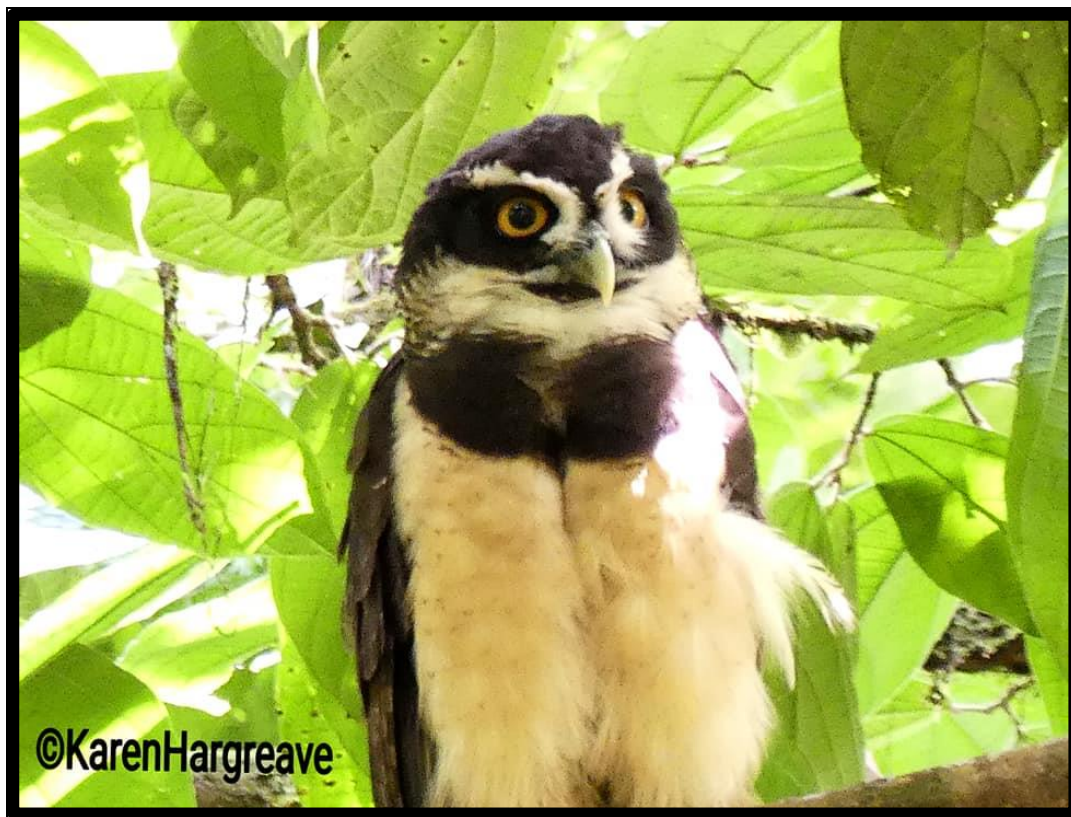




COSTA RICA ESCAPE: CUSTOM TOUR REPORT

13 - 20 JANUARY 2019

By Eduardo Ormaeche



Spectacled Owl

Overview

Leading a birding tour in Costa Rica is great, but getting the chance to lead the same tour back-to-back is just phenomenal. That is how I must describe my second Costa Rica Escape tour of 2019.

Only two days after our set-departure tour had ended with great results we embarked on a new adventure, following the same birding route, but on a custom tour this time. In the company of fantastic people, who had had previous experience in the country, we focused on a specific list of hoped-for lifers this time but still enjoyed every bird sighting as well mammals and all sort of other creatures such as reptiles, amphibians, and butterflies.

Our final bird list included, among many others, sightings of **Resplendent Quetzal**, **Great Curassow**, **Snowcap**, **Buffy Tuftedcheek**, **American Dipper**, **Streak-chested Antpitta**, **Spectacled Owl**, **Black-and-white Owl**, **Great Potoo**, **Turquoise-browed Motmot**, **White-eared Ground Sparrow**, **Spangle-cheeked Tanager**, **Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher**, **Spotted Wood Quail**, **Northern Barred Woodcreeper**, **Pale-billed Woodpecker**, **Silvery-fronted Tapaculo**, **Great Green Macaw**, **Coopery-headed Emerald**, **Golden-browed Chlorophonia**, **Timberline Wren**, **Volcano Junco**, **Fiery-billed Aracari**, **Scarlet Macaw**, **Mangrove Hummingbird**, **Prong-billed Barbet**, **Red-headed Barbet**, **Merlin**, **Black Guan**, and **Snowy Cotinga**.

Detailed Report

Day 1, Freddo Fresas, La Paz Waterfall, Cinchona Feeders, Virgen del Socorro

After ticking **Hoffmann's Woodpecker**, **Rufous-backed Wren**, **Great-tailed Grackle**, **American Yellow Warbler**, and **White-winged Dove** we left our hotel in Alajuela and headed to the Freddo Fresas restaurant on the way to the Caribbean slope. Here at 1200 meters (3940 feet) elevation there are some nice hummingbird feeders, which attract the impressive **Violet Sabrewing**. We saw other birds such as **Blue-grey Tanager**, **Scarlet-rumped Tanager**, **Wilson's Warbler**, **Mountain Elaenia**, and **Clay-colored Thrush** (which is the national bird of Costa Rica). However, our main target, White-eared Ground Sparrow, proved very elusive and uncooperative, allowing only me to have a glimpse of it.

After some failed attempts we continue our drive to La Paz Waterfall. La Paz Waterfall Gardens involves a large complex that includes a lodge, a restaurant, a collection of native wildlife, a terrarium, and an orchid garden, all with an educational and recreational purpose. The hummingbird feeders attract many good species, including the endemic **Coppery-headed Emerald**, **Black-bellied Hummingbird**, **Purple-throated Mountaingem**, and **Green Thorntail**. It was a weekend, and the place was very crowded, so we walked some forest trails and managed to get good views of **Prong-billed Barbet**, **Northern Tufted Flycatcher**, **Ochraceous Wren**, **Black Phoebe**, and **Slate-throated Whitestart**. We heard **Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush** calling from the woods, but it did not come for us. We also saw our first North American warblers, **Chestnut-sided** and **Tennessee Warblers**.

We went to the restaurant to have lunch, and, sitting strategically near to the entrance where we could have a view of the outside and the artificial waterfall wall next to the restaurant, we were ecstatic to see **Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush** and **Sooty-faced Finch**, both important targets

for the day. We finished lunch and started the walk to the waterfalls trails, but it was so crowd that it was not really worth it to try for birds, and the bird activity was rather quiet.

So we continue our drive to the Caribbean slope, and our next port of call was the Cinchona feeders, a well-known restaurant on the way to Puerto Viejo. We were lucky to have good activity at the feeders, getting species such as **Silver-throated Tanager**, **Prong-billed Barbet**, **Red-headed Barbet**, **Baltimore Oriole**, **Golden-winged Warbler**, and the only **Blackburnian Warbler** we saw on the entire trip



Red-headed Barbet

We also observed more **Coopery-headed Emeralds**, **Purple-throated Mountaingem**, and **Violet Sabrewing**. Then we decided to check the Virgen del Socorro forest track along the river and were rewarded with fantastic scope views of two **American Dippers**.

We continued the drive to Sarapiquí. On the way we saw our first flocks of **Montezuma Oropendolas** and **Chestnut-headed Oropendolas** and had nice views of **Red-lored Amazon**. We arrived at our hotel, where **Tropical House Geckos** distracted us during our checklist session. With a few nice drinks we celebrated our first day in Costa Rica.

Day 2, La Selva Biological Station

We had a predawn start to visit La Selva Biological Station. There was a **Spectacled Owl** calling in our hotel grounds by while we were loading the car, but there was no time to look for this species, so I was hoping to find it later on a roosting tree. La Selva was waiting for us, and it is always wise to be there at first light.

La Selva Biological Station is one of tropical America's most important ecological research facilities. It is also one of Costa Rica's most renowned birding destinations. Since its creation in 1968 more than 3100 scientific papers have been published based on research conducted within

the forests of La Selva Biological Station. The station is located on 4,050 acres of lowland forest bordering Braulio Carrillo National Park, and it creates an important corridor from the lowlands to the high mountain peaks.

We arrived at the entrance and immediately found **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Great Antshrike**, **Plain-colored Tanager**, **Scaled Pigeon**, **Short-billed Pigeon**, **Grey-breasted Martin**, **Montezuma Oropendola**, **Chestnut-headed Oropendola**, **Red-lored Amazon**, **Orange-chinned Parakeet**, **Rufous-winged Woodpecker**, **Northern Barred Woodcreeper**, **Stripe-throated Hermit**, and **Grey-headed Chachalaca**.

Then we met Joel, our local guide, who escorted us along the trails of La Selva. We decided on a strategy to find our targets, and soon we had amazing views of **Great Curassow**, followed by a nice pair of **Great Green Macaws** flying by relatively low and showing us their colors and details, and then we had cracker views of **Chestnut-colored Woodpecker**. We also saw **Grey-chested Dove**, **Shining Honeycreeper**, **Red-throated Ant Tanager**, **Broad-billed Motmot**, **Boat-billed Flycatcher**, **White-ringed Flycatcher**, **Great Crested Flycatcher**, **Golden-hooded Tanager**, **Crested Guan**, **Grey-headed Kite**, **Black-cheeked Woodpecker**, and **Pale-billed Woodpecker** and had awesome views of a male **Snowy Cotinga**, one of our main targets of the trip.



Snowy Cotinga (photo Natalia Decastro)

We continued adding sightings to our trip list, including **Rufous-tailed Jacamar**, **Great Tinamou**, **White-collared Manakin**, **Cinnamon Woodpecker**, **Stripe-chested Wren**, and **Buff-rumped Warbler**. We also got good views of some non-avian wildlife such as **Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth**, **Common Green Iguana**, **Strawberry Poison Frog**, **Mantled Howler Monkey**, and **Collared Peccary**, but perhaps one of the best wildlife encounters was the beautiful but deadly **Eyelash Viper** on one of the trails.



Eyelash Viper (photo Eduardo Ormaeche)

The afternoon at La Selva was rather quiet, but we still found **Crested Guan**, **Black-throated Trogon**, **Gartered Trogon**, **Broad-billed Motmot**, **Rufous Motmot**, **Yellow-throated Toucan**, **Collared Aracari**, **Green Kingfisher**, **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Black-crowned Antshrike**, **Black-cowled Oriole**, and several **Tennessee Warblers**.

We then left La Selva and headed back to our lodge in Sarapiquí, where after dinner we had a great encounter with **Red-eyed Treefrog** and a large **Cane Toad**. Another great day had come to end.

Day 3, San Jose River, Cope Wildlife Reserve, El Tapir, transfer to Savegre

Today we had a long day with a first stop at the San Jose River, where we got good views of **Fasciated Tiger-Heron**. We also saw **Torrent Tyrannulet**, **Northern Waterthrush**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **White-collared Swift**, **White-crowned Parrot**, **Baltimore Oriole**, and **Cinnamon Woodpecker**, but, sadly, the Spot-fronted Swift did not show up for us this time as it had on our previous trip.

We continued our trip by driving to the well-known hummingbird hotspot El Tapir (old butterfly garden), where we had great views of **Black-crested Coquette**, **Green Thorntail**, **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird**, **Crowned Woodnymph**, and **Black-and-yellow Tanager**, but without any sign of the most-wanted Snowcap. So after 20 minutes we decided to leave and try later and headed to the Cope Wildlife Reserve.



Cinnamon Woodpecker (photo Giancarlo Ventolini)

We had visited this place on our first tour, and again we had splendid results at the feeders. They are very good for photography and provided close-up views of **Red-legged Honeycreeper** (at least a dozen), **Green Honeycreeper**, **Crimson-collared Tanager**, **Blue-grey Tanager**, **Silver-throated Tanager**, **Red-crowned Ant Tanager**, **Montezuma Oropendola**, **Chestnut-headed Oropendola**, and **Blackish-cheeked Woodpecker**, all at very close distance. By the pool we had good views of **Green Heron** and **Grey-necked Wood Rail**. Around here we also saw **Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth** well.



Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth (photo Eduardo Ormaeche)

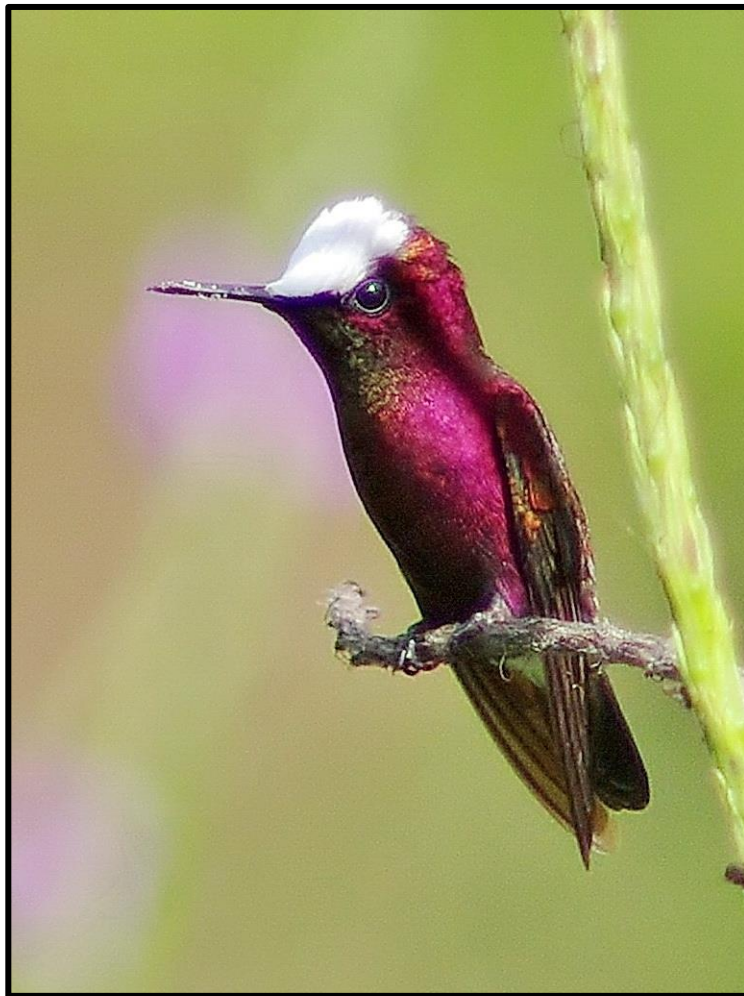
We went to look for roosting trees of Crested Owl and Spectacled Owl, but unfortunately, the Crested Owl moved away and regardless of our efforts we could not find it. However, we got splendid views of a pair of **Spectacled Owls**, and we were surprised with an amazing daytime sighting of the impressive **Black-and-white Owl**. In addition to these two owls we had nice views of **Pale-billed Woodpecker** on a nest and **Great Potoo** roosting at daytime as well.



Honduran White Bats (Eduardo Ormaeche)

We were amazed to see a group of **Honduran White Bats** roosting under a Heliconia leave along the forest trails. These were by far some of the best-looking bats we had ever seen.

To have lunch we went back to the Cope Wildlife Reserve and afterwards headed back to the El Tapir hummingbird hotspot, where we focused all our efforts on finding the most-wanted **Snowcap**. As soon as we arrived Dave and I had a glimpse of a male for three seconds before a **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** chased it away, but at least we now knew that the bird was around, which helped to keep our hope up. We waited, waited, and waited, looking everywhere, and after 30 minutes the bird showed up again for a few seconds, to be chased this time by a **Green Thorntail**, and then it never came back. It hurt to miss the opportunity to enjoy this fantastic bird for a time, but at least it had been seen well.



Snowcap (photo Kevin Easley)

After we left El Tapir we headed directly to Gerardo de Dota in the Cordillera de Talamanca to stay for two nights in the cloudforest of Savegre Hotel.

Day 4, Savegre Hotel

After a pleasant night we woke up before dawn just to hear the last cries of the coyotes in the distance and admire the full night sky. Sadly there was not much time for stargazing, just for

getting a cup of coffee and then leaving the lodge to look for one of the most-wanted and legendary species in the tropical Americas; the Resplendent Quetzal. We planned to get the place where normally the male Quetzal is found and where we had nice views on our previous tour

As soon as dawn appeared we saw our first **Mountain Thrush**, a group of **Black Guans**, **Band-tailed Pigeon**, and **Sooty-capped Bush Tanager**. There were quite a few people from other lodges as well, all gathered to enjoy the quetzal, but the bird was not showing and it was taking longer than normal. We kept waiting until one male **Resplendent Quetzal** was spotted, but a long distance away and very elusive, quite different from the way that it showed about ten days ago. We saw the bird, and we ticked it, but we decided to give it a second try the next day to see whether we could improve the quality of our views.



Scenery above Savegre Hotel (photo Eduardo Ormaeche)

We returned to the hotel to enjoy a delicious breakfast and also managed to see a few birds around the lodge garden such as **Flame-colored Tanager**, **Acorn Woodpecker**, **Lesser Violetear**, **Talamanca Hummingbird**, and **Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher**. Then we switched our vehicle to one of the old and strong lodge jeeps to drive above Savegre Hotel and explore on foot a very nice trail hoping to get more lifers. The walk started quietly until we managed to find a family convoy of **Spotted Wood-Quail**. This is a great start. We continued walking until we heard the obligate **Silvery-fronted Tapaculo** and after few minutes we get it crossing the few gaps in the forest vegetation. A mix-flock showed very nice species such **Black-throated Green-Warbler**, **Tennessee Warbler**, **Collared Whitestart**, **Yellow-throated Vireo**, **Philadelphia Vireo**, **Sooty-capped Bush-Tanagers**, **Flame-throated Warbler**, **Ruddy Treerunner** and **Buffy Tuftedcheek**.



Acorn Woodpecker (Eduardo Ormaeche)

We were following a **Black-faced Solitaire**, which was proving more elusive than usual, and, sadly, only I managed to get a glimpse. Then we returned to the lodge for a late lunch and a flock of **Sulphur-winged Parakeets** passed near the lodge garden, but too quick, so that did not allow us to get a proper view

In the afternoon we went to Miriam's feeders and enjoyed views of **Acorn Woodpecker**, **Hairy Woodpecker**, **Large-footed Finch**, **Yellow-thighed Finch**, **Sooty Thrush**, **Sooty-capped Bush Tanager**, **Grey-tailed Mountaingem**, and **Talamanca Hummingbird**, but perhaps the best was a family group of the handsome **Golden-browed Chlorophonia**.

We returned to the lodge at dusk after a non-productive night bird session and got ready for another dinner and checklist session. The temperature was chilly in Savegre, so a nice cup of tea was very welcome.



Yellow-thighed Finch (Eduardo Ormaeche)

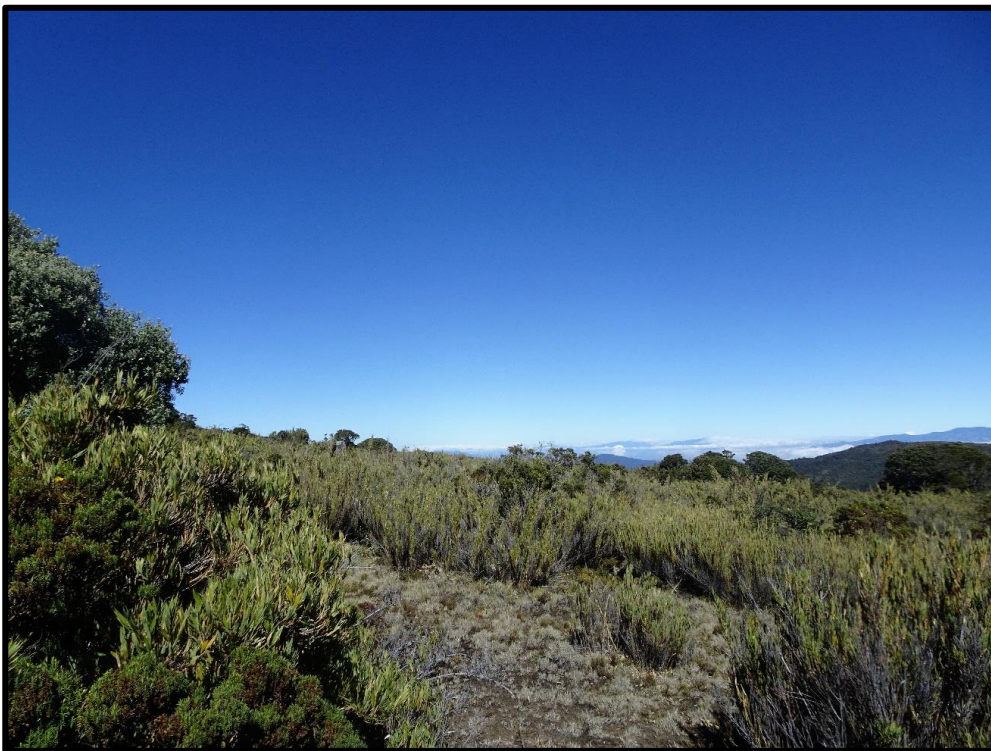
Day 5, Los Quetzales National Park, Bosque del Tolomuco, Villa Lapas

The next morning we repeat our previous day's routine and managed to arrive as early as possible at the Quetzal stakeout. After 25 minutes we saw the male **Resplendent Quetzal**, which flew much closer this time and then perch to the joy of all the birders and photographers. We were happy this time about getting a decent view of this majestic bird, so we continued our drive to Los Quetzales Lodge. We ordered a couple of coffees and decided to spend about 15 minutes at the lodge feeders. The target was **Fiery-throated Hummingbird**, which we saw nicely at the feeders. Other birds included **Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush** and **Black-capped Flycatcher**.

Then we entered Los Quetzales National Park. We reached the top and were amazed by the remains of paramo and the pristine habitat; it was stunning scenery. As soon as we arrived we started to look for our two main targets, the range-restricted **Volcano Junco** and **Timberline Wren**. Fortunately it did not take long to have great views of both targets. With no other target birds to look for we started our drive toward the Pacific slope.



Timberline Wren (photo Deborah Hurlbert)



Los Quetzales National Park (Eduardo Ormaeche)

Our first port of call was Bosque de Tolomuco, a nice B&B property, which provided great hummingbird and tanager feeders. We had a good start with our first **White-tailed Emerald**, **Snowy-bellied Hummingbird**, and **Long-billed Starthroat**. We also found **Red-crowned Woodpecker** as well several old friends, such as **Silver-throated**, **Palm**, **Blue-grey**, and **Scarlet-**

rumped Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Violet Sabrewing, and a female White-crested Coquette. We also had fun observing a group of **Panamanian White-faced Capuchins** coming to the fruit feeders and steal all the bananas

We continued our drive to the Pacific and had lunch at a nice local restaurant, from which we saw **Northern Crested Caracara, Yellow-headed Caracara, Grey Hawk, and House Wren.** Later we made a stop near Jacó on the shores of the Pacific Ocean and had splendid views of **Scarlet Macaws** flying along the coast and **Red-lored Amazons.** Distant scope views were also had of **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Variable and Morelet's Seedeaters.**

Toward evening we arrived at the comfortable Villa Lapas Rain Forest Eco-Resort, where we ticked **Common Pauraque** after dinner.



Grey Hawk (photo Eduardo Ormaeche)

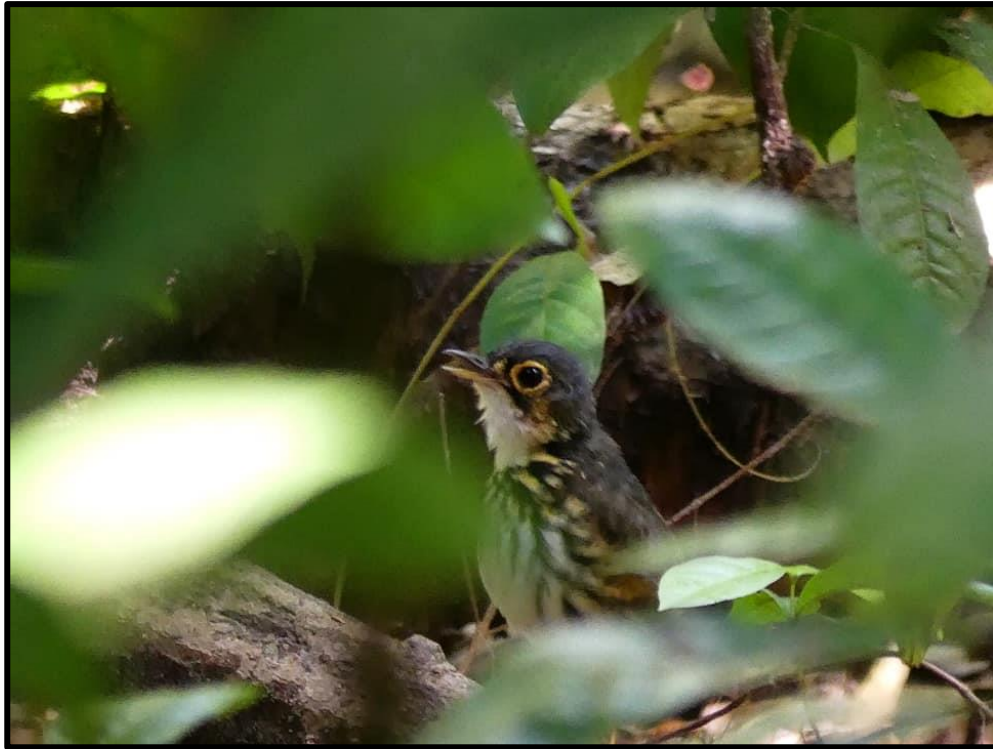
Day 6, Carara National Park

We started the day with getting incredible views of the localized **Fiery-billed Aracari** in the hotel grounds and then drove to Carara National Park, where we spent the whole morning birding and exploring the main trails. Carara National Park is one of the most famous birding destinations in Costa Rica. The park is located on the Pacific Slope on the southern bank of the Río Tárcoles, the river that forms the boundary between the North- and South-Pacific regions. It is situated in the transition zone between tropical dry forest and tropical wet forest.

Before we entered the park we walked across the crocodile bridge over the Tárcoles River, seeing several **American Crocodiles, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Neotropic Cormorant, Great Egret, and Snowy Egret.** Behind the bridge we had super views of **Turquoise-browed Motmot.** Once in the park we found **Chestnut-backed Antbird, Dusky Antbird, and Black-hooded Antshrike,** but our main target was **Streak-chested Antpitta.** It took us lot of time to track down

a bird calling and at the same time trying to eluding the crowds of visitors, but finally our attempts were reward with super view of this understory skulker. Success!

It was nice to see also some **Geoffroy's Spider Monkeys** in the treetops and a family of **Central America Red Brocket** crossing the river, providing good views for us.



Streak-chested Antpitta (photo Karen Hargreave)

In the afternoon we managed to see a nice selection of birds taking a bath in a forest stream with super views. First we were amazed to see a **Great Tinamou** taking a bath for over 15 minutes, keeping all other birds away. It was incredible and even ridiculous to see this huge bird taking all this time to enjoy a slow bath. Immediately after it left we saw a single male **Blue-crowned Manakin**, at least five different **Red-capped Manakins** and one female as well, **Northern Schiffornis**, **Ochre-bellied Flycatcher**, **Sulphur-rumped Myiobius**, and **Blue-throated Sapphire**. Toward evening we returned to the hotel for dinner, another satisfying checklist session, and a few free drinks that were very welcome after a long and hot day.

Day 7, Tárcoles River and transfer to Alajuela

In the morning we enjoyed a boat trip, exploring the mangroves of the Tárcoles River. We had a great time, finding **Magnificent Frigatebird**, **American White Ibis**, **Bare-throated Tiger Heron**, **Northern Jacana**, **Green Kingfisher**, the elusive **American Pygmy Kingfisher**, **Panamanian Flycatcher**, **Northern Scrub Flycatcher**, and **Scaly-breasted Hummingbird** and had good views of the endemic **Mangrove Hummingbird**. We also observed **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** and **Mangrove Swallow**. Along the river we saw not only more **American Crocodiles**, **Common Basilisk**, and **Common Spiny-tailed Iguana** but also **Whimbrel**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, and **Least Sandpiper**. We had scope views of a large group of **Brown Pelicans**, **Royal Tern**, and juvenile **Laughing Gulls**.

After the great boat trip we returned to the Villa Lapas Hotel to collect our luggage and have lunch and then started the drive back to Alajuela.

During the drive back we made a couple of selected stops while passing through some deciduous habitats, where we had nice views of **Black-headed Trogon**, **Cinnamon Hummingbird**, **Tropical Gnatcatcher**, **White-lored Gnatcatcher**, **Lesser Greenlet**, **Scrub Euphonia**, and **White-throated Magpie-Jay**.

At our hotel we had our last meal together and shared laughs and a couple of drinks to celebrate a very good birding week in Costa Rica. We really had enjoyed the trip and each others' company very much. Considering that we had late flights tomorrow we decided to do an extra morning session the next day to look for a couple of birds we had missed.

Day 8, Freddo Fresas, departure

The next day we decided to return to Freddo Fresas to give the White-eared Ground Sparrow another chance. But we started with a bit of birding near the Alajuela area, where we found **Lesson's Motmot**, **Squirrel Cuckoo**, **Wilson Warbler**, **Mourning Warbler**, and **Crimson-fronted Parakeet**. Then we returned to Freddo Fresas and went straight to the place where I had had a glimpse of the ground sparrow a week ago. A few minutes later we had a response from the understory, and finally the **White-eared Ground Sparrow** perched almost at eye level in front of us to give us one-or-two-minute views before it took off again. This way a fabulous way to conclude another fantastic tour in Costa Rica.

SYSTEMATIC BIRD LIST

Bird Taxonomy based on IOC (International Ornithology Committee) Version 9.1
<https://www.worldbirdnames.org/>

Tinamidae

Great Tinamou *Tinamus major* Getting views of this large tinamou having a bath in the forest-stream-pool at Carara National Park was incredible and even ridiculous. It was awesome to see this shy species bathing and preening itself completely unaware of our presence. The species is classified as Near-threatened. Here the subspecies *castaneiceps*. Tinamous are generally shy, and they can be scarce as result of hundreds of years of hunting by men. Tinamous are endemic to the Neotropical Region and are among the oldest bird families in the New World and among the most primitive of birds, as they conserve certain reptilian features, such as their blood proteins and the shape of the palate, which are similar to those found in the dinosaur *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

Slaty-breasted Tinamou (H) *Crypturellus boucardi* Heard at La Selva Biological Station

Anatidae

Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* Seen from the crocodile bridge near Villa Lapas. Here the subspecies *fulgens*, which occurs from SE Texas to Panama

Cracidae

Grey-headed Chachalaca *Ortalis cinereiceps* Excellent views at La Selva Biological Station

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens* Seen at La Selva Biological Station

Black Guan *Chamaepetes unicolor* Great views at Savegre. Found in Costa Rica and Panama only

Great Curassow *Crax rubra* An amazing encounter at La Selva Biological Station as curassows are very shy and scarce as the result of hundreds of years of hunting by men. Great Curassow is

the largest member of the genus *Crax*. The name “curassow” itself is said to derive from the fact that the first examples of these birds to reach Europe were shipped from the West Indian island of Curaçao, where they had been in turn imported from South America.

Odontophoridae

Spotted Wood Quail *Odontophorus guttatus* An amazing encounter in the mountains above Savegre

Ciconiidae

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* Seen at the Pacific slope and flying above the Tárcoles River

Threskiornithidae

Green Ibis *Mesembrinibis cayennensis* Seen at La Selva Biological Station

American White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* Seen along the Tárcoles River

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* Seen along the Tárcoles River

Ardeidae

Fasciated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum* Great views along the San Francisco River. Here the subspecies *salmoni*

Bare-throated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum* A few sightings at the Tárcoles River

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius* Seen roosting at daytime at the Tárcoles River. Here the subspecies *panamensis*. A strictly nocturnal heron

Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* Seen at the Tárcoles River

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* Seen at Cope Wildlife Reserve. Green and Striated Herons are bait-fishing herons, which attract fish by placing bait – insects, flowers, seeds, twigs, bread, even popcorn – on the water’s surface.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Several sightings

Great Egret *Ardea alba* A few sightings on the trip

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* Nice views along the Tárcoles River

Little-blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* Quite a few sightings on the trip

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* Several sightings on the trip

Pelecanidae

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* Great views along the Pacific Ocean

Fregatidae

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* Great views during the boat trip on the Tárcoles River

Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* several sightings throughout the trip

Anhingidae

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* Only one sighting on the trip

Cathartidae

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* Common throughout the trip

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* Common throughout the trip

Pandionidae

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Seen along the Tárcoles River

Accipitridae

Grey-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis* Good sightings at La Selva Biological Station

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* Seen on the Caribbean and Pacific slopes

Common Black Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus* Good views on the Pacific slope near Villa Lapas. Here the subspecies *bangsi*

Grey Hawk *Buteo plagiatus* A great sighting spotted by Ricardo during a lunch stop.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* A couple of sightings

White-tailed Hawk *Geranoaetus albicaudatus* One spotted by David and Karen along the drive back to Alajuela

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus* Good views of one individual along the deciduous habitat during our drive back to Alajuela. Zone-tailed Hawks soar with their wings held in a dihedral position (pointing slightly upwards) and rocking from side to side, a flight style that parallels that of Turkey Vultures. Some ornithologists believe that this mimicry tricks potential prey animals into not being alarmed when a Zone-tailed Hawk flies overhead (Clark 2004).

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* One seen near Savegre during the quetzal search. Here the subspecies *costaricensis*

Rallidae

Grey-necked Wood Rail *Aramides cajaneus* Seen at Cope Wildlife Reserve

Recurvirostridae

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* Seen along the Tárcoles River and from the crocodile bridge

Charadriidae

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* Seen on the river bank of the Tárcoles River

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* Only one seen on the boat ride along the Tárcoles River

Jacanidae

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa* Seen along the Tárcoles River and near the Pacific shore

Scolopacidae

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* Seen along the Tárcoles River

Willet *Tringa semipalmata* Seen along the Tárcoles River

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* Seen along the Tárcoles River and along forest rivers throughout the trip. The most frequently encountered wader

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* Seen along the Tárcoles River

Laridae

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla* Seen along the Tárcoles River

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* Seen along the Tárcoles River

Columbidae

Rock Dove *Columba livia* Common

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa* Great scope views at La Selva

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis* A couple of sightings on the trip. Here the subspecies *pallidicrissa*

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata* Seen at Savegre Hotel. Here the subspecies *crissalis*

Ruddy Pigeon (H) *Patagioenas subvinacea* This species was heard above Savegre.

Short-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas nigristrois* Nice scope views at La Selva Biological Station

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* Common in San José city and at many other places

Inca Dove *Columbina inca* Scope views near Villa Lapas

Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerina* Seen on the Pacific slope near Villa Lapas together with the previous species

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti* Seen at La Selva Biological Station

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* A couple of sightings on the trip

Grey-chested Dove *Leptotila cassinii* Seen along the La Selva Biological Station forest trails

Ruddy Quail Dove *Geotrygon montana* Just a glimpse of one individual that was flushed from the main trail in the Carara National Park

Cuculidae

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris* Common

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* A couple of sightings

Strigidae

Black-and-white Owl *Strix nigrolineata* Incredible sightings near Cope Wildlife Reserve

Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata* Two individuals roosting at daytime near Cope Wildlife Reserve provided a special moment indeed. This species was also heard at Hotel Sarapiquí.

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl (H) *Glaucidium brasilianum* Heard at a few locations on the Pacific slope

Nyctibiidae

Great Potoo *Nyctibius grandis* Seen roosting at daytime near Cope Wildlife Reserve

Caprimulgidae

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* Seen at Villa Lapas

Dusky Nightjar (H) *Antrostomus saturatus* Heard above Savegre with no visuals this time

Apodidae

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris* Several sightings on the tour

Grey-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris* A couple of sightings on the tour. The smallest swift we saw on the tour

Trochilidae

Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy* Good views at the La Paz Waterfall feeders

Long-billed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris* Only one sighting on the tour

Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis* Seen at La Selva Biological Station

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird *Phaeochroa cuvierii* Seen near the Tárcoles River

Violet Sabrewing *Campylopterus hemileucurus* Amazing views at Freddo Fresas, La Paz and the Cinchona feeders

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora* Seen at Cope Wildlife Reserve

Lesser Violetear *Colibri cyanotus* Seen at Savegre

Violet-headed Hummingbird *Klais guimeti* Seen at the El Tapir hummingbird feeders

Black-crested Coquette *Lophornis helenae* Excellent views at the El Tapir hummingbird feeders

White-crested Coquette *Lophornis adorabilis* Only females were seen at Bosque de Tolomuco. Found in Costa Rica and Panama

Green Thorntail *Discosura conversii* Seen at La Paz Waterfall and El Tapir

Fiery-throated Hummingbird *Panterpe insignis* Great views at the feeders of Los Quetzales Lodge. Found in Costa Rica and Panama

White-tailed Emerald *Elvira chionura* Great views at Bosque de Tolomuco. Found in Costa Rica and Panama

Coopery-headed Emerald *Elvira cupreiceps* Great views at La Paz Waterfall and the Cinchona feeders. A Costa Rica endemic

Black-bellied Hummingbird *Eupherusa nigriventris* Seen at the La Paz Waterfall feeders. Found in Costa Rica and Panama

Crowned Woodnymph *Thalurania colombica* Seen at El Tapir

Blue-throated Sapphire *Hylocharis eliciae* Nice views of one individual taking a bath in Carara National Park

Cinnamon Hummingbird *Amazilia rutila* Great views along the Pacific slope on the drive from Villa Lapas to Alajuela. Here the subspecies *corallirostris*

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl* Several sightings throughout the trip. Here the nominate subspecies

Mangrove Hummingbird *Amazilia boucardi* One individual was seen very well in the mangroves of the Tárcoles River. A Costa Rica endemic. The species is classified as Endangered.

Blue-vented Hummingbird *Amazilia hoffmanni* A few sightings on the Pacific slope, including Carara National Park

Snowy-bellied Hummingbird *Amazilia edward* Great views at Tolomuco. Here the subspecies *niveoventer*. Found in Costa Rica and Panama

Snowcap Microchera *albocoronata* Sadly this handsome hummingbird was not seen by all of us because it was behaving very shy due to the aggression of other dominant species like Rufous-tailed Hummingbird. We waited for a long time and had two glimpses of the male. It is the only member of the genus *Microchera*.

Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer *Chalybura urochrysis* Seen at the Cope Wildlife Reserve feeders. Here the subspecies *melanorrhoea*

Purple-throated Mountaingem *Lampornis calolaemus* Seen at the La Paz Waterfall feeders

Grey-tailed Mountaingem *Lampornis cinereicauda* Seen at Savegre and Miriam feeders. Grey-tailed Mountaingem *Lampornis cinereicauda* has been split from White-throated Mountaingem *Lampornis castaneiventris*. A Costa Rica endemic

Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula* Seen at the La Paz Waterfall feeders and at Tolomuco. Here the subspecies *henryi*

Talamanca Hummingbird *Eugenes spectabilis* Great views at Savegre and at Miriam's feeders. Found in Costa Rica and Panama. Named after the Talamanca Mountains in Costa Rica. Talamanca [Admirable] Hummingbird *E. spectabilis* previously split from Rivoli's/Magnificent Hummingbird *E. fulgens* (Ridgway 1911, Cory 1918; see also AOU 1983, Stiles & Skutch 1989, Powers 1999). Genetic studies support this split (Zamudio-Beltrán & Hernández-Baños 2015, NACC 2017-B-2). Change provisional English name (Admirable) to NACC choice of Talamanca Hummingbird

Long-billed Starthroat *Helioaster longirostris* Good views at Bosque de Tolomuco

Magenta-throated Woodstar *Calliphlox bryantae* Good views at Bosque de Tolomuco. Found in Costa Rica and Panama

Volcano Hummingbird *Selasphorus flammula* Seen at Savegre and in the paramo of Los Quetzales National Park. Found in Costa Rica and Panama

Scintillant Hummingbird *Selasphorus scintilla* Seen at Miriam's feeders. Found in Costa Rica and Panama

Trogonidae

Resplendent Quetzal *Pharomachrus mocinno* It took us two mornings to have great views of this bird near Savegre. Sadly on the first morning the bird was not cooperative, eluding us all the time, but on the second morning it did played nice for us. One of the most-wanted species in the Neotropics. The Resplendent Quetzal plays an important role in various types of Mesoamerican mythology. It is the national bird of Guatemala, and its image is found on the country's flag and coat of arms. It also lends its name to the country's currency, the Guatemalan quetzal. The Resplendent Quetzal was considered divine, associated with the "snake god" Quetzalcoatl, by pre-Columbian Mesoamerican civilizations. Its iridescent green tail feathers, symbols for spring plant growth, were venerated by the ancient Aztecs and Maya, who viewed the quetzal as the "god of

the air" and as a symbol of goodness and light. The Maya also viewed the quetzal as symbolizing freedom and wealth due to their view of quetzals dying in captivity and the value of their feathers, respectively. Mesoamerican rulers and some nobility of other ranks wore headdresses made from quetzal feathers, symbolically connecting them to Quetzalcoatl. Since it was a crime to kill a quetzal, the bird was simply captured, its long tail feathers plucked, and was set free. In several Mesoamerican languages the term *quetzal* can also mean "precious", "sacred", or "erected". The species is classified as Near-threatened.

Slaty-tailed Trogon *Trogon massena* Good views at Carara National Park

Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus* Seen at La Selva Biological Station. Here the subspecies *tenellus*

Black-headed Trogon *Trogon melanocephalus* Great views along the Pacific slope on our way back to Alajuela

Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus* Seen at La Selva Biological Station. Here the subspecies *sallaei*

Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris* Only one sighting on the trip

Alcedinidae

American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea* Seen nicely during the boat trip on the Tárcoles River. Here the subspecies *stictoptera*

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* The most-frequently-encountered kingfisher on the tour

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona* Seen on a couple of occasions

Momotidae

Lesson's Motmot *Momotus lessonii* Great views near the Hotel Robledal. *Momotus lessonii* is one of five species in the Blue-crowned Motmot complex recognized by Stiles 2009, SACC 412; change English name from Blue-diademed Motmot to Lesson's Motmot to follow NACC-A-11.

Rufous Motmot *Baryphthengus martii* Great views of one bird at La Selva Biological Station

Broad-billed Motmot *Electron platyrhynchum* Good views at La Selva Biological Station. Here the subspecies *minus*

Turquoise-browed Motmot *Eumomota superciliosa* Great views of this striking motmot near the crocodile bridge near Villa Lapas. The national bird of Nicaragua

Galbulidae

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda* One bird was seen at La Selva Biological Station. Here the subspecies *melanogenia*. Jacamars are insectivores, taking a variety of insect prey (many specialize on butterflies and moths) by hawking in the air. Birds sit in favored perches and sally toward the prey when it is close enough.

Semnornithidae

Prong-billed Barbet *Semnornis frantzii* Great views at the La Paz Waterfall forest trails. Found in Costa Rica and Panama. Prong-billed Barbet together with Toucan Barbet from Colombia and Ecuador are the only members of the Semnornithidae family, which are different from the Capitonidae family, which comprises New World barbets.

Capitonidae

Red-headed Barbet *Eubucco bourcierii* Great views at the Cinchona feeders. Here the subspecies *salvini*

Ramphastidae

Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus* Common at La Selva Biological Station and the Cope Wildlife Reserve

Fiery-billed Aracari *Pteroglossus frantzii* Great views of a pair at Villa Lapas. Found in Costa Rica and Panama

Yellow-throated Toucan *Ramphastos ambiguus* Nice views on the Caribbean slope and at La Selva. Here the subspecies *swainsonii*. It used to be known as Black-mandibled Toucan and Chestnut-mandibled Toucan. *Ramphastos swainsonii* is an uncertain split from *R. ambiguus* (AOU 1998, Ridgely and Greenfield 2001, Dickinson 2003); SACC 440 and NACC 2010-B-13 lump). Yellow-throated Toucan is the appropriate English names for this species (SACC 663). The species is classified as Near-threatened.

Picidae

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus* Great views at Savegre and Miriam's feeders. Here the subspecies *striatipectus*

Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani* Great views at the feeders at Cope Wildlife Reserve and La Selva Biological Station

Red-crowned Woodpecker *Melanerpes rubricapillus* Seen on the Pacific slope on the way to Villa Lapas

Hoffmann's Woodpecker *Melanerpes hoffmannii* Several views of this species throughout the trip. Named after Karl Hoffmann (7 December 1823 – 11 May 1859), a German physician and naturalist in Costa Rica. In 1853 he travelled to Costa Rica with Alexander von Frantzius to collect natural history specimens. With his wife, Emilia Hoffmann, he settled in San José, where he operated a consultation clinic and small pharmacy from his home. In order to supplement his income he sold wine and liquor. He served as a doctor in the Costa Rican army during the invasion of William Walker in 1856. He died of typhoid in Puntarenas. Hoffmann is commemorated by the names of a number of animals, including Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth (*Choloepus hoffmanni*), Hoffmann's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes hoffmannii*), Sulphur-winged Parakeet (*Pyrrhura hoffmanni*), Hoffmann's Antthrush (*Formicarius hoffmanni*), Hoffmann's Earth Snake (*Geophis hoffmanni*), and a millipede, *Chondrodesmus hoffmanni* (Peters, 1864).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius* Nice views at La Selva Biological Station

Hairy Woodpecker *Leuconotopicus villosus* Good views at Miriam's feeders. Here the subspecies *extimus*

Rufous-winged Woodpecker *Piculus simplex* Great views at La Selva Biological Station

Cinnamon Woodpecker *Celeus loricatus* Nice views at La Selva Biological Station

Chestnut-colored Woodpecker *Celeus castaneus* We had incredible views at La Selva Biological Station.

Pale-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus guatemalensis* Seen at La Selva Biological Station and on a nest near Cope Wildlife Reserve

Falconidae

Northern Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway* Common in open country

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima* Nice views on the Pacific slope

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans* Great sightings at La Selva Biological Station. This Neotropical species is a specialist snake-eater. It catches mainly snakes, including venomous ones such as coral snakes, and lizards, and, to a lesser extent, small rodents, bats, and centipedes. Its common and scientific names both refer to its distinctive voice.

Merlin *Falco columbarius* Unexpected views of one individual near Savegre

Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis* Nice scope views of one individual. Bat Falcons perch conspicuously on high, open snags, from which they launch aerial attacks on their prey. They hunt

bats, birds, and large insects such as dragonflies. The smaller male takes more insects and the female more birds and bats. The flight is direct and powerful. This falcon is partly crepuscular, as the bats in its diet suggest. It lays two or three brown eggs in an unlined treehole nest.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* Seen flying above the Tárcoles River

Psittacidae

Great Green Macaw *Ara ambiguus* Two individuals flying by above La Selva Biological Station provided good views. The species is classified as Endangered.

Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao* Great views near Villa Lapas and at Carara National Park Always a pleasure to see

Finch's Parakeet *Psittacara finschi* nice scope views in Alajuela outside a place whose name I would not repeat here. Named after Herman Otto Finsch (1839-1917), German diplomat, administrator, ornithologist, collector, and author

Sulphur-winged Parakeet (H) *Pyrrhura hoffmanni* Unfortunately we only saw a flock flying by high above the forest in Savegre.

Orange-chinned Parakeet *Brotogeris jugularis* Several sightings at La Selva and the Cope Wildlife Reserve feeders

White-crowned Parrot *Pionus senilis* Scope views near La Selva Biological Station

Red-lore Amazon *Amazona autumnalis* Great flying-by views on the Pacific slope

Furnariidae

Red-faced Spinetail *Cranioleuca erythrops* Excellent views at La Paz Waterfall. Here the subspecies *rufigenis*

Lineated Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla subalaris* Only one sighting

Buffy Tuftedcheek *Pseudocolaptes lawrencii* Great views in a mixed flock above Savegre. Found in Costa Rica and Panama only as Pacific Tuftedcheek *Pseudocolaptes johnsoni* is split from *P. lawrencii* (Ridgely & Tudor 1994)

Ruddy Treerunner *Margarornis rubiginosus* Nice views above Savegre. Here the nominate subspecies

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus* Seen at La Selva Biological Station

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* Seen at La Selva Biological Station

Northern Barred Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae* Great views at La Selva Biological Station

Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans* A few sightings on the trip

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii* Seen at Carara National Park

Spot-crowned Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes affinis* Seen at Carara National Park

Thamnophilidae

Slaty Antwren *Myrmotherula schisticolor* Good views of male and female

Great Antshrike *Taraba major* Great views at La Selva Biological Station. Here the subspecies *obscurus*

Black-hooded Antshrike *Thamnophilus bridgesi* Good views of a pair at Carara National Park. Found in Costa Rica and Panama

Black-crowned Antshrike *Thamnophilus atrinucha* Seen at La Selva Biological Station. Change English name of Western Slaty Antshrike to Black-crowned Antshrike (SACC 570)

Dusky Antbird *Cercomacroides tyrannina* Seen at Villa Lapas

Chestnut-backed Antbird *Poliocrania exsul* Seen at Carara National Park

Grallariidae

Streak-chested Antpitta *Hylopezus perspicillatus* Wow! It made us work hard, but what amazing close-up view we got of this forest skulker!

Formicariidae

Black-faced Antthrush (H) *Formicarius analis* Heard at Carara National Park

Rhinocryptidae

Silvery-fronted Tapaculo *Scytalopus argentifrons* A mouse in the understory. We had brief but good views of it above Savegre. Found only in Costa Rica and Panama

Tyrannidae

Mountain Elaenia *Elaenia frantzii* Seen at Freddo Fresas, La Paz Waterfall, and Savegre

Torrent Tyrannulet *Serpophaga cinerea* Nice views along the river at La Paz Waterfall

Mistletoe Tyrannulet *Zimmerius parvus* Great views at a few locations. *Zimmerius parvus* is split from Paltry Tyrannulet (*Z. vilissimus*) (Rheindt et al. 2013).

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus* Seen at the manakin pool in the Carara National Park

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum* Seen well on the Pacific slope

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* Seen at La Paz Waterfall and at Virgen del Socorro

Northern Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus* Seen at the La Paz Waterfall forest trails

Western Wood Pewee *Contopus sordidulus* One noticed during the drive back to Alajuela

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *Empidonax flaviventris* Nice view of one individual at La Selva Biological Station

Black-capped Flycatcher *Empidonax atriceps* Great views at Paraiso Los Quetzales Lodge during our visit to their feeders. Found in Costa Rica and Panama only

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis* Seen in the Caribbean foothills

Grey-capped Flycatcher *Myiozetetes granadensis* Seen at La Selva Biological Station

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* Common

White-ringed Flycatcher *Conopias albobittatus* Seen well at La Selva Biological Station

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus* Seen on the way back to Alajuela

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua* Common at La Selva Biological Station

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* Several sightings throughout the trip

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* Seen on two occasions on the Pacific slope

Panamanian Flycatcher *Myiarchus panamensis* Seen in the mangroves at Río Tárcoles

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus* Only one sighting on the trip

Bright-rumped Attila (H) *Attila spadiceus* Heard at La Selva and Villa Lapas

Cotingidae

Snowy Cotinga *Carpodectes nitidus* Splendid views of a male at La Selva Biological Station. One of the birds of the trip

Pipridae

White-collared Manakin *Manacus candei* Nice views at La Selva Biological Station

Blue-crowned Manakin *Lepidothrix coronata* Close-up views of a male at Carara National Park while watching the manakin pool

Red-capped Manakin *Ceratopipra mentalis* An amazing show indeed, at least four males and one female were seen bathing at Carara

Tityridae

Sulphur-rumped Myiobius *Myiobius sulphureipygius* Seen at Carara National Park. Here the subspecies *aureatus*

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata* Seen at La Selva Biological Station

Northern Schiffornis *Schiffornis veraepacis* One individual sharing a nice bath with the manakins at Carara National Park. Northern Schiffornis is split from the Thrush-like Manakin *S. turdina* complex (Nyári 2007, Donegan et al. 2011, SACC 505, 543A). Thrush-like Schiffornis was split into six new species:

Guianan Schiffornis *Schiffornis olivacea* Venezuela, Guyana, NC Brazil

Northern Schiffornis *Schiffornis veraepacis* From S Mexico to W Colombia, W Ecuador and NW Peru

Foothill Schiffornis *Schiffornis aenea* C Ecuador to N Peru

Russet-winged Schiffornis *Schiffornis stenorhyncha* Panama to N Venezuela and N Colombia

Brown-winged Schiffornis *Schiffornis turdina* Venezuela, through Amazonia, W Brazil, SE Peru and Bolivia

Greenish Schiffornis *Schiffornis virescens* SE Brazil, Paraguay and NE Argentina

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae* Seen in the deciduous forest on the way back to Alajuela

Vireonidae

Rufous-browed Peppershrike (H) *Cyclarhis gujanensis* We heard this bird at Savegre but we were working on a better fish to fry.

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* Good views at Savegre

Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus* Seen in a mixed flock at Savegre

Lesser Greenlet *Hylophilus decurtatus* A couple of sightings along the deciduous habitat during the way back to Alajuela

Corvidae

White-throated Magpie-Jay *Calocitta formosa* Great views of a flock of at least four birds along the deciduous habitat during the way back to Alajuela

Ptiliognatidae

Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher *Ptiliogonys caudatus* Great views at Savegre. Despite their common names, silky-flycatchers are more closely related to waxwings and thrushes than to tyrant flycatchers, and they eat fruit more often than they eat insects. [Richard Garrigues *The Birds of Costa Rica*, pg.272]

Hirundinae

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea* Nice views at the Tárcoles River

Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca* Common at Savegre

Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea* Seen at La Selva Biological Station

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* Noticed with other flocks of swallows on the Caribbean slope

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* Seen at La Selva Biological Station

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Seen around San José

Troglodytidae

Rufous-backed Wren *Campylorhynchus capistratus* The first sighting was in our hotel grounds in Alajuela.

Bay Wren (H) *Cantorchilus nigricapillus* We heard this bird along the Virgen del Socorro track. We did not need it,

Stripe-breasted Wren *Cantorchilus thoracicus* Great views at La Selva Biological Station

Ochraceous Wren *Troglodytes ochraceus* Nice views at the La Paz Waterfall forest trails. Found in Costa Rica and Panama only

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* Seen on the way to the Pacific

Timberline Wren *Thryorchilus browni* Great views of one individual above Savegre in Los Quetzales National Park. Found in Costa Rica and Panama

White-breasted Wood Wren (H) *Henicorhina leucosticta* We heard it at Carara National Park while searching for the antpitta

Grey-breasted Wood Wren (H) *Henicorhina leucophrys* We heard it at La Paz Waterfall but did not need it.

Poliopitidae

Trilling Gnatwren (H) *Ramphocaenus melanurus* We heard it at Carara National Park while looking for the antpitta

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Poliopitila plumbea* One seen well on the way back to Alajuela

White-lored Gnatcatcher *Poliopitila albiloris* One seen well on the way back to Alajuela. Here the subspecies *albiloris*

Turdidae

Black-faced Solitaire (H) *Myadestes melanops* Seen by the leader only as it was eluding us above Savegre. Found in Costa Rica and Panama

Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus gracilirostris* Seen at Los Quetzales Lodge Here the nominate subspecies

Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus frantzii* Common around Savegre. Here the subspecies *frantzii*

Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus fuscater* Seen at the La Paz Waterfall forest trails. Here the subspecies *hellmayri*

Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina* Great views at the Cope Wildlife Reserve. The species is classified as Near-threatened.

Sooty Thrush *Turdus nigrescens* Good views at Savegre and Miriam's feeders. Found in Costa Rica and Panama.

Mountain Thrush *Turdus plebejus* Seen at Savegre

Clay-colored Thrush *Turdus grayi* Several sightings. The national bird of Costa Rica

Cinclididae

American Dipper *Cinclus mexicanus* Two birds were seen nicely near Virgen del Socorro

Fringillidae

Scrub Euphonia *Euphonia affinis* Good views on the deciduous habitat on the way back to Alajuela

Olive-backed Euphonia *Euphonia gouldii* Seen at Bosque de Tolomuco

Tawny-capped Euphonia *Euphonia anneae* Seen at the La Paz Waterfall forest trails

Golden-browed Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia callophrys* Amazing views of a family of three birds near Miriam's feeders. Found in Costa Rica and Panama only. A great find!

Passerellidae

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis* Several sightings

Volcano Junco *Junco vulcani* Great views at Los Quetzales National Park. Found in Costa Rica and W Panama only

White-eared Ground Sparrow *Melospiza leucotis* Short but splendid views of this shy species at Freddo Fresas during our second try

Orange-billed Sparrow *Arremon aurantirostris* Several sightings at Carara National Park

Sooty-faced Finch *Arremon crassirostris* Seen in the La Paz Waterfall restaurant area. Incredible! Found in Costa Rica and Panama only

Large-footed Finch *Pezopetes capitalis* Seen at Miriam's feeders. Found in Costa Rica and Panama

Yellow-thighed Finch *Pselliophorus tibialis* Seen at Savegre and Miriam's feeders. Found in Costa Rica and Panama

Common Bush Tanager *Chlorospingus flavopectus* Several sightings throughout the trip. Here the subspecies *regionalis*

Sooty-capped Bush Tanager *Chlorospingus pileatus* Seen at Miriam's feeders and in the Savegre area. Found in Costa Rica and Panama only

Icteridae

Chestnut-headed Oropendola *Psarocolius wagleri* Seen well at the Cope Wildlife Reserve feeders

Montezuma Oropendola *Psarocolius montezuma* Great views at La Selva Biological Station and at the Cope Wildlife Reserve feeders. Named after Motecuhzoma Xocoyotzin (Montezuma II), the ninth *tlatoani* or ruler of Tenochtitlan, reigning from 1502 to 1520. The first contact between indigenous civilizations of Mesoamerica and Europeans took place during his reign, and he was killed during the initial stages of the Spanish conquest of the Aztec Empire, when conquistador Hernán Cortés and his men fought to escape from the Aztec capital Tenochtitlan.

Black-cowled Oriole *Icterus prosthemelas* Good sightings at La Selva Biological Station

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula* Quite a few sightings on the trip

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis* Seen at La Selva Biological Station

Melodious Blackbird *Dives dives* Several sightings including at the Cope Wildlife Reserve feeders

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* Seen on the Tárcoles River

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus* Common and widespread

Parulidae

Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla* A couple of sightings on the trip

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis* A few sightings including at Villa Lapas

Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera* Nice views at La Paz Waterfall and at Cinchona. The species is classified as Near-threatened.

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* One seen above Savegre. This bird feeds on insects and spiders, and, unlike other warblers, forages like a nuthatch, moving up and down tree trunks and along branches. This is the only member of its genus, *Mniotilta*

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea* Great views at the mangroves of the Tárcoles River

Flame-throated Warbler *Oreothlypis gutturalis* Brief views in a mixed flock above Savegre and Cerro de La Muerte. Found in Costa Rica and Panama

Tennessee Warbler *Leiothlypis peregrina* Probably the most-frequently-encountered migratory warbler in Costa Rica during this time of year

Mourning Warbler *Geothlypis philadelphia* Only one sighting not far from Hotel Robledal

Bay-breasted Warbler *Setophaga castanea* One seen at La Selva Biological Station

Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca* One seen at Cinchona

American Yellow Warbler *Setophaga aestiva* Several sightings throughout the trip

Mangrove Warbler *Setophaga petechia* One seen in the mangroves at the Tárcoles River

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Setophaga pensylvanica* One of the most common migratory warblers at this time of year

Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens* Seen above Savegre

Buff-rumped Warbler *Myiothlypis fulvicauda* Seen at La Selva and Villa Lapas

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla* Nice views at several locations

Slate-throated Whitestart *Myioborus miniatus* Seen on the La Paz Waterfall forest trail

Collared Whitestart *Myioborus torquatus* Nice views above Savegre. Found in Costa Rica and Panama

Cardinalidae

Flame-colored Tanager *Piranga bidentata* Seen at the feeders of the Savegre Hotel. Here the subspecies *citrea*, which is found in Costa Rica and Panama

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* One seen at Cinchona

Red-throated Ant Tanager *Habia fuscicauda* Seen at the Cope Wildlife Reserve and La Selva Biological Station. Here the nominate subspecies

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus* Seen at Bosque de Tolomuco

Thraupidae

Crimson-collared Tanager *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus* Good views at the Cope Wildlife Reserve. Here the nominate subspecies

Scarlet-rumped Tanager *Ramphocelus passerinii* Seen at several locations on the trip. Change English name of *R. passerinii* from Passerini's Tanager to Scarlet-rumped Tanager following lump of Cherrei's Tanager *R. p. cherreii*.

Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus* Several sightings. Here the subspecies *cana* without white on the wing

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum* Seen at La Selva and other tanager feeders

Plain-colored Tanager *Tangara inornata* Seen at La Selva Biological Station

Silver-throated Tanager *Tangara icterocephala* Seen at several fruit feeders including Cinchona and Tolomuco

Golden-hooded Tanager *Tangara larvata* Seen at La Selva and Tolomuco

Spangle-cheeked Tanager *Tangara dowii* Great views at Savegre. Found in Costa Rica and Panama only

Shining Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes lucidus* Seen at Carara National Park

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus* Dozens at the feeders of the Cope Wildlife Reserve. Brilliant views

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza* Seen at the feeders of the Cope Wildlife Reserve

Black-and-yellow Tanager *Chrysothlypis chrysomelas* Seen at El Tapir

Slaty Flowerpiercer *Diglossa plumbea* Seen at Savegre, Miriam's feeders, and Freddo Fresas. Found in Costa Rica and Panama

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina* Two seen on the Pacific slope near Tolomuco

Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus* Great views at La Selva Biological Station

Variable Seedeater *Sporophila corvina* Seen at Sarapiquí

Morelet's Seedeater *Sporophila moreletii* Seen on the Pacific slope. *Sporophila moreletii* (including ssp. *sharpei*, *mutanda*) is split from White-collared Seedeater *S. torqueola* based on morphology, deep genetic divergence and polyphyly (Mason et al. 2018, HBW, NACC 2018-C-8).

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus* Seen at Cinchona

Greyish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens* Seen near the Hotel Robledal

MAMMALS

Mammals Taxonomy based on Handbook of the Mammals of the world published by Lynx Edition in association with Conservation International and IUCN

Variegated Squirrel *Sciurus variegatoides* Seen at La Paz Waterfall and Bosque de Tolomuco

Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis* Seen at Miriam's feeders

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata* Seen at Villa Lapas and Carara National Park

Jamaican Fruit Bat (Jamaican Fruit-eating Bat) *Artibeus jamaicensis* Great views at the Hotel Robledal while feeding on a fruiting tree

Honduran White Bat *Ectophylla alba* An amazing sighting of his wonderful species near the Cope Wildlife Reserve

Proboscis Bat *Rhynchonycteris naso* Seen at La Selva Biological Station

Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth *Choloepus hoffmanni* Two sightings at La Selva Biological Station

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth *Bradypus variegatus* Great views at the Cope Wildlife Reserve

Geoffroy's Spider Monkey *Ateles geoffroyi* Nice views at La Selva Biological Station and Carara National Park

Mantled Howler Monkey *Alouatta palliata* Seen well at La Selva Biological Station. The mantled howler is one of the largest Central American monkeys, and males can weigh up to 9.8 kg (22 lb.). It is the only Central American monkey that eats large quantities of leaves; it has several adaptations to this folivorous diet. Since leaves are difficult to digest and provide less energy than most foods, the mantled howler spends the majority of each day resting and sleeping. The male mantled howler has an enlarged hyoid bone, a hollow bone near the vocal cords, which amplifies the calls made by the male; this is the reason for the name "howler". Howling allows the monkeys to locate each other without expending energy on moving or risking physical confrontation.

Panamanian White-faced Capuchin *Cebus imitator* Great views at Bosque de Tolomuco

Collared Peccary *Pecari tajacu* Seen at La Selva Biological Station

Central American Red Brocket *Mazama temama* A family of four individuals was seen nicely at Carara National Park. The Central American Red Brocket is a species of brocket deer ranging from southern Mexico through Central America to northwestern Colombia. It is sympatric with the Yucatan Brown Brocket over part of its range. The species is found in primary and secondary tropical forest at altitudes from sea level to 2800 meters. In Mexico it is regarded as an agricultural pest by bean farmers. It is probably threatened by hunting and deforestation.

Neotropical Otter *Lontra longicaudis* Good and brief views at the San Francisco River while watching the Fasciated Tiger-Heron

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica* One seen at Villa Lapas

REPTILES

American Crocodile *Crocodylus acutus* Several sightings from the bridge near Villa Lapas and along the Tárcoles River

Common Green Iguana *Iguana iguana* Common at La Selva Biological Station

Common Spiny-tailed Iguana *Ctenosaura similis* Common at Villa Lapas and the Tárcoles River

Smooth Helmeted Iguana *Corytophanes cristatus* Good views at the Cope Wildlife Reserve

Common Basilisk *Basiliscus basiliscus* Seen at the Tárcoles River

Common House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus* This is a species of house gecko native to sub-Saharan Africa. It is also currently found in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean, where it has been inadvertently introduced.

Eyelash Viper *Bothriechis schlegelii* An amazing encounter with this striking-looking species at La Selva Biological Station

Black Wood Turtle *Rhinoclemmys funerea* Seen at La Selva Biological Station

White-lipped Mud Turtle *Kinosternon leucostomum* Seen at the Cope Wildlife Reserve

AMPHIBIANS

Cane Toad *Rhinella marina* One seen at Villa Sarapiquí

Strawberry Poison Frog *Oophaga pumilio* Nice views at La Selva Biological Station. It's commonly called the "blue jean frog" in reference to its blue-colored legs.

Red-eyed Treefrog *Agalychnis callidryas* Nice views at Villa Sarapiquí, where we saw the Caribbean race