Tour Summary

Tour Leaders: Forrest Rowland and Richard Garrigues

Tour Participants: Kevin Bailey, Susan Bailey, Joel Beyer, Kathy Beyer, Kathy Keef, Connie Lintz, John Maginness, Tim Pendill, Leith Woodall and Peter Woodall

Top 10 Tour Highlights (as voted by participants):

1. Resplendent Quetzal
2. Turquoise Cotinga
3. Scarlet Macaw
4. Turquoise-browed Motmot
5. Ornate Hawk-Eagle
6. Lesser Ground Cuckoo
7. Yellow-eared Toucanet
8. Long-tailed Manakin
9. Fiery-billed Aracari
10. Keel-billed Toucan

Honourable mentions go to: Snowcap, Red-capped Manakin, Baird’s Trogon, and Black-crested Coquette

Top 5 Pre-Tour Highlights (as voted by participants):

1. Sunbittern
2. Snowcap
3. Green Thorntail
4. Zeledon’s Antbird
5. Dull-mantled Antbird

Tour Intro:

The tiny Central American nation of Costa Rica has, since the revolution in the mid-1950’s, evolved from a banana and pineapple republic (though those two exports are still integral in their economy) into a country whose main product and brand is tourism. It benefits from a superb infrastructure to service numerous visitors from all over the globe, catering to the complete myriad of interests that travellers abroad might want to indulge. If you want a relaxing beach vacation at a fancy resort, it can be found. If you want a backcountry trek fully-outfitted to the top of the highest peak in the country, Mt. Chirripo (3820masl/12533fasl) that can just as easily be arranged! Eco-tourism was an early interest in Costa Rica, which became perhaps the first Latin American country to truly embrace the potential of this specific type of tourism. In kind, avitourism was quickly accepted, promoted, and an astonishing variety of lodges, parks, well-maintained trails, even hanging bridges and scenic viewpoints are scattered across the country through every imaginable habitat to provide for it.

It took little time for travelling birders to discover that this small gem had become far more than just a tiny tropical nook. With over 850 species, it is easy to understand why! The backbone of the country
is formed by a towering, beautiful mountain range clad in oaks and bromeliads, where the cloud forests are home to exotic species including the Resplendent Quetzal, Black Guan, Fiery-throated Hummingbird, Golden-browed Chlorophonia and Spangle-cheeked Tanager. A wide variety of habitats, that included Caribbean humid forest and the northern Pacific lowland scrub, were explored on our tour.

We enjoyed many striking species of trogons, toucans, motmots, hummingbirds and migrant warblers, among many other spectacular birds, as we surveyed the best birding locations from the Caribbean to the Pacific, North to South. Thrilling birding, quality lodges, and an easy pace made this tour perfect for those who had yet to experience neotropical birding. With some forty-odd country and regional endemics to seek out, Costa Rica harbours more than enough speciality species to have appeased the more hardcore lister, and plenty of ease-of-birding to maintain a relatively relaxed pace. This was one tour to satiate any appetite, and that’s not a pun referring to the consistently delicious cuisine that we enjoyed from beginning to end.

**Tour Summary:**

As a company, this was our second Costa Rican adventure. With a bit of additional knowledge from last year’s foray, scouting, and a few minor tweaks to the initial itinerary, we maximised our exposure to each unique habitat, and the denizens calling each home. Given last year’s outstanding success, despite being the first run, we found that the preceding had set a hard act to follow. With some persistence, attention to detail, and a good dose of serendipity in the field, we managed to surpass last year’s tour, if by a nose. Having Richard Garrigues, the author of the most recent field guide to Costa Rican avifauna, never hurts! His overall botanical, zoological, and historical knowledge was appreciated by all. That’s not to mention the obvious experience he brought with his ornithological expertise.

In 14 days of birding, we saw a whopping 483 species, recording over 500 total! A fabulous trip tally, especially considering how much time we spent in deep forest habitats at various elevations. Add to that 13 species of mammals, 23 species of reptiles and amphibians, and one can rightly conclude that we had an impressively productive time in Costa Rica, by any standard. Among tour highlights that didn’t qualify for the Top 10 were beautiful Northern Tufted Flycatchers, Chestnut-colored Woodpeckers at eye-level, Black-bellied Hummingbirds showing off their bizarre flat-top hairdos, Black-breasted Wood Quail singing right before our eyes, Spotted Wood Quail pumping their crests in full view, Ornate Hawk-Eagle perched right next to the parking lot for so long that we were distracted by a Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet, bizarre Brown-billed Scythebill zooming in at eye-level, Scarlet and Great Green Macaws cruising by in perfect evening light, mistletoe full Elegant Euphonia and Golden-browed Chlorophonias, crippling views of Orange-collared and Red-capped Manakin, and three separate antswarms allowing stellar looks at some of the most sought-after species in the neotropics. Costa Rica surpassed all expectations by even including a young-of-the-year Margay at our feet!
Detailed Description of Our Tour

**Cinchona and Virgen del Socorro (800-1800 masl):**

Our tour convened at the airport-convenient Hotel Robledal, where the grounds host a nice array of widespread Central Valley and Pacific Slope species. Tour participants who arrived early might’ve enjoyed views of Rufous-backed Wren, Hoffman’s Woodpecker, Cinnamon Hummingbird, Rose-throated Becard, a few species of doves and parrots, or the odd waterbird. Given that these species could all be encountered later on in the tour, we started out on the first full day of the tour, for La Selva Research Station - but not in a hurry, as our route up and over the continental divide passed several wonderful sites in the general area known as La Cinchona.

Heading up and out of the Central Valley, we skirted the flanks of Vulcan Poas and took a brief comfort stop at a conveniently located eatery that happens to host a fine hummingbird garden. Our first stop of the tour yielded up Violet Sabrewing, Volcano Hummingbird, Scintillant Hummingbird, Purple-throated Mountaingem, and the recently-split Admirable (Magnificent) Hummingbird, with a few passerines thrown in to boot. Not a bad start at all! While the town of La Cinchona was swept away in an earthquakes decades before (Yikes!), the quaint Mirador La Cinchona restaurant remained, and was our first official birding stop of the tour after passing many Eastern Meadowlark, Finsch’s Parakeets, Red-billed Pigeon, Clay-colored Thrush, Melodious Blackbirds, and Great-tailed Grackles en route.

Situated just over the divide, on the Caribbean slope, Mirador attracts several species confined to this slope in Costa Rica. While Green Hermit and Violet Sabrewing are widespread at elevation, White-bellied Mountaingem and Coppery-headed Emerald were our first endemics of the tour. Green Thorntail put in an appearance at the feeders, hovering just centimetres above a participant’s head. Meanwhile, fruit feeding stations (now numerous in Costa Rica) attracted some amazing colour! Silver-throated, Blue-throated and Passerini’s Tanagers, Bananaquit, and Baltimore Oriole, provided our first eye-popping feeding experience. We were also treated to our first, but far from last, raptor migration spectacle of the tour. Riding the thermals forming just off from the parking lot, dozens of Broad-winged Hawks were forming kettles to begin their day’s journey south!

After enjoying some garden birds here, and a brief stop at the lovely Cascadas La Paz (where we picked up Torrent Tyrannulets), we continued to the morning’s main birding destination: Virgen del Socorro. Located at about 1000m elevation in the upper foothills,
this site allows some unique access to a hard-to-reach elevation on the Caribbean Slope, with corresponding interesting species. A few of the first species to greet us at this site were Broad-winged and Short-tailed Hawks, a migrant Olive-sided Flycatcher, and our first Tropical Kingbird of the tour.

Two Bat Falcons were perched in the distance, but mixed flock activity downhill caught our attention. Shortly after strolling down towards the bridge, discussing elements of the nearby subtropical vegetation, we were interrupted by the substantial mixed flock moving through the nearby understory. It was an overload! We managed to pick out Red-faced Spinetail, Slate-throated Whitestarts, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and several Chestnut-sided, Tennessee and Wilson’s Warblers, and Tropical Parula. Exciting to have both migrants and residents mingling in massive bird parties! That was just the beginning. Soon we were inundated with the above-mentioned species, with the addition of American Redstarts, Blackburnian and Mourning Warbler, Buff-throated Saltator, Yellow-olive Flatbill, Silver-throated, Bay-headed, Blue-gray, Passerini’s, Crimson-collared, and both the scarce Emerald and Speckled Tanagers!! It was a fine introduction into just how exciting mixed flocks can be.

Then a downpour ensued, which we sheltered ourselves from beneath a convenient road crew tent, before heading back to the vehicle after the rain had ceased. Of course, we can’t forget the lovely scope views of White Hawk that we enjoyed on the walk back to the bus.

Keeping time in mind, we made but one brief stop at Laguna San Miguel, after a lunch stop that yielded our first views of the gorgeous Scarlet-thighed Dacnis, raucous Great Green Macaws, and nicely perched White-crowned Parrots. Now, this large pond’s open water was of little interest, save for an itinerant Green Heron skulking in the weeds. The main area of interest happened to be the wet meadow adjacent to the pond, where we found Olive-crowned and Gray-crowned Yellowthroats, Thick-billed Seed Finch, Variable and White-collared Seedeaters, Blue-black Grassquit, and our only White-throated Flycatcher of the tour, amongst others.

La Selva OTS Research Station (45 masl): We had one afternoon, one full day, and most of the following afternoon to explore the maze of outstanding trails through the myriad of habitats on the vast property protected in this 6 square mile preserve. Obviously not having enough time to cover the whole area, we focused on the nearer trails that transected both secondary and primary forests. That is, when we could finally pull ourselves away from the unbelievable riot of activity taking place right around the main buildings!
Every shrub, bush, and tree planted in the near vicinity to the dining and reception area seemed to be fruiting, blooming, or both. As if simply seeing a tree full of Scarlet-thighed Dacnises, Green Honeycreepers, Collared Aracari, Keel-billed Toucan, White-ringed, Social, and Gray-capped Flycatchers, Red-eyed Vireo, Swainson’s and Clay-colored Thrushes, Olive-backed Euphonia, Buff-throated Saltator, and Golden-hooded, Dusky-faced, Scarlet, Summer, Passerini’s, Blue-gray, and Palm Tanagers wasn’t enough, add to that eye-level, even below-eye-level, views of this ridiculous parade of colour and sound to get an idea of the whole experience. Montezuma and Chestnut-headed Oropendolas, Crowned Woodnymph, Rufous-winged Woodpecker, and Pale-billed Woodpeckers were all seen within 50m or so of reception. Whoo!

The timing of this tour is perfect for peak raptor migration. For the experienced hawk watcher, raptor migration in Costa Rica is mind-boggling. For the uninitiated, what we witness tends to leave some participants dumbfounded. Hundreds and hundreds of vultures and hawks littered the sky, streaming from one tornado-ing kettle of soaring migrants to the next, spanning West-to-East, horizon to horizon. Accurately estimating the number of birds on a heavy day is nearly impossible, though training in how to count large groups, and experience, help. We estimated about 150 to 200 birds crossing every 2 to 3 minutes, when the flight was heaviest. Spectacular! Other birds were clearly in full migration, as we encountered several flocks of mixed Swallows and Chimney Swifts, numbering in the hundreds, as well. This phenomenon, though obviously occurring in Spring, is not nearly so concentrated during the northward passage. Autumn is a very special time on the Caribbean slope of Costa Rica!

The habitats beyond the reception are all accessed via wide, evenly paved trails that accommodate a big group wonderfully. We spent at least two hours just on the entrance road alone, it was so productive. Given our accommodations right on the property, just a short drive away, we had one dry night to get in some night birding and frogging. While the primary forest has some special species, we spent most of our time at the edge between secondary and primary forests - to maximise our exposure to all possible species. Having been established some 25 years prior, the trails are all well-travelled by researchers, meaning that the wildlife is very accustomed to human presence. This made for some of the most incredible and bizarre encounters with utterly tame Crested Guans that one literally walks around, and Collared Peccary that walk towards, rather than away from you, when encountered on the trail! Mammal and Herp diversity are just as impressive as bird diversity here, and we were lucky enough to encounter troops of both Howler and Spider Monkeys, a number of Collared Peccary, one Hoffman’s Two-toed Sloth, and several Agoutis in our short time there, as well as several species of frogs and one Drab Cat-eyed Snake, as well!
Too long to list here in its entirety, the staggering list of birds we enjoyed at this famous site included those mentioned above plus Grey-headed Kite, Vermiculated Screech Owl, Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts, Bronzy, Stripe-throated, and Long-billed Hermits, Blue-cheested Hummingbird, Slaty-tailed and Gartered Trogons, Rufous and Broad-billed Motmots, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Keel-billed and Yellow-throated (Black-mandibled) Toucans, Chestnut-colored Woodpecker, Great Green Macaw, Olive-throated and Orange-chinned Parakeets, Red-lobed Amazon, Northern Barred Woodcreeper, Fasciated Antshrike, Eye-ringd Flatbill, Long-tailed Tyrant, Bright-rumped Attila, White-collared Manakin, Cinnamon Becard, Stripe-breasted and Black-throated Wrens, Long-billed Gnatwren, Northern Waterthrush, Buff-rumped Warbler, Black-cowled Oriole, Plain-colored Tanager, Red-throated Ant Tanager, and great views of the difficult canopy-dwelling Black-headed Tody Tyrant. Perhaps a highlight of our time here was getting the “hat trick” of puffbirds!!! We managed to see all three species of puffbirds here in one day: White-necked, Pied, and White-whiskered, with great looks at each.

**Braulio Carrillo and El Tapir (450 masl):** We added one full day’s birding to our itinerary this year for this day. Getting access to the Caribbean foothill forests around Braulio Carrillo is a real treat. While there is much overlap with the Arenal area, some species are more readily found here and the more exposure to this, the more bird-rich microhabitat in the country, the better! We began with a visit to Rainforest Adventures (Sky Tram) abutting Braulio Carrillo NP. This iconic site is known, primarily, as THE place in Costa Rica to see Bare-necked Umbrellabird. Sorely, we missed it by only a few minutes! Knowing it was by no means guaranteed (and downright unlikely on any visit) we moved into the forest in search of other species more easily found here. In short order, we were rewarded with point-blank views of a singing Northern Schiffrini! An understory mixed flock unlike any other followed shortly thereafter. For whatever reason, this flock was moving slowly, if at all, allowing spectacular looks at each member of the ranks. Streak-crowned Antvireo, Checker-throated Antwren, Tawny-faced Gnatwren, Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher, and Carmiol’s Tanager were far-and-away the highlights of the flock, given that lengthy, open views of each were enjoyed. Just a bit further up the trail, we had our first Great Tinamou of the tour and White-crowned Manakins. The best experience, personally, was having a male and female Spotted Antbird overhead in full view, singing away merrily. One of the most ornate birds of the bunch.

After a successful visit here, we headed for a picnic lunch beneath howler monkeys at Braulio Carrillo NP headquarters. Rain was beginning to fall, so we headed over to nearby El Tapir gardens to watch hummingbirds. And hummingbirds abounded! Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer and Black-crested Coquettes were mere distractions from the (at...
least) 5 gorgeous Snowcaps that were coming to the flowering porterweed. Awesome!

Between bouts of drizzle, a mixed flock of tanagers came through that included the scarce and colourful Black-and-yellow Tanager, as well as more Speckled Tanagers than we could count. But it was an antsarm, and its star attendee, that stole the show. A short walk into the forest from the clearing put us in a great position for several looks at the incomparable Ocellated Antbird. One of the largest members of the Antbird crew, this stunning, noisy, species’ bright blue orbital skin glows in the forest gloom, and the camouflage provided by those amazing black spots becomes a beautiful adornment through the binoculars. Being an antsarm obligate, one must be fortunate enough to stumble upon an antsarm to have a good chance of seeing this impressive bird. This was the first of three massive antsarms we would encounter, all with their own unique constituents.

Cataratas del Toro (1600 masl): This hole-in-the-wall site has only recently been appreciated for how productive a birding site it can be. Off the beaten path a bit, but still easily accessible, the owners of this large property have developed a nice loop trail through fabulous mid-elevation forest. The trails give access to several viewpoints looking out over the beautiful Toro Waterfalls and the newly founded Juan Castro Blanco National Park, one of the country’s largest. Of course, one has to peel him/herself away from the remarkable show at the hummingbird garden, which is quite possibly the best in the country! At the feeding area alone, we noted 9 species of hummingbirds, including Green Hermit, Green Thorntail, Brown Violetear, Black-bellied Hummingbird, and White-bellied Mountaingem. A short walk along the loop trail had us come across two separate, huge, mixed flocks. Unfortunately, most of the flock birds were just far enough away to be difficult to observe, so we had to settle for Orange-bellied Trogon, Ochraceous Wren, Slaty-backed Nightingale Thrush, Chestnut-capped Brush Finch, and Sooty-faced Finch as recompense. Which we gladly did!

Arenal Observatory Lodge and surrounds (250 to 550 masl): Spanning from drier lowland to more humid foothill elevation, the habitats around Arenal Volcano and Lake Arenal, a bit West of Sarapiqui and La Selva, are home to a wide variety of species ranging from more lowland affinity species to true Caribbean foothill specialists. That makes this area one of the most diverse birding hubs in the country!
We were based at the scenic, very comfortable, Arenal Observatory Lodge & Spa. The gardens and trails here are worth a full day’s efforts, and the view of the perfectly conical Vulcan Arenal, at dawn, is worth the visit alone. However, we did allow some important time for lower-elevation sites near the Lake, and higher-elevation birding at Sky Trek Sky Tram Arenal, the latter of which has some of the best birds anywhere. Throw a semi-tame Margay into the mix, add some delicious dining, and a beautiful pool (which the Aussies, at least, quality-tested), and this site was definitely one of the tour’s best stops!

But before reaching our destination, we made a brief stop at a seldom-visited stakeout, Sendero Bogarin. Though it doesn’t host a huge variety of species, this stop is special, as being THE place to see White-throated and Uniform Crakes. We saw 5 separate White-throated Crakes, including two little black fluffballs running along behind their parents! Uniform Crake was only a brief glimpse, but additionally, and to our surprise, a Russet-naped Wood Rail came out right before our eyes! The fruit “feeders” here were busy too, despite the afternoon drizzle. Gray-headed Chachalacas, Greyish Saltator, and Black-headed Saltator were new for the trip, as was an itinerant male Barred Antshrike that came hopping through the bushes of his own accord. The owner of the tiny establishment was good enough to show us one of the Red-eyed Leaf Frogs, resident in his garden. Great to see this little icon of the country!

Given Arenal Observatory lodge’s extensive gardens are complete with an absurd number of porterweed (i.e. natural hummingbird feeder) hedges, some of our bird sightings came from right around the lodge and spa. Blue-throated Goldentail, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, and Violet-headed Hummingbird were among the more numerous hummers visiting the porterweed. The fruit feeder out on the deck was a hit, as a female Great Curassow was attending with her young! Eye-level views of nearly a dozen Red-legged Honeycreepers, Green Honeycreeper, Golden-hooded Tanager, White-ruffed Manakin, Black-cowled Oriole, and Montezuma Oropendolas were enjoyed from the deck, as well as creeping around to spend time with a young Margay, whose mother has long called this property home. This was her third kitten birthed in the past few years here. A gorgeous creature rarely seen! Other fine species seen well here included Crimson-collared Tanager, Russet Antshrike, Gartered Trogon, Orange-billed Sparrow, and Yellow-throated and the gorgeous Tawny-capped Euphonia.

One afternoon’s visit to the tangled vegetation and tall forests near Lake Arenal was very productive. A lone Keel-billed Motmot greeted us as soon as we stepped out of the vehicle! This was followed up shortly thereafter with a nice mixed flock, before digging into some sought-after antbirds. Luckily, a pair of Dull-mantled Antbirds came right out onto the
road where we walked, the male displaying his vividly white mantle shield (normally hidden from view) for photos! While Bare-crowned Antbirds never are, and never would be, as obliging as their Dull-mantled cousins, with persistence, the group was rewarded with views of the bizarrely-adorned male (several participants exclaiming “look at his blue head!” when they got a view) or rusty female.

Our morning visit to the trails at Sky Trek was as good as, or better than, expected. Though birding is restricted to narrow forest trails, the birds were active in flocks nearly all morning, and the suspension bridges and scenic viewpoint platform give great access to canopy species seldom seen anywhere. While no single visit to this site will ever yield all of the hoped-for species, we were lucky enough to come across several of them. While Thicket Antpitta stayed, for the most part, buried in the tangles (entirely expected for that species), we had stunning views of Black-headed Nightingale Thrush, Dusky Antbird, Northern Nightingale Wren, and Song Wren - all skulkers! Other mid and understory flock birds that we encountered included Yellow-billed Cacicue, Tawny-crowned Greenlet, Eastern Woodhaunter, Buff-throated Foliage Gleaner, and the rare Brown-billed Scythebill. At the lookout, we saw Black-and-Yellow Tanager, Purple-crowned Fairy, and a pair of Black-cheeked Woodpeckers building a nest. Just above the viewpoint, I heard some rustling overhead that sounded distinctly toucan-esque. Sure enough, three Yellow-eared Toucanets were right above us! With some manoeuvring, we got in line with a male that decided to hop out in full view, for nearly a minute, facing this way and that, just 20 feet overhead. It was amazing! But not as amazing as the juvenile Ornate Hawk Eagle that greeted our arrival by spending about 10 minutes perched over the parking lot. Yep, the parking lot!!!

Monteverde area (900 – 1700 masl): The name Monteverde, along with the word zipline, has become synonymous with Costa Rica over the years. The interesting area, founded by Quakers who immigrated to their area in protest of the reinstatement of the U.S. Draft in the 50s, is the western region of a vast area of over 70,000 hectares of pristine lower-to-mid-elevation cloud forest that spans from here to the northeast, beyond Vulcan Arenal. Settled as a dairy farming area, the farmed area stayed relatively small, while most of the private properties owned by the Quakers remained untouched forest. The interesting culture and the intact forest attracted the attention of tourists and birders alike. This became one of the first cloud forest areas to ever be studied by foreign ornithologists, in all of Latin America. It is, one could say, the type specimen, and is correspondingly well-known in the world of researchers and nature enthusiasts.
We spent one afternoon birding the continental divide, at the renowned Santa Elena Reserve, which is increasingly less-visited as focus has shifted east towards the other reserves. It was a perfect introduction to cloud forest birding – rainy but active! We spent the following day between the two, perhaps, best-known forest reserves here: Curi-Cancha and Monteverde Cloud forest Reserve. The elevation range between the two allows access to the various transition zones accessible here, and by adding a visit to the Finca Ecologica, situated below the town of Santa Elena, on our final morning here, we were even able to enjoy some of the Pacific foothill forest specialists too!!! Our game plan allowed for relaxed birding, a bit of down time after lunch, and the option for some guests, this being our mid-point in the tour, to relax if they desired an afternoon off. That being said, there simply wasn’t an afternoon on the tour what wasn’t impressively productive, so few chose to rest. The weather upon our arrival at Santa Elena was fairly abysmal. The following day was gorgeous!

While most visitors to Monteverde come seeking Quetzals (well, we were too of course), we had the opportunity to see those magnificent birds later in the tour at Savegre. We focused on the awesome list of endemic and scarce birds that are more easily found here than at lower, or higher elevations. That being said, we saw two male Resplendent Quetzals in short order, at eye-level, showing ridiculously well! So well, in fact, that we didn’t really bother to hunt them down later in the tour. Saturated views allowed us to relax on the “Star Bird” (it IS on the cover on the itinerary and checklist, after all) and seek out others. The other wanted birds of our time here were Black Guan (awesome, relaxed view), Black-breasted Wood Quail (at arm’s reach…literally…and then singing right before our eyes), Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, Lesson’s Motmot, Golden-olive Woodpecker, Prong-billed Barbet (great views of this localised endemic!), Blue-throated Toucanet (several good views), Spotted Barbtail, Streak-breasted Treehunter, Lineated Foliage Gleaner, Grey-throated Leaf-tossers (we had to walk around them to continue up the trail!), Plain Antvireo, Yellowish Flycatcher, Golden-bellied Flycatcher, Long-tailed Manakin (incomparable), Slaty-backed Nightingale Thrush, Orange-billed Nightingale Thrush, Black-faced Solitaire, White-throated Thrush, Golden-winged Warbler, Black-eared Warbler, Philadelphia Vireo, Collared Whitestart, White-eared Ground Sparrow (surprisingly lovely), and White-naped Brush Finch. Again, a highlight of this area was encountering an antswarm. Bird behaviour at its most opportunistic, antswams attract an astonishing array of species! We had easy views of Ruddy and Olivaceous Woodcreeper, Kentucky Warbler, Rufous-and-White Wren, White-breasted Wood Wren, Rufous-
breasted Wren, and several of the aforementioned species right at this spot! And seeing the swarming behaviour of the ants, and the creatures fleeing their impending doom is utterly fascinating! After enjoying loads of birds, delicious pizza, homemade ice cream, and some sunny weather, it was onward and downward to the coast.

**Finca Ensenada area (8 masl):** This was the only site we visited in the dry forest and scrub of north-west Costa Rica, a habitat which extends all the way up into Mexico, becoming more arid as one heads north. Here, at Ensenada, we were at the southern terminus of this particular deciduous-type forest, which was incredibly lush and green during the time of our tour. Any time from January to July, and one would have found the lush, viney forests, damp meadows, and tall grass, brown and all but barren!

As it was, we visited at a wonderful time of the year, with lots of bird activity! We spent a little time birding the fields before spending a bit of time birding the coastal estuaries and salt pans in the area, focusing more on the forest edge areas. With only one afternoon and the following morning at our disposal, we birded our way through decent habitat towards our lodgings right on the Gulf of Nicoya, before bedding down. We began at dawn, looking out over the Gulf, and worked our way to the salt pans at high tide for optimal shorebirding, spending some time at blooming mistletoe for hummers and forested corridors for other dry forest specials. Again, migration was very evidently in full swing. The birding was fabulous!

Pelicans, Frigatebirds, Ibis, Storks, Spoonbills, and a very decent variety of shorebirds were noted. Grey (Black-bellied), American Golden, Semipalmated, and Wilson’s Plovers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Western Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Surfbird, Sanderling, Semipalmated, Western, Least, and Stilt Sandpipers were in good numbers. Around the lodge, and the forest edges, we picked up two Pacific Screech Owls, Black-headed Trogon, White-fronted and Yellow-naped Amazons, Green-breasted Mango, Canivet’s Emerald, Cinnamon Hummingbird, and Plain-capped Starthroat were hitting the blooming mistletoe in a number of trees, gorgeous Turquoise-browed Motmots were on display, and we managed to call in a ton of birds using a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl loop tape. Nutting’s and Brown-crested Flycatchers, Northern Beardless Tyrannulet, Yellow-olive Flatbill, White-lored Gnatcatcher, Northern Scrub Flycatcher, Spot-breasted and Streak-breasted Oriole, and Banded Wrens all came roaring in to see what the fuss was about!

One of our best encounters in this area occurred when Richard and I both looked at each other, and simultaneously asked, “Did you do that?”, when we heard the rolling call of Lesser Ground Cuckoo! We sprang into action, heading directly towards the sound. The bird continued to respond and move straight towards us, finally popping in for fabulous looks. This normally

![Turquoise-browed Motmot by Forrest Rowland](image1)

![Orange-collared Manakin by Forrest Rowland](image2)
skulking species can be quite responsive this time of year, as was the case for us with this particular individual. Double-striped Thick-knee was another highlight, as they can be difficult to encounter in the tall grass.

Villa Lapas, Carara NP, and the Rio Tarcoles (0 – 100 masl): Carara National Park is considered one of the best, if not THE best, birding destination in the country. That declaration is certainly subjective, given that it is what one wants to see. Baird’s Trogon, Orange-collared Manakin, Riverside Wren, Costa Rican Swift, Fiery-billed Aracari, Streak-chested and Spot-crowned Euphonia are a few of the regularly encountered birds here, and all endemic. The fascinating and convenient thing about Carara is that it comprises the northern terminus of a very small strip of humid, Pacific lowland, microhabitat that extends from here south, just across the Panamanian border. This lush habitat is home to some 400 species of birds, many of which are unique to this band of habitat, some being restricted to only Costa Rica and adjacent Panama, others just downright gorgeous to behold. No matter the description or quality of the avifauna of Carara that one reads about, the experience of walking the National Park’s well-maintained trails is thrilling. Mixed flocks join mixed flocks; while monkeys troop around overhead. Tinamous elicit their haunting, tremulous whistles as one walks slowly through the dappled shade of the deep forest. Antpittas scamper in the trail before our eyes. It’s magical!

By dedicating several hours to exploring this iconic park, complemented by time spent near our wonderful lodgings at Villa Lapas. Set right amidst some of the forest habitat that Carara National Park protects, Villa Lapas has great birding right on the grounds and a property line that extends two kilometres up the hills behind the lodge where we spent one early morning birding. The defining northern limit to this habitat is the Rio Tarcoles, the third largest drainage in Costa Rica, which runs from the slopes of the volcanoes circling the Central Valley down into the Pacific Ocean. Famed for its massive (both in size of individuals and number of individuals) American Crocodile population, the mighty Rio Tarcoles is also a feature of the landscape that deserves some quality birding time. We spent one afternoon leisurely cruising the mangroves and estuary near the Rio Tarcoles delta, viewing an entirely different variety of wildlife than that protected within the National Park.

Though the endemics listed above were certainly a few of the avian highlights of our time here, we saw much, much more. Along the Rio Tarcoles, we had great studies of Wood Stork, Roseate Spoonbills, and several other species of herons, waders, and shorebirds. The mangroves here are very rich in speciation (all 5 species of mangrove trees occur here!) and corresponding birdlife. Mangrove specialists such as Yellow-naped Amazon, Mangrove Hummingbird, Mangrove
Vireo, Panamanian Flycatcher, Northern Scrub Flycatcher, and Common (Mangrove) Black Hawk. Sight-of-the-afternoon honours undoubtedly went to the numerous flocks of Scarlet Macaws, returning to the mangroves to roost, glowing red, yellow, and blue in the perfect evening light. Quite a spectacle to behold, these Macaws have a stable, even expanding population in this special part of Central America.

Villa Lapas and Carara National Park yielded up a ridiculous cadre of great birds, many seen under exceptionally memorable circumstances. No one can forget the Great Tinamou that, rather than running off in the underbrush, quietly scooted off the trail just enough to feel safe; the Spectacled Owl that practically lives above the Villa Lapas pool area; the Stripe-throated Hermit on lek a mere 6 inches off the ground; stunning Red-capped Manakin males that just happened to be sitting perfectly in the open on more than one occasion; White-whiskered Puffbird as a wirebird; a male Black-hooded Antshrike pumping its tail in song on a low vine above us; Tawny-winged and Long-tailed Woodcreepers, Black-faced Antthrush, Chestnut-backed and Bicolored Antbirds dancing in and out of view for several minutes, before finally sitting stalk-still for killer looks at antswarms; Streak-chested Antpittas allowing some fine views despite its terrestrial nature, and numerous flocks streaming through the forest, hosting dozens of species like Tawny-crowned and Lesser Greenlet, White-shouldered Tanager, Slaty-headed Tody Flycatcher, Northern Bentbill, Golden-crowned Spadebill, Stub-tailed Spadebill, White-winged Becard, and so forth. The parade was nearly continuous. At one point, having spent two hours birding, we realised that we had advanced a mere 300 meters of trail. Truly outstanding, enjoyable and awesome birding! Throw in a White Hawk perched at eye-level above Villa Lapas, and some views of Scarlet Macaws below us with the forested mountains as a backdrop, and one couldn’t really ask for more.

San Isidro del Valle de General (600-800 masl): En route from Carara, up the Cordillera Central del Talamanca, one needs head south a bit, then east, through mostly disturbed foothill habitats of the populated mountain valley of San Isidro del Valle de General. Along the coast, en route, we were gladly distracted by a few very nice birds, like Southern Lapwing, Northern Jacana, King Vulture, graceful White-tailed Kite, endearing Pearl Kite, and stumbling dumb-luck into some Plain-breasted Ground Doves. We had a lot of ground to cover as we made our way to San Gerardo de Dota, high in the Talamanca Range, with little time to spare. However, knowing that there were several lovely species of hummingbirds possible in the habitats traversed today, I had my eyes open for a very special kind of tree.
A widespread neotropical genus, members of the *Inga* group of trees are prized by all things nectar-loving. The tiny, fluffy, white flowers of this tree are one of the most auspicious sights a visiting birder can see, for it is a certain portent of exciting birds to come! As we ventured up from the coast, shortly after departing our lunch stop on the beach at Dominical, there they were: a patch of blooming *Inga* trees!!! We pulled the bus over and began our vigil. Within minutes, we were ogling shining green Garden Emeralds, uniquely marked Snowy-bellied Hummingbird, endemic Charming Hummingbird, and even a brief view of White-crested Coquette! It just so happened that there was a fruiting epiphyte sticking out the top of the Ingas we happened to be watching. The parade of colourful hummers was enhanced by Fiery-billed Aracari, Red-crowned Woodpecker, Green Honeycreeper, Red-legged Honeycreeper, Bay-headed Tanager, and Speckled Tanagers all coming in for a visit! But we couldn’t dawdle, it was already approaching mid-afternoon and we still had a two-hour drive, and a very special bird to find yet.

We stopped briefly at the ministry and university buildings, in the town of San Isidro del Valle de General. Our local guide, Richard, had to make a quick drop-off of his field guide for a friend. A friend who had advised us that the impossibly blue, mind-numbingly blue, indescribably blue, Turquoise Cottinga (Blue Cottinga already taken…) had been frequenting nearby trees. We hadn’t even gotten to the parking spot when I spotted something that urged me to ask, “So, where are these supposed to be hanging out?” Richard replied, “Anywhere.” I screamed, “Stop the bus!” We all piled out to find TWO vibrant males perched, displaying/singing right over the road! While last year’s views were adequate, though distant, I knew immediately that this encounter would rank in the top 5 of the whole tour. The birds were relatively low, in full view and close enough for fine photos. It was an amazing score!!! On to the mountains…

**Savegre, Miriam’s, and the Cerro de la Muerte (2200 – 3200 masl):** Costa Rica is known for its diversity, despite its very small size. Nothing showcases this more than the drive from the Pacific Coast near Carara, up over the highest point on the entire Panamerican Highway (over 10,000 feet!), then down into the unforgettable scenic San Gerardo de Dota valley. Granted, some of the most dramatic points of the drive were done in the rain, or dark, or both; we did get to retrace our steps at more opportune times to enjoy the best points. The visiting birder to the area around Cerro de la Muerte has a few obligatory stops. The only lodgings, for the most part, are in the San Gerardo de Dota Valley. This happens to be the place in the country for the high mountain endemic bird species all dutiful birders are seeking! Other musts
include visits above the treeline to the Cerro de la Muerte (mountain of death) to see the endemic Volcano Junco and Treeline Wren; Georgina’s eatery for the jaw-dropping Fiery-throated, Volcano, and Admirable (Magnificent) Hummingbird, Miriam’s Café to enjoy ridiculously-close views of a staggering diversity of species coming to fruit feeders, and either the Providencia or KM 66 roads for forest species that don’t occur down in the valley, or at the mountaintop, but in-between. We had time to do all of the above!

Afternoon storms are a very common thing so high in the mountains of Central America, at any season. So it was amazing that we found ourselves with great weather the entirety of our time here! This meant we had two exceptionally beautiful mornings to seek out the many star birds of the region, and an afternoon to explore. Indeed, many of the target species one hopes for around San Gerardo do Dota are endemic to only the Cordillera de Talamanca, making them unique to Costa Rica, and only a very small portion of adjacent Panama. We focused our efforts on the birds that can only be found in the habitats in which we currently found ourselves, allowing the other more widespread species to fall into place as they would. The plan worked!

While some hours were spent around the very gardens of the lovely Savegre Mountain Resort where we were lodging, we ventured out on a few trails in the general area and spent much time along the main road, enjoying some leisure photography time at the famous, Miriam’s Café, where Acorn Woodpeckers, Flame-colored Tanagers, Sooty-headed (Bush Tanagers) Chlorospingus, Large-footed Finch, Yellow-thighed Finch, Wilson’s Warblers, and others, come in to the eye-level fruit feeding station to gorge themselves on the bananas, papaya, and other fruits on offer. Tropical Mockingbird happened to be amongst the “others”, which is a huge surprise! This species is usually no higher than a few metres above sea level. Quite lost, indeed! Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher is, personally, a favourite bird. With soft plumage transitioning from subtle greys to lemon yellow and glowing white, this handsome species was one of the very first to greet us in the morning at Savegre! Slaty Flowerpiercer, Flame-throated and Black-throated Green Warblers, Rufous-collared Sparrow, Acorn Woodpecker, and the endemic Sulphur-winged Parakeet were all species common in the garden. Though possible, but not always present, Yellow-bellied Siskin, Elegant Euphonia, Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Mountain Thrush, Black-capped Flycatcher, Yellow-winged Vireo, Spangle-cheeked Tanager, and Red-headed Barbet were right there! Hummingbirds were certainly in evidence as well. From smallest to largest, Volcano Hummingbird, Scintillant Hummingbird (on a nest!), Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, Gray-tailed Mountainigem, Green Violetear, and Admirable Hummingbird are all quite numerous!

Many of the prize species inhabiting the valley are scarce, skulking, or outright rare. Expecting an exertion of time and energy on such birds, one can imagine my surprise that with relatively little effort, Spotted Wood
Quail, Ruddy-capped and Black-billed Nightingale Thrushes, Timberline Wren, and one of my favourite birds – Black-and-Yellow Phainoptila – all cooperated! Wrenthrush and Silvery-fronted Tapaculo proved a bit more difficult, as is their nature, but the stellar views we had of the gorgeous Wood-Quail made up for it! Seeing that amazingly-patterned, ornate species staring at us, pumping its orange crest, was most memorable. All things being equal, Wrenthrush and the other skulkers of the valley played along nicely.

Most other great birds encountered in the valley came through in mixed flocks. Centred around roaming groups of Ruddy Treerunners, the Buffy Tuftedcheek, Streak-crowned Woodcreepers, Flame-throated Warblers, Sooty-capped Chlorospingus, Yellow-winged Vireos, Mistletoe Tyrannulets, Collared Whitestarts, and Black-cheeked Warblers were common amongst flocks. Dark Pewee, Black-capped Flycatcher, Mountain Elaenia, and Hairy Woodpecker being loners, we encountered only a few of each. One Ochraceous Pewee was a real shocker! Rarely encountered on a tour, or any other time for that matter, one appeared to be following a complex mixed flock with some 15 other species, including Streaked Xenops! But some of the most exciting forest birding was on our final day, as we made our way back to San Jose, down the spine of the Central Cordillera. A brief stop at Providencia road was thwarted (as was every experience I’ve had there) by rain. Nearby, the KM 66 road was, somehow, completely dry! We spent a good 40 minutes or so here, before we really came across some excitement. As birds began to amass near us, due to some judicious use of a Costa Rican Pygmy Owl playback, I noticed some colour, downslope, below eye-level, on the periphery. Black-and-Yellow (Silky) Phainoptila!!! This gorgeous, enigmatic, bird had thus far been absent from our forays. Dozens of warblers, more Tuftedcheek, and first-responder Fiery-capped Hummingbirds swarmed us! This was only shortly after venturing up Cerro Buenavista, where we not only found Volcano Junco on a nest, Timberline Wrens, and the rare Peg-billed Finch, but also found a viewpoint from which we could see both coasts. Stunning! A normal visit to this particular site involves windbreakers, gloves, umbrellas, and a sense of mild regret. But today it was gorgeous and clear.

Thus was our luck throughout the tour. While most participants must admit to a wariness to travel to Costa Rica in the (cue spooky atmospheric music) rainy season, the proof, as they say, is in the pudding. While we did experience a few rainy afternoons, the weather was generally agreeable and the birding, constantly wonderful. This continued right up to our last, memorable day at the highest drivable point in Central America.

**Special Thanks go to:** the wonderful group of adventurous, helpful, and enthusiastic participants who joined us for our “rainy season” tour. This particular congregation of nature-loving disciples ran the gambit from hardcore birder to ecology-lover-extraordinaire. All came together nicely, helped each other, and made it a wonderful time. I hope to see you all again soon! And, of course, a huge thanks to Mr Richard Garrigues. Thoughtful, knowledgeable, and a clear expert on all things Costa Rican, it was an honour and pleasure to share the leadership, yet again, with my awesome co-leader. To all of the above, I hope to be travelling with you again. On behalf of Rockjumper, our very warmest regards, and we look forward to hearing your feedback on this tour, and facilitating your avian fantasies on the next.
## Costa Rica Trip List

### BIRDS 506 (483 seen, 23 heard)

#### Tinamous Tinamidae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great Tinamou, ssp. <em>fuscipennis</em></td>
<td><em>Thicket Tinamou</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* A highlight of the tour! Great views at Carara National Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Ducks, Geese, Swans Anatidae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black-bellied Whistling Duck</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscovy Duck</td>
<td>One wild bird on Rio Tarcoles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue-winged Teal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Chachalacas, Curassows & Guans Cracidae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gray-headed Chachalaca</td>
<td>Two family groups near Arenal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crested Guan</td>
<td>Numerous at La Selva and Arenal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Guan - NE</td>
<td>One beauty near Monteverde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Curassow</td>
<td>Spectacular! A female with young coming to a fruit feeder at Arenal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### New World Quail Odontophoridae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Crested Bobwhite</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Black-eared Wood Quail</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-breasted Wood-Quail - NE</td>
<td>adults duetting in full view!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotted Wood-Quail</td>
<td>Stellar encounter with a covey not 10 feet off the trail near Savegre!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finca Ecologica; a covey at our feet, with two</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Grebes Podicipedae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Least Grebe</td>
<td>Seen on the Pre-tour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Storks Ciconiidae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wood Stork</td>
<td>Ensenada and Tarcoles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Ibises, Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American White Ibis</td>
<td>Ensenada and Tarcoles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roseate Spoonbill</td>
<td>Ensenada and Tarcoles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Herons, Bitterns Ardeidae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bare-throated Tiger Heron</td>
<td>La Selva and Tarcoles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fasciated Tiger Heron</td>
<td>Right off the road at Arenal!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat-billed Heron</td>
<td>Several on roost; Tarcoles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-crowned Night Heron</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-crowned Night Heron</td>
<td>Ensenada and Tarcoles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Heron</td>
<td>Ensenada and Tarcoles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Western] Cattle Egret</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Great Blue Heron  
[Western] Great Egret  
Tricolored Heron  
Little Blue Heron  
Snowy Egret  

Pelicans  Pelecanidae  
Brown Pelican  

Frigatebirds  Fregatidae  
Magnificent Frigatebird  

Cormorants, Shags  Phalacrocoracidae  
Neotropic Cormorant  

Anhingas, Darters  Anhingidae  
Anhinga  

New World Vultures  Cathartidae  
Turkey Vulture  
Black Vulture  
King Vulture  

Osprey  Pandionidae  
Western Osprey  

Kites, Hawks & Eagles  Accipitridae  
White-tailed Kite  
Pearl Kite  
Grey-headed Kite  
Ornate Hawk-Eagle – NT  
Trek/Sky Tram parking lot at Arenal!!!  
*Double-toothed Kite  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Mississippi Kite  
Great Black Hawk  
Common Black Hawk  
Roadside Hawk  
White Hawk  
Grey Hawk  
Broad-winged Hawk  
Short-tailed Hawk  
Swainson’s Hawk  
Zone-tailed Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  

Literally, thousands seen during peak migration spectacle. Breathtaking kettles filled the skies for nearly two days!  

One soaring near Dominical!  

Hundreds and hundreds seen during a peak migration event!  

Hundreds tallied during a peak migration event!  

A couple seen in the highlands
**Rails, Crakes & Coots  Rallidae**

- White-throated Crake
- Russet-naped Wood Rail
- *Grey-cowled Wood Rail
- Common Gallinule

**Thick-knees  Burhinidae**

- Double-striped Thick-knee

**Stilts, Avocets  Recurvirostridae**

- Black-necked Stilt

**Plovers  Charadriidae**

- Southern Lapwing
- Grey Plover
- Semipalmated Plover
- Wilson’s Plover

**Jacanas  Jacanidae**

**Sandpipers, Snipes  Scolopacidae**

- Short-billed Dowitcher
- Whimbrel
- Lesser Yellowlegs
- Greater Yellowlegs
- Willet (“Western”)
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Ruddy Turnstone
- Surfbird
- Sanderling
- Semipalmated Sandpiper
- Western Sandpiper
- Least Sandpiper
- Stilt Sandpiper

**Terns, Skimmers  Laridae**

- Caspian Tern

**Pigeons, Doves  Columbidae**

- Common (Rock) Pigeon
- Band-tailed Pigeon
- Pale-vented Pigeon
- Red-billed Pigeon
- Ruddy Pigeon
- Short-billed Pigeon

---

Great looks of several birds at Bogarin!
Spectacular views of a few of this recently-split species
One standing tall, roadise, near Ensenada
Ensenada and Tarcoles
Two near Quepos
Ensenada
Ensenada
Ensenada
Ensenada
Ensenada
Ensenada
Ensenada and Tarcoles
Ensenada and Tarcoles
Ensenada
Ensenada
Ensenada and Tarcoles
Ensenada and Tarcoles
Ensenada
Ensenada
Ensenada
Ensenada
Ensenada
Ensenada
Highlands
Arenal and Paquita
Highlands
White-winged Dove
Inca Dove
Common Ground Dove
Plain-breasted Ground Dove
Ruddy Ground Dove
Blue Ground Dove
White-tipped Dove
*Chiriqui Quail-Dove - NE

Ensenada and Tarcoles

Cocks Cuculidae

Groove-billed Ani
Lesser Ground Cuckoo
Squirrel Cuckoo
Yellow-billed Cuckoo

One magnificent individual tee’d up for views at Ensenada!

Owls Strigidae

Pacific Screech Owl
*Tropical Screech Owl
*Bare-shanked Screech Owl - NE
Vermiculated Screech Owl
*Mottled Owl
Spectacled Owl
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl

A cooperative pair at Ensenada resides right at the lodge

One at La Selva

Nightjars Caprimulgidae

Common Nighthawk
Pauraque

Swits Apodidae

Chestnut-collared Swift
White-collared Swift
Costa Rican Swift - E
Grey-rumped Swift
Chimney Swift
Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift

A few at Carara

above Villa Lapas

One migratory flock at La Selva

A few above La Selva

Hummingbirds Trochilidae

Bronzy Hermit
Band-tailed Barbthroat
Green Hermit
Stripe-throated Hermit
Long-billed Hermit
Green-fronted Lancebill
Scaly-breasted Hummingbird
Violet Sabrewing
White-necked Jacobin

Great views at La Selva!

Used the same perch as the previous species!

Lots of fine views

Seen on a night roost!

On the Pre-Tour to Rancho Naturalista

Highlands

On the Pre-Tour
Brown Violetear
Green (Lesser) Violetear
Green-breasted Mango
Violet-headed Hummingbird
Black-crested Coquette
White-crested Coquette - NE
Green Thorntail
Canivet’s Emerald
Garden Emerald - NE
Fiery-throated Hummingbird - NE
Coppery-headed Emerald – E
Stripe-tailed Hummingbird – NE
Black-bellied Hummingbird – NE
Crowned Woodnymph
Blue-throated Sapphire
Cinnamon Hummingbird
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird
Blue-chested Hummingbird
Mangrove Hummingbird – E
Steely-vented Hummingbird
Snowy-bellied Hummingbird – NE
Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer
Snowcap – NE
White-bellied Mountaingem – NE
Purple-throated Mountaingem – NE
Gray-tailed Mountaingem – E
Green-crowned Brilliant
Magnificent Hummingbird
Purple-crowned Fairy
Plain-capped Starthroat
Magenta-throated Woodstar
Long-billed Starthroat
Volcano Hummingbird – NE
Scintillant Hummingbird – NE

Cataratas del Toro
Highlands
Tarcoles
One at El Tapir Gardens
Briefest of views of a male near San Isidro
Cinchona and Cataratas del Toro
Ensenada
Two at a flowering Inga near San Isidro
Cataratas del Toro and Monteverde
Monteverde
Cataratas del Toro
La Selva and Arenal
Ensenada
La Selva
Great views at Tarcoles

Resplendent Quetzal
Slaty-tailed Trogon
Black-headed Trogon
Baird’s Trogon – E, NT
Gartered Trogon
Black-throated Trogon
Collared Trogon
Collared “Orange-bellied” Trogon – NE

Monteverde
Arenal and Monteverde
Villa Lapas
two ssp. seen: flammula and torridus
Savegre

2 gorgeous males seen at eye-level!
Ensenada
fabulous views at Carara!
A female at La Selva

Monteverde

Rockjumper Birding Tours
Green Kingfisher
Belted Kingfisher
Ringed Kingfisher
Amazon Kingfisher

**Motmots**  **Momotidae**
- Lesson’s Motmot
- Rufous Motmot
- Keel-billed Motmot
- Broad-billed Motmot
- Turquoise-browed Motmot
  - numerous
  - La Selva
  - Stellar looks at this rare bird near Arenal!
  - numerous
  - Perhaps the most stunning member of the clan; a few seen very well at Ensenada and Carara

**Jacamars**  **Galbulidae**
- Rufous-tailed Jacamar

**Puffbirds**  **Bucconidae**
- White-necked Puffbird
- Pied Puffbird
- White-whiskered Puffbird
  - We had all three species in one day at La Selva!

**Typical Barbets**  **Capitonidae**
- Red-headed Barbet

**Toucan Barbets**  **Semnornithidae**
- Prong-billed Barbet - E
- Blue-throated Toucanet - NE
- Collared Aracari
- Fiery-billed Aracari - E
- Yellow-eared Toucanet
- Keel-billed Toucan
- Black-mandibled Toucan
  - A surprise male at Savegre!
  - Stellar views of a family group at Monteverde!
  - highlands
  - Great looks this year!
  - ridiculous views near Arenal

**Toucans**  **Ramphastidae**
- Blue-throated Toucanet - NE
- Collared Aracari
- Fiery-billed Aracari - E
- Yellow-eared Toucanet
- Keel-billed Toucan
- Black-mandibled Toucan

**Woodpeckers**  **Picidae**
- Olivaceous Piculet
- Acorn Woodpecker
- Black-cheeked Woodpecker
- Red-crowned Woodpecker
- Hoffman’s Woodpecker
- *Hairy Woodpecker
- Smoky-brown Woodpecker
- Rufous-winged Woodpecker
- Golden-olive Woodpecker
- Chestnut-colored Woodpecker
- Lineated Woodpecker
- Pale-billed Woodpecker
  - One near Arenal
  - Always a pleasure!
  - A pair at our lunch stop near San Isidro
  - finally tracked down at Monteverde
  - magnificent views at La Selva
  - a beauty! La Selva
  - a few of this lovely, huge woodpecker seen

---

Rockjumper Birding Tours
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caracaras, Falcons  Falconidae</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern Crested Caracara</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-headed Caracara</td>
<td>great views!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laughing Falcon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collared Forest Falcon</td>
<td>an, unfortunately, brief flyby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Kestrel</td>
<td>one near Monteverde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bat Falcon</td>
<td>distant views near Cinchona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peregrine Falcon</td>
<td>One soaring low near Dominical</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parrots  Psittacidae</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great Green Macaw - En</td>
<td>Several fabulous flybys near La Selva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarlet Macaw</td>
<td>numerous at Tarcoles and Villa Lapas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive-throated Parakeet</td>
<td>a few at La Selva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange-fronted Parakeet</td>
<td>near Monteverde and Ensenada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finsch’s (Crimson-fronted) Parakeet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulphur-winged Parakeet</td>
<td>great views of several flocks at Savegre!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange-chinned Parakeet</td>
<td>great perched scope views, as well as flybys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown-hooded Parrot</td>
<td>numerous around Monteverde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-crowned Parrot</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-fronted Amazon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-lored Amazon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-naped Amazon - Vu</td>
<td>Ensenada and Tarcoles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Mealy Amazon</td>
<td>guatemalae ssp. Recently Split; Carara</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ovenbirds  Furnariidae</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Pale-breasted Spinetail</td>
<td>mid-elevation forests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-faced Spinetail</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotted Barbtaill</td>
<td>views of this furtive species at a few sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruddy Treerunner - NE</td>
<td>in highland mixed flocks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffy Tuftedcheek - NE</td>
<td>in highland mixed flocks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lineated Foliage Gleaner</td>
<td>seen at Cinchona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streak-breasted Treehunter – NE</td>
<td>quick views of this shy species at Monteverde!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buff-throated Foliage Gleaner</td>
<td>one seen well near Arenal, several heard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tawny-throated Leaftoesser</td>
<td>unbelievable views of pair on the Pre-Tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gray-throated Leaftoesser</td>
<td>a pair simply would not get off the path in front of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>us, until we were within 2m of them!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain Xenops</td>
<td>One in flock at Savegre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streaked Xenops</td>
<td>On the Pre-Tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain-brown Woodcreeper</td>
<td>Two at a great antswarm in Carara!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tawny-winged Woodcreeper</td>
<td>Three attending an antswarm near Monteverde!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruddy Woodcreeper</td>
<td>ssp. typical seen at Carara near antswarm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-tailed Woodcreeper – NT</td>
<td>ssp. sylvioides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olivaceous Woodcreeper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wedge-billed Woodcreeper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Barred Woodcreeper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocoa Woodcreeper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotted Woodcreeper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Antbirds</strong>  <strong>Thamnophilidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streak-headed Woodcreeper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spot-crowned Woodcreeper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown-billed Scythebill</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Savegre area**

*an obliging bird flew right in near Arenal*

**Antbirds**  **Thamnophilidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antbird</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fasciated Antshrike</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Great Antshrike</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barred Antshrike</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-hooded Antshrike – E</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Black-crowned Antshrike</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russet Antshrike</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain Antvireo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streak-crowned Antvireo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checker-throated Antwren</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slaty Antwren</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dusky Antbird</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bare-crowned Antbird</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dull-mantled Antbird</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chestnut-backed Antbird</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zeledon’s Antbird</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicolored Antbird</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotted Antbird</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocellated Antbird</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Villa Lapas**

**several at Carara**

**Arenal**

*an outstanding display right at our knees!*

**Savegre area**

*a pair of these amazing birds near Arenal!*

**Arenal**

*jaw-dropping experience with a pair at Arenal Carara***

**On the Pre-Tour**

**THE best antbird on Earth, in this author’s opinion; we had a family group of 3 displaying spectacularly at an antswarm near Braulio**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Antthrushes</strong>  <strong>Formicariidae</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black-faced Antthrush</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ssp. hoffmanni at Carara attending swarm**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Antpittas</strong>  <strong>Grallaridae</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Streak-chested Antpitta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thicket Antpitta</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**fine looks at Carara**

**glimpses in deep shadow and cover near Arenal**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Tapaculos</strong>  <strong>Rhinocryptidae</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silvery-fronted Tapaculo - NE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**glimpses only near Savegre**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Tyrant Flycatchers</strong>  <strong>Tyrannidae</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rough-legged Tyrannulet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenish Elaenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-bellied Elaenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Elaenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Beardless Tyrannulet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torrent Tyrannulet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mistletoe Tyrannulet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive-striped Flycatcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ochre-bellied Flycatcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slaty-capped Flycatcher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**On the Pre-Tour**

**highlands**

**one near Arenal; very rarely encountered!**

**Ensenada**

**near Cinchona at the waterfall**

---

**Rockjumper Birding Tours**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bird Species</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Sepia-capped Flycatcher</td>
<td>Ensenada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Scrub Flycatcher</td>
<td>Ensenada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Bentbill</td>
<td>Ensenada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant</td>
<td>Carara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slaty-headed Tody-Flycatcher</td>
<td>Carara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Tody-Flycatcher</td>
<td>Carara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher</td>
<td>La Selva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye-ringed Flatbill</td>
<td>Ensenada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-olive Flatbill</td>
<td>Ensenada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Yellow-margined Flatbill</td>
<td>Ensenada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stub-tailed Spadebill</td>
<td>Carara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-throated Spadebill</td>
<td>uncooperative, unfortunately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden-crowned Spadebill</td>
<td>great looks of a pair at Carara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>close range; Carara</td>
<td>one of the specialities on the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tawny-chested Flycatcher – NE, Vu</td>
<td>Pre-Tour, seen well!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Phoebe</td>
<td>beautiful, numerous, in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Tufted Flycatcher</td>
<td>highlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive-sided Flycatcher – NT</td>
<td>Carara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark Pewee - NE</td>
<td>Savegre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ochraceous Pewee – NE</td>
<td>Savegre; fine looks at this</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Wood Pewee</td>
<td>rare species!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Wood Pewee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tropical Pewee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acadian Flycatcher</td>
<td>One at Cinchona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-throated Flycatcher</td>
<td>at a wetland near Cinchona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellowish Flycatcher</td>
<td>highlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-capped Flycatcher – NE</td>
<td>Savegre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-tailed Tyrant</td>
<td>La Selva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Flycatcher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey-capped Flycatcher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Kiskadee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-ringied Flycatcher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden-bellied Flycatcher - NE</td>
<td>several at La Selva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher</td>
<td>Monteverde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streaked Flycatcher</td>
<td>several migrants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat-billed Flycatcher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tropical Kingbird</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rufous Mourner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dusky-capped Flycatcher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panamanian Flycatcher</td>
<td>Tarcoles mangroves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutting’s Flycatcher</td>
<td>Ensenada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great-crested Flycatcher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown-crested Flycatcher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bright-rumped Attila</td>
<td>views at La Selva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotingas</td>
<td>Cotingidae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turquoise Cotinga – NE, Vu</td>
<td>A stunner! Seen at a stakeout in San Isidro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Three-wattled Bellbird</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manakins</th>
<th>Pipidae</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White-ruffed Manakin</td>
<td>Sky Trek Arenal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue-crowned Manakin</td>
<td>Villa Lapas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-collared Manakin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange-collared Manakin - E</td>
<td>Great bird!!! Seen well at Carara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-tailed Manakin</td>
<td>One of the best birds of the tour; near Monteverde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-crowned Manakin</td>
<td>near Braulio Carrillo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-capped Manakin</td>
<td>Stunning close views at Carara</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tityras, Becards</th>
<th>Tityridae</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sulphur-rumped Myiobius</td>
<td>mixed flocks at Arenal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-crowned Tityra</td>
<td>Carara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masked Tityra</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Schiffornis</td>
<td>great looks near Braulio!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinnamon Becard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-winged Becard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Rose-throated Becard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vireos, Greenlets</th>
<th>Vireonidae</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rufous-browed Peppershrike</td>
<td>poor views near Savegre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Green Shrike-Vireo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Mangrove Vireo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-throated Vireo</td>
<td>Savegre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-winged Vireo</td>
<td>Savegre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown-capped Vireo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia Vireo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-eyed Vireo</td>
<td>one near Monteverde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-green vireo</td>
<td>lowland mixed flocks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tawny-crowned Greenlet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesser Greenlet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crows, Jays</th>
<th>Corvidae</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brown Jay</td>
<td>delightful birds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-throated Magpie-Jay</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Silky Flycatchers</th>
<th>Ptiligonatidae</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher - NE</td>
<td>Several of these indescribably beautiful birds seen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at exceptionally close range; Savegre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-and-Yellow Phainoptila - NE</td>
<td>One of the prize birds of the tour seen on the final</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>morning of our tour at Providencia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Swallows, Martins  Hirundinidae
Sand Martin/Bank Swallow
Mangrove Swallow
Grey-breasted Martin
Blue-and-white Swallow
Southern Rough-winged Swallow
Barn Swallow
Cliff Swallow

Wrens  Troglodytidae
Band-backed Wren
Rufous-backed (naped) Wren
Black-throated Wren
Rufous-breasted Wren
Banded Wren
Rufous-and-White Wren
Cabanis’s Wren
Riverside Wren - NE
Bay Wren
Stripe-breasted Wren
(Southern) House Wren
Ochraceous Wren – NE
Timberline Wren – E
White-breasted Wood Wren
Grey-breasted Wood Wren
Northern Nightingale Wren
Song Wren

Gnatcatchers  Polioptilidae
Tawny-faced Gnatwren
Long-billed Gnatwren
White-lored Gnatcatcher
Tropical Gnatcatcher

Mockingbirds, Thrashers  Mimidae
Tropical Mockingbird

Thrushes  Turdidae
Black-faced Solitaire
Black-billed Nightingale Thrush - NE
Orange-billed Nightingale Thrush
Slaty-backed Nightingale Thrush
Ruddy-capped Nightingale Thrush
Black-headed Nightingale Thrush
Swainson’s Thrush
Sooty Thrush – NE
Mountain Thrush
Clay-colored Thrush
White-throated Thrush

Old World Sparrows* Passeridae

House Sparrow

Finches Fringillidae

Yellow-bellied Siskin
Scrub Euphonia
Yellow-crowned Euphonia
Yellow-throated Euphonia
Thick-billed Euphonia
Elegant Euphonia
Spot-crowned Euphonia – NE
Olive-backed Euphonia
Tawny-capped Euphonia
Golden-browed Chlorophonia – NE

New World Warblers* Parulidae

Louisiana Waterthrush
Northern Waterthrush
Golden-winged Warbler – Vu
Black-and-White Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler
Flame-throated Warbler – NE
Tennessee Warbler
Grey-crowned Yellowthroat
Mourning Warbler
Kentucky Warbler
Olive-crowned Yellowthroat
American Redstart
Tropical Parula
Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
American Yellow Warbler
Mangrove Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Townsend’s Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Buff-rumped Warbler
Rufous-capped Warbler
Black-cheeked Warbler – NE
Golden-crowned Warbler
Black-eared (Costa Rican)Warbler – NE
Canada Warbler
Wilsons’ Warbler
Slate-throated Whitestart

*Passer domesticus

Clay-colored Thrush
White-throated Thrush

Old World Sparrows  Passeridae

House Sparrow  Passer domesticus

Finches  Fringillidae

Yellow-bellied Siskin  Savegre area
Scrub Euphonia  Ensenada; ssp. affinis
Yellow-crowned Euphonia  Ensenada; ssp. affinis
Yellow-throated Euphonia  bathing in a bromeliad at Villa Lapas
elegant Euphonia  gorgeous views at Savegre!
Spot-crowned Euphonia – NE  Carara NP and Villa Lapas
Olive-backed Euphonia  Arenal
Tawny-capped Euphonia  great looks at Savegre!!
Golden-browed Chlorophonia – NE

New World Warblers  Parulidae

Louisiana Waterthrush  Pre-Tour
Northern Waterthrush
Golden-winged Warbler – Vu  highlands
Black-and-White Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler
Flame-throated Warbler – NE  Savegre area
Tennessee Warbler
Grey-crowned Yellowthroat  near Monteverde
Mourning Warbler  near Arenal
Kentucky Warbler  La Selva
Olive-crowned Yellowthroat
American Redstart
Tropical Parula
Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
American Yellow Warbler
Mangrove Warbler  Mangroves near Cocorocas and Tarcoles
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Townsend’s Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Buff-rumped Warbler
Rufous-capped Warbler
Black-cheeked Warbler – NE  mixed flocks near Savegre
culicivorus and godmani ssps.
Golden-crowned Warbler
Black-eared (Costa Rican)Warbler – NE  several near Monteverde
Canada Warbler
Wilsons’ Warbler
Slate-throated Whitestart

a few seen
Collared Whitestart – NE  
*a common delight in the highlands!*

Wrenthrush – E  
nice looks at this interesting species

Family Uncertain  
*Incertae Sedis*

we worked with a few individuals to earn some

Oropendolas, Orioles & Blackbirds  
*Icteridae*

Eastern Meadowlark
Yellow-billed Cacique  
*one skulking bird showed well near Arenal*
Chestnut-headed Oropendola
Montezuma Oropendola
Scarlet-rumped Cacique  
*La Selva*
Streak-backed Oriole  
*Ensenada*
Baltimore Oriole
Spot-breasted Oriole  
*Ensenada*
Black-cowled Oriole
Melodious Blackbird  
*now-common expansión species*
Great-tailed Grackle

Bananaquit  
*Coerebidae*

New World Sparrows & Allies  
*Emberizidae*

Rufous-collared Sparrow
Volcano Junco – E  
*only at Cerro de la Muerte*
Stripe-headed Sparrow
White-eared Ground Sparrow  
gorgeous! *Leucotis ssp.*
*Olive Sparrow*
Black-striped Sparrow  
*Arenal and Villa Lapas area*
Orange-billed Sparrow
Chestnut-capped Brush Finch  
*highlands*
Sooty-faced Finch – NE  
great looks on the Pre-Tour and for a few at
*Cataratas del Toro!*
Large-footed Finch – NE  
*Savegre area*
White-naped Brush Finch  
*Savegre area*
Yellow-thighed Finch – NE  
*Savegre Area*
Common Bush Tanager (Chlorospingus)
Sooty-capped Bush Tanager (Chlorospingus) - NE  
*Highlands*

Tanagers and Allies  
*Thraupidae*

Dusky-faced Tanager  
*La Selva*
White-shouldered Tanager  
*Villa Lapas and Carara NP*
Crimson-collared Tanager  
*Cinchona and Arenal*
Passerini’s Tanager
Cherrie’s Tanager – NE  
a few along the road
Blue-grey Tanager
Palm Tanager
Plain-colored Tanager  
Emerald Tanager  
Silver-throated Tanager  
Speckled Tanager  
Bay-headed Tanager  
Golden-hooded Tanager  
Spangle-cheeked Tanager – NE  
Scarlet-thighed Dacnis  
Blue Dacnis  
Shining Honeycreeper  
Red-legged Honeycreeper  
Green Honeycreeper  
Black-and-Yellow Tanager – NE  
Slaty Flowerpiercer – NE  
Peg-billed Finch – NE  
Scarlet-thighed Dacnis  
Blue Dacnis  
Emerald Tanager  
highlands

Grosbeaks, Saltators & Allies  
Cardinalidae

Flame-colored Tanager  
Summer Tanager  
Scarlet Tanager  
Tooth-billed (Hepatic) Tanager  
Red-throated Ant Tanager  
Carmiol’s Tanager  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Slate-colored Grosbeak  
Black-headed Saltator  
Buff-throated Saltator  
Greyish Saltator  
Blue-black Grosbeak  
Savegre area

Mammals

Margay  
White-nosed Coati  
Collared Peccary  
Virginia Possum  
Eastern Cottontail  
Hoffman’s Two-toed Sloth  
Mantled Howler Monkey  
Geoffrey’s Spider Monkey  
Leopardus wieldii  
Nasua narica  
Pecari tajacu  
Didelphia virginiana  
Sylvilagus floridanus  
Choloepus hoffmanni  
Alouatta palliata  
Ateles geoffreyi
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wildlife</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White-throated Capuchin</td>
<td><em>Cebus capucinus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central American Agouti</td>
<td><em>Dasyprocta punctata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central American Dwarf Squirrel</td>
<td><em>Microsciurus alfari</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-tailed Squirrel</td>
<td><em>Sciurus granatensis</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Variegated Squirrel</td>
<td><em>Sciurus variegatoides</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Reptiles and Amphibians

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wildlife</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cane Toad</td>
<td><em>Rhinella marina</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainforest Frog</td>
<td><em>Lithobates vaillantii</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green and Black Poison Frog</td>
<td><em>Dendrobates auratus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strawberry Poison Frog</td>
<td><em>Oophaga pumilio</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small-headed Treefrog</td>
<td><em>Dendropsophus microcephalus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climbing Treefrog</td>
<td><em>Smilisca baudinii</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masked Treefrog</td>
<td><em>Smilisca phaeota</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-eyed Treefrog</td>
<td><em>Agalychnis callidryas</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoky Jungle Frog</td>
<td><em>Leptodactylus pentadactylus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Crocodile</td>
<td><em>Crocodylus acutus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drab Cat-eyed Snake</td>
<td><em>Imantodes inornatus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central American Lyre Snake</td>
<td><em>Trimorphodon quadruplex</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common House Gecko</td>
<td><em>Hemidactylus frenatus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neotropical Green Anole</td>
<td><em>Anolis biporcatus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bighead Anole</td>
<td><em>Anolis capito</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground Anole</td>
<td><em>Anolis humilis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry Forest Anole</td>
<td><em>Anolis cupreus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Basilisk</td>
<td><em>Basiliscus basiliscus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oaxacan Spinytail Lizard</td>
<td><em>Ctenosaura similis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Iguana</td>
<td><em>Iguana iguana</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle American Ameiva</td>
<td><em>Ameiva festiva</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rainbow Ameiva</td>
<td><em>Ameiva undulata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Wood Turtle</td>
<td><em>Rhinoclemmys funerea</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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