### **Streak-crowned Antvireo**

*Dysithamnus striaticeps*

(2) El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5 and 1 heard Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5.

Great views of a pair along a forest trail at El Tapir.

### **Slaty Antwren**

*Myrmotherula schisticolor schisticolor*



(3) 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5 and Carara NP 25.5.

Seen during the extension and during the main tour inside humid forest.

**Dot-winged Antwren**

*Microrhophias quixensis virgatus*

(1) Carara NP 25.5.

Good views of a male in a midstorey flock.

**Dusky Antbird**

*Cercomacra tyrannina crepera*

(4) 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 14.5, La Selva Biological Station 18.5, 1 heard Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5 and 1 heard Carara NP 25.5.

Fairly common by voice. A pair was observed in the understorey at La Selva.

**Chestnut-backed Antbird**

*Myrmeciza exsul occidentalis*

(1) Carara NP 25.5.

Good views of this species at Carara.

**Dull-mantled Antbird**

*Myrmeciza laemosticta*

(5) Rancho Naturalista 15.5, 1 heard en route 16.5, Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5, 1 heard Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

Multiple encounters with this species at various sites in the Caribbean foothills. Excellent views of singing males.

**Zeledon's Antbird**

*Myrmeciza zeledoni zeledoni*

(1) Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5.

A pair attending an army ant swarm.

**Bicolored Antbird**

*Gymnopithys bicolor olivascens*

(2) Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5 and Carara NP 25.5.

Observed at various sites. The most numerous species that was attending the army ant swarm at Sky Trek.

**Spotted Antbird**

*Hylophylax naeviioides capnitis*

(1) Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5.

Excellent views of this very handsome antbird. Also present at the ant swarm.

**Ocellated Antbird**

*Phaenostictus mcleannani saturatus*

(1) Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5.

This "king of the antbirds" was attending an army ant swarm providing us with excellent views.

**Antthrushes Formicariidae**

**Black-faced Antthrush**

*Formicarius analis hoffmanni*

(1) Carara NP 25.5.

Multiple encounters with this stunning ground-dweller and fantastic looks.

**Rufous-breasted Antthrush**

*Formicarius rufipectus rufipectus*

(1) heard Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5.

Heard during the pre-tour extension.

**Antpittas Grallariidae**

**Streak-chested Antpitta**

*Hylopezus perspicillatus lizanoi*

(1) Carara NP 25.5.

We got fantastic looks of this antpitta on two occasions. Especially, views in the afternoon were close-up and prolonged.

**Thicket Antpitta**

*Hylopezus dives dives*

(3) La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, 1 heard Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5, 1 heard





Arenal - Peninsula Road 20.5, 1 heard Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5 and 1 heard Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

This very shy species was watched and photographed at the feeding station of Cope. Common by voice in the Arenal area.

### **Tapaculos *Rhinocryptidae***

#### **Silvery-fronted Tapaculo (NE)**

*Scytalopus argentifrons argentifrons*

(2) Santa Elena Reserve 22.5 and 1 heard Providencia road, Cerro de la Muerte 28.5.

With the help of a Bluetooth speaker, we got excellent views of this notorious skulker.

### **Tyrant Flycatchers *Tyrannidae***

#### **Greenish Elaenia**

*Myiopagis viridicata accola*

(3) 1 heard La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5 and 1 heard Carara NP 25.5.

Came in nicely to pygmy-owl mobbing tape in the mangroves.

#### **Yellow-bellied Elaenia**

*Elaenia flavogaster subpagana*

(4) en route 13.5, Platanillo 14.5, Arenal Lake 21.5 and Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5.

This large elaenia with distinct crest was seen at various localities.

#### **Lesser Elaenia**

*Elaenia chiriquensis chiriquensis*

(2) en route 13.5 and en route 26.5.

Territorial adults were seen well during the pre-tour extension but also during the main tour. Identification confirmed by vocalisations heard during both sightings.

#### **Mountain Elaenia**

*Elaenia frantzii frantzii*

(2) Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5 and Providencia road, Cerro de la Muerte 28.5.

Fairly common in the San Gerardo de Dota valley.

#### **Southern Beardless Tyrannulet**

*Camptostoma obsoletum flaviventre*

(1) heard Carara NP 25.5.

Heard-only.

#### **Torrent Tyrannulet**

*Serpophaga cinerea grisea*

(2) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5 and 2 Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5.

This distinct species was observed at two sites.

#### **Yellow Tyrannulet**

*Capsiempis flaveola semiflava*

(1) La Selva Biological Station 17.5.

Close-up views of an adult at the Great Green Macaw site.

#### **Mistletoe Tyrannulet (NE)**

*Zimmerius parvus*

(5) 1 heard Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 14.5, 1 heard El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5, 1 heard La Selva Biological Station 17.5 and Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5.

A split of Paltry Tyrannulet. A fairly common and widespread species, especially by voice.

#### **Olive-striped Flycatcher**

*Mionectes olivaceus olivaceus*

(2) 1 heard Catarata del Toro 19.5 and 1 heard Santa Elena Reserve 22.5.

This understorey species remained heard-only.

#### **Ochre-bellied Flycatcher**

*Mionectes oleagineus assimilis*

(5) Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5, 1 heard Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5 and Carara NP 25.5.

This species was observed at various localities.

#### **Slaty-capped Flycatcher**

*Leptopogon superciliaris superciliaris*

(4) Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5, 1 heard Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal),



Alajuela 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

Seen with mixed-species flocks at various localities.

**Northern Scrub Flycatcher** *Sublegatus arenarum arenarum*

(2) Salinas northwest of la Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

Good views at the salt pans but also during our boat trip into the Tarcoles estuary.

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

(1) La Selva Biological Station 17.5.

This tiny flycatcher (among the smallest passerines in the world) was seen well at La Selva.

**Northern Bentbill** *Oncostoma cinereigulare*

(2) 1 heard La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5 and Carara NP 25.5.

This tyrant flycatcher with a curved bill-tip was seen at Carara. Its call is a distinct buzzy trill.

**Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant** *Lophotriccus pileatus luteiventris*

(4) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 14.5, 1 heard Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5 and 1 heard Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

Common by voice but often tricky to see.

**Slaty-headed Tody-Flycatcher** *Poecilatriccus sylvia schistaceiceps*

(1) Carara NP 25.5.

A bird was observed in the midstorey of tall forest.

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

(7) Observed La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5, Catarata del Toro 19.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5, Villa Lapas 25.5 and Villa Lapas 26.5.

A neat flycatcher that was frequently observed during the tour.

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

(3) Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5 and 1 heard La Selva Biological Station 17.5.

We got good views of this canopy species at Rancho Naturalista.

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

(1) 2 La Selva Biological Station 17.5.

Prolonged scope views of a pair in the midstorey at La Selva.

**Yellow-olive Flatbill** *Tolmomyias sulphureus cinereiceps*

(6) 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 14.5, 1 heard La Selva Biological Station 18.5, 1 heard La Selva Biological Station 19.5, La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, 1 heard La Ensenada Lodge 24.5 and 1 heard Villa Lapas 25.5.

Common by voice. Eventually seen in the canopy at La Ensenada.

**Yellow-margined Flatbill** *Tolmomyias flavotectus*

(1) La Selva Biological Station 17.5.

In the canopy next to the hanging bridge.

**Tawny-chested Flycatcher (VU) (NE)** *Aphanotriccus capitalis*

(2) Rancho Naturalista 14.5 and Rancho Naturalista 15.5.

A regional endemic and a Rancho Naturalista speciality. A frequent visitor to the insect lights.

**Black Phoebe** *Sayornis nigricans amnicola*

(4) Ujarrás 13.5, en route 13.5, La Mina, Jicotea 14.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

Common and widespread, typically seen near water (streams).

**Northern Tufted Flycatcher** *Mitrephanes phaeocercus aurantiiventris*

(2) Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and San Gerardo de Dota valley 28.5.

Good views of this neat flycatcher in the oak forests.



**Olive-sided Flycatcher (NT)***Contopus cooperi*

(2) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5 and San Isidro de El General - Minae 26.5.

This boreal migrant was seen on two occasions.

**Dark Pewee***Contopus lugubris*

(1) Catarata del Toro 19.5.

Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica. A fairly common species in the highlands but only seen at a single site.

**Ochraceous Pewee (NE)***Contopus ochraceus*

(1) Providencia road, Cerro de la Muerte 28.5.

Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica. A fairly rare species in the highlands. Great scope views of a singing adult perched on an exposed branch.

**Eastern Wood Pewee***Contopus virens*

(1) Arenal - Peninsula Road 20.5.

A boreal migrant identified by its call (excluding Western Wood Pewee).

**Tropical Pewee***Contopus cinereus*

(4) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

Fairly common and widespread observed at multiple sites.

*rhizophorus:*

(1) Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

Fairly common and widespread observed at multiple sites.

**White-throated Flycatcher***Empidonax albigularis australis*

(1) Platanillo 14.5.

A pewee-like Empidonax of open habitats. A pair was brilliantly seen during the pre-tour extension.

**Yellowish Flycatcher***Empidonax flavescens flavescens*

(3) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, Santa Elena Reserve 22.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5.

An obliging bird was seen at close range at the car park of the Santa Elena preserve.

**Black-capped Flycatcher (NE)***Empidonax atriceps*

(2) Antennas Cerro de la Muerte 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and Providencia road, Cerro de la Muerte 28.5.

Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica. Seen well in the highlands of the Talamanca Cordillera.

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

(4) La Selva Biological Station 17.5, La Selva Biological Station 18.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

A distinct flycatcher seen at various sites in the Caribbean lowlands.

**Piratic Flycatcher***Legatus leucophaius leucophaius*

(4) La Selva Biological Station 18.5, La Selva Biological Station 19.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

Commonly observed in the canopy of the Caribbean lowlands.

**Social Flycatcher***Myiozetetes similis texensis*

(14) Orosi 13.5, en route 14.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5, en route 16.5, observed La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5, Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5, Arenal Lake 21.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5, La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5, Villa Lapas 25.5, Villa Lapas 26.5, Carara NP 25.5 and en route 26.5.

A common and widespread species.





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

(4) La Selva Biological Station 17.5, La Selva Biological Station 18.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5 and Villa Lapas 25.5.

Not as common as Social Flycatcher, but still fairly common in the lowlands.

**Great Kiskadee***Pitangus sulphuratus guatemalensis*

(15) Hotel Robledal 12.5, en route 13.5, en route 14.5, Hotel Robledal 15.5, 1 heard Hotel Robledal 16.5, observed La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5, Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5, en route 21.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5, La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5, Villa Lapas 25.5 and en route 26.5.

Common to abundant but absent at high elevations.

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

(1) La Selva Biological Station 18.5.

Kiskadee-like. A vocal pair was scoped in the canopy next to our cabins.

**Golden-bellied Flycatcher (NE)***Myiodynastes hemichrysus*

(2) 1 heard Santa Elena Reserve 22.5 and San Gerardo de Dota valley 28.5.

Briefly observed in the valley.

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

(4) La Selva Biological Station 17.5, Monteverde Reserve 21.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 23.5.

Boreal migrant (or seasonal breeder?) observed at various locations.

**Streaked Flycatcher***Myiodynastes maculatus difficilis*

(3) La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, Villa Lapas 25.5 and San Isidro de El General - Minae 26.5.

Fairly common in the Pacific lowlands.

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

(7) 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 14.5, observed La Selva Biological Station 16-18.5, La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5.

Common and widespread but not as numerous as Great Kiskadee.

**Tropical Kingbird***Tyrannus melancholicus satrapa*

(13) Orosi 13.5, observed en route 13-16.5, observed La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5, Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5, en route 21.5, Bon Appetit, Monteverde 22.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5, San Isidro de El General - Minae 26.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5.

Common to abundant in a variety of habitats. Often perched on electric wires.

**Rufous Mourner***Rhytipterna holerythra holerythra*

(3) 2 La Selva Biological Station 17.5, 1 heard La Selva Biological Station 19.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

Great views of this all-rufous species at La Selva and also at Arenal.

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

(3) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, Ujarrás 13.5, 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 14.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

Surprisingly few encounters with this common and widespread Myiarchus.

**Panamanian Flycatcher***Myiarchus panamensis panamensis*

(1) Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

Several birds came in nicely in response to pygmy-owl mobbing tape in the mangroves.

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

(2) Salinas northwest of La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

Identification of this species is very difficult in the field. It is very similar to Brown-crested Flycatcher but smaller and less bulky. Vocalisations between the two species are also confusingly similar. Birds seen at the salt pans and in the mangroves most probably involved this species.

#### **Brown-crested Flycatcher**

*Myiarchus tyrannulus brachyurus*

(2) La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

Seen with certainty at La Ensenada. Extremely similar to Nutting's Flycatcher but a little larger and bulkier.

#### **Bright-rumped Attila**

*Attila spadiceus citreopyga*

(5) Rancho Naturalista 14.5, 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 15.5, 1 heard La Selva Biological Station 17.5, La Selva Biological Station 19.5 and 1 heard Guacimal road 23.5.

Fairly common by voice. Birds were seen well at Rancho Naturalista and at La Selva.

### **Cotingas Cotingidae**

#### **Turquoise Cotinga (VU) (NE)**

*Cotinga ridgwayi*

(1) San Isidro de El General - Minae 26.5.

Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica. A stunning male was scoped at a known stake-out in town.

#### **Three-wattled Bellbird (VU) (NE)**

*Procnias tricarunculatus*

(2) Santa Elena Reserve 22.5, 2 Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5 and Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 23.5.

This extraordinary species and regional speciality was observed at two sites. At our hotel we got great but fairly distant scope views of multiple adult males. Later on in the forest of Santa Elena we got close-up encounters with this incredible SF bird!

#### **Snowy Cotinga (NE)**

*Carpodectes nitidus*

(2) 2 La Selva Biological Station 17.5 and La Selva Biological Station 18.5.

We got great looks at multiple female-type birds. The all-white male was unfortunately not seen.

### **Manakins Pipridae**

#### **Long-tailed Manakin**

*Chiroxiphia linearis*

(2) 1 heard La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, Monteverde - Santuario Ecológico, Puntarenas 23.5 and Villa Lapas 25.5.

Two stunning males in display were watched at Finca Ecologica.

#### **White-ruffed Manakin**

*Corapipo altera altera*

(4) Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5, Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

A fairly common forest bird at Rancho Naturalista. A female was seen at Braulio Carrillo and a male was observed at Arenal.

#### **Blue-crowned Manakin**

*Lepidothrix coronata velutina*

(1) Carara NP 25.5.

Nice extended scope views of a calling male inside the forest.

#### **White-collared Manakin**

*Manacus candei*

(5) 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 15.5, La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5, La Selva Biological Station 18.5 and 1 heard Arenal - Peninsula Road 20.5.

Fairly common by voice. We got fantastic views of this species at a lek site near Guápiles.

#### **Orange-collared Manakin (NE)**

*Manacus aurantiacus*

(1) Carara NP 25.5.

Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica. Prolonged views of stunning males at a lek inside the forest.



**White-crowned Manakin***Pseudopipra pipra anthracina*

(1) Rancho Naturalista 14.5.

Local in Costa Rica but fairly common in the forest at Rancho Naturalista. Multiple males were observed.

**Red-capped Manakin***Ceratopipra mentalis ignifera*

(1) Carara NP 25.5.

A female was seen at her nest at the start of the trail.

**Tityras, Becards Tityridae****Northern Royal Flycatcher***Onychorhynchus mexicanus mexicanus*

(3) La Selva Biological Station 18.5, 1 heard La Selva Biological Station 19.5, Villa Lapas 25.5 and Carara NP 25.5.

We had a good number of encounters with this scarce and sought-after species. Nest-building adults showed very well at Carara NP.

**Sulphur-rumped Myiobius***Myiobius sulphureipygius aureatus*

(2) Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5, Villa Lapas 25.5 and Carara NP 25.5.

This distinct fan-tailed species with yellow rump was seen at three sites.

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

(2) 1 heard Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5 and Carara NP 25.5.

An adult showed really well in the midstorey at Carara.

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

(1) Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5.

A male was observed from the deck at the restaurant.

**Masked Tityra***Tityra semifasciata costaricensis*

(5) Rancho Naturalista 14.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5, La Selva Biological Station 18.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5 and Arenal Lake 21.5.

Multiple encounters with this distinct white-and-black species.

**Barred Becard***Pachyramphus versicolor costaricensis*

(3) 1 heard Catarata del Toro 19.5, 1 heard Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and Providencia road, Cerro de la Muerte 28.5.

Heard well at several sites in the highlands but views were poor.

**Cinnamon Becard***Pachyramphus cinnamomeus fulvidior*

(2) La Selva Biological Station 17.5 and 1 heard La Selva Biological Station 18.5.

Nesting near the cabins at La Selva.

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

(2) La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5 and Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

Seen well at La Ensenada (including a pair at their nest), where fairly common.

**Vireos Vireonidae****Rufous-browed Peppershrike***Cyclarhis gujanensis subflavescens*

(2) 1 heard Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5 and 1 heard San Gerardo de Dota valley 28.5.

Its characteristic song was heard a couple of times but the species was not seen.

**Green Shrike-Vireo***Vireolanius pulchellus verticalis*

(1) 1 heard Villa Lapas 25.5 and 1 heard Carara NP 25.5.

This tough canopy bird remained heard-only.

**Mangrove Vireo***Vireo pallens*

(1) 1 heard Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.





This species was seen well in the mangroves at the salt pans.

*nicoyensis*:

(1) Salinas northwest of la Ensenada Lodge 23.5.

This species was seen well in the mangroves at the salt pans.

**Yellow-winged Vireo (NE)**

*Vireo carmioli*

(2) Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and San Gerardo de Dota valley 28.5.

Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica. Fairly common in the oak forest at Savegre.

**Brown-capped Vireo**

*Vireo leucophrys chiriquensis*

(2) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5 and 1 heard Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5.

Seen well during the pre-tour extension at Tapanti.

**Yellow-green Vireo**

*Vireo flavoviridis flavoviridis*

(3) en route 13.5, La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

Fairly common breeding migrant at La Ensenada. Birds were also singing this time of year.

**Tawny-crowned Greenlet**

*Hylophilus ochraceiceps pallidipectus*

(1) Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5.

A responsive bird was seen in the forest at the second hanging bridge.

**Lesser Greenlet**

*Hylophilus decurtatus decurtatus*

(8) 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5, 1 heard La Selva Biological Station 17.5, Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5, 1 heard Catarata del Toro 19.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5 and 1 heard Carara NP 25.5.

A common and widespread species in the lowlands and foothills, especially by voice.

### **Crows, Jays, and Magpies *Corvidae***

**Azure-hooded Jay**

*Cyanolyca cucullata cucullata*

(1) Santa Elena Reserve 22.5.

Hide-and-seek with two (or three) adults in the canopy of tall cloud forest.

**Brown Jay**

*Psilorhinus morio morio*

(6) Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, en route 21.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5 and Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 23.5.

A noisy and common species seen at various sites. Especially common at Rancho Naturalista (also at the insect light).

**White-throated Magpie-Jay**

*Calocitta formosa pompata*

(2) en route 21.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

At La Ensenada Lodge birds were literally coming to the breakfast table! A stunning species.

### **Silky-flycatchers *Ptiliognathidae***

**Black-and-yellow Phainoptila (NE)**

*Phainoptila melanoxantha melanoxantha*

(1) Providencia road, Cerro de la Muerte 28.5.

Seen by a single lucky observer in a mixed-species flock.

**Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher (NE)**

*Ptiliognathys caudatus*

(2) Antennas Cerro de la Muerte 27.5, Batsu Garden 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5, observed Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27-27.5 and Providencia road, Cerro de la Muerte 28.5.

A spectacular species and common in the Talamanca highlands (including our hotel garden).

### **Swallows *Hirundinidae***

**Mangrove Swallow**

*Tachycineta albilinea*



(3) Salinas northwest of la Ensenada Lodge 23.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5 and San Isidro de El General - Minae 26.5.

It was fairly common in the Pacific lowlands at sites near water.

### **Grey-breasted Martin**

*Progne chalybea chalybea*

(4) en route 18.5, en route 19.5, La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

A widespread species. This large swallow was seen at several sites, often seen perched on wires.

### **Blue-and-white Swallow**

*Notiochelidon cyanoleuca cyanoleuca*

(8) Hotel Robledal 12.5, en route 16.5, Monteverde Reserve 21.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 23.5, San Isidro de El General - Minae 26.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5.

A common and widespread species in the highlands.

### **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**

*Stelgidopteryx serripennis fulvipennis*

(6) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, Platanillo 14.5, La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, en route 21.5, en route 23.5 and Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

Distinguished from Southern Rough-winged by its uniform rump. It was recorded at various places.

### **Southern Rough-winged Swallow**

*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*

(1) San Isidro de El General - Minae 26.5.

Distinguished from Northern Rough-winged by its pale rump and buffy throat. It was seen at various sites.

*uropygialis:*

(2) Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5 and en route 21.5.

Distinguished from Northern Rough-winged by its pale rump and buffy throat. It was seen at various sites.

## **Wrens Troglodytidae**

### **Band-backed Wren**

*Campylorhynchus zonatus costaricensis*

(1) La Selva Biological Station 19.5.

At La Selva we watched an adult feeding a juvenile Shiny Cowbird (brood parasite)!

### **Rufous-backed Wren**

*Campylorhynchus capistratus*

(3) Hotel Robledal 12.5, 1 heard Hotel Robledal 16.5 and en route 23.5.

A split of Rufous-naped Wren. This attractive wren was not uncommon at La Ensenada. Also nesting in the garden of Robledal.

*nicoyae:*

(2) La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

A split of Rufous-naped Wren. This attractive wren was not uncommon at La Ensenada. Also nesting in the garden of Robledal.

### **Grass Wren**

*Cistothorus platensis lucidus*

(1) Cartago Valley 28.5.

Subspecies *lucidus* is Critically Endangered and a very local race restricted to the Cartago valley (probably extinct in Panama, last confirmed record was in 1905). This rare taxon was successfully twitched on our way to the airport!

### **Black-throated Wren**

*Pheugopedius atrogularis*

(3) 2 La Selva Biological Station 17.5, 2 La Selva Biological Station 18.5 and 1 heard Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5.

A neat wren restricted to the Caribbean lowlands that we saw well at La Selva.

### **Rufous-breasted Wren**

*Pheugopedius rutilus hyperythrus*

(2) Monteverde - Santuario Ecológico, Puntarenas 23.5 and Carara NP 25.5.



This species was seen well at two sites.

**Banded Wren***Thryophilus pleurostictus ravus*

(2) 1 heard La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

Restricted to the northern Pacific lowlands. Seen well at La Ensenada. The song is somewhat reminiscent of the European Nightingale.

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

(3) 1 heard Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5, Monteverde - Santuario Ecológico, Puntarenas 23.5 and Villa Lapas 25.5.

A pair showed well at Finca Ecologica.

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

(4) 1 heard Ujarrás 13.5, 1 heard Platanillo 14.5, 1 heard en route 21.5 and Monteverde - Santuario Ecológico, Puntarenas 23.5.

A recent split of the Plain Wren complex. Seen well at Finca Ecologica.

**Riverside Wren***Cantorchilus semibadius*

(2) Villa Lapas 25.5, Carara NP 25.5 and en route 26.5.

Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica. Seen well at Carara NP.

**Bay Wren***Cantorchilus nigricapillus costaricensis*

(4) 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 13.5, La Mina, Jicotea 14.5, 1 heard La Selva Biological Station 17.5 and 1 heard en route 21.5.

This species was seen on the pre-tour extension near the Sunbittern nest.

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

(8) Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5, 1 heard El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5, 1 heard Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5, 2 La Selva Biological Station 19.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5 and 1 heard Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

Restricted to the Caribbean lowlands. Seen well at several locations. Attending the antswarm at Sky Trek.

**House Wren***Troglodytes aedon intermedius*

(8) Ujarrás 13.5, en route 13.5, 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 14.5, en route 16.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5, Monteverde Reserve 21.5, Villa Lapas 25.5, en route 26.5 and 1 heard Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5.

A common and widespread species.

**Ochraceous Wren (NE)***Troglodytes ochraceus ochraceus*

(4) 1 heard Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, Catarata del Toro 19.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and 1 heard Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5.

A cloud forest species that was seen well at several sites.

**Timberline Wren (NE)***Thryorchilus browni*

(2) Antennas Cerro de la Muerte 27.5 and Providencia road, Cerro de la Muerte 28.5.

Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica. We got great views of this target species along the road up to the Paramo.

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

(7) Up to 1 Rancho Naturalista 13-15.5, 1 heard El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5, 1 heard La Selva Biological Station 17.5, 1 heard Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5 and 1 heard Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5.

Common by voice in the lowlands but typically skulky. A pair was very showy at the insect feeders of Rancho Naturalista.

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



(7) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, Catarata del Toro 19.5, 1 heard Monteverde Reserve 21.5, 1 heard Santa Elena Reserve 22.5, 1 heard Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5, 1 heard Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and San Gerardo de Dota valley 28.5.

Replaces White-breasted Wood Wren at higher elevations. Common by voice but often hard to see in the understorey.

**Northern Nightingale-Wren***Microcerculus philomela*

(1) 1 heard Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5 and 1 heard Arenal - Peninsula Road 20.5.

Its distinct song was heard in the Arenal area.

**Southern Nightingale-Wren***Microcerculus marginatus luscini*

(1) Rancho Naturalista 14.5.

We had nice views of this species during the Rancho Naturalista extension. Often named Scaly-breasted Wren.

**Song Wren***Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus richardsoni*

(1) Arenal - Peninsula Road 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5.

This antbird-like wren was seen well in the Arenal area.

### Gnatcatchers *Poliophtilidae*

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

(2) El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5 and 1 heard Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5.

Some participants managed to get good views of this skulker in the understorey at El Tapir.

**Long-billed Gnatwren***Ramphocaenus melanurus rufiventris*

(3) Rancho Naturalista 15.5, La Selva Biological Station 18.5 and Carara NP 25.5.

This distinct species was seen at various sites in the lowlands.

**White-lored Gnatcatcher***Poliophtila albiloris albiloris*

(2) La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

Restricted to the northern Pacific. Fairly common at La Ensenada where it coexists with Tropical Gnatcatcher.

**Tropical Gnatcatcher***Poliophtila plumbea superciliaris*

(2) Rancho Naturalista 14.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5 and Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

This widespread species was observed at three sites.

### Mockingbirds and Thrashers *Mimidae*

**Tropical Mockingbird***Mimus gilvus tolimensis*

(2) Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5 and San Isidro de El General - Minae 26.5.

Birds were visiting the fruit feeders at Sendero Bogarin.

### Thrushes and Allies *Turdidae*

**Black-faced Solitaire (NE)***Myadestes melanops*

(4) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, Santa Elena Reserve 22.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5.

Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica. This cloud forest species was observed at various localities. It was nesting near our cabins at Savegre.

**Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush (NE)***Catharus gracilirostris gracilirostris*

(2) Antennas Cerro de la Muerte 27.5, San Gerardo de Dota valley 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and Providencia road, Cerro de la Muerte 28.5.

Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica. Common in the higher parts of Cerro de la Muerte.

**Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush***Catharus aurantirostris griseiceps*

(2) 1 heard en route 13.5 and 1 heard Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5.

This secretive species remained heard-only.

**Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush**

*Catharus fuscater hellmayri*

(4) 1 heard Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, 2 Catarata del Toro 19.5, Monteverde Reserve 21.5 and Santa Elena Reserve 22.5.

Birds were seen well at Catarata del Toro, but also at other sites in the highlands.

**Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush**

*Catharus frantzii frantzii*

(3) Santa Elena Reserve 22.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5 and observed Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27-27.5.

Seen well on the trail at Santa Elena and also fairly common in the garden of Savegre.

**Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush**

*Catharus mexicanus carrikeri*

(3) 1 heard Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

We got great views of this species along the trails at Arenal Observatory.

**Sooty Thrush (NE)**

*Turdus nigrescens*

(2) Antennas Cerro de la Muerte 27.5, San Gerardo de Dota valley 27.5 and San Gerardo de Dota valley 28.5.

Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica. A common species at higher elevations of Cerro de la Muerte.

**Mountain Thrush**

*Turdus plebejus plebejus*

(1) Providencia road, Cerro de la Muerte 28.5.

This uniform and drab highland species was observed along Providencia road.

**Clay-colored Thrush**

*Turdus grayi casius*

(17) Hotel Robledal 12.5, Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, Ujarrás 13.5, observed Rancho Naturalista 13-15.5, La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, Hotel Robledal 16.5, observed La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5, Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5, Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5, Arenal - Peninsula road 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5, Monteverde Reserve 21.5, Arenal Lake 21.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5, Monteverde - Santuario Ecológico, Puntarenas 23.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5, Villa Lapas 25.5, Villa Lapas 26.5, Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5, La Georgina, Cerro de la Muerte 26.5, Batsu Garden 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5.

Costa Rica's National bird. Without doubt the most common and widespread species of the trip.

Seen on a daily basis.

**White-throated Thrush**

*Turdus assimilis leucauchen*

(3) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, 1 heard Monteverde Reserve 21.5 and Santa Elena Reserve 22.5.

Good views at Tapanti and at the parking of the Santa Elena reserve.

**Dippers Cinclidae**

**American Dipper**

*Cinclus mexicanus ardesiacus*

(1) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5.

During the pre-tour extension, we got to watch an adult at the Orosi River, one of the best places in Costa Rica for this species. Views were excellent and prolonged.

**Old World Sparrows Passeridae**

**House Sparrow**

*Passer domesticus domesticus*

(2) Orosi 13.5 and en route 19.5.



This introduced species was recorded at a few human settlements.

### **Finches, Euphonias Fringillidae**

#### **Yellow-bellied Siskin**

*Spinus xanthogastrus xanthogastrus*

(1) Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5.

Brief views of a male in the garden of the hotel.

#### **Scrub Euphonia**

*Euphonia affinis affinis*

(2) 1 heard La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, 1 heard La Ensenada Lodge 24.5 and 1 heard Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

This species remained heard-only.

#### **Yellow-crowned Euphonia**

*Euphonia luteicapilla*

(6) Up to 1 La Selva Biological Station 16-19.5, 1 heard Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5 and 1 heard Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 23.5.

Common by voice and seen at La Selva.

#### **Yellow-throated Euphonia**

*Euphonia hirundinacea gnatho*

(6) en route 13.5, Platanillo 14.5, Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5, Arenal Lake 21.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5 and Villa Lapas 26.5.

A fairly common and widespread euphonia seen at various sites.

#### **Elegant Euphonia**

*Euphonia elegantissima vincens*

(2) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5 and Batsu Garden 27.5.

Great views at Tapanti during the pre-tour extension. A stunning male was photographed at Batsu Garden.

#### **Spot-crowned Euphonia (NE)**

*Euphonia imitans*

(1) Carara NP 25.5.

Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica. A female of this species was observed at close range inside the forest.

#### **Olive-backed Euphonia**

*Euphonia gouldi praetermissa*

(5) 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5, La Selva Biological Station 16.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5 and La Selva Biological Station 19.5.

Restricted to the Caribbean lowlands. Seen well at La Selva.

#### **Tawny-capped Euphonia**

*Euphonia anneae anneae*

(5) Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5, Catarata del Toro 19.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

A distinct euphonia seen at various foothill localities in the Caribbean.

#### **Golden-browed Chlorophonia (NE)**

*Chlorophonia callophrys*

(2) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5.

A stunning, bright green species seen well at both localities.

### **New World Warblers Parulidae**

#### **Flame-throated Warbler (NE)**

*Oreothlypis gutturalis*

(1) Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5.

Endemic to the highlands of Panama and Costa Rica. This stunning warbler was seen well along the Roble trail at Savegre.

#### **Grey-crowned Yellowthroat**

*Geothlypis poliocephala ridgwayi*

(2) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5 and Platanillo 14.5.

We got great views of this species during the pre-tour extension.

#### **Olive-crowned Yellowthroat**

*Geothlypis semiflava bairdi*





(2) 1 heard Platanillo 14.5 and La Selva Biological Station 17.5.

A male showed well at the Great Green Macaw site.

### **Tropical Parula**

*Setophaga pitiayumi inornata*

(3) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 14.5 and Rancho Naturalista 15.5.

Only recorded during the pre-tour extension.

### **Mangrove Warbler**

*Setophaga petechia xanthotera*

(2) Salinas north-west of La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

The males of this subspecies show a full rufous hood. Several were observed in the mangroves that we visited.

### **Buff-rumped Warbler**

*Myiothlypis fulvicauda leucopygia*

(6) Up to 2 La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5, en route 18.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5 and Villa Lapas 25.5.

A conspicuous pale-rumped warbler that almost constantly moves its tail. It was seen at various sites (often near water).

### **Rufous-capped Warbler**

*Basileuterus rufifrons delatirii*

(2) Ujarrás 13.5 and Monteverde - Santuario Ecológico, Puntarenas 23.5.

This beautiful Warbler was seen nicely at Finca Ecologica.

### **Black-cheeked Warbler (NE)**

*Basileuterus melanogenys melanogenys*

(2) Antennas Cerro de la Muerte 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and Providencia road, Cerro de la Muerte 28.5.

Endemic to the highlands of Panama and Costa Rica. Fairly common in the forests of Cerro de la Muerte.

### **Golden-crowned Warbler**

*Basileuterus culicivorus godmani*

(4) Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

This warbler with a cute song was seen well at two sites. A pair frequently visited the insect light at Rancho Naturalista.

### **Black-eared Warbler (NE)**

*Basileuterus melanotis*

(1) Santa Elena Reserve 22.5.

A split of Three-striped Warbler. Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica. Not uncommon in the understorey at Santa Elena. Sometimes referred to as Costa Rican Warbler.

### **Slate-throated Whitestart**

*Myioborus miniatus comptus*

(4) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, Monteverde Reserve 21.5, Santa Elena Reserve 22.5 and Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5.

This widespread species was seen at various sites. Often with mixed-species flocks.

### **Collared Whitestart (NE)**

*Myioborus torquatus*

(3) Santa Elena Reserve 22.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and Providencia road, Cerro de la Muerte 28.5.

Endemic to the highlands of Panama and Costa Rica. This fantastic warbler is fairly common in upper cloud forests.

## **Family uncertain Incertae Sedis 2**

### **Wrenthrush (NE)**

*Zeledonia coronata*

(2) Antennas Cerro de la Muerte 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and 1+1 heard San Gerardo de Dota valley 28.5.

Endemic to the highlands of Panama and Costa Rica. Its taxonomic status is uncertain. At the



moment believed to be most closely related to the Teretistris warblers of Cuba. We got great views of this sought-after species on two occasions.

### **Troupials and Allies Icteridae**

#### **Eastern Meadowlark**

*Sturnella magna alticola*

(4) en route 15.5, en route 16.5, La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

Seen well in the fields at La Ensenada but also en route (even at San José airport).

#### **Yellow-billed Cacique**

*Amblycercus holosericeus holosericeus*

(3) Up to 1 Rancho Naturalista 13-15.5.

This secretive species was heard only during the pre-tour extension.

#### **Chestnut-headed Oropendola**

*Psarocolius wagleri ridgwayi*

(2) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5 and La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5.

Small flocks of this species were observed well at both sites.

#### **Montezuma Oropendola**

*Psarocolius montezuma*

(10) en route 13.5, Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5, La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, observed La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5, Monteverde Reserve 21.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 23.5.

A common but spectacular species seen well at many of the places that we visited.

#### **Scarlet-rumped Cacique**

*Cacicus microrhynchus microrhynchus*

(2) 1 heard La Selva Biological Station 17.5 and Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5.

Seen well at Braulio Carrillo a number of times. The red rump is often difficult to detect.

#### **Streak-backed Oriole**

*Icterus pustulatus sclateri*

(2) Guacimal road 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

Superb views of this species on our way down to the Pacific lowlands and at La Ensenada. An active nest of this species was watched at La Ensenada.

#### **Spot-breasted Oriole**

*Icterus pectoralis espinachi*

(3) Hotel Robledal 12.5, 1 heard Hotel Robledal 15.5 and 1 heard Hotel Robledal 16.5.

A distinct oriole resident in the garden of Hotel Robledal in San José.

#### **Black-cowled Oriole**

*Icterus prosthemelas prosthemelas*

(4) La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5 and observed La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5.

This species was not uncommon in the flowering trees at La Selva.

#### **Red-winged Blackbird**

*Agelaius phoeniceus richmondi*

(3) en route 19.5, en route 21.5 and Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

The distinct male of this species was observed at multiple sites.

#### **Shiny Cowbird**

*Molothrus bonariensis cabanisii*

(1) Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5 and La Selva Biological Station 19.5.

A recent invader to Costa Rica. We watched a Band-backed Wren feeding a chick of this brood parasite at La Selva.

#### **Bronzed Cowbird**

*Molothrus aeneus aeneus*

(5) en route 13.5, en route 14.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 23.5 and Bats Garden 27.5.

Fairly common and widespread in Costa Rica.

#### **Melodious Blackbird**

*Dives dives*

(4) Hotel Robledal 12.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5 and Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 21.5.



A fairly common and widespread species with a loud and distinct call.

### **Great-tailed Grackle**

*Quiscalus mexicanus peruvianus*

(13) Hotel Robledal 12.5, Orosi 13.5, observed en route 13-16.5, La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, en route 18.5, en route 19.5, Monteverde Reserve 21.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 23.5, en route 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5, Bridge over Rio Tarcoles 25.5 and en route 26.5. Almost as abundant as Clay-colored Thrush and seen on most days of the tour.

## **Bananaquit Coerebidae**

### **Bananaquit**

*Coereba flaveola mexicana*

(9) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5, El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5, Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5, La Selva Biological Station 19.5, Catarata del Toro 19.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5, Monteverde Reserve 21.5 and en route 26.5.

A common and widespread species seen at various sites during the tour.

## **Buntings, Sparrows and Allies Emberizidae**

### **Rufous-collared Sparrow**

*Zonotrichia capensis costaricensis*

(8) en route 13.5, Platanillo 14.5, Monteverde Reserve 21.5, Arenal Lake 21.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 23.5, Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5, San Isidro de El General - Minae 26.5, Batsu Garden 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5.

A pretty Neotropical sparrow. Widespread and fairly common at middle and higher elevations in Costa Rica.

### **Volcano Junco (NE)**

*Junco vulcani*

(1) Antennas Cerro de la Muerte 27.5.

Endemic to the highlands of Panama and Costa Rica. We worked hard for this target and eventually got to see it well at high elevation.

### **Stripe-headed Sparrow**

*Peucaea ruficauda ruficauda*

(2) La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

An attractive sparrow commonly seen at La Ensenada.

### **Cabanis's Ground Sparrow (E)**

*Melospiza cabanisi*

(1) 2 Ujarrás 13.5.

This full Costa Rica endemic was seen during the pre-tour extension. A proper split of Prevost's Ground Sparrow. We got great views of a pair moving through a hedge.

### **White-eared Ground Sparrow**

*Melospiza leucotis leucotis*

(2) Bon Appetit, Monteverde 22.5 and 1 heard Monteverde - Santuario Ecológico, Puntarenas 23.5.

A fancy sparrow seen well at the restaurant in Monteverde.

### **Olive Sparrow**

*Arremonops rufivirgatus superciliosus*

(1) Guacimal road 23.5.

Restricted to the northern Pacific lowlands. Seen well on our way down to La Ensenada.

### **Black-striped Sparrow**

*Arremonops conirostris striaticeps*

(5) 1 heard Platanillo 14.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5, Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

Fairly common and widespread in Costa Rica.

### **Orange-billed Sparrow**

*Arremon aurantirostris*



(5) 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 13.5, Rancho Naturalista 14.5, 1 heard El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5 and Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5.

A handsome but often secretive forest sparrow seen well at several sites.

*aurantiitrostris*:

(1) Villa Lapas 25.5 and Carara NP 25.5.

A handsome but often secretive forest sparrow seen well at several sites.

### **Chestnut-capped Brushfinch**

*Arremon brunneinucha elsa*

(5) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, Rancho Naturalista 14.5, 1 heard Rancho Naturalista 15.5, Catarata del Toro 19.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5.

Seen well at middle elevations at several localities.

### **Sooty-faced Finch (NE)**

*Arremon crassirostris*

(1) Santa Elena Reserve 22.5.

Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica. A single adult was observed at a forest stream inside the reserve. We had great views of this target bird.

### **Large-footed Finch (NE)**

*Pezopetes capitalis*

(3) La Georgina, Cerro de la Muerte 26.5, Batsu Garden 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and San Gerardo de Dota valley 28.5.

Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica. This huge finch is restricted to higher elevations where it was fairly common.

### **White-naped Brushfinch**

*Atlapetes albinucha parvirostris*

(2) Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5 and Batsu Garden 27.5.

We had superb views of an adult in the rain at Tolomuco.

### **Yellow-thighed Finch (NE)**

*Pselliophorus tibialis*

(2) Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5 and observed Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27-27.5.

Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica. A distinct regional endemic with neat yellow "trousers". It was common in the garden of the hotel.

### **Common Bush Tanager**

*Chlorospingus flavopectus regionalis*

(5) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, Catarata del Toro 19.5, Monteverde Reserve 21.5, Santa Elena Reserve 22.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5.

A common species with distinct white post-ocular spot. Seen well in forests at middle elevations.

### **Sooty-capped Bush Tanager (NE)**

*Chlorospingus pileatus*

(2) Antennas Cerro de la Muerte 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and Providencia road, Cerro de la Muerte 28.5.

Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica. A common species in the forests at Cerro de la Muerte.

### **Ashy-throated Bush Tanager**

*Chlorospingus canigularis olivaceiceps*

(1) Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5.

A rare species in Costa Rica. It was seen in a large mixed-species flock.

## **Tanagers and Allies *Thraupidae***

### **Dusky-faced Tanager**

*Mitrospingus cassinii costaricensis*

(3) Up to 1 La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5.

This noisy understorey tanager was seen only at La Selva.

### **Grey-headed Tanager**

*Eucometis penicillata stictothorax*

(1) 2 Carara NP 25.5.

We got great views of a pair along a trail inside Carara NP.

### **White-shouldered Tanager**

*Tachyphonus luctuosus*





(1) El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5.

A distinct species seen in mixed-flocks at two sites.

*nitidissimus*:

(1) Carara NP 25.5.

A distinct species seen in mixed-flocks at two sites.

**Tawny-crested Tanager**

*Tachyphonus delatrii*

(2) El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5 and Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5.

This species was seen at two sites in the Caribbean foothills.

**White-throated Shrike-Tanager**

*Lanio leucothorax leucothorax*

(1) 2 Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5.

A pair in a large mixed-species flock was seen fantastically at the top of the Quebrada Gonzales trail.

**Crimson-collared Tanager**

*Ramphocelus sanguinolentus apricus*

(2) Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5 and 1 heard Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5.

This striking species was observed briefly at Sendero Bogarin.

**Passerini's Tanager**

*Ramphocelus passerinii*

(8) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, Ujarrás 13.5, Orosi 13.5, Rancho Naturalista 14.5, La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5, observed La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5, Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5, Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5, Catarata del Toro 19.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5 and Arenal Lake 21.5.

A striking and abundant species in the Caribbean foothills and lowlands. Very similar to Cherrie's Tanager (males are identical) but separated by range.

**Cherrie's Tanager (NE)**

*Ramphocelus costaricensis*

(2) Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5, Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5 and Villa Lapas 26.5.

Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica. A striking and common species in the southern Pacific foothills and lowlands. Very similar to Passerini's Tanager (males are identical) but separated by range.

**Blue-grey Tanager**

*Thraupis episcopus cana*

(17) Hotel Robledal 12.5, Ujarrás 13.5, Orosi 13.5, Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5, El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5, observed La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5, Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5, Monteverde Reserve 21.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5, Villa Lapas 25.5, en route 26.5, Batsu Garden 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5. A common and widespread species seen at many sites during the tour.

**Palm Tanager**

*Thraupis palmarum atripennis*

(11) Hotel Robledal 12.5, Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5, La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5, La Selva Biological Station 18.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5, Monteverde Reserve 21.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5, Villa Lapas 25.5 and Batsu Garden 27.5.

A common and widespread species seen at many sites during the tour.

**Blue-and-gold Tanager (NT) (NE)**

*Bangsia arcaei caeruleigularis*

(1) Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5.

Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica. This rare species was seen by a single lucky observer at the hanging bridges of Sky Trek.

**Silver-throated Tanager**

*Tangara icterocephala frantzii*

(5) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, Catarata del Toro 19.5, Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5, Batsu Garden



27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5. This widespread species was seen at several sites during the tour. Common on the feeders at Savegre.

**Speckled Tanager***Tangara guttata eusticta*

(4) El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5, Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5 and Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5.

A distinctly marked tanager seen well at various foothill localities.

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

(3) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5 and Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5.

This colourful tanager was observed at three sites.

**Golden-hooded Tanager***Tangara larvata*

(7) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5, El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5, observed La Selva Biological Station 16-19.5, Arenal Lake 21.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

The most common Tangara in the lowlands of Costa Rica.

*franciscæ:*

(1) Carara NP 25.5.

The most common Tangara in the lowlands of Costa Rica.

**Spangle-cheeked Tanager (NE)***Tangara dowii*

(2) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5.

Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica. We got great views of this regional speciality at two sites.

**Scarlet-thighed Dacnis***Dacnis venusta venusta*

(2) Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5 and Monteverde Reserve 21.5.

Males and females of this species were observed at two sites.

**Blue Dacnis***Dacnis cayana ultramarina*

(2) La Selva Biological Station 17.5 and La Selva Biological Station 18.5.

Fairly common at La Selva.

**Shining Honeycreeper***Cyanerpes lucidus isthmicus*

(4) Observed La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5 and Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5.

This yellow-legged honeycreeper was seen well at two localities.

**Red-legged Honeycreeper***Cyanerpes cyaneus carneipes*

(4) La Selva Biological Station 18.5, Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5 and Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

A stunning honeycreeper. A male was visiting the fruit feeder at Bogarin.

**Green Honeycreeper***Chlorophanes spiza argutus*

(5) El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5, La Selva Biological Station 18.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

We saw several of this species in the Caribbean foothills and lowlands.

**Black-and-yellow Tanager (NE)***Chrysothlypis chrysomelas titanota*

(3) Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica. Restricted to the foothills of the Caribbean. We got excellent views of both male and female.

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

(3) Rancho Naturalista 13.5, Rancho Naturalista 14.5 and Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5.

This species was seen at two sites only.



**Buff-throated Saltator***Saltator maximus magnoides*

(7) en route 13.5, en route 14.5, El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5, en route 16.5, observed La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5 and Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5.

Similar to Black-headed Saltator but more widespread.

**Greyish Saltator***Saltator coerulescens brevicaudus*

(7) Hotel Robledal 12.5, Orosi 13.5, Hotel Robledal 15.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5, Monteverde Reserve 21.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5 and Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 23.5.

A fairly common species in Costa Rica and seen at various sites.

**Streaked Saltator***Saltator striatipectus furax*

(1) Carara NP 25.5.

This species was only seen at Carara NP.

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

(2) Orosi 13.5 and Villa Lapas 26.5.

A common and widespread species in open fields but only recorded (with certainty) at two sites during the trip.

**Variable Seedeater***Sporophila corvina*

(8) Ujarrás 13.5, en route 13.5, Platanillo 14.5, La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, observed La Selva Biological Station 17-19.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

Two races. All-black males were common in the Caribbean. Pied males of the Pacific race were observed at the Tarcoles River.

*hoffmanni:*

(1) Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5.

Two races. All-black males were common in the Caribbean. Pied males of the Pacific race were observed at the Tarcoles River.

**White-collared Seedeater***Sporophila torqueola moreletti*

(2) La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

We had great views of this seedeater at La Ensenada.

**Thick-billed Seed Finch***Oryzoborus funereus salvini*

(1) El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5.

Singing in the garden at El Tapir. Probably many more were seen but due to confusion with the black race of Variable Seedeater somewhat overlooked.

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

(5) Ujarrás 13.5, en route 13.5, en route 14.5, Monteverde Reserve 21.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5 and Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 23.5.

A common and widespread grassquit seen at various places.

**Cardinals and Allies Cardinalidae****Flame-colored Tanager***Piranga bidentata citrea*

(2) Batsu Garden 27.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5.

A stunning cardinal common at the feeders at Savegre.

**Tooth-billed Tanager***Piranga lutea testacea*

(2) 1 heard Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

This uncommon resident was heard and seen in the Caribbean foothills.

**White-winged Tanager***Piranga leucoptera*

(1) Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5.

A pair was observed in the canopy.

**Red-throated Ant Tanager**

*Habia fuscicauda fuscicauda*

(4) Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5 and 1 heard La Selva Biological Station 18.5.

Seen well at Rancho Naturalista and La Selva. At Rancho, birds were visiting the insect lights.

**Carmioli's Tanager**

*Chlorothraupis carmioli carmioli*

(4) Rancho Naturalista 15.5, 1 heard El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5, Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

A large, uniform olive tanager seen well in the Caribbean foothills. A split of Olive Tanager.

**Black-thighed Grosbeak (NE)**

*Pheucticus tibialis*

(3) Santa Elena Reserve 22.5, 1 heard Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 28.5.

Endemic to Panama and Costa Rica. A singing male was scoped in the forest at Santa Elena.

Another adult was seen well at Savegre. It was not that easy to see the black thighs!

**Black-faced Grosbeak**

*Caryothraustes poliogaster scapularis*

(2) El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5 and Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5.

A common species in tall forest of the Caribbean foothills that often moves in noisy flocks.

**Blue-black Grosbeak**

*Cyanocompsa cyanooides caerulescens*

(1) Carara NP 25.5.

We had nice prolonged scope views of a singing male inside Carara NP.

## Mammals (19 in total: 18 seen, 1 heard)

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**IUCN codes:** CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

### Opossums *Didelphidae*

**Black-eared Opossum**

*Didelphis marsupialis*

(2) Hotel Robledal 15.5 and Hotel Robledal 16.5.

Presumably, this species was seen after dusk in the garden of the hotel.

### Armadillos *Dasypodidae*

**Nine-banded Armadillo**

*Dasypus novemcinctus*

(1) Hotel Robledal 15.5.

Seen by a few participants only in the garden of the hotel.

### Three-toed Sloths *Bradypodidae*

**Brown-throated Sloth**

*Bradypus variegatus*

(3) La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, La Selva Biological Station 17.5 and Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5.

A fairly common mammal in Costa Rica and seen at various sites.

### New World monkeys *Cebidae*

**White-throated Capuchin**

*Cebus capucinus imitator*

(1) Monteverde Reserve 21.5.





We had good views of this distinct primate at the entrance of the reserve.

### **Howler, Spider, and Woolly Monkeys *Atelidae***

#### **Mantled Howler Monkey**

*Alouatta palliata palliata*

(8) 1 heard La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5, up to 1 La Selva Biological Station 16-19.5, 1 heard Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5, Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5, 1 heard Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5, La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

A common species by sound. We got great views of the large primate at several sites.

#### **Geoffroy's Spider Monkey**

*Ateles geoffroyi*

(2) La Selva Biological Station 17.5 and Carara NP 25.5.

This species was seen in humid forest canopy at two reserves.

### **Rabbits, Hares *Leporidae***

#### **Tapeti**

*Sylvilagus brasiliensis*

(2) La Selva Biological Station 16.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

Often named Brazilian Rabbit.

### **Agoutis *Dasyproctidae***

#### **Central American Agouti**

*Dasyprocta punctata*

(5) La Selva Biological Station 16.5, La Selva Biological Station 18.5, Hotel de Montaña Monteverde 22.5, Monteverde - Santuario Ecológico, Puntarenas 23.5 and Carara NP 25.5.

This mammal was seen well at multiple locations.

### **Squirrels *Sciuridae***

#### **Central American Dwarf Squirrel**

*Microsciurus alfari*

(1) Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5.

This tiny squirrel was seen during our hike into the forest.

#### **Red-tailed Squirrel**

*Sciurus granatensis*

(6) Rancho Naturalista 14.5, Rancho Naturalista 15.5, Braulio Carrillo NP, Quebrada Gonzales 18.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5, Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5 and San Gerardo de Dota valley 28.5.

A common and widespread species seen at various sites.

#### **Variegated Squirrel**

*Sciurus variegatoides*

(5) Sendero Bogarin, La Fortuna 19.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5, Villa Lapas 25.5 and Bosque del Tolomuco 26.5.

*atrirufus:*

(2) La Ensenada Lodge 23.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 24.5.

*rigidus:*

(2) Hotel Robledal 12.5 and Hotel Robledal 15.5.

A distinct species of squirrel seen at various sites during the tour.

### **Wolves, Coyote, Foxes, Jackals *Canidae***

#### **Coyote**

*Canis latrans*

(1) 1 heard Savegre Lodge, Los Quetzales NP 27.5.

Presumably, this species was heard by a few participants behind their cabins at night.

### **Skunks *Mephitidae***



**Hooded Skunk***Mephitis macroura*

(1) La Ensenada Lodge 23.5.

This skunk showed well at the restaurant of La Ensenada.

**Raccoons and relatives Procyonidae****White-nosed Coati***Nasua narica*

(3) Tapanti NP (Rio Orosi) 13.5, Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5 and Arenal Observatory Lodge 21.5.

This species was remarkably tame at Arenal Observatory. Some were lucky to watch a peaceful feeding interaction between the coati and a Great Curassow.

**Crab-eating Raccoon***Procyon cancrivorus*

(1) Villa Lapas 25.5.

This species was observed scavenging at the restaurant after dinner.

**Peccaries Tayassuidae****Collared Peccary***Pecari tajacu*

(1) La Selva Biological Station 17.5.

A few rather tame individuals were observed on the property of La Selva.

**Sac-winged or Sheath-tailed Bats Emballonuridae****Northern Ghost Bat***Diclidurus albus*

(1) Carara NP 25.5.

A few of these all-white bats were observed at their day roost.

**Greater Sac-winged Bat***Saccopteryx bilineata*

(1) La Selva Biological Station 17.5.

Observed near the hanging bridge at a day roost.

**New World Leaf-nosed Bats Phyllostomidae****Honduran White Bat***Ectophylla alba*

(1) 3 La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5 (a small group of this distinct all-white bat was showed to us by local guide Cope).

A small group of this distinct all-white bat was showed to us by local guide Cope.

**Amphibians (3 in total: 3 seen)****Status codes:** E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced**IUCN codes:** CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient**True toads Bufonidae****Cane Toad***Rhinella marina*

(2) Hotel Robledal 15.5 and La Ensenada Lodge 23.5.

Presumably, this species was seen at two sites.

**Poison dart frogs Dendrobatidae****Green and Black Poison Frog***Dendrobates auratus*

(3) La Selva Biological Station 17.5, Carara NP 25.5 and Villa Lapas 26.5.

A stunning species. Both the Caribbean as the Pacific race were observed (the Pacific race has more



black than green).

**Strawberry Poison-dart Frog***Oophaga pumilio*

(4) Observed La Selva Biological Station 16-19.5.

A striking species that was surprisingly common at La Selva.

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**Reptiles (12 in total: 12 seen)**

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**Emydidae Emydidae****Pond Slider***Trachemys scripta*

(1) San Isidro de El General - Minae 26.5.

The taxon seen during the tour most likely involved Uhrig's Slider (*Trachemys venusta uhrigi*), a recent split of Pond Slider. Seen at the reservoir of San Isidro.

**Iguanas Iguanidae****Neotropical Green Anole***Anolis biporcatus*

(1) Sky Trek/Sky Tram (Arenal), Alajuela 20.5.

Presumably this species was seen at Sky Trek.

**Common Basilisk***Basiliscus basiliscus basiliscus*

(2) Villa Lapas 25.5 and Villa Lapas 26.5.

This species is fairly common in the Pacific lowlands.

**Green Basilisk***Basiliscus plumifrons*

(1) La Unión de Guápiles (Cope) 16.5.

This bright green basilisk is often named Emerald Basilisk.

**Brown Basilisk***Basiliscus vittatus*

(1) La Selva Biological Station 18.5.

Presumably, this species was observed at La Selva.

**Oaxacan Spinytail Iguana***Ctenosaura quinquecarinata*

(4) La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, La Ensenada Lodge 24.5, Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5, Villa Lapas 25.5 and Villa Lapas 26.5.

Endemic to Central America. Also named Clubtail Iguana or Five-keeled Spiny-tailed Iguana.

Fairly common in the Pacific lowlands.

**Green Iguana***Iguana iguana*

(5) La Selva Biological Station 17.5, en route 23.5, en route 24.5, Villa Lapas 25.5 and Batsu Garden 27.5.

Individuals of presumably this species were seen at various localities during the tour.

**Geckos Gekkonidae****Common House Gecko***Hemidactylus frenatus*

(6) La Selva Biological Station 16.5, La Selva Biological Station 18.5, La Selva Biological Station 19.5, La Ensenada Lodge 23.5, Villa Lapas 24.5 and Villa Lapas 26.5.

Presumably, this species was observed at many of the places we stayed.

**Tegus & Whiptails Teiidae**

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**Four-lined Ameiva**

*Ameiva quadrilineata*

(1) El Tapir, Braulio Carrillo NP 16.5.

Presumably, this species was observed at El Tapir garden.

**Colubrid snakes Colubridae**

**Adorned Graceful Brown Snake**

*Rhadinaea decorata*

(1) Arenal Observatory Lodge 20.5

Picked up by local leader Leo.

**Crocodiles and relatives Crocodylidae**

**Common Caiman**

*Caiman crocodilus fuscus*

(1) Villa Lapas 25.5.

Also named Spectacled Caiman. Seen by few participants at a small pool at the hotel.

**American Crocodile**

*Crocodylus acutus*

(2) Rio Tarcoles Estuary 24.5 and Bridge over Rio Tarcoles 25.5.

Several were seen on the banks of the Tarcoles river. At the bridge, we watched a congregation of crocodiles.

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