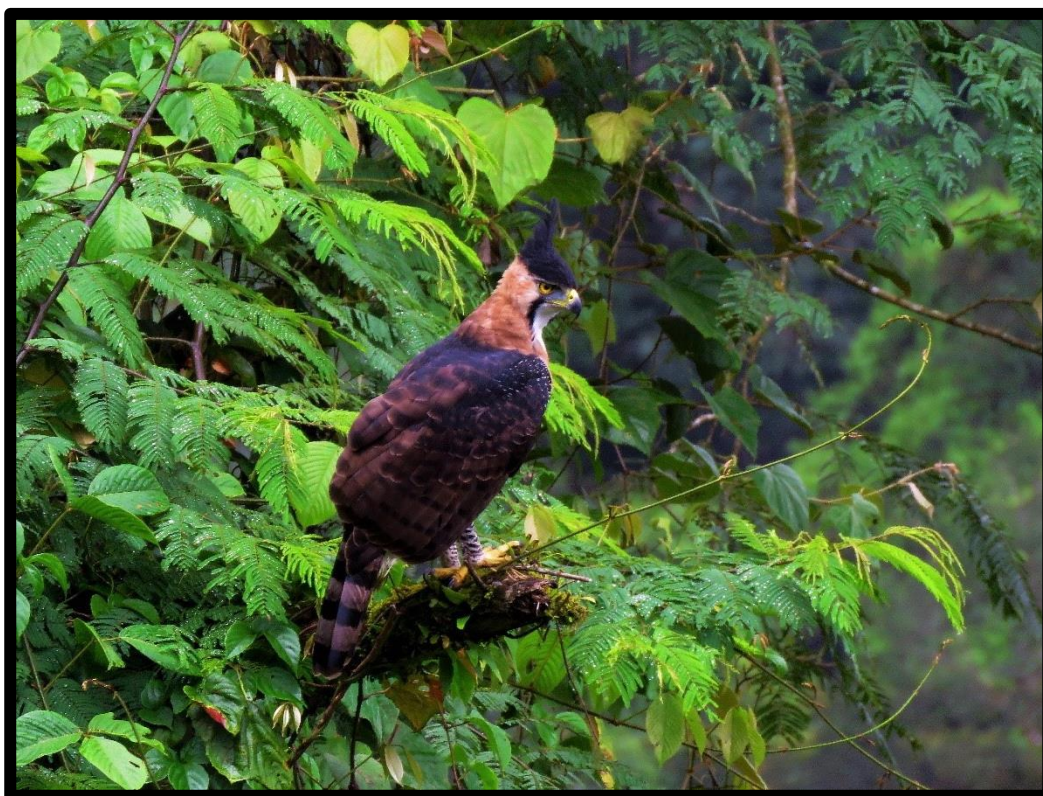




**COSTA RICA
CUSTOM TOUR TRIP REPORT**

16 FEBRUARY – 5 MARCH 2020

By Eduardo Ormaeche



Ornate Hawk-Eagle

Overview

Our Costa Rica 2020 tour was a photographic trip focusing on the birds and wildlife that this fascinating country has to offer. Without the rush to build a large list of species but rather with the intention to get a large amount of good photos while enjoying bird sightings and behavior we had a fantastic time on our trip. We started our trip in Alajuela near San José's Juan Santamaría International Airport and from there drove across the country, visiting different areas including the Caribbean lowlands in the north with obligatory stops at La Selva Biological Station, Sarapiquí, the Cinchona feeders, and the private Donde Cope nature center. Our time here was fantastic; we had the opportunity to see and photograph birds such as the endemic **Coppery-headed Emerald**, **Black-bellied Hummingbird**, **Semiplumbeous Hawk**, **Great Green Macaw**, **White-tipped Sicklebill**, **Great Potoo**, **Spectacled Owl**, **Violet Sabrewing**, **Red-headed Barbet**, **Prong-billed Barbet**, **Blue-throated Toucanet**, **Yellow-throated Toucan**, **Keel-billed Toucan**, **White-necked Puffbird**, **Buff-fronted Quail-Dove**, **Black Guan**, **Buff-rumped Warbler**, and the fabulous **Snowcap**.

Our trip continued to the cloudforest mountains at San Gerardo de Dota at the famous Savegre Hotel, where we managed to record species such as **Large-footed Finch**, **Yellow-thighed Finch**, **Spotted Wood Quail**, **Wrenthrush**, **Hairy Woodpecker**, **Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher**, **Black-and-yellow Phainoptila**, **Golden-browed Chlorophonia**, **Acorn Woodpecker**, **Slaty Flowerpiercer**, **Fiery-throated Hummingbird**, **Talamanca Hummingbird**, **Volcano Junco**, **Timberline Wren**, and the most-wanted **Resplendent Quetzal**.

We continued to the Pacific slope, visiting the Bosque de Tolomuco lodge, where we saw the striking **White-crested Coquette**. This was followed by visits to Carara National Park, Hotel Villa Lapas, and the Tárcoles River, where we found **Scarlet Macaw**, **Blue-crowned Manakin**, **Red-capped Manakin**, **Northern Schiffornis**, **Sulphur-rumped Myiobius**, **Chestnut-backed Antbird**, **Fiery-billed Aracari**, **Double-striped Thick-knee**, **Black-and-white Owl**, and a large number and diversity of aquatic species and deciduous-habitat birds.

We finally returned to the north to visit Monteverde, Caño Negro, and Arenal, where spotted great species such as **Resplendent Quetzal**, **Three-wattled Bellbird**, **Nicaraguan Grackle**, **Pinnated Bittern**, **Thicket Antpitta**, **Great Curassow**, **Black-crested Coquette**, **Ornate Hawk-Eagle**, and **Yellow-eared Toucanet**. We invite you to scroll down and read our 2020 tour report for a more detail view of our travel log and the comprehensive lists of birds and wildlife we recorded on this fantastic trip.

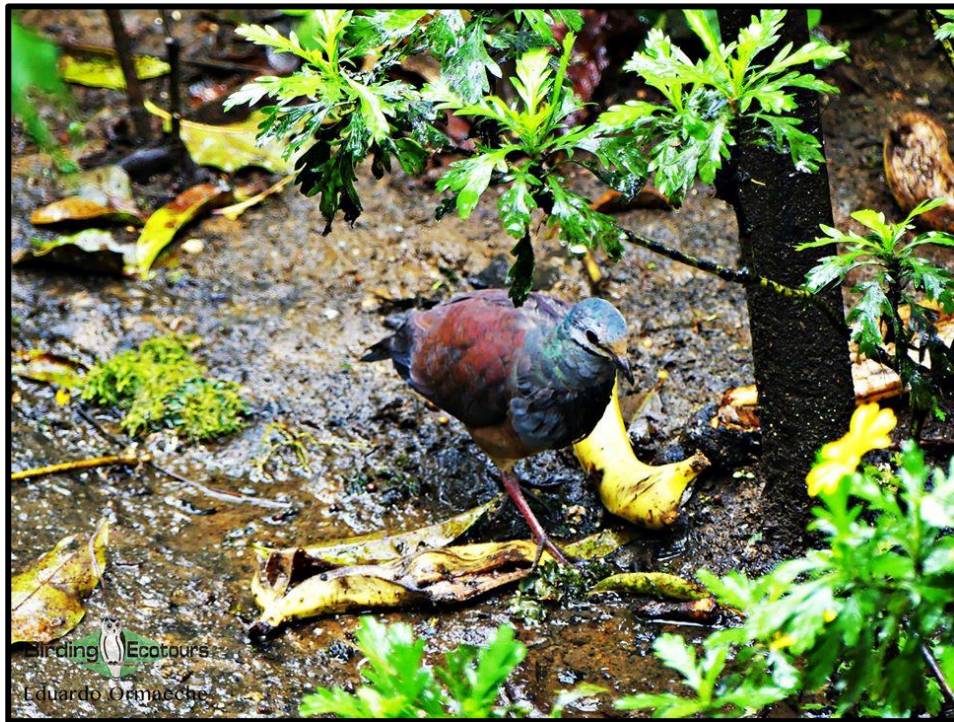
Detailed Report

Day 1, February 16, 2020. Freddo Fresas, Virgen Del Socorro, Cinchona, and Sarapiquí

We had breakfast and immediately after that we spent some time birding and photographing birds around the hotel grounds. There is an interesting set of birds that we can find near San José. For photographers it was lovely to find a pair of **Ferruginous Pygmy Owls** in the garden, posing for a long time. We saw several **White-winged Doves**, **Red-billed Pigeon**, **Clay-colored Thrush** (Costa Rica's national bird), the massive **Rufous-naped Wren**, **Hoffmann's Woodpecker**,

Melodious Blackbird, numerous **Great-tailed Grackles**, **Tropical Kingbird**, **Spot-breasted Oriole**, **American Yellow Warbler**, **Buff-throated Saltator**, **Blue-grey Tanager**, **Inca Dove**, **Finsch's Parakeet**, **Grey-breasted Martin**, **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird**, and splendid views of **White-tailed Kite** flying over the garden. We spent some time here, trying to get many good photos of the birds in the garden.

Then we headed north to Sarapiquí on the Caribbean slope with several selective stops en route. The first was in Alajuela at The Freddo Fresas Restaurant, but unfortunately it was rainy and there was not much bird activity except for a male **Violet Sabrewing**, one of the most striking-looking Costa Rican hummingbirds. We also saw **Lesser Violetear**, **Purple-throated Mountaingem**, **Baltimore Oriole**, **Tennessee Warbler**, **Wilson's Warbler**, **Mountain Elaenia**, and **Blue-grey Tanager**, but the rain made it difficult to photograph all these birds. However, they provided nice views. Once on the Caribbean slope we managed to get good views of **Keel-billed Toucan**, **Yellow-throated Toucan**, and **White-crowned Parrot**. When we arrived at the famous Cinchona feeders restaurant we were completely overwhelmed by the amount of cooperative species that always are seen in the adjacent tress, coming to the feeders. We ordered lunch here and spend a couple of hours because there was a lot to see and photograph. The first surprise was seeing **Buff-fronted Quail-Dove**, which is uncommon in Costa Rica and western Panama only. This was a lifer for all of us.



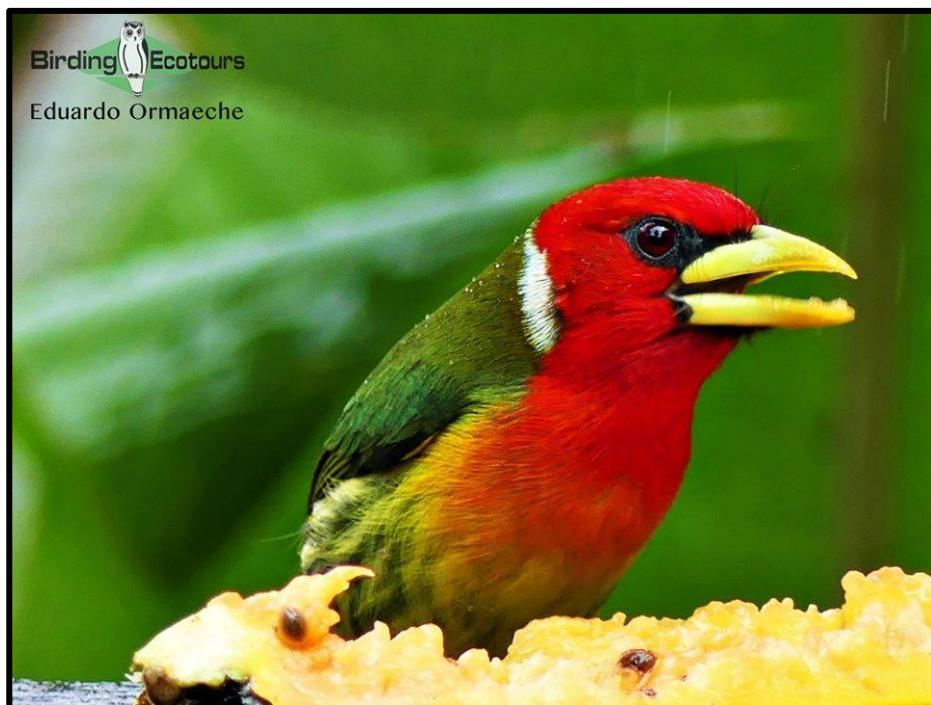
Buff-fronted Quail-Dove

We had incredible views of **Prong-billed Barbet** and the striking male **Red-headed Barbet** and saw **Black Guan**, **Blue-throated Toucanet**, large numbers of **Silver-throated Tanagers**,

Baltimore Oriole, and Scarlet-rumped, Blue-grey, and Palm Tanagers, as well as more Tennessee Warblers, Buff-throated Saltator, and Black-headed Saltator.



Prong-billed Barbet



Red-headed Barbet

The hummingbirds at the feeders were having an amazing feast with several birds giving great views, including species such as the endemic **Coppery-headed Emerald**, **Violet Sabrewing**, **Black-bellied Hummingbird**, **Green Hermit**, **Green Thorntail**, **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird**, and **Green-crowned Brilliant**. A number of **Silver-throated Tanagers** and **Tennessee Warblers** performed a show for us.

We then took a short drive to the Virgen de la Fortuna bridge, where we normally get some activity that include mixed flocks with antbirds and tanagers, but today it was rather quiet. From the bridge we managed to get distant views of a pair of **American Dippers**, which are always nice to see, but they were too far away for photos. After that stop and after having had a great selection of birds throughout the day despite the rain we went directly to Sarapiquí and La Quinta Sarapiquí Lodge as base for a three-night stay.

Day 2, February 17, 2020. Full day at La Selva Biological Station

We had another rainy start but did not change our plans to visit the famous La Selva Biological Station, one of the most important ecological research facilities. Since its creation in 1968 more than 3,100 scientific papers have been published based on research conducted within the La Selva forest.

Even though the weather was not great because of the rain and even though a single-day visit cannot cover what La Selva has to offer we did our best to use our day there. At the entrance we had views of **Grey-headed Chachalaca**, **Crested Guan**, **Yellow-throated Toucan**, **Keel-billed Toucan**, **Collared Aracari**, **Northern Mealy Amazon**, and **Rufous-winged Woodpecker**. Then the rain stopped for a while and we went to explore the trails, finding and photographing **White-necked Puffbird**, **Rufous-tailed Jacamar**, **Black-throated Trogon**, **Rufous Motmot**, **Bay Wren**, **Olive-backed Euphonia**, and the handsome **Semiplumbeous Hawk**. We also saw **Central American Spider Monkey**, **Brown-throated Sloth**, and the yellow morph of the striking **Eyelash Viper**.

Around the headquarters we found **Stripe-throated Hermit**, **Garden Emerald**, **Common Tody-Flycatcher**, **Grey-capped Flycatcher**, **Great Kiskadee**, **Boat-billed Flycatcher**, **Masked Tityra**, our first **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, brief views of **Mourning Warbler**, **Golden-hooded Tanager**, **White-collared Manakin**, and fly-by views of **Great Green Macaw**.

But the photography was difficult in the forest interior, so we decided to return to our lodge and spend the rest of the day photographing birds at the feeders, where we enjoyed views of **Collared Aracari**, **Yellow-throated Toucan**, **Black-cheeked Woodpecker**, **Green Honeycreeper**, **Red-legged Honeycreeper**, **Shining Honeycreeper**, **Montezuma Oropendola**, **Black-cowled Oriole**, and **Red-throated Ant Tanager**. At night we had nice views and got good photos of **Red-eyed Treefrog**, and we heard **Spectacled Owl** in the distance.



Yellow-throated Toucan

Day 3, February 18, 2020. Cope nature reserve

Today we left the lodge and we drove toward “Donde Cope” or Cope nature reserve, which is a private enterprise and an obligatory stop for birders, wildlife lovers, and nature photographers as its feeders, stakeouts, and roosting sites they know in their area provide superb species of birds and wildlife. As the place is not quite large enough to hold big groups one has to make a reservation in advance, so we had the place entire to ourselves.

The birds were similar to those seen at Sarapiquí, such as **Blackish-cheeked Woodpecker**, **Green Honeycreeper**, **Red-legged Honeycreeper**, and **Scarlet-rumped Tanager**, but in addition we had close-up views of **Montezuma Oropendola**, **Chestnut-headed Oropendola**, **Orange-chinned Parakeet**, **Collared Aracari**, and **Crimson-collared Tanager**.

Perhaps the best bird was **White-tipped Sicklebill**, which showed amazingly well in the garden among *Heliconia* flowers. Other hummingbirds here included **White-necked Jacobin**, **Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer**, **Crowned Woodnymph**, **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird**, and **Long-billed Hermit**.



White-tipped Sicklebill

In terms of wildlife, we had views of a **Brown-throated Sloth**, **Common Green Iguana**, and **Smooth Helmeted Iguana**. After getting good photos we moved to the forest near Cope's house, where we had great views of two **Spectacled Owls**, an adult and a late juvenile roosting at daytime.

Finally we went to look for Great Potoo at a nearby private property. We were happy to see how local communities and land workers receive benefits from visitors who come to their land and pay a fee, leaving some income to the local economy. We saw flocks of **White-collared Swifts** and **Great Potoo** at its roosting site.



Spectacled Owl

Then we headed back to La Quinta for lunch, and after a short rest headed to the El Tapir Nature Reserve to look for and photograph hummingbirds. We heard that the place was closed due to the construction of a future lodge or better public facilities for visitors. When we arrived at El Tapir it was actually locked down, but through local contacts we managed to get in to look for the sought-after Snowcap, which can be slightly elusive here.

The hummingbird activity was somewhat slow, but we had great views of a mixed flock of species that crossed the reserve, including **Black-and-yellow Tanager**, **Tawny-crested Tanager**, **Black-faced Grosbeak**, **Golden-hooded Tanager**, **Emerald Tanager**, **Silver-throated Tanager**, **Blue-grey Tanager**, **Palm Tanager**, **Black-cowled Oriole**, **Plain-brown Woodcreeper**, and a single **Bay Wren**. We also had good views of another **Yellow-throated Toucan** and **Short-billed Pigeon**. But then the hummingbirds became very active, and we enjoyed views of **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird**, **Crowned Woodnymph**, **Green Thorntail**, and **Violet-headed Hummingbird**. Although it had made us wait for quite some time, finally at the last minute we had superb views of a male **Snowcap**. It was really worth it! Surprisingly there was no sign of Black-crested Coquette, which is a regular resident in the reserve, but fortunately we knew that we had more opportunities to see this species later during the trip.



Snowcap (photo Joi Inbody)

The group was happy, so we left El Tapir and headed back to Sarapiquí to our hotel. On the way, though, we had to stop the car when we had a very unusual sighting a **Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth** crossing the highway using the telephone cables. We could watch and even make a video of this nice show, including **Tropical Kingbirds** and **Great-tailed Grackles** starting to mob him. Fortunately, the sloth turned at the right corner, following the phone lines and avoiding the electric generator that had been close to him. We much enjoyed the sighting and the photo opportunity. Then we drove back to the lodge to enjoy a nice dinner together with a bottle of wine in celebration of our Snowcap victory.



Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth

Day 4, February 19, 2020. Transfer to San Gerardo de Dota and the Savegre Hotel

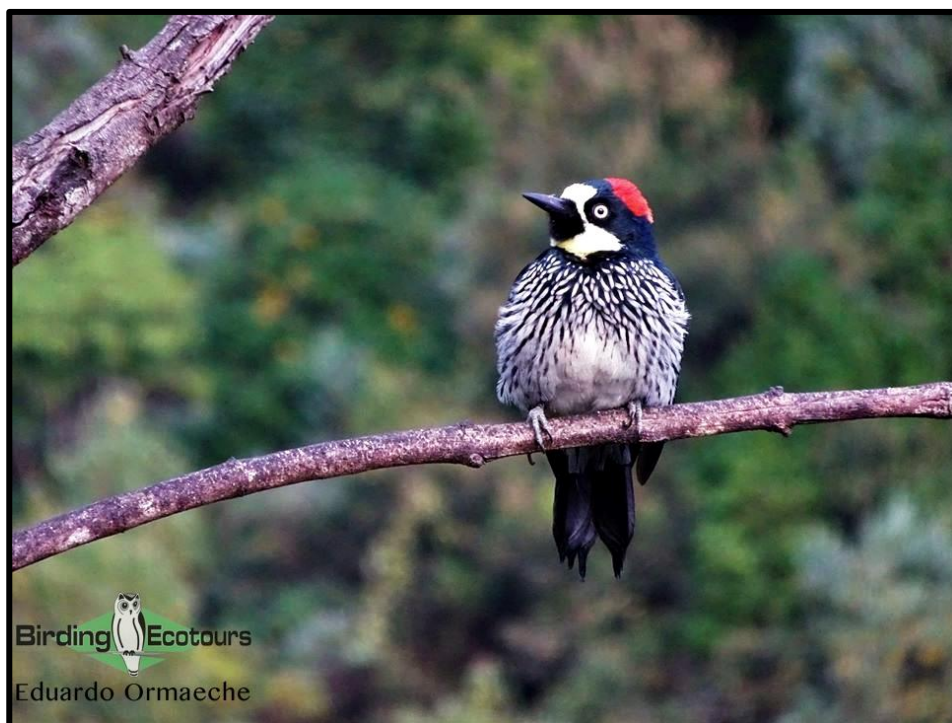
We met at the feeders before breakfast to photograph birds there for the last time, and we did well as we enjoyed nice views of **Orange-billed Sparrow**. Then we left the Sarapiquí Lodge to move south to the Savegre Hotel in the cloudforest of the Cordillera de Talamanca near San Gerardo de Dota. It was a long day's drive, during which we made lunch and shopping stops, but we arrived on time at the beautiful Savegre Hotel to enjoy some birds at the feeders, including **Flame-colored Tanager**, **Acorn Woodpecker**, and **Slaty Flowerpiercer**. We planned to use Savegre Hotel as base for three nights to be able to search for and photographs our targets without having to rush.

Day 5, February 20, 2020. Full day around the Savegre Hotel

After a superb breakfast, we bird around the hotel and finding a full new set of interesting species. which included the previously seen **Slaty Flowerpiercer**, **Acorn Woodpecker**, **Flame-colored Tanager**, and **Blue-throated Toucanet** at the feeders. Perhaps the most-wanted species here was the beautiful **Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher**, which is often seen in the top of the trees around the dining room. It took a bit of time until we enjoyed splendid views of a pair, and we took our time to get enough photos of this handsome bird



Slaty Flowerpiercer



Acorn Woodpecker



Blue-throated Toucanet



Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher

We also encountered some hummingbirds around the hotel, such as **Lesser Violetear**, **Stripe-tailed Hummingbird**, **Talamanca Hummingbird**, and **Grey-tailed (White-throated) Mountaingem**. Several **Acorn Woodpeckers** were seen around the cabins. During the day there was a conspicuous **Red-tailed Hawk** flying above the hotel and a flock of **Sulphur-winged Parakeet** also flew by, but there was not enough time to get good photos.

In the afternoon we visited the Batsu Gardens platform, which is located only a few minutes from the hotel by jeep and provides excellent views, great birds, and good facilities. I would recommend visiting this place as it allows easy access, especially if one is carrying a lot of photographic gear. The owners of Batsu Gardens have started a feeding station for **Spotted Wood-Quail**, and we did not have to wait long until there was a nice family convoy coming to the feeding station. Unfortunately a drizzle made the photography harder. In addition to the wood-quails we enjoyed **Chestnut-capped Brushfinch**, **White-naped Brushfinch**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, and **Large-footed Finch**.

We also had great views of several hummingbirds including **Talamanca Hummingbird**, **Lesser Violetear**, **Grey-tailed (White-throated) Mountaingem**, and our first **Volcano Hummingbird**. In addition we saw **Collared Whitestart**, **Tennessee Warbler**, **Wilson's Warbler**, **Mountain Elaenia**, **Band-tailed Pigeon**, **Mountain Thrush**, **Grey-breasted Wood Wren**, and **Red-tailed Hawk**.



Fiery-throated Hummingbird

Day 6, February 21, 2020. Paraiso Quetzal Lodge feeders

Today we climbed up in elevation to the Paraiso Quetzal Lodge, where we looked for a different set of species from that at Savegre. We enjoyed photographing the **Fiery-throated Hummingbird**, a species restricted to Costa Rica and western Panama. We also had great views of **Talamanca Hummingbird** and **Volcano Hummingbird**. From the lodge's veranda we enjoyed more species, including **Black-and-yellow Phainoptila**, **Black-thighed Grosbeak**, **Sooty-capped Chlorospingus**, **Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush**, **Sooty Thrush**, **Black-capped Flycatcher**, a distant flock of **Barred Parakeets**, and a family of the lovely **Golden-browed Chlorophonia**.

After a great birding and photographic session we left Paraiso Quetzal Lodge and visited the Comidas Típicas Miriam restaurant, where we enjoyed views of **Hairy Woodpecker**, **Yellow-thighed Finch**, **Sooty Thrush**, **Large-footed Finch**, **Flame-colored Tanager**, and more **Acorn Woodpeckers**. The hummingbirds were active at the feeders and easier to photographed than at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge.



Talamanca Hummingbird



Volcano Hummingbird



Black-thighed Grosbeak



Black-capped Flycatcher

Day 7, February 22, 2020. Los Quetzales National Park, transfer to Bosque de Tolomuco

After three nights we left the Savegre Hotel toward the Cerro de la Muerte (Antenna road) above Savegre. Driving through Los Quetzales National Park we made selective stops to look for **Wrenthrush**, and it did not take long until we had decent views of a pair of this most-wanted species. However, we did not bother much to look for Resplendent Quetzal to avoid the huge crowds of tourist and other enthusiastic wildlife lovers who congregate each morning by the dozen, parking cars along the narrow road. But we managed to see a pair of **Resplendent Quetzals** not far from the “Vuelta Del Gato” spot, but we decided to wait until Monteverde for quetzal photography. We also saw **Dark Pewee**, **Hairy Woodpecker**, and **Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush**.

Once at the top of the Cerro de la Muerte at 3450 meters/11329 feet above sea level we had incredible views of the surroundings landscape and, more importantly, found our main two targets for the area, **Timberline Wren** and **Volcano Junco**. We managed to find both very quickly; however, photographing the wren was rather tricky. We also had nice views of **Black-capped Flycatcher**. After some time at the top of the mountain we started to descend the Pacific slope to Bosque de Tolomuco.



Volcano Junco

Bosque de Tolomuco, a nice B&B, offers great birding and photography opportunities for, among others, gems like the striking White-crested Coquette. We found some nice birds there during our short stay, including **Swallow-tailed Kite**, **Red-crowned Woodpecker**, **Whooping Motmot**, **Scarlet-rumped Tanager**, **Elegant Euphonia**, **Cape May Warbler**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, and some old friends such as **Silver-throated Tanager** and **Golden-hooded Tanager**.

The hummingbirds included superb views of male and female **White-crested Coquette**, **Snowy-bellied Hummingbird**, **Violet Sabrewing**, **Green-crowned Brilliant**, **Magenta-throated Woodstar**, **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird**, and **White-tailed Emerald**.



White-crested Coquette

Day 8, February 23, 2020. Bosque de Tolomuco and transfer to Hotel Villa Lapas

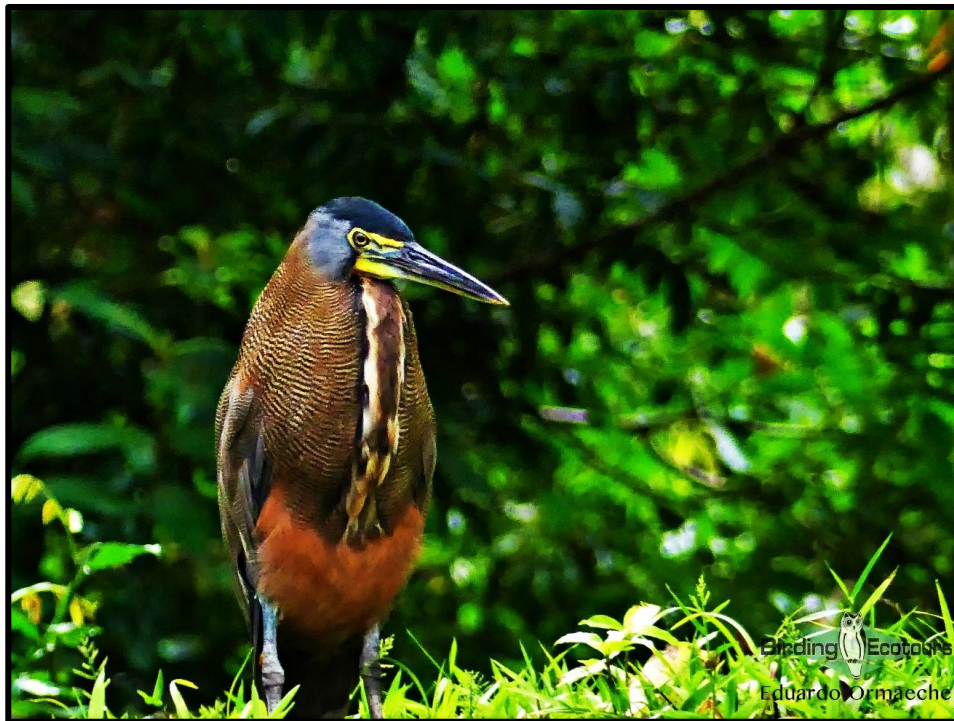
After a last morning of photography around Bosque de Tolomuco we left and drove south. We had lunch by the road, where we had beautiful views of **Swallow-tailed Kites**. Then we continued our drive toward Hotel Villa Lapas, our classic lodgings near the Carara National Park. This basically was a driving day. In the evening we heard **Spectacled Owl** and **Pauraque** around the hotel grounds.

Day 9, February 24, 2020. Full day at Carara National Park

After breakfast we moved to the Carara National Park. The activity was low, so we decided to spend some time photographing a nice couple of **Scarlet Macaws** showing well along the main trail within the park. We also saw a pair of **Chestnut-backed Antbirds**, which were hard to photograph but showed well. Splendid views were had of **Sunbittern** along the main stream and then we continued with **Slaty-tailed Trogon**, **Rufous-tailed Jacamar**, **Rufous-winged Woodpecker**, **Wedge-billed Woodcreeper**, **Brown Jay**, **Rufous-breasted Wren**, **Boat-billed Flycatcher**, **Piratic Flycatcher**, **Tropical Kingbird**, **Palm Tanager**, **Bright-rumped Attila**, and **Masked Tityra**. Later during the heat of the day we went to check the “manakin stream” and observed some great species taking baths, such as **Red-capped Manakin**, **Blue-crowned Manakin**, **Sulphur-rumped Myiobius**, **Northern Schiffornis**, a brief **Blue-throated Sapphire**, **Stripe-throated Hermit**, **Northern Waterthrush**, and **Chestnut-sided Warbler**. In the evening we saw **Pauraque** around our lodge.

Day 10, February 25, 2020. Tárcoles River boat trip

We had an early start to check birds around the hotel grounds. Fortunately that decision paid pit well with good views of the localized **Fiery-billed Aracari**. Then we drove toward the Tárcoles River dock, and a walk around the village yielded **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** and a pair of **Black-and-white Owls** roosting at daytime. The boat trip along the Tárcoles River and the mangrove ecosystem provided great bird species such as **Boat-billed Heron**, **American White Ibis**, **Yellow-crowned Night Heron**, **Mangrove Warbler**, **American Pygmy Kingfisher**, **Ringed Kingfisher**, **Green Kingfisher**, **Magnificent Frigatebird**, **Roseate Spoonbill**, **Bare-throated Tiger Heron**, **Tricolored Heron**, **Western Osprey**, **Mangrove Swallow**, **Prothonotary Warbler**, **Northern Jacana**, and a pair of **Double-striped Thick-knees**.



Bare-throated Tiger Heron

Good views of several **American Crocodiles** and **Common Basilisk** were enjoyed among the more common wildlife during the boat ride.

Later a walk near the mouth of the river provided **Common Black-Hawk**, **Mangrove Hummingbird**, **Turquoise-browed Motmot**, and a group of **Mantled Howler Monkeys**. On the shore we watched **Brown Pelican**, **Magnificent Frigatebird**, **Common Whimbrel**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, and **Great Blue-Heron**. After our tour around the Tárcoles we returned to the hotel, where we enjoyed some free time until checklist and dinnertime. The hotels grounds also provided some wildlife, including **Proboscis Bat** roosting at daytime, **Central American Agouti**, **Common Spiny-tailed Iguana**, and massive **Cane Toads** at night.

Day 11, February 26, 2020. Transfer to Monteverde

We left Villa Lapas and we north of Carara National Park to the get into a more deciduous habitat, where the set of species is different. Here we found **White-lored Gnatcatcher**, **Black-headed Trogon**, **White-throated Magpie-Jay**, **Cinnamon Hummingbird**, **Nutting's Flycatcher**, **Turquoise-browed Motmot**, **Scrub Euphonia**, **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, **Spot-breasted Oriole**, **Inca Dove**, **Common Ground Dove**, good views of **Grey Hawk**, and **Streaked Flycatcher**, but, the best encounter was a pair of **Bat Falcons** on a nest built on a dead palm tree almost at eye level. It was a fantastic experience indeed as we were able to watch them and photograph them for such a long time. Sadly, however, there were no sign of Lesser Ground Cuckoo at a place where we had found it on a previous trip. So we started the long drive to Monteverde. We arrived to check into our comfortable hotel, where we observed a few **Grey-headed Chachalacas**, a **Canivet's Emerald**, and a fantastic sunset.



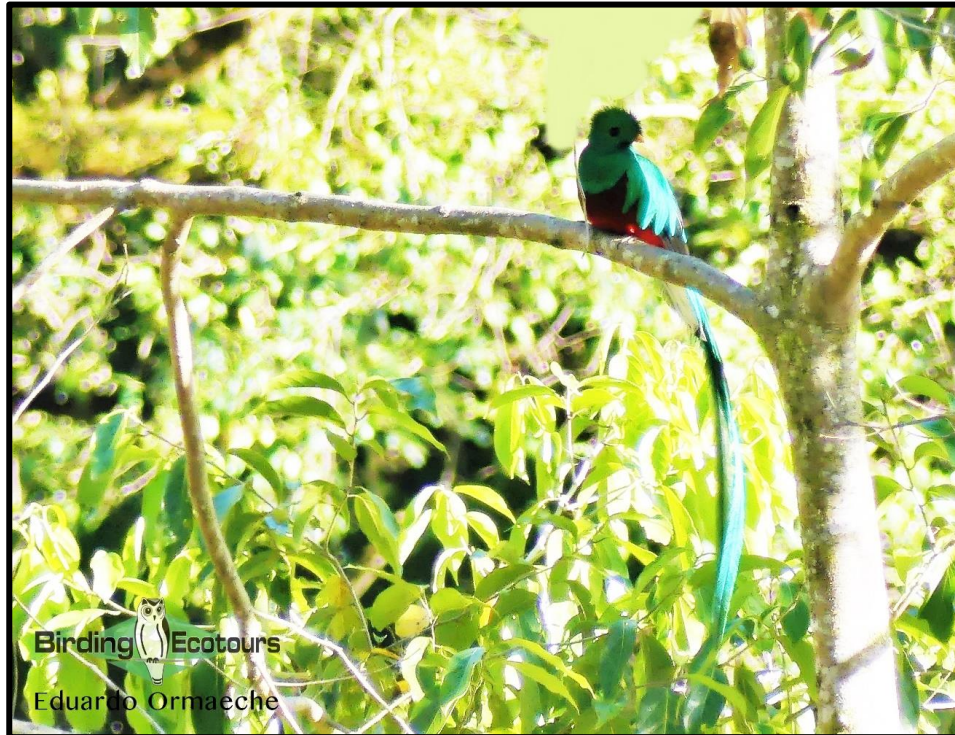
Sunset in Monteverde (photo Joi Inbody)

Day 12, February 27, 2020. Curi-Cancha Reserve

Today we got a fantastic birding in the Curi-Cancha Reserve, where we scored with our main target as soon as we arrived. We saw at least two pairs of **Resplendent Quetzals**, which were more cooperative this time than the couple we had seen near the Savegre Hotel and much less crowded. Our group was satisfied with their photos, and we could continue looking for other birds in the lower parts of the reserve. We added **Dusky-capped Flycatcher**, **Whooping Motmot**, **Collared Trogon**, **Brown-hooded Parrot** flying-by, **Mountain Elaenia**, **Yellowish Flycatcher**, **Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush**, **Golden-browed Chlorophonia**, **White-throated Thrush**,

Yellow-crowned Euphonia, Chestnut-capped Brushfinch, Golden-winged Warbler, the secretive **White-eared Ground-Sparrow, Golden-crowned Warbler, Grey-crowned Yellowthroat** to our list. Sadly, however, the localized **Chiriquí Quail-Dove** was heard only.

The afternoon, focused on mid-elevation to high-elevation parts of the reserve, provided **Grey-throated Leaf-tosser, Ochraceous Wren, Black-faced Solitaire, Slaty Antwren, Lesser Greenlet**, and **Spotted and Olivaceous Woodcreepers**, and a nice surprise was a **Mottled Owl** roosting at daytime but unfortunately at the worst possible angle for a good photo.



Resplendent Quetzal

Day 13, February 28, 2020. Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve

This was day 13 of the trip, or we could call it the lockdown day. Monteverde was hit by a windstorm overnight. In the morning the wind was still strong enough to bring down several huge branches off some trees. We were, however, fortunate enough to see a small convoy of the secretive **Black-breasted Wood Quail** passing next to our cabins. At breakfast the group decided that it would be best to stay in the hotel, enjoy a break, and work on photos and personal bird lists. But all was not lost, as there were **Whooping Motmot, Blue-throated Toucan**, and **Grey-headed Chachalaca** around the hotel grounds. We enjoyed some red wine and a satisfying taste of different years' fine-quality rum. We had a great time that night

Day 14, February 29, 2020. Transfer to Caño Negro

It was a long drive from Monteverde to Caño Negro, so this was mostly a traveling day. But we had the chance to visit a new lodge with fruit feeders, where we had good views of the usual suspects and many old friends. However, the area includes some habitat where Baird's Tapir and Snowcap are reliable, so it might be worth to include it on future trips. We arrived at the comfortable Natural Lodge Caño Negro, excitedly looking forward to the next day's adventures.

Day 15, March 1, 2020. Full day Caño Negro boat trips

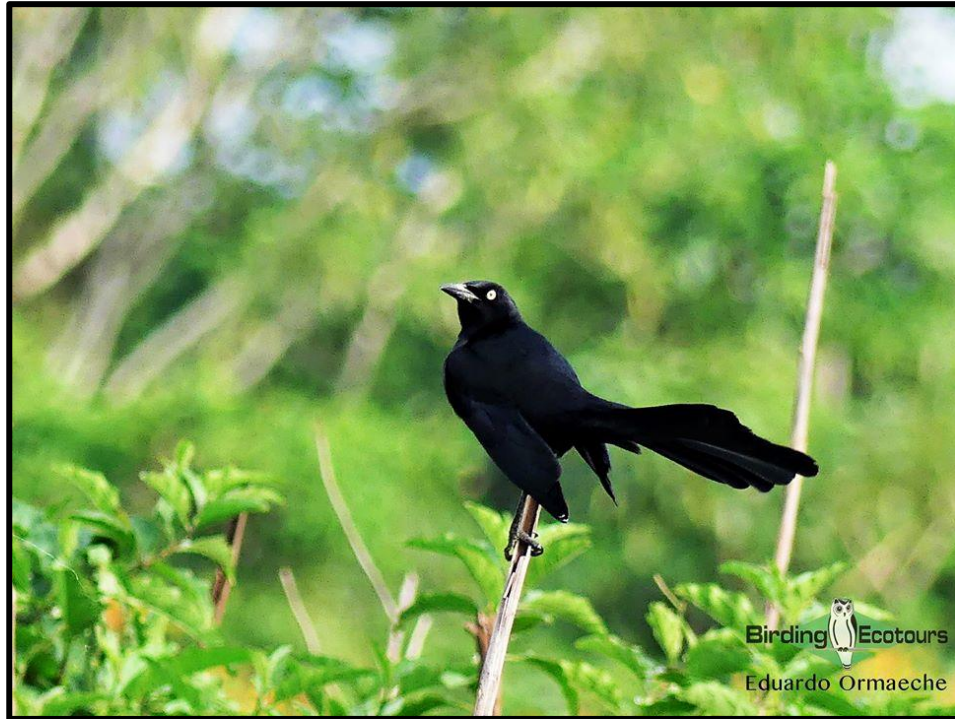
Today we enjoyed two wonderful boat trips along the Río Caño Negro. In the morning we enjoyed watching and photographing species such as **Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Green Heron, Tricolored Heron, Boat-billed Heron, Black-necked Stilt, Western Osprey, Anhinga, Limpkin, American White Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Squirrel Cuckoo, Pale-vented Pigeon, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Purple Gallinule, Wood Stork**, a single **Jabiru**, and **Spot-breasted Wren**.



Boat-billed Heron

The afternoon boat trip was an exciting experience as we saw a new owl species for the trip, a **Pacific Screech Owl** roosting at daytime. In addition a **Common Potoo** was roosting at daytime as well. We spent a lot of time and effort to find the localized **Nicaraguan Grackle**, and only at the eleventh hour we managed to get good views of this species. In addition to birds we had views

of **Spectacled Caiman** and a group of **Common Tent-making Bats** roosting near the Caño Negro dock. We returned to the lodge, where we saw **Black-striped Sparrow** in the lodge grounds.



Nicaraguan Grackle

Day 16, March 2, 2020. Medio Queso and transfer to La Fortuna

This morning started with a short but strong rain. We enjoyed our breakfast and then headed to the Medio Queso wetlands, where we took a boat to do a comprehensive search for the localized Nicaraguan Seed Finch. We found a classic set of aquatic-habitat birds we had seen previously on the Tárcoles and Caño Negro Rivers, but this time we also saw a few additional targets such as the elusive **Pinnated Bittern**, which showed nicely for us. We also enjoyed at least 10 different **Least Bitterns** as well as having good views of **Canebrake Wren**, **Orchard Oriole**, **Red-winged Blackbird**, **Roseate Spoonbill**, **Muscovy Duck**, **Snail Kite**, and **Olive-throated Parakeet** and stunning views of **Yellow-breasted Crake**. No matter how hard we tried, though, we could not find Nicaraguan Seed Finch. So we continued our drive to La Fortuna.



Yellow-breasted Crake

Day 17, March 3, 2020. Birding the Arenal Observatory Lodge and the Bogarin Trail

We visited the Arenal Observatory Lodge and spent the morning birding and photographing species at the feeding platform. At the entrance we had good views of **Olive-striped Flycatcher**, **Cinnamon Becard**, **Ochre-bellied Flycatcher**, **Lesser Greenlet**, and **Olive-backed Euphonia**. At the feeders we had better views of **Emerald Tanager**, **Bay-headed Tanager**, and **Golden-hooded Tanager**. We enjoyed nice views of a pair of **Great Curassows** crossing one of the lodge gardens, allowing good photos. Some time was spent looking for the localized **Black-crested Coquette**, which was one of our main targets, and fortunately we managed to score with brilliant views of this pretty hummingbird. In the afternoon we explored the Bogarin Trail near La Fortuna, where we enjoyed amazing views of **White-throated Crake**, **Rufous-winged Woodpecker**, **Black-throated Wren**, and close-up views of a **Brown-throated Sloth**. We also heard **Uniform Crake** but could not manage any visuals.



Great Curassow female



White-throated Crake

Day 18, March 4, 2020. Sky Walk hanging bridges

We had a good morning session exploring the Sky Walk trail and hanging bridges. **Great Curassow** was calling off the trail, and it was interrupted by the voice of **Thicket Antpitta**, which provide short but good views at one side of the trail. There were also good views of **Rufous Motmot**, **Carmioli's Tanager**, **Tropical Parula**, **Russet Antshrike**, **White-throated Shrike-Tanager**, **Lesser Greenlet**, **Stripe-breasted Wren**, **Plain Xenops**, **White-collared Manakin**, **Wedge-billed Woodcreeper**, **Cocoa Woodcreeper**, **Streaked-crowned Antvireo**, and amazing views of **Tawny-faced Gnatwren**. From the main viewpoint we had distant scope views of **Blue-and-gold Tanager** and saw a pair of **Sharpbills** very well, and the appearance of **Yellow-eared Toucanet** was exciting indeed; a male toucanet was displaying. Before we left the viewpoint we were rewarded with an incredible view of a fully adult **Ornate Hawk-Eagle** at eyelevel and at a close distance. It was a magical moment indeed.

In the afternoon we walked down the offside road near Arenal Observatory Lodge, which yielded **Broad-billed Motmot** and **Keel-billed Motmot**, **Black-throated Trogon**, **Black-cowled Saltator**, **Yellow-billed Cacique**, **Bay Wren**, **Long-tailed Tyrant**, **Rufous-tailed Jacamar**. Unfortunately we could not get a glimpse of an elusive **Bare-crowned Antbird**, which was calling close to the road.

Day 19, March 5, 2020. Transfer back to Alajuela

On our last day we had an easy and late start to travel back to the Hotel Robledal near San José. We arrived back at the hotel with enough time to photograph the **Ferruginous Pygmy Owl** that occurs in the garden. This was the end of a great adventure of 19 days in Costa Rica, where we experienced great views and photo opportunities of amazing birds, great wildlife, beautiful scenery, a country of friendly people, and good tourist infrastructure. We hope to see you on another Costa Rica trip with Birding Ecotours!

BIRD LIST (Taxonomy IOC 10.1)

Tinamidae

Great Tinamou (H) *Tinamus major* We heard this species at La Selva and in the Carara National Park. The species is classified as Near Threatened.

Slaty-breasted Tinamou (H) *Crypturellus boucardi* We heard this species at La Selva Biological Station.

Cracidae

Black Guan *Chamaepetes unicolor* Great views at the Cinchona feeders and around the Savegre Hotel. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and Western Panama

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens* Great views at La Selva Biological Station

Grey-headed Chachalaca *Ortalis cinereiceps* Great views at La Selva Biological Station and Hotel Fonda Vela in Monteverde

Great Curassow *Crax rubra* Nice views of one pair at Arenal. The species is classified as Vulnerable.

Odontophoridae

Spotted Wood Quail *Odontophorus guttatus* Superb views of a family convoy at Batsu

Black-breasted Wood Quail *Odontophorus leucolaemus* Amazing sightings of two individuals around our hotel in Monteverde. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

Anatidae

Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* Good sightings at Caño Negro and Medio Queso

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata* Seen at Caño Negro and Medio Queso

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors* Good views of one pair at Caño Negro

Nyctibiidae

Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus* One seen at daytime roosting along the Caño Negro

Great Potoo *Nyctibius grandis* Great looks at one roosting at daytime near Cope nature reserve

Caprimulgidae

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* seen at Hotel Villa Lapas

Apodidae

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris* A few flocks were noticed on this trip.

Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi* Brief views of one small flock only once on the trip. Named after William Sanson Vaux, 19th century American mineralogist and archaeologist

Trochilidae

White-tipped Sicklebill *Eutoxeres aquila* Superb views at Cope nature reserve

Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy* Several encounters throughout the trip

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

Long-billed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris* Good views including a nest near Cope

Violet Sabrewing *Campylopterus hemileucurus* Several views of this striking hummingbird at different locations

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora* Seen at Arenal

Violet-headed Hummingbird *Klais guimeti* Great views at El Tapir

Black-crested Coquette *Lophornis helenae* Superb views at Arenal

White-crested Coquette *Lophornis adorabilis* Superb views of a male and female and Bosque de Tolomuco. Endemic to the Pacific lowlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

Green Thorntail *Discosura conversii* Great views at El Tapir

Garden Emerald *Chlorostilbon assimilis* Brief views at La Selva Biological Station. Endemic to the Pacific lowlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

Fiery-throated Hummingbird *Panterpe insignis* Amazing views at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge
Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

Coppery-headed Emerald *Elvira cupreiceps* Seen well at the Cinchona feeders. Endemic to Costa Rica

White-tailed Emerald *Elvira chionura* Seen at Bosque de Tolomuco. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

Canivet's Emerald *Chlorostilbon canivetii* Brief views of one individual at Hotel Fonda Vela. Named after Emmanuel Canivet De Carentan, 19th century French ornithologist and collector

Stripe-tailed Hummingbird *Eupherusa eximia* Seen at Savegre Hotel

Crowned Woodnymph *Thalurania colombica* Several views throughout the trip

Blue-throated Sapphire *Hylocharis eliciae* Brief views of one individual taking a bath in the Carara forest stream

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl* The first was seen at Hotel Robledal.

Cinnamon Hummingbird *Amazilia rutila* Only one seen in the dry area north of Carara

Black-bellied Hummingbird *Eupherusa nigriventris* Good views at the Cinchona feeders

Mangrove Hummingbird *Amazilia boucardi* Seen in the mangroves along the Tárcoles River. Endemic to Costa Rica. The species is classified as Endangered.

Snowy-bellied Hummingbird *Amazilia edward* Seen at Bosque de Tolomuco. Endemic to the Pacific lowlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

Snowcap *Microchera albocoronata* Amazing views of a male at El Tapir. Ranges from southern Honduras to western Panama

Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer *Chalybura urochrysis* Seen at Cope

Purple-throated Mountaingem *Lampornis calolaemus* Seen at the Cinchona feeders

Grey-tailed Mountaingem *Lampornis cinereicauda* Seen at Savegre, Batsu, and the Miriam feeders. Endemic to Costa Rica

Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula* Seen at the Cinchona feeders

Talamanca Hummingbird *Eugenes spectabilis* Seen at the Miriam feeders. 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 [8.1] provisional English name (Admirable) to NACC choice of Talamanca Hummingbird.

Magenta-throated Woodstar *Calliphlox bryantae* Nice views at Bosque de Tolomuco. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

Scintillant Hummingbird *Selasphorus scintilla* Nice views at Batsu. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

Volcano Hummingbird *Selasphorus flammula* Seen at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge and Los Quetzales National Park. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

Cuculidae

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* Seen in the drier areas east of Villa Lapas

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris* Several sightings on the Caribbean slope

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* Only one individual was seen on the trip.

Columbidae

Rock Dove *Columba livia* Common in towns and villages

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris* We saw our first birds in the hotel Robledal and then we had several sightings on the trip.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis* Seen well in the lowlands

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa* Seen at la Selva Biological Station

Short-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas nigrirostris* Seen well at Cope nature reserve

Inca Dove *Columbina inca* Nice views at a few places

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti* Several sightings in dry habitats

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

Grey-headed Dove *Leptotila plumbeiceps* Seen near Arenal

Buff-fronted Quail-Dove *Zentrygon costaricensis* Amazing sightings at the Cinchona feeders and then in Monteverde. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

Chiriqui Quail-Dove (H) *Zentrygon chiriquensis* Sadly heard only in Monteverde. Named after the Chiriquí province of Panama located on the western coast; it is the second-most-developed province in the country after the Panamá Province. Its capital is the city of David.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* Common in the Hotel Robledal area as well as in other town and cities near San José

Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerina* A couple seen near the Tárcoles River

Rallidae

White-throated Crake *Laterallus albigularis* Incredible views at the Bogarin Trail near La Fortuna

Grey-necked Wood Rail *Aramides cajaneus* Seen on the Pacific slope including one individual not far from Tolomuco

Rufous-naped Wood Rail *Aramides albiventris* Seen at Cope nature reserve, Caño Negro, and Medio Queso. Rufous-naped Wood Rail is split from Grey-necked Wood Rail *A. cajaneus* (Marcondes & Silveira 2015, English name follows NACC 2016-A-6).

Uniform Crake (H) *Amaurolimnas concolor* Heard at the Bogarin trail

Yellow-breasted Crake *Porzana flaviventer* Fantastic views at Medio Queso

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica* Seen at Caño Negro

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* Seen at Medio Queso

Aramidae

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna* Several sightings at Caño Negro

Burhinidae

Double-striped Thick-knee *Burhinus bistriatus* Incredible views of one pair at the bank of the Tárcoles River

Recurvirostridae

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* Seen at the Tárcoles River, Caño Negro, and Medio Queso

Charadriidae

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis* A few sightings on the trip

Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia* Scope views of one individual near the mouth of the Tárcoles River

Jacanidae

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa* Abundant in the right habitat

Scolopacidae

Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus* Seen at the mouth of the Tárcoles River

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Seen at the mouth of the Tárcoles River

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* Seen at the mouth of the Tárcoles River

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* Several sightings along the trip

Willet *Tringa semipalmata* Seen at the mouth of the Tárcoles River

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* Seen at the mouth of the Tárcoles River

Eurypygidae

Sunbittern *Eurypyga helias* Great views in the Carara National Park

Ciconiidae

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* Seen at Caño Negro and Medio Queso

Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria* Only one individual was seen at Caño Negro.

Fregatidae

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* Several sightings along Tárcoles River

Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* Several sightings

Anhingidae

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* Several sightings along Tárcoles River and Caño Negro

Threskiornithidae

American White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* Seen at the Caño Negro and Tárcoles Rivers

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* Seen along the Caño Negro

Green Ibis *Mesembrinibis cayennensis* Seen along the Caño Negro

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* Seen at Caño Negro and Medio Queso

Ardeidae

Fasciated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum* Seen near Sarapiquí

Bare-throated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum* Great views along the Tárcoles River and Caño Negro

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius* Great views of roosting birds at the Caño Negro and Tárcoles Rivers

Pinnated Bittern *Botaurus pinnatus* Awesome views of two individuals at Medio Queso. This is one of the few reliable sites for this species in the Neotropics.

Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis* At least 10 birds were seen at Medio Queso. Brilliant!

Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* Several views along the Tárcoles River

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* Several sightings

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Several sightings throughout the trip

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* Several sightings along the Tárcoles River, the Caño Negro, and at Medio Queso

Great Egret *Ardea alba* Several sightings

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* Nice views of this pretty heron at Caño Negro and along the Tárcoles River

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* A few sightings in aquatic habitats

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* Several sightings

Pelecanidae

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* Several sightings at the mouth of the Tárcoles River

Cathartidae

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* Regular sightings

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus* Good views at Medio Queso

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* Common everywhere

King Vulture *Sarcorampus papa* Great sightings near Cope nature reserve

Pandionidae

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Several sightings along the Caño Negro and Tárcoles Rivers

Accipitridae

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus* Great views of one individual flying above the Hotel Robledal garden

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* Great views of several individuals flying low during our drive to Bosque de Tolomuco on the Pacific slope

Ornate Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus ornatus* Probably the best of the trip for us. We had an incredible encounter with a full adult bird at less than 10 meters at eye level in front of us giving us prolonged views. Brilliant! The species is classified as Near Threatened.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis* Good views at Caño Negro and Medio Queso

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris* Amazingly scarce this year, only a few sightings in Caño Negro and Medio Queso

Common Black Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus* A good sighting on the Tárcoles River
Semiplumbeous Hawk *Leucopternis semiplumbeus* Great views of one individual at La Selva Biological Station

Grey Hawk *Buteo plagiatus* Several seen in the north at the Caribbean slope. Split Grey-lined Hawk (*B. nitidus*) and Grey Hawk (*B. plagiatus*) (Sibley & Monroe 1993, Millsap et al. 2011, NACC 2011-A-4)

Grey-lined Hawk *Buteo nitidus* A couple seen in the south not far from the Tárcoles River

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* Only one migrant bird seen near Arenal

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus* One bird seen around Arenal

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus* S brief sighting on the Pacific slope

Strigidae

Pacific Screech Owl *Megascops cooperi* Seen at its day roosting site along the Caño Negro

Mottled Owl *Strix virgata* One individual was seen roosting at daytime at Monteverde.

Black-and-white Owl *Strix nigrolineata* Seen roosting at daytime near the Tárcoles River

Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata* Great views of two individuals roosting at daytime near Cope nature reserve

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum* Nice views of one pair in the grounds of the Hotel Robledal

Trogonidae

Resplendent Quetzal *Pharomachrus mocinno* A couple seen near Savegre, but we had fantastic views at Curi-Cancha in Monteverde

Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus* Seen at La Selva Biological Station

Slaty-tailed Trogon *Trogon massena* Seen at Carara National Park

Black-headed Trogon *Trogon melanocephalus* Seen in dry habitat north of Carara

Collared ("Orange-bellied") **Trogon** *Trogon collaris* Seen at Curi-Cancha in Monteverde. "Orange-bellied Trogon" *T.c. aurantiiventris* is a member of the Middle American *puella* subspecies group (DaCosta & Klicka 2008). NACC and Dickinson (2003) treat as separate species with note that it might be a color morph of *T. collaris*. Current NACC treatment wrongly separates *T. aurantiiventris* and lumps *puella* with *collaris* (DaCosta & Klicka 2008, TIF). STET current treatment of inclusive *collaris*. Includes *flavidor*. Wetmore, 1968; Collar, 2001.

Alcedinidae

American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea* Brief views at Caño Negro

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* Seen at Caño Negro and Medio Queso

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona* Seen at Caño Negro and Medio Queso

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata* Seen at Caño Negro, Medio Queso and the Tárcoles River

Momotidae

Lesson's Motmot *Momotus lessonii* Good views of one individual at Bosque de Tolomuco and Monteverde. *Momotus lessonii* is one of 5 species in 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. Named after René Primevère Lesson (20 March 1794 – 28 April 1849), a French surgeon, naturalist, ornithologist, and herpetologist

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

Broad-billed Motmot *Electron platyrhynchum* Seen on the outside road near Arenal

Keel-billed Motmot *Electron carinatum* Great views on the outside road near Arenal. The species is classified as Vulnerable.

Turquoise-browed Motmot *Eumomota superciliosa* One seen near the Tárcoles River and two others north of Carara. This is the national bird of Nicaragua.

Galbulidae

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda* Seen at La Selva Biological Station

Bucconidae

White-necked Puffbird *Notharchus hyperrhynchus* Great views at La Selva Biological Station

Capitonidae

Red-headed Barbet *Eubucco bourcierii* A stunning male was seen well at the Cinchona feeders.

Semnornithidae

Prong-billed Barbet *Semnornis frantzii* Great views at the Cinchona feeders. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

Ramphastidae

Blue-throated Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus caeruleogularis* Seen at the Cinchona and Miriam feeders. Others were seen at Monteverde and Savegre Hotel.

Yellow-eared Toucanet *Selenidera spectabilis* An incredible encounter with one individual at the Sky Walk

Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus* Seen at the La Quinta Inn feeders, La Selva Biological Station, Cope nature reserve, and other locations in the northeast lowlands

Fiery-billed Aracari *Pteroglossus frantzii* Good views at Villa Lapas. Endemic to the Pacific lowlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

Keel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos sulfuratus* Great views in Sarapiquí. This is the national bird of Belize.

Yellow-throated Toucan *Ramphastos ambiguus* Great views in the Caribbean lowlands. The species is classified as Near Threatened.

Picidae

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus* Common in San Gerardo de Dota and at the Savegre Hotel

Red-crowned Woodpecker *Melanerpes rubricapillus* Seen in Bosque de Tolomuco and the Pacific lowlands

Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani* Common at several lodge feeders on the Caribbean slope

Hairy Woodpecker *Leuconotopicus villosus* Good views at the Miriam feeders and at San Gerardo de Dota

Rufous-winged Woodpecker *Piculus simplex* One seen at La Selva Biological Station and another along the Bougarin Trail near Fortuna

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus* A few sightings at several places

Pale-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus guatemalensis* Seen near Cope

Falconidae

Northern Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway* Common

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima* Several sightings

Bat Falcon *Falco rufigularis* An incredible moment with a couple on a nest in the dry habitat north of Carara

Psittacidae

Barred Parakeet *Bolborhynchus lineola* Brief views of a fast-flying flock from the Paraiso Quetzal Lodge feeders platform

Orange-chinned Parakeet *Brotogeris jugularis* Common in the Caribbean lowlands with great views at the feeders of Cope

Brown-headed Parrot *Pyrilia haematotis* Flying-by views at La Selva Biological Station

White-crowned Parrot *Pionus senilis* Seen along the main road on the way to Sarapiquí

Red-lored Amazon *Amazona autumnalis* Seen on the way to Sarapiquí

Yellow-naped Amazon *Amazona auropalliata* Seen at Tárcoles. The species is classified as Endangered.

Northern Mealy Amazon *Amazona guatemalae* Seen at La Selva Biological Station. Northern Mealy Amazon is split from [Southern] Mealy Amazon (Wenner et al. 2012, HBW Alive). It occurs from southeast Mexico to western Panama. The species is classified as Near Threatened.

Olive-throated Parakeet *Eupsittula nana* Seen at Caño Negro

Sulphur-winged Parakeet *Pyrrhura hoffmanni* Not really good views, but a flock flew over the canopy when we were watching the Resplendent Quetzal near the Savegre Hotel. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

Great Green Macaw *Ara ambiguus* One pair flying by at La Selva Biological Station. The species is classified as Endangered.

Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao* Amazing views above Villa Lapas and at Carara National Park

Finsch's Parakeet *Psittacara finschi* Seen at the Hotel Robledal. Named after Friedrich Hermann Otto Finsch, 19th century German ethnographer, naturalist, and colonial explorer

Furnariidae

Grey-throated Leaf-tosser *Sclerurus albigularis* Seen at Curi-Cancha in Monteverde. The species is classified as Near Threatened.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus* Several sightings

Plain-brown Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla fuliginosa* Only one sighting at La Selva Biological Station

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* Numerous encounters on this trip

Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans* Seen at the Sky Walk

Spotted Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius* Seen in Monteverde

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

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus* Seen along the Sky Walk

Red-faced Spinetail *Cranioleuca erythrops* Seen at Bosque de Tolomuco

Thamnophilidae

Russet Antshrike *Thamnistes anabatinus* Great views from the Sky Walk

Slaty Antwren *Myrmotherula schisticolor* Seen at Curi-Cancha

Plain Antvireo *Dysithamnus mentalis* Seen at Curi-Cancha in Monteverde

Streak-crowned Antvireo *Dysithamnus striaticeps* Great views

Chestnut-backed Antbird *Poliocrania exsul* Seen at the Bogarin Trail and Carara National Park

Great Antshrike (H) *Taraba major* Heard along the outside road near Arenal

Barred Antshrike (H) *Thamnophilus doliatus* Heard along the outside road near Arenal

Bare-crowned Antbird (H) *Gymnocichla nudiceps* Unfortunately only heard along the outside road near Arenal

Grallariidae

Thicket Antpitta *Hylopezus dives* Hard to see along the trails of the Sky Walk. We got brief but decent views of this elusive species.

Streak-chested Antpitta (H) *Hylopezus perspicillatus* Only heard at Carara National Park

Tyrannidae

Mountain Elaenia *Elaenia frantzii* First seen at Freddo Fresas

Mistletoe Tyrannulet *Zimmerius parvus* Seen at Arenal

Olive-striped Flycatcher *Mionectes olivaceus* Seen at Arenal

Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant *Lophotriccus pileatus* Seen at Arenal

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum* Seen at La Selva Biological Station

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* Seen in the Sarapiquí region

Northern Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus* Seen above the Savegre Hotel

Dark Pewee *Contopus lugubris* Seen near Savegre Hotel

Eastern Wood Pewee *Contopus virens* One seen near the Savegre Hotel

Yellowish Flycatcher *Empidonax flavescens* One seen at Curi-Cancha

Black-capped Flycatcher *Empidonax atriceps* One seen along the antenna road above Paraiso Quetzales Lodge. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus* Seen near Arenal

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus* Seen at Carara National Park

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis* Widespread in the Caribbean lowlands

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

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* Common

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus* Seen at Sarapiquí

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

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* Common

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana* One seen by Joi during the drive from Sarapiquí to Savegre

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer* One seen at Curi-Cancha

Nutting's Flycatcher *Myiarchus nuttingi* One seen in the dry habitat north of Carara. Named after Charles Cleveland Nutting, 19th century American zoologist, who conducted several expeditions in Central America

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus* One seen in the dry habitat north of Carara

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* Great views in the dry habitat north of Carara

Bright-rumped Attila (H) *Attila spadiceus* Heard at the Sky Walk

Cotingidae

Three-wattled Bellbird *Procnias tricarunculatus* Spectacular views at Monteverde. The species is classified as Vulnerable.

Pipridae

White-collared Manakin *Manacus candei* Seen at La Selva and Cope

Blue-crowned Manakin *Lepidothrix coronata* Great views at Carara National Park

Red-capped Manakin *Ceratopipra mentalis* Great views at Carara National Park

Tityridae

Sharpbill *Oxyruncus cristatus* A great encounter with this most-wanted Neotropical species on the Sky Walk

Sulphur-rumped Myiobius *Myiobius sulphureipygius* Seen at La Selva Biological Station

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

Northern Schiffornis *Schiffornis veraepacis* Seen at Carara National Park

Cinnamon Becard *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*

Vireonidae

Lesser Greenlet *Hylophilus decurtatus* Seen at Carara National Park

Corvidae**Brown Jay** *Psilorhinus morio* Common at several locations**White-throated Magpie-Jay** *Calocitta formosa* Great views in the dry habitat north of Carara**Ptiliognathidae****Black-and-yellow Phainoptila** *Phainoptila melanoxantha* Great views at Paraiso los Quetzales. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama**Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher** *Ptiliogonys caudatus* Great views at Savegre Hotel. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama**Hirundinidae****Mangrove Swallow** *Tachycineta albilinea* Nice views along the Tárcoles River**Grey-breasted Martin** *Progne chalybea* Seen flying above the Hotel Robledal garden**Blue-and-white Swallow** *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca* Several sightings**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* Seen in the Caribbean lowlands**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* A few seen among fields during our drives**Troglodytidae****Rufous-backed Wren** *Campylorhynchus capistratus* Several encounters, the first one being at Hotel Robledal. Rufous-backed Wren is split from Rufous-naped Wren (Vázquez-Miranda et al. 2009).**Spot-breasted Wren** *Pheugopedius maculipectus* Seen along the Caño Negro**Cabanis's Wren** *Cantorchilus modestus* Seen a couple of times. Change English name of Plain Wren *Cantorchilus modestus* to Cabanis's Wren with split of Canebrake Wren (NACC 2016-C-14). Includes *roberti* and *vanrossemi*. Treat as monotypic. Saucier et al. 2015.**Canebrake Wren** *Cantorchilus zeledoni* Seen at Medio Queso. Canebrake Wren is split from Plain (Cabanis's) Wren (Stiles et al. 1989, Ridgely & Gwynne 1989, AOU 1998, Saucier et al. 2015, NACC 2016-C-14).**Isthmian Wren** *Cantorchilus elutus* Seen at Bosque de Tolomuco. Endemic to the Pacific lowlands of Costa Rica and western Panama. Isthmian/Panama Wren is split from Plain (Cabanis's Wren) (Saucier et al. 2015, NACC 2016-C-14).**Bay Wren** *Cantorchilus nigricapillus* Great views at Virgen Del Socorro and La Selva Biological Station**Stripe-breasted Wren** *Cantorchilus thoracicus* Seen at the Sky Walk**Black-throated Wren** *Pheugopedius atrogularis* Great views at the Bogarin Trail**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon* Seen at the Savegre Hotel**Ochraceous Wren** *Troglodytes ochraceus* Brief views at Curi-Cancha. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama**Timberline Wren** *Thryorchilus browni* Great views along the antennas road above Paraiso Quetzal Lodge. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama**White-breasted Wood Wren (H)** *Henicorhina leucosticta* Only heard**Grey-breasted Wood Wren** *Henicorhina leucophrys* Seen at Curi-Cancha**Northern Nightingale Wren (H)** *Microcerculus philomela* Heard at Arenal**Song Wren (H)** *Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus* Heard along the outside road near Arenal**Poliophtidae****Tawny-faced Gnatwren** *Microbates cinereiventris* Superb views at the Sky Walk**White-lored Gnatcatcher** *Poliophtila albiloris* Seen in the dry habitat of north of Carara**Mimidae****Tropical Mockingbird** *Mimus gilvus* Seen in the Pacific lowlands

Turdidae

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* Brief views of one individual at Cope

Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina* Seen at the Bogarin Trail. The species is classified as Near Threatened.

Black-faced Solitaire (H) *Myadestes melanops* Only heard around the Savegre Hotel. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus frantzii* Seen at the Savegre Hotel

Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus mexicanus* Great views at Curi-Cancha

Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus gracilirostris* Seen at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

Mountain Thrush *Turdus plebejus* Common above the Savegre Hotel

Sooty Thrush *Turdus nigrescens* Good views above Savegre. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

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

White-throated Thrush *Turdus assimilis* Good views at Monteverde

Cinclidae

American Dipper *Cinclus mexicanus* Scope views at Virgen De Socorro

Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Seen at a gas station in Alajuela

Fringillidae

Olive-backed Euphonia *Euphonia gouldi* Seen at La Selva Biological Station

Elegant Euphonia *Euphonia elegantissima* Great views at Bosque de Tolomuco

Yellow-throated Euphonia *Euphonia hirundinacea* Seen at Carara National Park

Yellow-crowned Euphonia *Euphonia luteicapilla* Seen at Villa Lapas

Golden-browed Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia callophrys* Nice views at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

Passerellidae

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis* Several sightings

White-eared Ground Sparrow *Melospiza leucotis* Great views at Curi-Cancha

Black-striped Sparrow *Arremonops conirostris* Seen at the feeders of our hotel in Caño Negro

Orange-billed Sparrow *Arremon aurantirostris* Nice views at La Quinta Inn Sarapiquí

Chestnut-capped Brushfinch *Arremon brunneinucha* Seen at Batsu

Large-footed Finch *Pezopetes capitalis* Seen at Batsu and Miriam. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

Yellow-thighed Finch *Pselliophorus tibialis* Good views at Miriam and around the Savegre Hotel. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

White-naped Brushfinch *Atlapetes albinucha* Seen at Batsu

Common Bush Tanager *Chlorospingus flavopectus* Seen around the Savegre Hotel

Sooty-capped Bush Tanager *Chlorospingus pileatus* Seen at the Miriam feeders. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

Zeledoniidae

Wrenthrush *Zeledonia coronata* Great views near the Savegre Hotel. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

Icteridae

Montezuma Oropendola *Psarocolius montezuma* Close-up views in the Caribbean lowlands

Chestnut-headed Oropendola *Psarocolius wagleri* Close-up views in the Caribbean lowlands

Melodious Blackbird *Dives dives* We saw our first one in the garden of Hotel Robledal.

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* Seen at Caño Negro

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus* Several sightings

Nicaraguan Grackle *Quiscalus nicaraguensis* We spent a lot of time looking for it at Caño Negro, where at the last minute we had a decent view of a single individual, while on the next day we saw plenty at Medio Queso.

Spot-breasted Oriole *Icterus pectoralis* Seen at Medio Queso

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula* Seen at La Selva and the Cinchona feeders

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius* A single encounter on the trip

Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus* Seen at Caño Negro

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis* A few seen

Black-cowled Oriole *Icterus prosthemelas* A single encounter on the trip

Parulidae

Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla* Only one seen on the trip

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis* Several seen in the grounds of Hotel Villa Lapas and at Carara National Park

Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora cyanoptera* Seen at La Selva Biological Station

Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera* Seen at Monteverde. The species is classified as Near Threatened.

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* Good views at Monteverde

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea* Nice views along the Tárcoles River

Tennessee Warbler *Leiothlypis peregrina* Probably one of the most-frequently-encountered migratory warblers

Mourning Warbler *Geothlypis philadelphia* A couple of sightings of this skulking migrant

Cape May Warbler *Setophaga tigrina* Good views at Bosque de Tolomuco

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitayumi* Seen at the Sky Walk

American Yellow Warbler *Setophaga aestiva* A few encounters

Mangrove Warbler *Setophaga petechia* Seen in the mangroves at Tárcoles

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Setophaga pensylvanica* Another common migratory warbler seen at several locations

Buff-rumped Warbler *Myiothlypis fulvicauda* Great views at La Quinta Inn

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus* Seen at Curi-Cancha

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla* Several sightings of this handsome warbler on the trip

Collared Whitestart *Myioborus torquatus* Seen at Batsu. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

Cardinalidae

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* Seen at Cope

Flame-colored Tanager *Piranga bidentata* Seen at the Savegre Hotel and the Miriam feeders

Red-throated Ant Tanager *Habia fuscicauda* Seen at the La Quinta Inn and at Cope

Black-faced Grosbeak *Caryothraustes poliogaster* Nice views at El Tapir

Black-thighed Grosbeak *Pheucticus tibialis* Great views at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus* Seen at Batsu and Tolomuco

Thraupidae

Tawny-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus delatrii* Seen at El Tapir

White-throated Shrike-Tanager *Lanio leucothorax* Seen at the Sky Walk

Scarlet-rumped Tanager *Ramphocelus passerinii* Seen at both the Caribbean and Pacific lowlands. Change English name of *R. passerinii* from Passerini's Tanager to Scarlet-rumped Tanager following lump of Cherrei's Tanager *R. p. cherreii*.

Crimson-collared Tanager *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus* Nice views at Cope

Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus* Common

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum* Common

Blue-and-gold Tanager *Bangsia arcae* Distant scope views of this species from the Sky Walk. The species is classified as Near Threatened.

Emerald Tanager *Tangara florida* Seen at Arenal

Silver-throated Tanager *Tangara icterocephala* Common at several feeder stations in the Caribbean and Pacific lowlands

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

Shining Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes lucidus* Seen at La Quinta

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza* Seen at La Quinta and Cope

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus* Seen at La Quinta and Cope

Black-and-yellow Tanager *Chrysothlypis chrysomelas* Brief views in a mixed flock at El Tapir

Slaty Flowerpiercer *Diglossa plumbea* Seen at the Savegre Hotel. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus* Several sightings including Arenal

Thick-billed Seed Finch *Oryzoborus funereus* A few seen in the Caribbean lowlands

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina* A few noted on the trip

Morelet's Seedeater *Sporophila moreletii* One seen in the Pacific lowlands

Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus* Seen around the Savegre Hotel

WILDLIFE

Mammals

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica* Common in Costa Rica. Several sightings throughout the trip

Brown-throated Sloth *Bradypus variegatus* Scope views of a distant individual in La Selva and at Cope and wonderful views at the Bogarin Trail

Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth *Choloepus hoffmanni* An amazing encounter with one individual crossing the main highway along the telephone wires. It gave us such a show!

Panamanian White-faced Capuchin *Cebus imitator* Seen in Bosque de Tolomuco

Geoffroy's Spider Monkey *Ateles geoffroyi* Seen at La Selva

Mantled Howler Monkey *Alouatta palliata* A few sightings on the Pacific slope

Variegated Squirrel *Sciurus variegatoides* Seen in San José and Sarapiquí

Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis* Seen at Monteverde

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

Proboscis Bat *Rhynchonycteris naso* Roosting groups were seen at La Selva and Villa Lapas.

Honduran White Bat *Ectophylla alba* Great views at Cope

Seba's Short-tailed Bat *Carollia perspicillata* An amazing encounter with one individual roosting in a dry termite nest

Tent-making Bat *Uroderma bilobatum* Amazing views of a group near the main dock at Caño Negro

Reptiles

Common Green Iguana *Iguana iguana* Seen at La Selva

Common Spiny-tailed Iguana *Ctenosaura similis* Several individuals seen in the Pacific lowlands including at Villa Lapas

Smooth Helmeted Iguana *Corytophanes cristatus* Seen at Cope

Common Basilisk *Basiliscus basiliscus* Seen along the Tárcoles River

Green Basilisk *Basiliscus plumifrons* Seen along the Caño Negro

American Crocodile *Crocodylus acutus* Seen along the Tárcoles River

Spectacled Caiman *Caiman crocodilus* Seen along the Caño Negro

Common House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus* Common in Sarapiquí and at Villa Lapas

Eyelash Viper *Bothriechis schlegelii* Amazing sightings of the yellow morph at La Selva and the green morph at Arenal

Amphibians

Red-eyed Treefrog *Agalychnis callidryas* Nice views at La Quinta Inn in Sarapiquí

Strawberry Poison Frog *Oophaga pumilio* Seen at Cope

Cane Toad *Rhinella marina* Seen at La Quinta and Villa Lapas