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 Chloropophonia, 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 trees, 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](image)

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.
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.

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, Bronzetailed Plumeleteer, Crowned Woodnymph, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, and Long-billed Hermit.
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.
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.
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 Hoffman’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.
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, Striped-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.
Volcano Hummingbird

Black-thighed Grosbeak

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.
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.
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.

We had an early start to check birds around the hotel grounds. Fortunately that decision paid off 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.

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 dinertime. 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 in to 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 Leaftossers, 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.

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.

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.

![Image of Nicaraguan Grackle](image)

*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.
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

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, Carmiol’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.
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**Odontophoridae**
Spotted Wood Quail *Odontophorus guttatus* Superb views of a family convoy at Batsu
Black-breasted Wood Quail *Odontophorus leucomaenius* 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

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

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

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

**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 Sansom 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 heleae* 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 eliciæ* Brief views of one individual taking a bath in the Carara forest stream

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

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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 urochrysia* Seen at Cope
Purple-throated Mountain gem *Lampornis calolaemus* Seen at the Cinchona feeders
Grey-tailed Mountain gem *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
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 albiventer* 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 semipalmarata* 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
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 cyanennsis* 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** *Sarcoramphus 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 semipiniceus* 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 Curí-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

**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-diadem 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

**Buccoindae**

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 Savgre 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 Savgre 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 *Pytilia 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-lobed 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 *Pyrhura 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 *Glyphorynchus spirurus* Numerous encounters on this trip.

Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans* Seen at the Sky Walk.

Spotted Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus erythropygus* 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 *Thamnastes 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 doliatius* 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 leucophaius* Seen at Carara National Park
Social Flycatcher *Myiobius similis* Widespread in the Caribbean lowlands
Grey-capped Flycatcher *Myiobius 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 *Lepidotrichs 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

Ptiliogonatidae
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

Hirundinae
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 maculiglus* Seen along the Caño Negro
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

Polioptilidae
Tawny-faced Gnawren *Microbates cinereiventris* Superb views at the Sky Walk
White-lored Gnatcatcher *Polioptila albilaris* 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 Paraíso 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 Paraíso Quetzal Lodge. Endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama
Passerellidae
Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis* Several sightings
White-eared Ground Sparrow *Melozone 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 bruneinucha* 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 *Pseiliophorus 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 Cínchona 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 Laspas 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 *Leiostomus humeralis* Probably one of the most-frequently-encountered migratory warblers

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

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

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiayumi* 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 *Myioborus 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 Whitestar *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 Saviare Hotel and the Miriam feeders

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

Black-faced Grosbeak *Caryothraustes psaliodactylus* 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 delatari* 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

Gold-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 morelleti* 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 *Ctenosaurus 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