



COSTA RICA

Nov 04 - 20, 2024

TRIP REPORT



Photos: Our group with Ramon and Jose Pablo on the left in front of Arenal Volcano

Costa Rica - 2024

04th Nov – 20th Nov 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

Either for rarity value, excellent views or simply a group favourite.

- Resplendent Quetzal
- Snowcap
- Pinnated Bittern
- Ocellated Antbird
- Fiery-billed Aracari
- Yellow-breasted Crake
- Pinnated Bittern
- Great Green Macaws
- Emerald Tanager
- Bare-crowned Antbird
- Black Hawk-Eagle
- Jabiru
- Scarlet Macaws
- Bicoloured Hawk
- Volcano Junco
- Crested Owls
- 15 Species of Wren
- 41 Species of Hummingbird
- Yellow-breasted Crake
- Lesser Ground Cuckoo
- Nicaraguan Seedfinch
- Tiny Hawks
- Black Hawk-Eagle
- Scaled Antpitta
- Bare-necked Umbrellabird
- Checker-throated Stipplethroat
- Spot-breasted Wren
- American Dipper
- American Pygmy Kingfisher
- King Vulture
- Golden-browed Chlorophonia
- Barred Parakeets
- Cabanis's Ground-Sparrow
- 23 Species of Tanager
- Fiery-throated Hummingbird
- Peg-billed Finch
- Black-and-white Owls
- All six species of Motmot
- Northern Schiffornis
- Morpho's and countless butterflies
- Central American Spider Monkey
- Red-eyed Tree Frog
- Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth
- Coyotes howling at full moon
- Strawberry Poison Dart Frog
- Baird's Tapir

SUMMARY:

The Costa Rican weather in the first half of November may have tried its very best to thwart our ornithological endeavours but it failed. We began up at Arenal where the jungle provided a perfect introduction to the magic of birding here and even gave us such wonders as Umbrellabird, Black-and-white Owls, Great Curassow and a host of colourful tanagers. The Celeste forests tested our resolve but gave us Motmots, Antbirds, Sloths and Toucans and even a Snowcap! Cano Negro was very wet indeed but we found our targets with scarce Crakes and Bitterns along with the Nicaraguan duo of Seedfinch and Grackle. Down to La Selva where an ant swarm gave us a trio of much desired Antbirds, plus Great Potoo and Crested Owls. while the fig trees were alive with birds such as Great Green and Caribbean Scarlet Macaws. The route to the wet Pacific coast gave us American Dippers and a host of new hummingbirds as well as bonus urban roadside Fiery-billed Aracarais. We got fabulous views of Mangrove Hummingbird as well as Pacific Scarlet Macaws and even Lesser Nighthawks. We reached Savegre and it was as magical as ever with Quetzals, Hummingbirds, Chlorophonias, Volcano Juncos, Tanagers and a host of different Flycatchers. We even had Coyotes howling at the full moon and two roadside Baird's Tapirs in daylight. Our last two days were spent at Quelitales, where the Scaled Antpitta showed well, Barred Parakeets whizzed overhead and Snowcaps danced. What better way to end the trip? Well almost! Read on!



Day 1 - Hotel Robledal - Arenal Obs Lodge - 4th Nov

We arrived the previous evening in San Jose in a biblical downpour but it had stopped by late evening and predictably the Ferruginous Pygmy Owl was heard speed 'pooping' on and off during the night from the Robledal Hotel not that anyone's body clock actually had a clue what time it really was!

The session the next morning began well before breakfast and Jose joined us for our first walk around. It was an eye opener for the group as Costa Rica newbies, with every species bar Western Cattle Egret being new. There were Great Kiskadees and Tropical Kingbirds (TKs) to welcome in the dawn with flights of Great-tailed Grackles, White-winged Doves and Red-billed Pigeons overhead, plus tiny Inca Doves fluttering around the lawns where Clay-coloured Thrushes probed and chunky Rufous-naped Wrens fossicked in the herbage.

Baltimore Orioles were foraging in small groups and it was good to find a pair of larger Spot-breasted Orioles performing well and even coming down to the bird table where Summer and Blue-grey Tanagers battled it out with the doves and thrushes for a bit of banana, although a very tatty juvenile Hoffmann's Woodpecker held its own and would often approach from beneath the feeder.

Chestnut-sided and garish Yellow Warblers were in the canopy and up above we quickly added American Black and Turkey Vultures and a Northern Crested Caracara along with a bonus Solitary Sandpiper that flew over calling. Finsch's Parakeets whizzed through and the local Yellow-naped Amazons actually perched up long enough to get the scope onto. Three Hummingbird species – Cinnamon, Green-breasted Mango and brief Canivet's Emerald got the pre-breakfast proceedings off to a fine start. I called it 'breaking them in gently' but I

could already see the stunned faces as we sat down to eat adding Cinnamon-bellied Saltators and some funky Variegated Squirrels to the growing wildlife list. Ramon had joined us and before too long we were on the road and wiggling our way out of Alajuela and north towards Arenal. It was a much greener landscape than I had ever seen before and as we moved through we picked up our first Southern Lapwings, Yellow-headed Caracaras, Grey Hawks and Grey-breasted Martins along with a few of the species seen earlier. It did not take too long to reach the San Luis reserve and its tanager rich trees. It was not quite the mad fruit fight this time but we were treated to fine close views of Blue-grey, Emerald, Golden-hooded, Silver-throated and Passerini's

Scarlet-rumped along with Common Chlorospingus, Red-legged and **Green Honeycreepers**, Tawny-capped Euphonias and Black-cheeked Woodpeckers dropping in for breakfast. The smiles from the group said it all. Summer Tanagers foraged higher up and were joined by my first Scarlet Tanager and some striking Black-and-yellow Tanagers were not quite bold enough to come down to the tables but the only Speckled Tanager was all too brief. In the trees around us a Tropical Parula was squeakily singing and Wilson's and Chestnut-sided Warblers and Slate-throated Whitestart were feeding, the latter flashing those white tail markings as it sallied out after insects. Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds were defending their own feeders from Green-crowned



Brilliant, Crowned Woodnymphs and a single Violet-headed HB. Rufous-tailed Hummingbird - day one you look at this lovely HB - sadly it soon gets dismissed as 'only' another RTH. A raptor calling, had Jose scanning the skies before a scuttle back up to the veranda gave us views of a Black Hawk-Eagle perched up in a dead snag! It stayed long enough for us to see the wispy crest before taking flight, only to be mobbed by a Bat Falcon. A furtive duo of Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush and Chestnut-capped Brush-finch added understorey interest. Before long, it was time to go but not before a good look at the Blue-and-white Swallows on the wires and a scan for an Ornate Hawk-eagle that could be heard but not located. The skies darkened but the rain held off and several brief roadside stops gave the group excellent views of Short-tailed and Harris's Hawk along with Broad-winged Hawks, Caracaras, Vultures, a selection of herons, egrets and a couple of Wood Storks and fast-moving flocks of both Finsch's and Orange-chinned Parakeets. We reached La Fortuna as the heavens opened and sought refuge with some very tasty pizza with Scaly-breasted Hummingbird, Bananaquit and Rufous-collared Sparrow sneaking onto the list as they fed under the cover of the restaurant. Tropical Mockingbirds, Ruddy Ground-Doves and Social Flycatchers appeared on the wires as the rain let up and two big Green Iguanas



had opted to stay in their canopy lounging spots. The rain at last stopped and we moved just 100m up the road to Bogarin where a Green Heron and several damp **Grey-headed Chachalacas** (Choco-lattes as they became known) greeted us. A similar selection of Tanagers were on view with the addition of the subtle Palms, plus a Russet-naped Wood-Rail that strolled across the path as we set out for our short circuit of the forest. Two Brown-throated Three-toed Sloths were quickly found much to the delight of the group – so much to take in on a first day but there was so much more to come with a pair



of **Black-and-white Owls** that were cautiously keeping an eye on us and a host of ground level species to find with a female White-collared Manakin, spotty Swainson's Thrushes, Kentucky and Bay-breasted Warblers, metallic chinking Orange-billed Sparrows, a Broad-billed Motmot that sat still and ignored us, shining green Rufous-tailed Jacamars and calling Dusky-capped Flycatchers. Up above us there were more warblers, tanagers and Swainson's Thrushes, and American



Redstart was added while a bare tree with a **Grey Hawk** in it had attracted a host of passerines happy to have a go at it. There were once again various tanagers and honeycreepers but we also found Olive-backed and Yellow-throated Euphonias, Scarlet-thighed Dacnis, Black-headed and Buff-throated Saltators, Lesser Greenlets and Yellow-olive Flatbills all trying to persuade the raptor to move along. Red-lore Amazons, Montezuma

Oropendolas and Yellow-throated Toucans could be heard deeper into the woods and down at our feet several diminutive **Strawberry (Blue Jeans) Poison-dart Frogs** were found in the leaf litter while back at the pool the



Chachalacas had moved in on mass and a Northern Waterthrush bobbed around on a rock in the pool where another Green Heron fished. Back around the edges there were Hummers to be found with Rufous-tailed and Scaly-breasted and at least two tiny male Black-crested Coquettes which zipped around and defended their favourite perches. A Long-billed Starthroat was another welcome Hummer addition. Not too far to go, and with **Arenal Volcano** actually appearing from the cloud we stopped for a quick pic. Little did we know that it would be on view for the next couple of days! A much better photo opportunity a while later proved to be a very birdy stop (like many were) with a mixed flock of hunting Barn, Blue-and-white and Northern and Southern Rough-winged Swallows along with Vaux's and Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts.

Finsch's Parakeets showed well and a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was perched up on a stick for an age but never did fly out after anything. The final push and then up the long track to the Arenal Observatory Lodge. We



checked the rivers for Fasciated Tiger-Heron but had no joy but still saw several Black Phoebe and a few Social Flycatchers on the way. A quick dump of the bags after check-in and then out onto the big veranda with all the majesty of the volcano rising unfettered by cloud above us. A Stripe-throated Hermit still had the energy to sip at the Verbena and the Great Curassows were in for a last noisy fruit snack before bedtime. Way off in the jungle the Crested Guans were quarrelling before settling down while the Great Tinamous were sending out their tremulous songs into the still night air. It was quite an emotional arrival for the group and I left them there to soak it all in before reappearing for dinner.

Day 2 Arenal Observatory Lodge - 05th Nov

After I was awoken in the dark at about 04.30am by duetting Black-and-white Owls outside and I was soon up, ready and out looking. Priscille joined me while it was still dark and we managed to find one staring down at us from the towering pines before leaving it to its morning business. Down at the platform we stood as the first glow revealed the towering Arenal Volcano whose cone was blotting out the stars. Spectacled Owls could be heard off in the jungle and the first Mantled Howler troops were awake and communicating across the forest canopy.

The Great Curassows started to walk in from the surrounding forest before flying up to the already fruit laden feeding ‘tree’ and the White-nosed Coatimundis soon appeared around the bottom. We could here the Crested Guans stirring and unlike their bigger cousins, they flew in to feeder directly and were followed by the much smaller Grey-headed (Choco-lattes). The zip of early morning Hummers disturbed the air but it was still too dark to see them properly, but very soon the jungle became green and the sky took on some blue. With the whole group assembled we watched the sun rise with Tanagers (including our first Bay-headed) and Honeycreepers, Montezuma Oropendolas, Melodious Blackbirds, Scarlet-thighed Dacnis and Black-cheeked Woodpeckers having breakfast while Violet-headed, Rufous-tailed, Ruby-throated, Black-crested Coquettes and shining Blue-throated Goldentails got their early morning nectar fix just below us. Red-lored Amazons headed out to feed and singing Black-striped Sparrows revved up their stuttering mopeds from the top of the hedges. A pic of two Accipiters overhead gave us the nod for Bicoloured Hawks from Jose when he joined us and his arrival was also timed with the troop of **Spider Monkeys** swinging their way enthusiastically through the trees behind the lodge and off into the forest to forage. A small fig tree by the buildings got us off to a good start with Tropical Parulas, Wilson’s Warblers and a duo of Rufous-winged Tanagers before we continued up the road past the lodges towards the towering Rainbow Eucalyptus trees where Monty’s were singing and Red-lored Amazons glowed in the sunshine already reaching the tree tops. It was an exhausting assault on new Costa Rican senses and everyone did well to keep up with the constant calls of new birds. There were plenty of flycatchers with Kiskadees, Tropical Kingbirds, Boat-bills, Social, Grey-capped, Dusky-capped, Mistletoe Tyrannulet, along with Rufous Mourners, Cinnamon Becards and Masked Tityras with most birds perched up long enough for a good look! Yellow-throated, Tawny-capped and Olive-backed Euphonias were searching for berries and Trilling Gnatwrens were in the tangles. It was magic! Orange-chinned and Finsch’s Parakeets zoomed over and White-crowed Parrots noisily flew through. A mixed group of Short-billed and Pale-vented Pigeons were feeding in a treetop and Collared Aracari and Yellow-throated Toucan were briefly seen. A couple of Coatis and a **Mountain Squirrel** were fun to watch on



the lawns. Two diminutive Accipiters hurtled out of the trees and chased each other around for a short while – Tiny Hawks! A real bonus bird and never on my even ‘vaguely hoped for’ list! Ramon was especially pleased being a lover of all things raptorish. White-breasted Wood-Wrens sung from the margins where Swainson’s and Wood Thrushes lurked, and in the tree immediately above us, a male **Gartered Trogon** did that weird staring down at us thing that they do before flying closer just to makes its point. A Squirrel Cuckoo joined it and bounced around flashing that long pied tail. Scaly-breasted Hummers sung in the bushes where Passerini’s Tanagers were feeding and a pair of White-ruffed Manakins were after the same small black berries. Rumbling tummies suggested that breakfast was required and we had to tear ourselves away – albeit for a short while. Off again and through the gardens where the various Hummingbirds gave us some awesome views in the banks of Verbena and a couple of Mistletoe Tyrannulets (they sound like the ‘pluiip’ of Ringed Plover) gave good views while behind us a Yellow-throated Toucan at last sat still. We dropped down into the jungle and followed

the trails in a loop around towards the Frog Pool with many stops on the way as we bumped into various birds. We found both Plain and Streak-crowned Antvireos and Slaty Antwrens and White-collared (Lemon Meringues) and **White-ruffed Manakins** along with, unsurprisingly, some new flycatchers too. There were



Sulphur-rumped Myobious, Ochre-bellied Fly and Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrants and we got good views of all of them. Golden-crowned Warblers fed in the understorey with Chestnut-sided up above and Stripe-breasted and Bay Wrens joined the White-breasted Wood-Wrens. It was the groups first taste of proper jungle trail birding. Surprisingly the only Woodcreeper seen was the tiny Wedge-billed but we did find a gang of Carmiol's Tanagers crashing through the lower foliage. We also found Broad-billed Motmot again, but although we heard Rufous-winged and Pale-billed Woodpeckers we did not see either. Up above we got the odd glimpse of Vultures through the canopy but a vocal Ornate Hawk-Eagle remained out of view – again. Our first Collared Peccaries crashed off although they did leave a very piggy smell behind them. Somehow it was almost lunchtime so we looped back up to the restaurant. Did we stop birding during food time? No... A pack of White-collared Swifts swept

through along with a few smaller Vaux's Swifts, while the Collared Aracaris came in for a snack requiring the abandonment of lunch for a few minutes of ogling time. There were raptors too with **Short-tailed Hawks** and my first Costa



Rican Great Black Hawk illuminated against the slopes of Arenal. Black-and-yellow Tanagers were seen in the *Furcraea longae*, which was in full seedling mode. If only my 14 year old one had survived the Kentish frosts two winters ago.

We reconvened back up where we finished our pre-breakfast walk and started on the river walk. The fig tree at the top was full of birds (seems this was the way every time!) and a family of Bay-headed Tanagers showed at eye-level along with Lesser Greenlets and several **Red-legged Honeycreepers**. A large Fawn-throated

Foliage-Gleaner appeared right next to us as it poked through the leaves – technically a new species for me as I had seen it previously out west where it is now split and called Chiriqui FG. The list is always evolving. A Thicket Antpitta sang from deep cover and we also heard Ocellated and Dull-mantled Antbirds but they were way off in the jungle and not following army ants. Pale-vented Thrushes were found along with Wood and Swainson's and a Grey-chested Dove came fluttering up off the path. Tawny-faced Gnatwrens were seen trackside actually feeding on the ground along with Golden-crowned Warblers and Slaty Antwrens once again. Ochre-bellied and Olive-streaked (aka Olive-striped – now split) Flycatchers were around and we even found a Tawny-capped Euphonia in a mossy



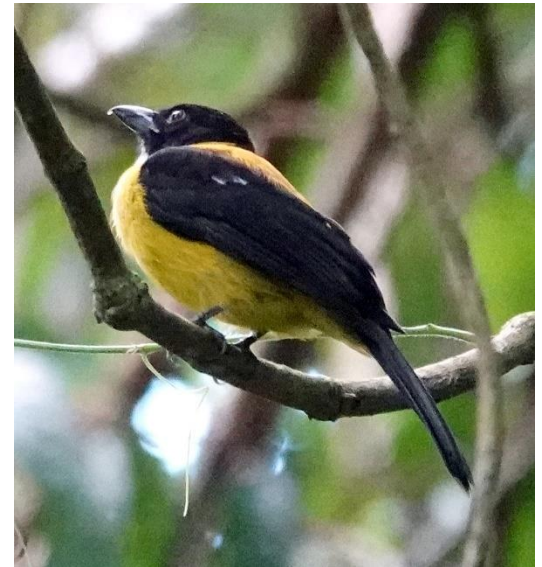
domed nest. A slight diversion off trail saw us with a flock of feeding birds and with a **White-throated Shrike-Tanager** in the front we tried our best to stay with it. Surprisingly they found a good foraging area and the leader stopped and just sat there in full view for five minutes. My best views ever. It gave us the chance to focus on the other birds moving around and amongst the Golden-crowned Warblers and Slaty Antwrens we picked up Spotted and Wedge-billed Woodcreepers, Plain Xenops, Broad-billed Motmots, Squirrel Cuckoo, Euphonias and even both Yellow-throated and our first Keel-billed Toucans. There was even another new species of Ant-thingy for me with Checker-throated Stipplethroat. As we turned to walk back a Spotted Antbird started to sing close to us and soon appeared all decked out in chestnut, grey, black and white as he bounced between near vertical stems close to the ground. The walk back produced a few extras with a pack of 23 Coatis across the path and a couple of Great Curassows actually striding along in front of us. A Buff-rumped



Warbler wagged his tail from side to side as he fed on the trail with only his glowing rump

suggesting he was still there. A quietly sitting Rufous Motmot gave itself up and a Collared Trogon sung in the distance. As dusk fell the two Toucan species started up their evening duets and as we neared the top a Nightingale Wren started up and we stood in silence and listened to this most mournful of songsters welcoming in the evening. He was only a few feet away but eluded our eyes but not our ears. I was pleased to hear from Jose that Nightingale Wren encapsulates for him the sound of the jungle. It is haunting, off key and simple and yet encapsulates in one moment everything it means to be out in the forest in Costa Rica. I have only been three times but have always felt the same. I do not need to see it. I can close my eyes and feel it, bringing with it the scent of the forest floor, the dark nooks and tangles and the fleeting glimpses of birds barely seen. Dinner and then time for a night walk down to the Frog Pool which apart from me 'falling off' the path was a great success with seven amphibians

and a few cool Moths, Katydid, Mantises and Dobsonflies on the illuminated sheet. It is quite difficult to beat a **Red-eyed Tree Frog**.



Day 3 Arenal Observatory Lodge - Celeste Mountain Lodge - 6th Nov

Pre-dawn once again saw us gathered and listening to the Spectacled Owls (one of my favourite sounds) and the Black-and-white Owls, while the feeders were soon swaying around with the combined weight of the Big Three. Unusually the Tenorio Volcano was visible above the cloud to the north west along with the one beyond that although I can't remember the name. Bright-rumped Attila and Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrants were in song and both Yellow-throated and Tawny-capped Euphonias were seen well. A quick check of the little fig tree once again gave us good views of Wilson's, Tennessee and Chestnut-sided Warblers and a male Tooth-billed (né Hepatic) Tanager was on the wires in the early light along with a Least Flycatcher. From here we descended the steps below the veranda and waved at the Curassows finishing off their breakfast. We had not gone too far when a biggish black bird bounded past us. Jose and I both called Woodpecker before realising that it was actually a male Bare-necked Umbrellabird. There were quiet shouts to get everyone onto it as it perched for a minute in full view before dashing off once again. Always hoped for and never expected! We worked our way down and into the dark jungle properly. It was hard work with many birds singing just out of view or staying in the canopy. We heard Dull-mantled and Spotted Antbirds, Black-headed Nightingale-Thrushes, both Toucans, Stripe-breasted and White-breasted Wood-Wrens, White-throated Ant-Tanager and the double tapping knock of a Pale-billed Woodpecker. We did actually see some birds though, with Plain Antvireos, Fawn-throated Foliage

Gleaners, Spotted and Wedge-tailed Woodcreepers and a Northern Schiffornis which stopped briefly near to where we had heard one. A good mixed flock was found as we neared the top of the steps containing various Tanagers, Slaty-capped Flycatchers, Russet Antshrikes and a variety of warblers with Black-and-white, Golden-winged, Golden-crowned and Chestnut-sided. Back at the veranda the **Black-and-Yellow Tanagers** were



putting on a show and the Hummers were vying for blooms along with the Bananquits, butterflies and tiny hawkmoths. I had only just commented that the white rump band on a **Black-crested Coquette** resembles some of the European



Hummingbird Hawkmoths when a Green Thorntail arrived to show off the same feature shortly followed by a similar sized moth with that pattern just to confuse us! The joys of evolution. I am not sure what the white patch does but it actually makes both bird and moth more visible to my eye. Breakfast was taken with the gang of Collared Aracaris and a pair of Double-toothed Kites that drifted over. All too soon it was time to pack up and leave. As usual we stopped a couple of times on the road out, but Fasciated Tiger Herons eluded us once again, but there was still plenty to see with Spotted Sandpipers and



Black Phoebes on the rocks and Southern Rough-winged Swallows were zipping around. Short-tailed and Broad-winged Hawks circled with the Vultures and our first Grey-rumped Swifts cruised low enough to see the salient features. The most bizarre sighting was of a Uniform Crake that scuttle-flew across the road in front of the bus. We veered off onto the Peninsular Road which I am sure is now a lot rougher than it was! It had warmed up and we moved from shady avenues of forest trees to more open roadside banks. As ever it was full of birds although we could not find Keel-billed Motmot this time – only Broad-billed. The Icterid family was well represented with Melodious Blackbirds and Great-tailed Grackles, Montezuma and Chestnut-headed Oropendolas and a small group of Red-rumped Caciques. Yellow-billed Caciques were heard and eventually seen but they are certainly a more elusive species than their cousins. The various Tanagers included our first White-shouldered and Crimson-collared and we heard both Band-backed Wren and Bay Wrens. **White-faced Nunbirds** were exactly where I saw them nearly two years ago with at least six peering down at us between hunting for insects. For a laugh I decided to look at the solitary Cecropia to see if the Long-tailed Tyrants were ‘still there’ – yep. Almost to the branch but when Ramon and I looked

for the Great Potoo it was not there – three out of three would have been just too freaky! A pair of Barred

Antshrikes started up and actually showed very well along with some Variable Seedeaters and two Black-cowled Orioles in the same tangle. Jose picked up a Bare-crowned Antbird singing and a couple of us got lucky with brief views of the gleaming blue top of the head and white wing bars. Our brief stop had taken two hours – no surprise really, and so we moved off and rejoined the main road on route to our next base – the Celeste Mountain Lodge on the Tenorio foothills. As we worked our way around Arenal we made several stops along the way picking up a couple of Red-breasted Meadowlarks displaying from fence posts while Blue-winged Teal, Great Blue and Green Herons were noted in the fields along with our first Black-bellied Whistling Ducks. One stop for some perched White-crowned Parrots proved quite productive with a pair of Green Ibis, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Grey



Hawks.

Northern

Tropical Pewee, Masked and Black-crowned Tityras, **Common Tody-Flycatchers** and nesting Olive-throated Parakeets. Other parrots-things were seen too with Finsch's and Orange-chinned Parakeet and Red-lored and our first Northern Mealy Amazons. Predictably Ramon found our first **Laughing Falcon** and we were even able to stop for once and get the scopes on it. Such big eyes! Every bridge we passed over was checked, and although there never seemed to be a hoped for Sunbittern, we did find both Amazon and Ringed Kingfishers in the same view for some double tick action. We reached the lodge with a warm welcome from Joel with the sun dipping

below the hills while Pauraque called from the gardens and Great Tinamous and Black-eared Wood-Quails could be heard from the dark volcanic slope forests.

Day 4 Celeste Mountain Lodge - 7th Nov

Another early rise saw a couple of Pauraque on the driveway and the Crested Owls singing off down the road, but there was no special sunrise and the cloud was already low. We soon set off on our pre-breakfast walk down



into the jungle. Seeing anything was tricky and quite frustrating and we heard Nightingale Wren, Bay Wren and the two other regular Wren species along with Northern Bentbill and Collared Forest Falcon. Tody Motmots were in song but only gave us tantalising glimpses before dropping from view, but Wood Thrush and a **young Long-billed Hermit** did linger long enough to get bins onto. The adult hermits zipped around at lightning speed with only the sharp call and white tail tips visible. An Alfaro's Pygmy Squirrel was a great find although as usual it did not stay around long to be admired! Both Toucans were vocal and we found them in the canopy with Collared Aracaris, but as for our search for Yellow-eared Toucanets there were no sign. The undoubted highlight was a pair of Dull-mantled Antbirds that gave fantastic close views alongside the track. It is a very poorly named species and in fact has a white patch in the middle of the back and we were treated to the male showing off to his partner by tilting towards her and flaring out that patch that then shone in the dark understorey. It was a special encounter. A

Nightingale Wren then started up in the same area and snuck across the path. With breakfast looming we

retraced our steps finding a male Slaty-tailed Trogon and a Black-and-white Warbler along the way, and as we neared the top Ramon raised his finger to his ear and said 'blanco'. Seconds later a **White Hawk** appeared back across the valley and even landed in full view for us to put the scopes onto. Good to see one perched for a change. Breakfast as usual involved birds with Yellow-throated Euphonias, Black-cheeked Woodpeckers, Baltimore Orioles and various Tanagers on show while in the overly manicured shrubbery below were singing Black-striped Sparrows and Southern House Wrens and dapper little Morelet's Seedeaters. Social and Grey-capped Flycatchers squabbled over perches with the Tropical Kingbirds, and outside a male Black-cowled Oriole was repeatedly returning to a car wing mirror and I think he was after spiders rather than admiring his reflection. Afterwards we headed back down the dark jungle track. It is always the toughest walk of the whole trip but the



potential rewards are great. We started well with a Blackburnian Warbler along the driveway before setting off on the same path as before but this time we conducted the full circuit. It was similarly difficult and frustrating at times and those pesky Tody Motmots again refused to linger for more than a second. However, we did find a mixed pair of **Keel-billed** and **Broad-billed Motmots** building a nest in the path side bank. They showed exceptionally well. I have seen them before in mixed pairs but never an obvious hybrid. I think that the colour-morph theory for these



'two' species is gaining ground. A Northern Schiffornis was heard and was then found interacting with a Wood Thrush. This was exactly the same spot that I first heard the species back in 2022 and after my brief Arenal views it was good to watch this elusive bird.



Yellow-throated Vireos 'squelched' above us and we picked up the usual two Manakins (and heard Long-tailed), Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrants, Ochre-bellied Flycatcher and Black-and-white Warblers along with good views at last of White-breasted Wood-Wren. Wedge-billed Woodcreepers did their thing and a female Blue-black Grosbeak was trickier to pick up. There was Antbirds too with Spotted, Dull-mantled and Chestnut-backed although we saw none of them. As we emerged once again we heard Brown-headed Parrots overhead, but I had hopes of seeing them the next morning. Tropical Mockingbird and Dusky-capped Flycatcher joined us for lunch and a Grey Hawk was sat up surveying the gardens. After lunch we headed for Finca Verde in nearby Bijagua and we were greeted by some obliging **Mantled Howlers** in the Cecropias. A huddle of stripy Tent-making Bats (*Uroderma bilobatum*) I think were found under a palm leaf but

unfortunately almost as soon as we started walking the rain started. We could see it coming from the west and the skies steadily darkened and thunder rumbled. A Cabanis's Wren was singing loudly and Streak-headed Woodcreepers were noted but it felt like the birds knew what was coming. A Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth seemed to pull everything in further and become more ball-like just before the heavens opened. Leaf-cutter Ants dropped their cache and scarpered as the paths quickly flooded. We pressed on but the Tody Motmots were still, shall we say, somewhat difficult to pin down. With the deluge only worsening we waded back to the café area and were grateful of the coffee provided and opted to sit there and wait to see if it let up which it eventually did so we donned our wet gear once more and gave it another try but it was now just too dark in amongst the trees and we aborted mission and headed back to the Celeste Mountain Lodge to wring ourselves out before dinner.

Day 5 Celeste Mountain Lodge - Cano Negro - 8th Nov

A very early attempt for the Crested Owls resulted in hearing them very well but they stayed at a fair distance while Pauraque sung again in the gardens. The Collared Forest Falcon started up but remained out of view. However, there was plenty to see pre-breakfast with a group of Brown-headed Parrots up in one of the bigger trees and Red-lored Amazons squawking around in multiples of two. White-collared Manakins wing snapped, and the trees behind the lodge held Yellow-throated and Philadelphia Vireos, Baltimore Orioles, Slaty-tailed Trogon, both Toucans, Swainson's Thrushes, Wilson's Warblers and Northern Bentbill, and we could hear Barred Antshrike and Black-striped Sparrows singing from the gardens. A tatty White Hawk flew over and spooked some Orange-chinned Parakeets, and then a shout from inside of 'SNOWCAP!' had us scampering back inside and there below us around the one patch of Verbena was a gleaming, shiny almost pink bumble bee of a bird with that luminous white crown. It zipped around for just over a minute before the inevitable Rufous-tailed Hummingbird saw it off. Thankfully we were all there to see this gem of a bird. The last time I was here I missed one by looking at the wrong bush. Time to go once again and wend our way across toward the Nicaraguan border and the Caño Negro. We stopped a couple of times along the road on the way out and had a particularly productive 20 minutes at the Rio Celeste bridge (where there were still no Fasciated Tiger-Herons)



and with blue skies and warming temperatures there were raptors to be found. Five Double-toothed Kites were up high interacting and were joined by Broad-winged and Short-tailed Hawks, Turkey, Black and two adult King Vultures, a squealing Bat Falcon, immature Red-tailed Hawk and a low Great Black Hawk. Superb stuff. Ramon was trying his very best to find us an Ornate Hawk-Eagle! Down the road a ways we found three individual Laughing Falcons and an obliging pair of **White-tailed Kites** along with Roadside Hawks and a Grey Hawk. It was looking set to become a raptor day. Further short stops added Blue-black Grassquit performing their little jumping jack display, Variable Seedeaters and a pair of Yellow Tyrannulets that were in some vines with Black-throated Wrens, Golden-hooded and Passerini's Tanagers. A ploughed

field on the other side of the road held a pair of goggle-eyed Double-striped Thick-knees. They always feel so much taller than our own European cousins. A dead palm on the outskirts of a village had a fine male Lineated Woodpecker which even let us get out and scope it. Meanwhile a Green Iguana looked out from the hollow top of the tree. The regular parakeets and parrots were seen in the villages along with the usual flycatchers, Grey-breasted Martins and Blue-and-white Swallows. The long bumpy track ensued and of course as soon as we reached the tarmac the Hotel de Campo entrance is just 50m up the road. It was seriously hot and sticky but at

that stage at least it was not wet. The birding continued as we walked to the rooms with our first look at the dapper Spot-breasted Wren one of which was devouring a very long-legged cricket. The water level of the lagoon was far higher than I had seen on my previous visits and with no shallow water there was little to see bar a few Neotropic Cormorants and Great Egrets, but the gardens on the walk back up to the rooms added Grey-



headed Doves, Streak-headed Woodcreepers, Common Tody Flycatchers and a smart male White-collared Manakin. We were soon back out on the road and on the long bumpy road that would take us to Medio Queso. It was so green and wet this time and the roadside stops proved most worthwhile with a good selection of the regular herons and egrets, Anhingas and best of all a monstrously huge **Jabiru** – a species we missed last time. Amazon and Ringed Kingfishers were dotted along the telephone wires with TKs and we had one particular marshy area where the wild rice was fruiting and we found Morelet's and Variable Seedeaters, Thick-billed and the impressive top heavy Nicaraguan Seedfinch. Scissor-tailed

Flycatchers, Red-winged Blackbirds and Red-breasted Meadowlarks that were perched up on the tops, and Northern Jacanas switched between chestnut to lime yellow when they took flight. A solitary Giant Cowbird was chased off by several TKs. Our raptor day continued with several more Roadside Hawks before adding



seven Harris's Hawks including three perched up in the same dead tree. They soon moved on and were replaced by two dapper **Bat Falcons** who wanted to utilise the same lookouts. We had joked about the chance of adding Northern Harrier and then I spotted a steadily moving but familiar shape heading high and south. Ta dah! One ringtail in the bag and another Costa Rica tick for me to boot. Another followed shortly afterwards with two and the rain soon arrived just in time for our arrival at Medio Queso. We had a great little boat ride as usual but the Persistent precipitation and grey skies did not quite give the experience I was hoping for. With damp birds all around and with higher water levels, we did not see the numbers I had expected. Saying that we were still very fortunate

finding a variety of Rallidae with a pair of diminutive **Yellow-breasted Crakes** (not taped by the way!), seven trilling White-throated Crakes, Common and Purple Gallinules and an obliging **Sora**. There were not too many



herony things but we did end up with five damp **Pinnated Bitterns** and a single male Least Bittern. A Pied-billed Grebe was a good find and looked huge alongside the **Least Bittern**. Hundreds of Western Cattle Egrets



and a few Little Blue Herons were flying off to roost and flocks of Blue-winged Teal flew in as an early dusk fell. There were only a few Ringed, Green and Amazon Kingfishers and most were sheltering from the rain while a flighty Fork-tailed Flycatcher looked particularly bedraggled as it flew along the river. There were raptors too with Black-collared Hawk and a soggy Snail Kite that looked very miserable. That bill is amazing.



The weather precluded us getting many small birds other than a few Red-winged Blackbirds and a singing Olive-crowned Yellow-throat that did the decent thing and popped up on top of the flooded grasses. Pale-vented Pigeons were congregating in the odd bigger trees to roost, but we could not find Night-Herons of any species. We returned damp but happy with the species haul and kept our fingers crossed for the journey back where we hoped to find some Owls and Potoos by torchlight as we bumped along. The rain grew steadily heavier making lamping for eyeshine even more difficult but we stuck at it and Jose did the business



on the right-hand side with an **American Barn Owl**, **Striped Owl**, two Black-and-white Owls and a distant Common Potoo. All I managed to find on the left were lots of spider eyes and the occasional bovine!

It had been another long day but we had experienced 26 birds of prey and somehow not been defeated by the deteriorating weather. Sleep came easy.

Day 6 Cano Negro - La Selva - 9th Nov

With much higher water levels than normal we were able to board our boat from the hotel gardens and headed out into the lagoon and then up river. It was a far different experience to my previous visits with no visible river banks at all and I suspect six or seven feet of extra water that took the river up to and through the trees. As such the birding was also different with far fewer heron type birds but a wealth of small species foraging in the trees, often at low level. There were plenty of singing Wrens with Black-throated, Southern House, Bay and Spot-breasted. and also a superb selection of New World Warblers with Chestnut-sided and Yellow Warblers

mingling with Golden-winged and Bay-breasted and ridiculously bright Prothonotaries which look like a steely blue bird has been clasped by the tail and dipped in a tin of the richest cadmium yellow paint. Unlike many such coloured birds there is not even any demarcation of ear coverts or crown feathers – it is simply solid yellow and they never cease to amaze me. Northern Waterthrush dashed across the fast flowing river calling loudly and a Grey-crowned Yellowthroat showed very well in some reedy vegetation, while in the trees behind two male Hooded Warblers played chase. This was one of my most wanted North American warblers. A Yellow-throated Vireo was then watched despatching a large hairy caterpillar. The dry start did not last too long and persistent rain soon began to fall but it did not really bother the birds too much. There were quite a few flycatchers with Great Crested and Dusky-capped, Northern Tropical Pewee, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Yellow, Mistletoe and Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet (another new one for me). Black-crowned Tityras were in the tree tops and White-browed Gnatcatchers and Cinnamon Becards gave us some close views unlike the Dusky and Bare-crowned Antbirds which remained stubbornly hidden from us. We searched for Yellow-tailed Orioles with no joy but did see several parties of Baltimore Orioles as they moved through with a host of the regular Tanagers. Green, Amazon and Ringed Kingfishers were all seen but seldom stayed still for long as the river was too fast flowing, especially for the American Pygmy. A male Slaty-tailed Trogon stared down at us, while both Caracaras were overhead, but the light was too poor to pick out any Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures although we did see a damp Roadside Hawk and our first Osprey. Red-lored Amazons and Olive-throated Parakeet were in the treetops with Pale-vented Pigeons and some monster **Green Iguanas** which were ignored by the Mantled Howlers and White-faced Capuchin troops that we found. Breakfast saw us return to shore feeling like we had just scratched the surface of this amazing wetland. A male Black-headed Trogon greeted us upon our return and its behaviour mirrored that of the Slaty-tailed as it came in closer to give us a hard look! They



are funny birds. There was time after breakfast for a final walk around the gardens and we got most of the group onto **Spot-breasted Wren** and Grey-headed Dove while a Bronzy Hermit did not linger. A Yellow-olive Flatbill showed well with Mistletoe Tyrannulet and Common Tody-Flycatcher for company and Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Streak-headed Woodcreeper and Yellow-throated Euphonia were all feeding on one small bush near the cabins. There was one more treat in store as Jose found an American Pygmy Kingfisher sat up under the lagoon edge bushes where it fed unconcerned by our presence. With such high-water levels this was a great bird to get back – smiles all round. It

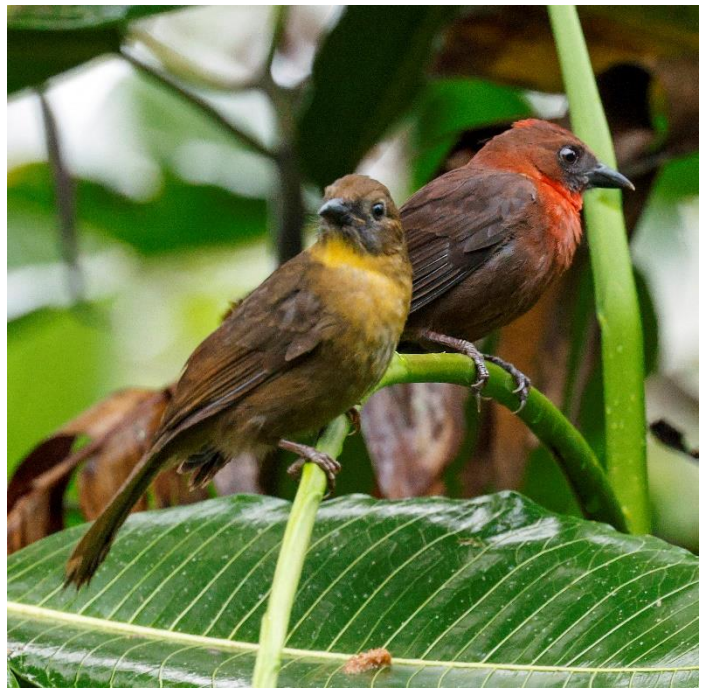


was soon time to hit the road again and we retraced our steps of yesterday up toward Medio Queso, stopping along the way once again to watch Ringed Kingfisher, some close roadside **Double-striped Thick-knees** and at least one Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture. It was hot and sunny at this point but once again the rain descended as we reached the wetlands. How frustrating. We stopped on the approach road and scanned the marshes while trying to avoid getting too wet. White-throated Crakes were giggling on either side and we even got to see one this time while a male Nicaraguan Seedfinch was using his big pink bill to delicately nibble at tiny rice seeds. We got lucky with the other speciality – the Nicaraguan Grackle – and I found a female going for a ride on the back of a cow that was almost completely invisible in the tall grasses. Blue-winged Teals were seen in flight and a Pinnated Bittern popped up for a look-see before retracting its serpentine neck. The rain was increasing and we abandoned our birding attempts and started to make our way south. Lunch was taken at the Iguana café where as usual the mighty reptiles were the stars (although the Dragonfruit drink was rather fab too), but the rain continued to fall steadily. We arrived at La Quinta in Sarapiquí not long before dusk and bags were quickly dropped so that we could have a look around the gardens, but a huge thunderstorm broke overhead and the skies darkened and the flashing back end of a Buff-rumped Warbler was the only bird we saw before retreating. All the walkways are covered between the rooms and dining area at La Quinta which at least meant we could get out after dinner to look for frogs!



Day 7 La Selva - 10th Nov

We rendezvoused by the feeders as the light tried to push through, but as usual it was very dark where they are situated so we concentrated on the foliage above. A Purple-crowned Fairy dashed in to the tower of flowers on the huge climber, hovered, flashing that gleaming white belly and was gone. **Red-throated Ant-Tanagers** were our target and they soon came in and were joined by Passerini's and Crimson-collared Tanagers and both Black-cowled and Baltimore Orioles, as well as a feisty gang of Collared Aracari. We also had a Rufous-winged Woodpecker perched up, and showing off its pale eyes. Cinnamon-bellied and Buff-throated Saltators were late to the party and a Cocoa Woodcreeper was clambering up the closest Cecropia. Northern Mealy and Red-lore Amazons headed off to feed and so did we. Whilst collecting our gear to head out after breakfast I found a



smart Blue-black Grosbeak singing outside my room while metallic 'pinking' Orange-billed Sparrows hopped around the borders. On the way to La Selva we saw our first Great

Green Macaws flying through a small township and then stopped to watch two (**Caribbean**) **Scarlet Macaws** having an intimate moment in a tree top. The group were quite emotional at seeing their first Macaws through a telescope. These birds were actually the first Scarlets of this race that I had seen in Costa Rica (they have more blue) and unlike the Pacific birds which

are on the increase, these ones are declining fast. Their **Great Green** cousins steal all the limelight on this side when in fact they too need urgent help. From talking to Jose, there is a push to split the Scarlets which would automatically up its status, bringing it into the limelight where conservation interest would be generated. The driveway in to La Selva is always excellent and we walked the last few hundred yards. It was fairly quiet to be honest but we did find an obliging male Northern Black-throated Trogon and one of my missing Hummers with the delightfully red legged Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer. Quite a large species and it kept trying to return to a favoured heliconia patch but the Scaly-breasted HBs kept it on the move. We soon signed in and picked up our reserve guide and headed up and over the long bouncy bridge with the river raging, brown, below us. The permanent moth sheet had a few goodies still sheltering there as we walked past, but the rain had started once again and we spent the next hour vaguely sheltered and concentrating our efforts on the fig trees which were full of a constantly changing panoply of bird life. There were Tanagers galore with Palm, Silver-throated, **Summer**, Scarlet, Golden-hooded, Passerini's and the poorly named Plain-



coloured Tanager along with three Manakins with a female Red-capped amongst the usual duo. Yellow-crowned was a new Euphonia amongst the Yellow-throated and Olive-backed, and a full suite of Honeycreepers and Dacnis added Shining (with its yellow legs) It was neck jarring but at least the distance to the birds was not great – just the angle of approach! There were Chestnut-sided and Tennessee Warblers, Yellow-throated Vireos, Common Tody-Flycatchers, Lesser Greenlets and the regular four 'yellow' Flycatchers along with Ochre-bellied Flycatcher too. There was even a Crested Guan lurking in there. You just had to keep looking and calling whatever you could see. It was a grand team effort. Whilst stood there we picked up Black-crowned Tityras, Amazons, Collared Aracaris

and Yellow-throated Toucans, and even had a couple of good views of a vocal Semi-plumbeous Hawk, while Grey-rumped Swifts passed over. Ramon's sharp eyes once again picked up something special with a Snowy Cotinga briefly sat up on the top of the biggest trees. We then hit the trails and were soon watching a pair of very disgruntled Crested Owls sheltering deep in cover and a Bright-rumped Attila came down low enough to see well, along with a two Plain Xenops and another Cocoa Woodcreeper. Army Ants were suddenly picked up alongside the track and we stopped and looked quietly into the trees where to our delight birds could be seen. There were three species present and it was a real privilege to once again watch Bi-coloured, Spotted and the mighty **Ocellated Antbirds** as they flicked up and down after prey pushed ahead of the marauding hoards on the forest floor. The swarm was taking the birds away from us but it was still a memorable twenty minutes we had with such iconic jungle dwellers. Two female Great Curassows strutted along the track in front of us and a couple of Collared Peccaries dashed the other way.



There were Orange-billed Sparrows in the leaf litter and a pair of **Black-crowned Antshrikes** quietly fed alongside us. We soon moved on as it felt like they probably had a nest. A Great Tinamou was heard and Great Green Macaws moved overhead but were obscured by the canopy. At this point the light rain became a deluge and we abandoned our walk and retraced our steps before seeking shelter under the huts by the fig trees. When it eventually abated enough we slogged our way back to the visitors centre and a hot lunch. We still chose seats with a view and there was a good flock of feeding common species to watch whilst adding a couple of new ones too with a Blue-chested Hummingbird and a Eye-ringed Flatbill. Suitably fed and vaguely dried out we soon headed out for round two and took the trail before the bridge. A pair of **Rufous Motmots** got us off to a good start and an Eastern Wood



Pewee gave good identifiable views and called to seal the deal, and we also heard Great Crested and Acadian



Flycatcher. A Northern Royal Flycatcher was a welcome find but did not hang about, and we found a White-whiskered Puffbird sitting motionless on a vine and only its high pitched call drew attention to it. There were plenty of invisible Wrens singing and we got close to a Squirrel Cuckoo but although we were at one stage surrounded by three singing Fasciated Antshrikes we just could not find one. Our guide randomly found the best bird of the afternoon with a Great Potoo just visible through a tiny hole in the leafy canopy. He had the right to look smug! A White-tipped Dove trotted across the path and another shouty Semi-plumbeous Hawk was mantling a large Basilisk that it had caught. We stood quietly to see if its mate flew in but nothing happened so we left it to it. It was soon time to head back and an Osprey sitting dejectedly in a riverside treetop was our last bird before leaving. Jose took us to a spot in the nearby town where some incredible trees still remained in disappointing isolation as he hoped they might give us some Great Green Macaw views. He was spot on and we counted ten

of these huge parrots clambering around noisily and munching on the large seed pods. They leisurely flew away in pairs towards their evening roost, while there was a mixed flock of Oropendolas and a pre-roost of 21 Black-crowned Tityras with some Finsch's Parakeet and the local Amazons also headed off for the night. A Bat Falcon and Grey Hawk were up on high points looking for a last snack and a couple of vibrant Yellow Warblers were in the bushes. There was time for one last stop and they re-opened the chocolate shop just for us while Mantled Howlers dangled in the trees and a single (Caribbean) Scarlet Macaw rounded up our day in the field. There was just time for a short walk around the gardens at La Quinta before it got totally dark. The frog chorus was insane and bats were everywhere but the only bird seen was a Green Ibis in the gloom.

Day 8 La Quinta - Tarcoles - 11th Nov

As usual the group assembled for a pre-breakfast amble around the grounds of La Quinta. I had it in mind to find Chestnut-backed Antbird as I had had them here last time and amazingly one started singing down by the river and promptly hopped up into view, which was good of it. The riverbanks held singing Buff-rumped Warblers down on the rocks and White-collared Manakins and Blue-black Grosbeaks were seen. We quietly

walked around the grounds finding Wood Thrush and a couple of skittish Northern Waterthrush along with a gem of an Ovenbird that bobbed along in front of us in search of worms. Back near the feeders a White-necked Jacobin whizzed through and Black-cowled Orioles were in the vines again. Time for breakfast and then the start of the long drive west towards the Pacific. The continuing poor weather had been severely battering that coast and we already knew that it was going to be unlikely that we could get out on the Tarcoles river and Carara NP was already a no-go area. Indeed, even Celeste that we had left behind was now closed to visitors. It became a day of many stops. The first, just over a river bridge just illustrated how much astonishing wildlife we must have been driving past for within just a few minutes we had found Sooty-faced Brushfinch, **Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush**, White-necked Jacobin and Slate-throated Whitestart and we were only about three paces from the bus. Seeing the Brushfinches before Quelitalis at the end of the trip was a real bonus. A side road on the way up took us into a deep valley and to a proper metal road bridge down in the bottom. Black Phoebes flicked between rocks and Louisiana Waterthrushes bobbed like streaked Dippers on mossy boulders but what about the real thing? I had missed American Dipper on both my previous trips and was sceptical with the towering water levels about connecting again, but this river was still moving nicely with lots of boulders and sure enough there was a little grey blob of Dipperness. I got everyone on it and over the next ten minutes the pair came closer and could be heard calling below us. One put on quite a show for us. I may have done a Dipper dance but I think no one was watching. Heading back up the road we stopped opposite some Heliconias and Jose said that we would give it a couple of minutes because you never know, a White-tipped Sicklebill may just call by. It took about 15 seconds and suddenly one was there hovering then hanging onto the flowers and using that super Gonzo bill. Less than a minute later and it had moved on again; off to find the next patch of blooms on its daily circuit. Jose, Ramon and I looked shocked and I am not sure that the others knew how lucky we had just been! On again and the view where we normally get Swallow-tailed Kites (wrong time of year this time) was still worth a stop. An Osprey passed over us and a fast moving flock of Swifts was made up of White-collared, Vaux's and Chestnut Collareds. Lunch was at the famous Cinchona Café although we had plenty of time to kill there before eating. It was spellbinding and it felt like day one all over again for the group. There were



Hummers all around and the new ones came thick and fast with Green Hermit, Violet Sabrewing, **Black-bellied Hummingbird**, Coppery-headed Emerald and White-bellied Mountain Gem along with Rufous-tails and Green-crowned Brilliants. And of course, you get so close to them and can feel the whirring of their wings as they hurtle to and fro. The Hummers were great but as usual I was taken by the larger beasts – in particular the Black Guans with their blue faces and red eyes. There were four Blue-throated Emerald Toucanets popping up along with familiar Tanagers, Baltimore Orioles and pleasingly both Red-headed and Prong-billed Barbets. I happen to think that the **female of the Red-headed Barbet**



actually has more going for it. Down below us there were many Clay-coloured Thrushes picking around the dropped fruit and we briefly saw both Chestnut-capped Brushfinch and even a Buff-fronted Quail-Dove. The weather kept closing in and the distant waterfall was occasionally in view. Further on another pounding waterfall allowed for some touristy photos but even here the steep banks held Red-headed Barbets, Common Chlorospingus, Wilson's Warblers and a clumsy group of Yellow-thighed Finches that crashed around in front of us. Strengthening rain saw us retreat once again. The heavy rain returned but we kept on with the plan to find other spots to search for highland birds. Another river added both Yellowish and Northern Tufted Flycatchers as well as a couple of Black Guans and yet another new Hummingbird with a Purple-throated Mountain Gem. Up



into the cloud and a rather random roadside stop in the driving drizzle at Varablanca saw us looking at a Verbena hedge where glints of Hummershimmer caught the eye within seconds. We were treated to dazzling views of Lesser Violetear and Purple-throated Mountain Gems, and two of the micros with shiny metallic orange gorgetted Scintillants, and red throated (Poás-Barva) **Volcano Hummingbirds**. I had not seen this particular Volcano Hummingbird before but more of that later in the trip. Slaty Flowerpiercers nipped in and out and onto the list, as it was turning out to be quite a day. Onwards and down into the outskirts of San Jose but even here our luck continued and a convenient pull over at a hardware shop saw us piling out to watch a group of three Fiery-billed Aracaris just loafing in a tree above the shops! The locals even came out for a look at what we were watching. We

looped around the north side of the city before turning back onto the Tarcoles Lodge road. Several stops and walks along the track were most productive. I was taken aback by how green everything was. This area has been crispy and dry when I have visited before. The margins held little parties of Morelet's Seedeaters and Stripe-headed Sparrows and Blue-vented Hummingbirds while Turquoise-browed Motmots hunted from the wires and Scrub Euphonia, Streak-backed Oriole and Yellow-throated Vireo were found in the bushes. Elegant White-throated Magpie-Jays moved through the trees and a cloud of Orange-fronted Parakeets dashed out of a feeding tree and we suspected that a Bat Falcon was to blame. A local caretaker on his moped stopped to ask if we had seen any owls. With a negative reply he offered to take us into the empty property he was looking after and promptly showed us a **Pacific Screech Owl** staring down at us with baleful eyes. Two Double-striped Thick-knees watched us from under the same trees. Our official trespassing did not last long and we were soon back in the van for the last mile to the lodge passing a brood of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks on the way on a small roadside flood. Costa Rican Swifts made low passes showing off their very pale rumps and (Pacific) Scarlet Macaws powered off towards the river and its Mangroves where they roost. It was dusk by the time we arrived and the view from the breakfast area was immense and it had cleared enough that we could see Brown Pelicans cruising along the coast miles away and watch the various parrots continue with their roost flights. Soon the evening contingent appeared and as far as you could see there were Lesser Nighthawks sailing effortlessly back and forth across the expansive vista.



We went out that evening for dinner and were all scarred by the size of the portions of fried shrimp that arrived. The chap who maned the rope (not a barrier) at the start of the road to the lodge was very grateful for the doggy bag we brought him!

Day 9 Tarcoles Area - 12th Nov

Umbrellas were required to get to the breakfast area at the Tarcoles Lodge this morning. It was already teeming and the jungle below was likewise steaming. As the last of the Lesser Nighthawks headed off after a hard night's hawking, the mighty (Pacific) **Scarlet Macaws** rowed overhead on their way to their feeding areas.

The rain let up somewhat and the Hummingbirds soon arrived to feed on the Verbena hedge below. There were Blue-throated Goldentails, Blue-vented, Rufous-tailed, Cinnamon and Ruby-throated HB and a Long-billed Hermit went through but did not stop. The three Amazon parrots proclaimed themselves and just above us were Chestnut-collared, White-collared and Costa Rican Swifts. On the lawns behind us there were feeding Ruddy and Common Ground-Doves, Inca Doves and Great Kiskadees, and a **Roadside Hawk** was actively hunting from low



perches and allowed Bruce and Neil to approach for photos. As the air cleared we could see the shimmering Pacific Ocean and the view south down the rocky coast and across the Gulf of Nicoya to the peninsular beyond. Even from here you could see wheeling flocks of prehistoric Magnificent Frigatebirds and plunge diving Brown Pelicans. The news from down below was not good with the Tarcoles river still being too high to allow any tourist boats out onto it and Carara NP absolutely a no go area. With Jose at the helm we did not need to worry and headed up the coast toward Mata de Limon where we skirted the docks and fishing port (adding Franklin's Gull from the van!) and then explored the local Mangroves. It was raining once again but it was quite light and the birds are actually more active so our amble was incredibly productive with the most magnificent views of **Mangrove Hummingbird** – a species I have only seen from the Tarcoles boats at some range looking both across and up, so being just

a couple of metres away at eye level was very special. There were plenty of other feeding birds in the mangroves and surrounding herbage and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and TK's sat on the wires and we found both Streak-backed and Baltimore Orioles, Olive Sparrow and a variety of Flycatchers with Great and Brown-crested and the rather local Northern Scrub Flycatcher, a pair of which we watched at close range. There were Yellow and Tennessee Warblers, American Redstart and calling Northern Waterthrush. Black and Turkey Vultures drifted over and Broad-winged Hawks and both species of Caracaras were noted, but we were pleased to find a Mangrove Black-Hawk sitting around and waiting for the rain to let up. A quick look from a new foot



bridge on the way out gave us perched Roseate Spoonbill and White Ibis and a couple of Mangrove Swallows were sat on the boats while Magnificent Frigatebirds cruised just over our heads and another couple of Franklin's Gulls could be seen in the direction of the beach. That sandy beach forced a roadside stop shortly afterwards as a flock of waders could be seen trying to roost down there. Within a couple of minutes, we had a flock of Semi-palmated Plovers in the scope and although that was a new CR species for me, I was trying to find something bigger and there it was, a heavy headed, big billed Wilson's Plover. Sanderlings scuttled along the tideline along with a couple of Hudsonian Whimbrels and Willets. The beach had runners, walkers, dogs and fisherman but the waders were unphased and just worked around their beach buddies. The big vessels moored offshore where decked out with strings of Frigatebirds and the little fishing boats had dozing Brown Pelicans around the gunnels. We veered inland and headed for lunch where Great-tailed Grackles entertained us before we ventured down the Guacimo Road. It was so green that I did not recognise any of it. The weather was once again dampening proceedings but we did get some excellent views of Stripe-headed Sparrows, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, Squirrel Cuckoo and Cinnamon-bellied Saltators. There were lots of



specialities missing but our chances were somewhat reduced so we cut our losses and headed back to the coast with a brief stop at the road bridge over the Tarcoles. The water had obviously dropped considerably but was still over the banks in places and there were only two Central American Crocodiles on the one exposed area. A fairly large one was at the south end of the bridge and was technically in the field alongside... There were very few birds although a distant Tri-coloured Heron was added to the tally. Down at the village of Playa Azul it became obvious that the settlement had been inundated with the flood waters with every garden

still underwater and with associated waterbirds which included our only Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and a **Bare-throated Tiger-Heron**. There were piles of rubbish near each property where they had had to clear out

their ruined belongings. There was also water between us and the beach and we decided not to wade through given the fact that the Crocs were no longer visible in the river. A short walk and two visits to the beach gave us a good selection of species with the same wader selection with the addition of Turnstone and Grey Plover, plus Willets were of particularly good value. Laughing and Franklin's Gulls were noted along with patrolling Royal Terns amongst the Brown Pelicans. Neotropic Cormorants were on the tidal pools with a single Wood Stork and an Osprey was fishing offshore. A glowing pink **Roseate Spoonbill** gave us



a superb fly by. There were small birds in the grass and scrub with Brown-crested Flycatcher, Morelet's Seedeaters and female Bronzed Cowbirds, plus a juvenile Mangrove Black-Hawk that flew through at head height. We had one more raptor bonus when a barred raptor crashed into the garden alongside us and grabbed a

small bird. We managed to stop the group behind us long enough to raise bins and realise that it was a juvenile Collared Forest-Falcon! It flew immediately and landed in a tree for just long enough to get everyone onto

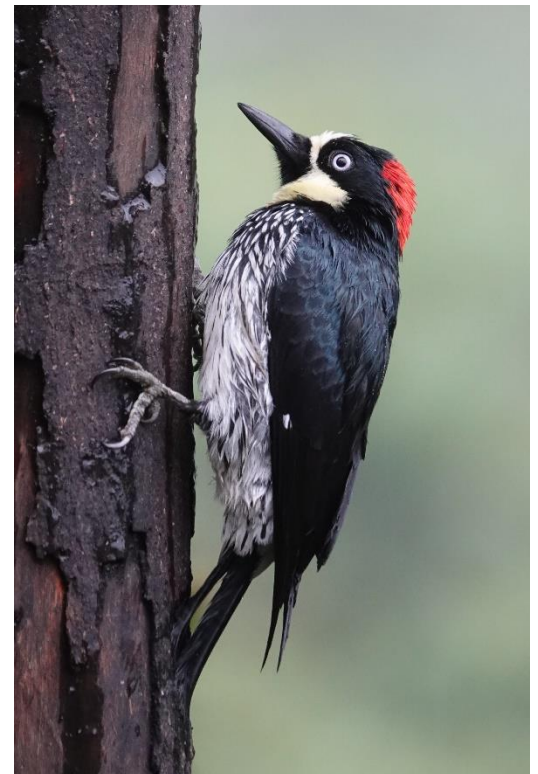


it. After hearing several others on the trip, it was great to see this elusive species. The first Lesser Nighthawks were already on the wing over the Mangroves, while the pool to the south produced Northern Waterthrush, Yellow Warbler and a stunning male **Mangrove Warbler**. Spotted Sandpipers and a Great Egret were around the edges and some vibrant Baltimore Orioles moved through the smaller Mangroves along the back edge. We trudged back and headed inland and up past Villa Lapas (where I have stayed before) to have a listen for forest birds from the roadside. The tarmac has severely degraded since my last visit and was barely present in parts and there were frequent new land slips, some of which had been cleared off the road. We pulled over at the big viewpoint and looked back to Playa Azul below us. You could hear the river thundering below us and I have to admit that I

would not have wanted to be staying down there at Villa Lapas given the proximity of the chalets to the river! We saw very little but did hear both Cabanis's and Riverside Wren plus a Little Tinamou that started singing as the light fell. Dinner was taken at the same amazing roadside diner as yesterday, but we only ordered three dishes between six of us and still ended up bringing extra food to the man at the rope gate once again!

Day 10 Tarcoles - Savegre - 13th Nov

It was a slightly less damp start at Tarcoles but the full suite of yesterday's Hummers joined us for breakfast and across the misty forest a steady wave of kingbirds were heading inland from the coast. Western Kingbirds were suspected among them and indeed some small groups landed close enough to see the pale sided black tail. The rain soon returned! Our plan had been to head down the Pacific coast to look for rocky waders and such like before swinging inland to climb up to Savegre but the road was closed in several places due it no longer being there after severe landslides. This meant that we had to retrace our steps back through San Jose and up onto the Pan American highway and over the top. It was a drive to catch up with zzzzz but as we climbed, we noted very little traffic coming the other way and within 10 miles of the Savegre turn off we found a road block. Ramon drove to the front and Jose spoke to the Police. No one was allowed through unless they had proof of a hotel reservation. Thankfully we did and were allowed to pass. Phew! As we dropped down into the valley the rain increased but Miriam's awaited us. I told the group to once again take a deep breath before going through the café to view her feeders. Despite the weather the feeders were super busy and I think that everyone picked up about 13 new species in the first three minutes. Gangs of chattering **Acorn Woodpeckers** came and went and were only really out competed by the Emerald Toucanets. One of the very dark local race Hairy Woodpeckers tried to sneak a few bits of banana before being pushed off, and there were orange and yellow Flame-coloured Tanagers, Summer and Blue-grey Tanagers



and our first **Sooty-capped Chlorospingus**, while dusky Mountain Thrushes were bolder than they white eyed Sooty Thrushes. Down below there was a crowd of Rufous-collared Sparrows and amongst them where Yellow-

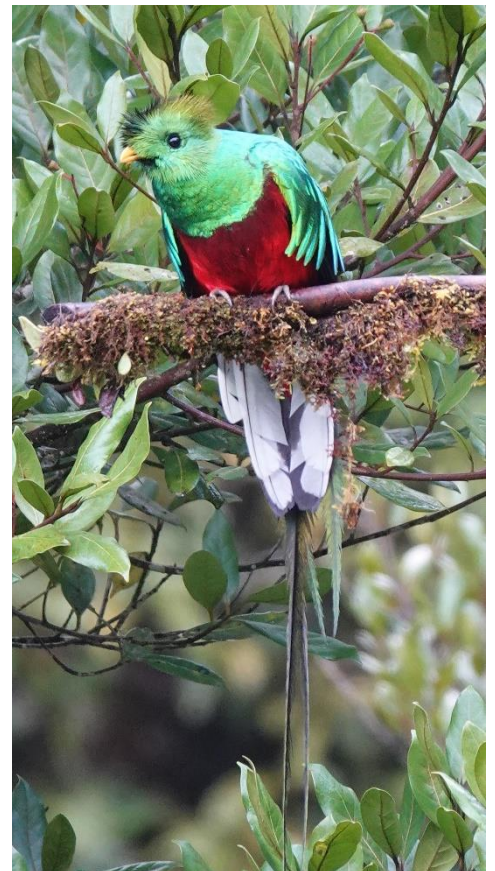


thighed (Legwarmers), and Large-footed Finches (Bigfoot). Tennessee and Wilson's Warblers popped in and a couple of Slaty Flowerpiercers were showing us how they get their name on the cannas. A Spot-crowned Woodcreeper came in and paused long enough for good views. The Hummer feeders were very busy and most species were new with Heliotrope Volcano, Fiery-throated, Talamanca, Lesser Violetear and hefty Talamancas. The lunch of local trout was excellent although everyone did abandon it when the Acorn Woodies came in for the first time! A couple of Red-tailed Mountain Squirrels were watched feeding and one was using his tail as an umbrella giving him an interesting wiggy appearance!

Once down at the Savegre Lodge we had time for a short but damp walk around the gardens where Stripe-tailed Hummingbirds were following the Slaty Flowerpiercers around the cannas and the other regular species were all seen. A Philadelphia Vireo showed well by the river and we found Yellowish Flycatcher, Tennessee and a smart male Black-throated Green Warbler, but the river itself was an absolutely raging torrent with barely a boulder visible and strangely enough there were no Torrent Tyrannulets and American Dippers to be found. Some downtime and warm up was required before dinner.

Day 11 Savagre - 14th Nov

An early start was planned for our hunt for **Resplendent Quetzals** but none of us were expecting it to be a dry start or even a hint of blue above. Our spot was slightly off-piste and about a mile back up the valley, where after a short walk we were in position and watching several fruiting avocado trees. Within a few minutes a female flew in, briefly perching on one of the mossy photographic logs before entering the tree. A male soon arrived and over the next forty minutes we watched two pairs drift in and out of the fruiting trees and given us all wondrous views. It was another one of those emotional moments for the group, and I completely get it. They had just seen one of those iconic birds that they had only ever dreamed of seeing. There were momentary distractions when a gang of Sulphur-winged Parakeets sped through just above our heads and a party of Band-tailed Pigeons were perched, although they were a long way up, but at least we could see that far for a change! The walk back to the bus added our first Mountain Elaenia although I think everyone was still pre-occupied with visions of shimmering green. Breakfast time and then a short while to get ready for the truck ride up the hill. While waiting for everyone to assemble we watched Hummers such as Scintillant, Heliotrope Volcano, White-throated Mountain Gems, Lesser Violetears, Stripe-tailed and Talamanca Hummingbirds, while the Slaty Flowerpiercers were teaching a dowdy youngster how to poke holes in



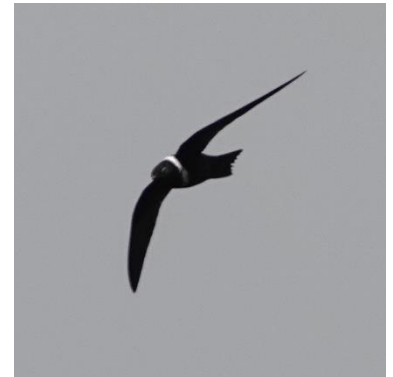
the correct place. Two Sulphur-winged Parakeets then came in and perched up above the cabins for a while. Soon we were bundling into the back of one of the Jeeps for the bumpy ride up into the forest. The earlier sunshine has gone leaving us up in the cloud once again but at least to start with it was not actually raining. We walked a little further up before following a loop that took us back down to the main track once again. We found several foraging flocks of mixed species mostly made up of Ruddy Treerunners and Sooty-capped Chlorospingus but we also found Spot-crowned Woodcreeper and a fantastic Buffy Tuftedcheek which is definitely one of my favourite Furnarids. Grey-breasted Wood-Wren and Ochraceous Wren were found and both Black-billed and Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush fed along the paths fairly unconcerned by our presence. There were Chestnut-capped Brush-finches and Legwarmers (sorry, Yellow-thighed Finch – even Jose slipped up!) and a party of **Spangle-cheeked Tanagers** as well as super sexy Flame-throated Warblers which have that strange black triangle in the blue-grey back. Wilson's and Black-throated Green Warblers appeared along with Yellowish and Northern Tufted Flycatchers that were feeding quite low, and Black-cheeked Warblers put on an unusually co-operative show. I am not sure I have seen this species that well before. A Barred Becard sang but did not come close and we could hear Ruddy Pigeon (a variation on the 'who cooks for you?' of Short-billed Pigeon) and cackling



Acorn Woodpeckers in the towering White Oaks above us. The rain arrived and the view from the lookout was not quite as good on the way down! There were still birds to be found with **White-collared Swifts** powering through, plus a couple of Red-tailed Hawks and amongst another feeding flock we came across a **Black-faced Solitaire** and then a Collared Trogon. It was sort of heads down as we came down the hill in the rain and we retreated to our



rooms well before lunch. It was just too heavy, but vaguely let up before it was time to eat. After lunch we drove down to the end of the road so that we could search for Dippers, Tyrannulets and forest birds. There were



neither of our targets – the river was just too violent but we did find an adult Fasciated Tiger-Heron which came up off the river and flew to a branch about ten metres above our heads. Turning around we spied a beautifully barred juvenile still hunting until it saw us and flew to the bank. A few minutes later it appeared in the middle of the path in front of us as it cut across to a babbling streamlet. These were my first sightings away from Arenal and Tenorio. A flock of small stuff included the usual Treerunners but the Chlorospingus here were Common and not Sooty-capped. Yellow-winged Vireos joined Flame-throated and Black-cheeked Warblers before the rain once again forced a retreat. No one really fancied more wet walking – it is decidedly cooler up here too

and so we diverted to a local lodge that had some Hummer feeders alongside the raging river and we sat there drinking hot chocolate and eating cookies while the gleaming sprites danced between the rain drops in front of us. Despite the shelter we were all cold and wet and so we called it a day with warming up being the priority.

Day 12 Savegre - Towers - Paraiso Quetzal - 15th Nov

After a very chilly night Bruce and I walked up to the top cabins before we all met up. We passed the fruiting tree with the Spangle-cheeked Tanagers and Black-faced Solitaires on the way. The big bank of cannas allowed us to get close to the Stripe-tailed Hummingbirds and Slaty Flowerpiercers, and up at the top we could hear quite a few Rufous-collared Sparrows singing while Spotted Wood-Quails were just starting up way off in the



forest. We met the others by reception and walked out for our pre-breakfast walk down the road. A Yellow-winged Vireo was feeding from the hotel entrance sign by the bridge but the river was still raging and you could hear absolutely nothing. Unsurprisingly it started to rain and we sought shelter by a little kiosk. We suspected that the **Torrent Tyrannulets** would be away from the river given its fierceness and whilst waiting one appeared in the planted border of the lodge opposite before joining us on the concrete benches around our little shelter. It seemed to be finding spiders underneath with some ease and we were all pleased to see this engaging little flycatcher at such close range. A Spot-crowned Woodcreeper flew in to the nearest tree too and a pair of Black Phoebes were likewise not on the river but in the gardens. I wonder where the American Dippers were?

After breakfast we headed up and out of the valley and then climbed our way up to reach 'The Towers'. We already knew that there would be no chance of a view this time as we were completely in the cloud at 11,274 feet. Fortunately, we picked up a pair of **Volcano Juncos** from the bus before we reached the top and then two more as we got out. As usual they showed very well and hopped around just a few feet away with their 'Angry Bird' glowing yellow eyes. Fiery-throated and Heliotrope Volcano Hummingbirds zipped around and a Slaty-Flowerpiercer popped up in front. A second bird appeared – a female Peg-billed Finch! Somehow we got everyone on to it as it faded in and out of view in the driving wet cloud! A proper bonus. Two Band-tailed Pigeons shot over but there was nothing else and we were getting cold



and wetter by the minute so retreated to the van and began

our descent pleased with our success. We made our way to Paraiso Quetzal where at least there was a chance of getting warmed up! We walked through the warmth of the restaurant and I then opened the back door for the grand reveal of the Hummer feeders outside. Despite the now driving rain they were thrumming with windblown Hummers and I dread to think how many photos the lads took during our stay there. There were Fiery-throated, Heliotrope, Talamanca and Violetears in attendance as usual. Hot chocolate and the roaring log burner drew us back inside and during lunch you could barely see outside, but at least it let up in time for us to walk



around the grounds. **Black-billed Nightingale-Thrushes** hopped around like the little thrushes they are, and Big-foots bounced through the borders.

Golden-browed Chlorophonia was one of our targets and a pair obliged in all their ridiculously bright finery. Taking a picture of one without a berry in its bill was, as ever, almost impossible. Long-tailed Silky



Flycatchers called around us and we found one perched up for a while (pew). With the weather holding we moved on once again and returned to the two tracks were tried earlier. The first was far more successful this time and a big feeding flock contained Flame-throated and Wilson's Warblers, Sooty-capped Chlorospingus, Black-capped Flycatchers and a couple of Black-and-yellow Phainoptila. Grey-breasted Wood-Wrens were singing and several Zeledonia were also audible to those with good ears but although a couple were quite close we did not see one this time. The second track also produced singing Zeledonia and the similar flock make up here also added Ruddy Treerunners, Buffy Tuftedcheek and Black-cheeked Warblers. Timberline Wrens are tricky

this time of year and we heard a couple call before a singing bird gave itself up briefly in a bamboo thicket. A look at the group said that we had all had enough of getting cold and wet and so we called it a day. The main road was still empty due to the onward closures and I even nodded for a bit before a shout from Ramon just in front of me of **"Tapir!"** had me fully alert. A glance left as we went past and there it was in the verge. No traffic



also meant that we could stop and so we got out as quietly as we all could and spent a couple of minutes watching this incredible beast munching in the roadside gully. Its eyesight may be poor but it's nose is excellent and the whiffly elephantine snout told us that it could certainly smell the stinky damp tourists at which point it thundered off back into the trees. Only then did we realise that there was a second one just a few feet away which likewise turned tail and disappeared. We could not quite believe our good fortune! There was a chorus (once again) of 'Good eyes Ramon!' as we drove off. After a warm up and then dinner, we stepped back outside where there was a strange orb in the heavens with a monster full moon shining in a cloudless sky directly

overhead. It was too bright to look at and a quick scope glance was a foolish thing to do. Jupiter and Saturn were unhindered by any human glow and the smudge of Andromeda spoke of distant worlds. Ramon, Jose and I stood back and admired the heavens when the howl of Coyotes cut through the moment. Surely not – full moon – howling small Wolves? I laughed; it was the perfect end to the day and one of those special moments I will bore people with for years to come. A small dog down in the village attempted to join in, bless him.

Day 13 Savegre - Quelitales - 16th Nov

There was time for a final walk around the Savegre grounds but the pesky Spangle-cheeks were not in their usual trees this time. The Spotted Wood Quails were a happy bunch that morning with at least four gangs singing simultaneously on either side of the valley. Once again, I failed to see one! We may have corrupted poor Jose by saying that they sound like they are singing 'Remember you're a Womble' over and over again and then had to explain to him all about Wombles... I took us round to the orchards where the Spangle-cheeks were way off up the track in a big bare tree, but closer to us there were Tennessee and a stunning male Black-throated Green Warbler feeding in the grass along with a boisterous pair of Grey-breasted Wood-Wrens. A



female Golden-browed Chlorospingus dropped in like a luminous ‘Golden Delicious Apple’ and proceeded to gorge on the fruit on the stunted trees. She was glowing. A final breakfast beckoned so we wandered down past the usual Hummers, Flame-coloured Tanagers and a couple of noisy Acorn Woodpeckers. We headed out of the valley for the last time and began our descent down the other side towards Cartago. A side road took us down into La Cagreja – a farmed but well vegetated valley and we stopped on the way down as a flock of **Band-tailed Pigeons** came in to feed on roadside fruits. I have never seen them that close before and they are a stunning species with bright yellow legs and bills and green and white collars. At least seventy were counted but most landed out of view below us. Whilst watching from the van we could hear Long-tailed Silky-Flycatchers calling over us and a family of Brown Jays were clambering around an adjacent tree. The verge was lined with planted Verbena and we had a pleasant

walk, and the sunshine brought out quite a few butterflies to nectar alongside the Stripe-tailed, Rufous-tailed, Lesser Violetears and Purple-throated Mountain Gems. A flock of Barred Parakeets hurtled over at breakneck speed and a Short-tailed Hawk circled above us. On again to a very busy Paraiso town square where unsurprisingly there were no Tropical Screech Owls this time. It was market day and there were Scouts and Cubs and various people playing music and waving bibles. One of the American Barn Owls was trying to get some shut eye in the palms and a White-tailed Kite drifted over and Tropical Kingbirds hunting from the lampposts. Jose booked us in for another lunch before we dropped down into the market garden lands of Ujarras and we spent the whole afternoon either side of repast walking the lanes searching the coffee plantations and chayote vines for a whole suite



of small birds. **Cabanis's Ground-Sparrow** was our main target and although we heard quite a few, it took quite a while and some quiet patience before we all got to see this incredibly localised endemic. Tennessee Warblers were everywhere and the Chayote vines on their supports were jumping with these and Yellow Warblers and quite a few Hummers with Rufous-tails, Green-breasted Mangos and Ruby-throats. Another warbler felt slightly odd and turned out to be a Cape May which was cool and flocks of Baltimore Orioles and various Pigeons and Doves were seen moving between the crops. Roadside Hawks were on the wires but how they ever catch anything given how vocal they are I do not know. A couple of close **Southern Lapwings** offered themselves up for a shot or two and while Neil was crouched by a small bush in his stalking endeavours, I spied a warbler in the same bush level with its head. I knew what I had found and told him not to move but to look left! It was a Mourning Warbler all decked out in yellow with a blue-grey cowl. My third new bird of the afternoon. Soon afterwards we found another in a field with a couple of a singing Lesser Goldfinch, Yellow Warblers and a Cabanis's Wren which sang from cover. Finsch's Parakeets and White-crowned Parrots were milling around and Bruce found our final



square on the Motmot Bingo sheet with a pair of **Lesson's Motmots** in a roadside tree. They had obviously both been excavating a burrow. A couple of coloured up Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appeared in a tree top but were



spooked by a Ringed Kingfisher that flew through with prey which looked like it was baby terrapin! A juvenile Hook-billed Kite noisily followed its parents across our view and it was good to see this odd species at low level. That bill and bare facial patches are really quite odd. Short-tailed and Broad-winged Hawks circled with the vultures and a flock of Bronzed Cowbirds were out feeding with some grackles. It had started to spit and time was moving on so we moved on to Quelitales stopping briefly at the dam and lake where unfortunately the whole surface was covered in Water Hyacinth with no free water (or birds) at all. However, the Bat Falcons were using the dam stanchions as hunting lookouts. We were soon at our wonderful lodge and checking into our rooms. We reconvened up at the waterfall and while the feeders were checked we kept an eye on the waterfall for the **Green-fronted Lancebill** that comes in in the late afternoons for a snack of micro midges which he duly did. He had

several favoured spots from which to sally back-and-forth after the tiny flies that were almost invisible to us. Violet Sabrewings bullied all comers at the feeders which were made up of Green-crowned Brilliants, Green Thorntail, Rufous-tailed HB, Green Hermit, Black-bellied HB, an out of range Fiery-throated HB and two White-bellied Mountain Gems. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** came in as the light fell and bobbled around the sides of the waterfall. Sooty-faced Finches were vocal and came into



the log feeder that had been topped up but the Black-breasted Wood Quails have apparently not visited for some time. The trees around us held Silver-throated Tanagers, Golden-winged Warbler



and a smart White-ruffed Manakin. A flock of 170 Band-tailed Pigeons flew over as we called it a night and were shortly followed by a chattering flock of Barred Parakeets. One day I will see them perched. The others had gone back but I lingered for a short while, enjoying the sounds of tumbling water and a jungle both going to sleep and also waking up. I heard Jose

Alvarez (the lodge owner, birder and chef) back up by the screen call for 'Lulu' the Scaled Antpitta but I knew that they had not seen her for several days but I thought I would walk back up anyway. Much to my amazement there she was already on the path in the gloom bouncing around like a russet pear on a sticks before disappearing once more back into the forest. I would just have to hope that we got another chance the following evening.

Day 14 Quelítales - El Copal - 17th Nov

An early start saw us at the van not long after 5am with the grounds and forest waking up too. A flock of Barred Parakeets whizzed overhead and the White-eared Ground-Sparrows were vocal but only showing briefly before we headed off around the mountain. Several riverside stops gave us good views of another Fasciated Tiger-Heron along with Neotropic Cormorants, Ochre-bellied Flycatcher and a smart Bay Wren, but those pesky Sunbitterns once again eluded us. A smaller river was checked and a fine male Collared Trogon stared down at us – by far the closest and smartest one I have seen. Before too long we turned off onto the El Copal track and bumped our way through some steep sided open countryside to the lodge at the end. The sun was out and we were greeted by Hummers around the verbenas. Brown Violetears were in charge up here and were battling it out



for supremacy with the Rufous-tails while Green Hermits, dinky Stripe-throated Hermits, **Green Thorntails** and dashing **Snowcaps** chose their moments to get to a bloom. The purple and white zippies attracted the most attention but I have to admit to being taken by the Green

Thorntails. The tail feathers are extraordinary when you look closely. There was quality birding from the veranda with a gang of noisy Tawny-crested Tanagers along with the other



regular species of that tribe, Mistletoe Tyrannulet, Yellow-olive Flatbill, Lesser Greenlet, Golden-winged Warbler, Euphonias, Dusky-capped Flycatcher and a superb Yellow-throated Vireo. The warming air brought up a few Vultures along with Broad-winged Hawk and a soaring Grey-headed Kite. We soon set off on our forest walk. It was hot and sultry and the mossies were out in force but we had a good trek along the wide ride following the contours of the hill. Like most jungle walks it was quite frustrating at times with calling birds just out of reach, but with



Jose's help we picked up Rufous-browed Tyrannulet and Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher, the familiar Stripe-breasted and White-breasted Wood-Wrens, Orange-billed Sparrows, Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant and White-ruffed Manakin. I found a Blue-and-gold Tanager with beady red eyes but could not get the group on it. We had just missed a large mixed flock crossing the track and only Zeledon's Antbird stopped long enough to clap eyes on. Brown-billed Scythebill were singing down the slope but would not come in. The song was familiar having seen the Red-billed ones in Brazil. There were Butterflies everywhere including two species of Morpho. Thicket Antpitta, Fasciated Antshrike and Zeledon's Antbird were also in song and we got slightly better views of Speckled Tanagers way up in the canopy along with White-shouldered and Golden-hooded Tanager. Barred Hawks called and a juvenile Tooth-billed Kite circled overhead through one of the canopy gaps. You could spend a week here just trying to track down the forest birds lurking within. Perhaps one day. We retraced our steps for lunch, seeing a **Chestnut-capped Warbler** which popped out at close

range before having another Snowcap fix and a topped-up feeding station which at last gave the group superb

views of **Speckled Tanagers** as they fed with the equally green **Emeralds** and a blue winged Bay-headed. Earlier we heard Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher but unlike many of my 'heard only' species, the call was not



exactly memorable and so not worthy of a place on my tally, so when it started up again we got lucky and found this microscopic little yellow and black sprite in the top of Cecropia that was thankfully opposite the raised lodge. A gang of Brown Jays bounded around the tallest trees while White-crowned Parrots looked down on them and just as we were about to leave a Bicoloured Hawk flashed in front and even landed briefly at eye level before hurtling off once again. A final couple of river attempts on the way back left us still without Sunbitterns but we did see a Bare-throated Tiger-Heron before the rain arrived and I may have snoozed the rest of the way back to Quelitalis but was soon awake as there were heaps of birds around the lodge again.

Checking the Mistletoe clumps I was

pleased to find a pair of Elegant Chlorophonias feeding and hastily assembled the team. Jose joined us and we found several more in the surrounding clumps as well as a pair of White-vented Euphonias, Flame-throated Warblers and Mistletoe Tyrannulets. The White-eared Ground Sparrows were calling low down but were no more than moving shadows which told us that we should really get back up to the waterfall again. A cursory hello to the assembled Hummers including the Lancebill and then the wait for the **Scaled Antpitta** to hopefully appear. The first bird out on the track was not her but a rather splendid Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush with orange bill and legs, carefully picking up worms. It did not stay long but it is always good to get a surprise new bird. The Antpitta came in in the near dark at 5.14 the night before but today she did the decent thing and arrived early while we could all still see colour. She then surprised us by hopping all the way down the track just to show off. Quality. With torches on we all headed off for dinner with big smiles. I put on the moth trap for one final chance of having a good session... fingers crossed.



Day 15 Quelitalis - San Jose - 18th Nov

I was up a few times during the night (awoken by a Mottled Owl – still never seen one) to check the trap outside especially given the amount of crashing and banging from some of the beasts that it attracted. Hopefully, I will get some help with the moth ids. There was also a large creature up on the roof at one stage, noisily stomping around but despite going outside I could get no angle on it! I wonder what it was? Black-headed Saltators were noisily waking up and Crimson-collared Tanagers were appearing as well as a smart pair of Scarlet-thighed Dacnis, while flocks of Elegant Chlorophonias were moving about including some at height where they make little siskin-like noises. Three flocks of Barred Parakeets were seen rocketing around and the light was so good that they gleamed all shades of almost iridescent green. I still feel pangs of guilt about owning six of these tiny

parrots in my youth. Yes, I did rescue them from a horrid pet shop in Romford and yes, they did have a good aviary in which to fly but seeing them in the wild always brings it home as to what they would really love to be doing.



One of that morning's flock even landed but despite knowing where they were they managed to disappear without a trace. Big flocks of Band-tailed Pigeons passed over and a Red-tailed Hawk was up with the Vultures, while Ramon was still doing his best to find us an Ornate Hawk-Eagle. We were joined by the **Montezuma's Oropendolas** for breakfast and a couple of Keel-billed Toucans up sunning in the forest, but all too soon it was time to start the journey back to San Jose and our long journey home. Little was seen on the way but we did have a couple of lovely stops firstly to visit Café Christina www.cafechristina.com to try and buy some organic shade grown coffee and then to see Jose's wife Tamara and her amazing artwork – money was well spent <https://bekuocr.com/collections>. Lunch near the airport gave a little birding time in the rural grounds with two immature Little Blue Herons some Cattle Egrets, Tropical Kingbirds, Barn Swallows and both Canivet's and Ruby-throated Hummers seen. It was good to see a **Ctenosaur** having missed out in the dry west

and a monstrous male Green Iguana was sniffing out a female who was decidedly uninterested. The airport was next and we said our goodbyes to Jose and Ramon after a wonderful two weeks. However, the Costa Rican weather had other ideas about us getting home. Darkness and the fog descended and our plane did not, having circled the airport and then been diverted to Panama. We waited a while and were then told unceremoniously to leave the airport and find a hotel. There were many other cancellations and it was bedlam but thankfully after a quick call, the Robledal came to our rescue and before too long we had all been scooped up and taken through the rain and traffic back to the place where we started the tour. We had picked up a young Essex herpetologist called Terry along the way and brought him with us to the hotel and of course he could not resist a wander round the grounds in the dark with his torch, although only one small spiny Toad species was found, but there was the special addition of a Woolly Opossum that looked down at us from the wet canopy! Bed beckoned but when would we get home?



Day 16 Robledal - 19th Nov

E-mails had arrived overnight from Iberia to say that we would be on a direct flight home from San Jose to Heathrow late that afternoon. Priscille had heard nothing! Our brief moment of joy turned to incredulity when we realised that it said the 20th and not the 19th and further digging revealed that it would not be direct but via Bogota in Colombia! Given the number of Madrid cancellations there were far too many people requiring that route and thus our need to get to London required this different approach. A quick chat with Emmanuel the Robledal manager secured us a room for a second night and so we resigned ourselves to a day around the grounds and do some of what is apparently called 'relaxing'. Given our confinement it was of course a glorious day but we set out to make the most of it.

The garden regulars were all present and correct but now there was more time to watch them. I was hoping to find the **Ferruginous Pygmy Owls** having somehow not seen one in two weeks and the garden pair were duly



found, admittedly with some help from Emmanuel, and a young Summer Tanager that was having a hissy fit and pointed me in the right direction. A Pileated Woodpecker was drumming and generally shouting at the world and we soon found it on some dead branches where it was very carefully, and at that point, quietly chipping the bark off to get to critters underneath. I am not sure I have been so close to one before. Rufous-backed Wrens were bouncing around and a party of Scrub Euphonias stopped in the Cecropias. Cinnamon and Ruby-throated Hummers were seen and a Canivet's Emerald came into the poolside Verbenas (not that anyone was lounging in and around the pool) and up above we saw Anhinga, Wood Storks, Grey and Short-tailed Hawks and the Vulture duo (not spotted while any reclining was taking place). Lunch was shared with the breakfast bar birds and even the Spot-breasted Orioles came in for a snack along with the super cool lounging Variegated Squirrel. Yellow Warblers and Baltimore Orioles were in the canopy and it was good for the group to chill out with now familiar birds. Priscille had been fortunate enough to be given a seat on the afternoon Madrid flight (she had to get back to Toulouse) and so we bid our farewells after lunch and kept our fingers crossed. As dark fell

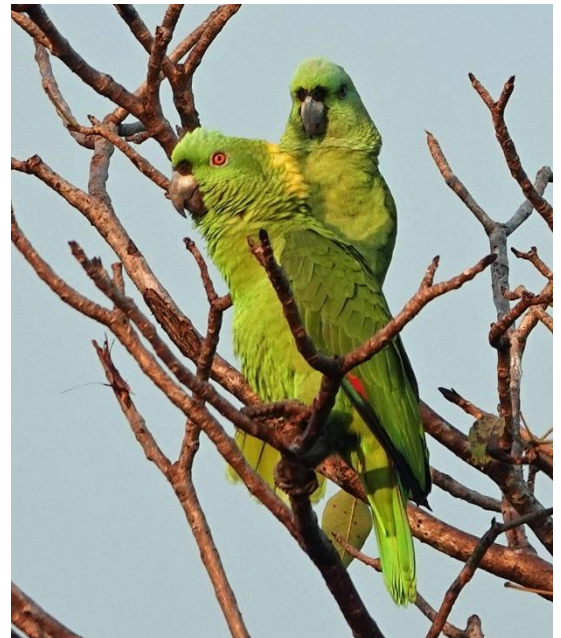
the fog rolled back in and although delayed, we were pleased to see that she had finally taken off. Our turn would come the following day.

Day 17 Robledal - 20th Nov

The morning birds were all present and correct for the pre-breakfast amble including the Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, woodpeckers and orioles, but it was the **Yellow-naped Amazons** that put on the best show and gleamed in the sunshine (yes it was still not raining). Emmanuel had offered to take us out for a bit of local birding and I was pleased to accept his offer to revisit the Coyal Free Zone in Alajuela that I visited with his brother on my last visit. This heavily secure, huge industrial area is home to 25,000 employees and the grounds are sympathetically managed for wildlife and Emmanuel has been involved there for the last nine years. It was far greener this time and there had been more planting,

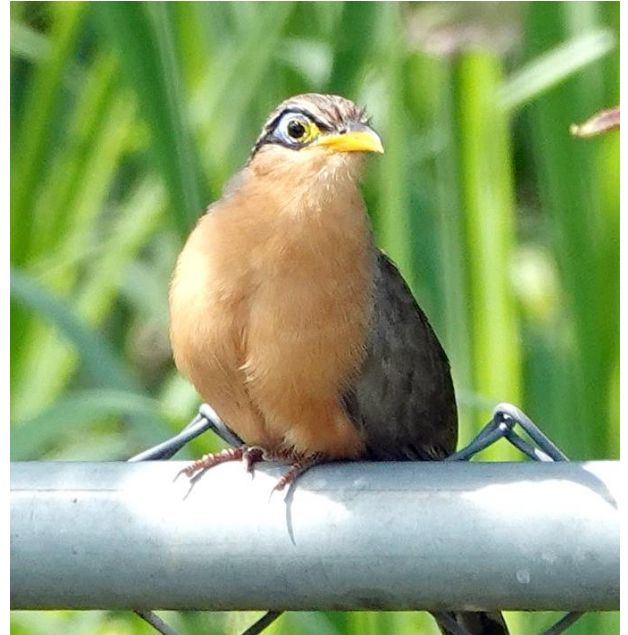


but it was still a very open landscape with deliberate boulder areas and short grass and far more water than I imagined. We did not see the Spot-bellied Bobwhites this time but a pair of **Double-striped Thick-knees** were quite approachable and Tropical Mockingbirds and Common Ground Doves poked around the flower beds. An Eastern



Meadowlark was up on the wires and a Yellow-Green Vireo whizzed through and down below us in the creek that flowed into the lake, where we found three Spotted Sandpipers and several

smallish Brown Basilisks. At the end, by the road culvert there were nine Least Sandpipers speedily picking up prey while busses, lorries and cars drove past on the road just a few metres above. Moving to the other end of the lake gave us closer views of Little Blue Herons, Cattle and Great Egrets. Southern Lapwings were scattered along the banks with 30 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks and a pair with a well grown brood were paddling around in the middle looking nervous. There were Barn Swallows hawking around us and amongst them was a Mangrove Swallow which was surprising. I do not think Emmanuel had seen one here before and I am not sure how often they occur this far in from the Pacific coast. A Green Heron was catching tiddlers by the outflow but seemed to be taking far too much interest in the huge Tilapia there. We were at this wild fenced area alongside the lake and Emmanuel was hopeful of getting us a **Lesser Ground Cuckoo**. We had not been there too long when a ginger bird literally crawled under the fence and flew up on top. We stood there and listened as it sung quietly whilst fluffing up its rump and lower back feathers and drooping its wings. I had heard them before but never seen one and to have this content and wonderful little cuckoo doing his thing just in front was a magnificent end to the trip. We waved and walked away leaving him to his slightly mournful solo. We chilled out back at the Robledal, had lunch and then headed for the airport where our plane to Bogota left on time. Two hours later we were on Colombian tarmac and before too long back in the air for the overnight plane with Avianca en-route to Heathrow. The extra two days may have been unplanned and we were indebted to the Robladal for coming to our rescue, but wherever you find yourself, there are always birds to dial down the stresses and bring moments of joy. Pura Vida indeed...



I would also like to thank everyone on this tour for making it a pleasure to lead. And special thanks to Jose Pablo and of course Ramon.

Howard

BIRDLIST FOR Costa Rica 2024

A = Number of species recorded on tour

B = Number of days out of 17 recorded C = Highest daily count

H = Heard Only with highest number heard in () N/C = No Count C=Common

This list is in line with IOC WORLD BIRD LIST v(13.2) and as such names may be different than some of the field guides and other taxonomy's – any additional notes see appendix *

A	SPECIES E = Endemic	SCIENTIFIC NAME	B	C
1	Great Tinamou	<i>Tinamus major</i>	3	H - (1)
2	Highland Tinamou	<i>Nothocercus bonapartei</i>	1	H - (1)
3	Little Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus soui</i>	1	H - (1)
4	Black-bellied Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	50	10
5	Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>	2	6
6	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>	2	80
7	Grey-headed Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis cinereiceps</i>	7	14
8	Crested Guan	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>	7	9
9	Black Guan	<i>Chamaepetes unicolor</i>	4	4
10	Great Curassow	<i>Crax rubra</i>	4	11

11	Spotted Wood Quail	<i>Odontophorus guttatus</i>	2	H - (20)
12	Black-eared Wood Quail	<i>Odontophorus melanotis</i>	1	H - (2)
13	Black-breasted Wood Quail	<i>Odontophorus leucolaemus</i>	1	H - (2)
14	Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>	3	40
15	Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albigollis</i>	5	3
16	Great Potoo	<i>Nyctibius grandis</i>	1	1
17	Common Potoo	<i>Nyctibius griseus</i>	1	1
18	Chestnut-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne rutila</i>	4	5
19	White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>	10	300
20	Grey-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>	4	30
21	Costa Rican Swift	<i>Chaetura fumosa</i>	3	20
22	Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	4	25
23	Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift	<i>Panyptila cayennensis</i>	1	5
24	White-necked Jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	1	2
25	White-tipped Sicklebill	<i>Eutoxeres aquila</i>	1	1
26	Bronzy Hermit	<i>Glaucis aeneus</i>	1	1
27	Stripe-throated Hermit	<i>Phaethornis striigularis</i>	2	1
28	Green Hermit	<i>Phaethornis guy</i>	6	3
29	Long-billed Hermit	<i>Phaethornis longirostris</i>	4	2
30	Green-fronted Lancebill	<i>Doryfera ludovicae</i>	2	1
31	Brown Violetear	<i>Colibri delphinae</i>	1	10
32	Lesser Violetear	<i>Colibri cyanotus</i>	7	12
33	Purple-crowned Fairy	<i>Heliothryx barroti</i>	2	1
34	Green-breasted Mango	<i>Anthracothonax prevostii</i>	4	6
35	Green Thorntail	<i>Discosura conversii</i>	4	3
36	Black-crested Coquette	<i>Lophornis helenae</i>	3	3
37	Green-crowned Brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa jacula</i>	5	10
38	Talamanca Hummingbird	<i>Eugenes spectabilis</i>	4	25
39	Fiery-throated Hummingbird	<i>Panterpe insignis</i>	4	40
40	Long-billed Starthroat	<i>Helimaster longirostris</i>	1	1
41	White-bellied Mountaingem	<i>Lampornis hemileucus</i>	3	2
42	Purple-throated Mountaingem	<i>Lampornis calolaemus</i>	2	2
43	White-throated Mountaingem (Grey-tailed)	<i>Lampornis castaneiventris cinereicauda</i>	4	8
44	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	8	2
45	Heliotrope Volcano Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus flammula torridus</i>	5	9
46	Poás-Barva Volcano Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus flammula simoni</i>	1	3
47	Scintillant Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus scintilla</i>	4	3
48	Canivet's Emerald	<i>Cynanthus canivetii</i>	3	1
49	Violet-headed Hummingbird	<i>Klais guimeti</i>	3	2
50	Violet Sabrewing	<i>Campylopterus hemileucurus</i>	4	4
51	Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer	<i>Chalybura urochrysa</i>	1	1
52	Crowned Woodnymph	<i>Thalurania colombica</i>	3	3
53	Snowcap	<i>Microchera albocoronata</i>	2	4
54	Coppery-headed Emerald	<i>Microchera cupreiceps</i>	1	3
55	Stripe-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Eupherusa eximia</i>	5	3
56	Black-bellied Hummingbird	<i>Eupherusa nigriventris</i>	3	2
57	Scaly-breasted Hummingbird	<i>Phaeochroa cuvierii</i>	6	5
58	Blue-vented Hummingbird	<i>Saucerottia hoffmanni</i>	3	2
59	Cinnamon Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia rutila</i>	6	4
60	Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>	12	10
61	Mangrove Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia boucardi</i>	1	2

62	Blue-chested Hummingbird	<i>Polyerata amabilis</i>	1	1
63	Blue-throated Goldentail	<i>Chlorestes eliciae</i>	9	2
64	Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>	8	20
65	Lesser Ground Cuckoo	<i>Morococcyx erythropygus</i>	1	1
66	Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	9	4
67	Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>	10	30
68	Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	5	230
69	Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>	7	20
70	Red-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i>	9	8
71	Ruddy Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas subvinacea</i>	1	2
72	Short-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas nigrirostris</i>	5	4
73	Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>	8	15
74	Common Ground Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	2	4
75	Ruddy Ground Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	10	40
76	White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	6	4
77	Grey-headed Dove	<i>Leptotila plumbeiceps</i>	2	3
78	Grey-chested Dove	<i>Leptotila cassinii</i>	2	1
79	Buff-fronted Quail-Dove	<i>Zentrygon costaricensis</i>	1	2
80	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	13	30
81	Uniform Crake	<i>Amaurolimnas concolor</i>	1	1
82	Russet-naped Wood Rail	<i>Aramides albiventris</i>	3	3
83	Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>	1	1
84	Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>	1	1
85	Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>	2	5
86	Yellow-breasted Crake	<i>Laterallus flaviventer</i>	1	2
87	White-throated Crake	<i>Laterallus albigularis</i>	3	8
88	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	1	1
89	Double-striped Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus bistriatus</i>	4	2
90	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	1	4
91	Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>	6	18
92	Wilson's Plover	<i>Anarhynchus wilsonia</i>	1	1
93	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	1	28
94	Northern Jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>	4	20
95	Hunsonian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius hudsonicus</i>	1	6
96	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	1	23
97	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	1	9
98	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	4	3
99	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	1	1
100	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	1	8
101	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	1	4
102	Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>	1	10
103	Franklin's Gull	<i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>	1	4
104	American Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	1	12
105	Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	5	4
106	Jabiru	<i>Jabiru mycteria</i>	1	2
107	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	1	50
108	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	3	4
109	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum brasilianum</i>	4	6
110	Green Ibis	<i>Mesembrinibis cayennensis</i>	4	4
111	American White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	3	4
112	Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>	1	2

113	Fasciated Tiger Heron	<i>Tigrisoma fasciatum</i>	2	2
114	Bare-throated Tiger Heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>	3	2
115	Pinnated Bittern	<i>Botaurus pinnatus</i>	2	5
116	Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	1	1
117	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	1	1
118	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	6	7
119	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	12	300
120	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	4	2
121	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	7	4
122	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	1	1
123	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	6	15
124	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	5	4
125	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	2	80
126	King Vulture	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>	3	2
127	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	17	50
128	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	17	30
129	Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	<i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>	1	1
130	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	7	2
131	White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	3	2
132	Grey-headed Kite	<i>Leptodon cayanensis</i>	1	1
133	Hook-billed Kite	<i>Chondrohierax uncinatus</i>	1	3
134	Black Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus tyrannus</i>	1	1
135	Ornate Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus ornatus</i>	2	H - (1)
136	Double-toothed Kite	<i>Harpagus bidentatus</i>	3	5
137	Tiny Hawk	<i>Accipiter superciliosus</i>	1	2
138	Bicolored Hawk	<i>Accipiter bicolor</i>	2	2
139	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	1	1
140	Black-collared Hawk	<i>Busarellus nigricollis</i>	2	1
141	Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>	1	1
142	Mangrove Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus subtilis</i>	1	2
143	Great Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>	2	1
144	Barred Hawk	<i>Morphnarchus princeps</i>	1	H - (1)
145	Roadside Hawk	<i>Rupornis magnirostris</i>	6	5
146	Harris's Hawk	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>	2	7
147	White Hawk	<i>Pseudastur albicollis</i>	2	1
148	Semiplumbeous Hawk	<i>Leucopternis semiplumbeus</i>	1	2
149	Grey Hawk	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>	12	3
150	Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	11	4
151	Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>	6	3
152	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	4	1
153	American Barn Owl	<i>Tyto furcata</i>	2	1
154	Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>	3	2
155	Striped Owl	<i>Asio clamator</i>	1	1
156	Pacific Screech Owl	<i>Megascops cooperi</i>	1	1
157	Spectacled Owl	<i>Pulsatrix perspicillata</i>	3	H - (2)
158	Crested Owl	<i>Lophotrix cristata</i>	3	2
159	Mottled Owl	<i>Strix virgata</i>	1	H - (1)
160	Black-and-white Owl	<i>Strix nigrolineata</i>	4	2
161	Resplendent Quetzal	<i>Pharomachrus mocinno</i>	1	4
162	Slaty-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon massena</i>	3	1
163	Black-headed Trogon	<i>Trogon melanocephalus</i>	2	1

164	Gartered Trogon	<i>Trogon caligatus</i>	1	1
165	Northern Black-throated Trogon	<i>Trogon tenellus</i>	1	1
166	Collared Trogon	<i>Trogon collaris</i>	4	1
167	Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>	4	4
168	American Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>	1	1
169	Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	4	4
170	Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>	5	2
171	Tody Motmot	<i>Hylomanes momotula</i>	1	2
172	Lesson's Motmot	<i>Momotus lessonii</i>	1	2
173	Rufous Motmot	<i>Baryphthengus martii</i>	1	2
174	Keel-billed Motmot	<i>Electron carinatum</i>	1	1
175	Broad-billed Motmot	<i>Electron platyrhynchum</i>	4	2
176	Turquoise-browed Motmot	<i>Eumomota superciliosa</i>	2	2
177	Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>	5	2
178	White-whiskered Puffbird	<i>Malacoptila panamensis</i>	1	1
179	White-fronted Nunbird	<i>Monasa morphoeus</i>	1	4
180	Red-headed Barbet	<i>Eubucco bourcierii</i>	1	3
181	Prong-billed Barbet	<i>Semnornis frantzii</i>	1	2
182	Blue-throated Emerald Toucanet	<i>Aulacorhynchus caeruleogularis</i>	3	6
183	Collared Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus torquatus</i>	6	14
184	Fiery-billed Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus frantzii</i>	1	3
185	Keel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos sulfuratus</i>	6	4
186	Yellow-throated Toucan	<i>Ramphastos ambiguus</i>	7	6
187	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	4	8
188	Black-cheeked Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes pucherani</i>	6	4
189	Hoffmann's Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes hoffmannii</i>	10	4
190	Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Leuconotopicus villosus</i>	1	1
191	Rufous-winged Woodpecker	<i>Piculus simplex</i>	3	1
192	Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	5	2
193	Pale-billed Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i>	4	1
194	Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>	11	6
195	Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>	7	4
196	Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>	3	3
197	Collared Forest Falcon	<i>Micrastur semitorquatus</i>	5	1
198	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	2	2
199	Bat Falcon	<i>Falco rufigularis</i>	6	4
200	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1	1
201	Barred Parakeet	<i>Bolborhynchus lineola</i>	3	40
202	Orange-chinned Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris jugularis</i>	10	45
203	Brown-hooded Parrot	<i>Pyrilia haematotis</i>	2	4
204	White-crowned Parrot	<i>Pionus senilis</i>	5	10
205	Red-lored Amazon	<i>Amazona autumnalis</i>	9	20
206	Yellow-naped Amazon	<i>Amazona auropalliata</i>	5	12
207	Northern Mealy Amazon	<i>Amazona guatemalae</i>	4	10
208	Sulphur-winged Parakeet	<i>Pyrrhura hoffmanni</i>	2	35
209	Olive-throated Parakeet	<i>Eupsittula nana</i>	4	15
210	Orange-fronted Parakeet	<i>Eupsittula canicularis</i>	2	60
211	Great Green Macaw	<i>Ara ambiguus</i>	1	13
212	Pacific Scarlet Macaw	<i>Ara macao macao</i>	2	30
213	Caribbean Scarlet Macaw	<i>Ara macao cyanoptera</i>	1	3
214	Finsch's Parakeet	<i>Psittacara finschi</i>	7	30

215	Olivaceous Woodcreeper	<i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i>	1	H - (1)
216	Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>	3	4
217	Cocoa Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus susurrans</i>	1	2
218	Spotted Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus erythropygius</i>	2	1
219	Brown-billed Scythebill	<i>Campylorhynchus pusillus</i>	1	H - (2)
220	Streak-headed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>	8	2
221	Spot-crowned Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes affinis</i>	3	4
222	Plain Xenops	<i>Xenops minutus</i>	3	2
223	Buffy Tuftedcheek	<i>Pseudocolaptes lawrencii</i>	2	1
224	Fawn-throated Foliage-gleaner	<i>Automolus cervinigularis</i>	2	1
225	Ruddy Treerunner	<i>Margarornis rubiginosus</i>	2	12
226	Russet Antshrike	<i>Thamnistes anabatius</i>	2	2
227	Checker-throated Stipplethroat	<i>Epinecrophylia fulviventris</i>	1	1
228	Slaty Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula schisticolor</i>	1	4
229	Plain Antvireo	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>	2	4
230	Streak-crowned Antvireo	<i>Dysithamnus striaticeps</i>	1	2
231	Barred Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>	4	2
232	Black-crowned Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus atrinucha</i>	1	2
233	Fasciated Antshrike	<i>Cymbilaimus lineatus</i>	2	H - (3)
234	Ocellated Antbird	<i>Phaenostictus mcleannani</i>	2	2
235	Bicolored Antbird	<i>Gymnopithys bicolor</i>	1	2
236	Dusky Antbird	<i>Cercomacroides tyrannina</i>	3	2
237	Spotted Antbird	<i>Hylophylax naevioides</i>	4	2
238	Chestnut-backed Antbird	<i>Poliocrania exsul</i>	3	1
239	Dull-mantled Antbird	<i>Sipia laemosticta</i>	3	2
240	Bare-crowned Antbird	<i>Gymnocichla nudiceps</i>	2	1
241	Zeledon's Antbird	<i>Percnostola zeledoni</i>	1	2
242	Scaled Antpitta	<i>Grallaria guatemalensis</i>	1	1
243	Thicket Antpitta	<i>Myrmothera dives</i>	2	H - (1)
244	Yellow-bellied Elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>	3	2
245	Mountain Elaenia	<i>Elaenia frantzii</i>	3	4
246	Rufous-browed Tyrannulet	<i>Phylloscartes superciliaris</i>	1	1
247	Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet	<i>Ornithion semiflavum</i>	1	2
248	Torrent Tyrannulet	<i>Serpophaga cinerea</i>	1	1
249	Yellow Tyrannulet	<i>Capsiempis flaveola</i>	2	2
250	Mistletoe Tyrannulet	<i>Zimmerius parvus</i>	10	6
251	Olive-streaked Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes olivaceus</i>	3	2
252	Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>	4	1
253	Slaty-capped Flycatcher	<i>Leptopogon superciliaris</i>	1	1
254	Northern Scrub Flycatcher	<i>Sublegatus arenarum</i>	1	2
255	Northern Bentbill	<i>Oncostoma cinereigulare</i>	3	H - (1)
256	Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant	<i>Lophotriccus pileatus</i>	4	4
257	Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>	7	5
258	Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum nigriceps</i>	2	1
259	Eye-ringed Flatbill	<i>Rhynchocyclus brevirostris</i>	1	1
260	Yellow-olive Flatbill	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>	9	2
261	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	7	6
262	Northern Tufted Flycatcher	<i>Mitrephanes phaeocercus</i>	2	3
263	Eastern Wood Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	1	1
264	Northern Tropical Pewee	<i>Contopus bogotensis</i>	5	2
265	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	4	2

266	Acadian Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax virescens</i>	1	1
267	Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	1	1
268	Yellowish Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flavescens</i>	5	2
269	Black-capped Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax atriceps</i>	2	3
270	Long-tailed Tyrant	<i>Colonia colonus</i>	1	3
271	Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	15	20
272	Grey-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes granadensis</i>	9	10
273	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	15	20
274	Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>	7	4
275	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	15	20
276	Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	2	76
277	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	4	1
278	Fork-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>	1	1
279	Rufous Mourner	<i>Rhytipterna holerythra</i>	2	1
280	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>	7	6
281	Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	3	4
282	Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>	2	2
283	Bright-rumped Attila	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>	6	2
284	Bare-necked Umbrellabird	<i>Cephalopterus glabricollis</i>	1	1
285	Snowy Cotinga	<i>Carpodectes nitidus</i>	1	1
286	Long-tailed Manakin	<i>Chiroxiphia linearis</i>	1	H - (1)
287	White-ruffed Manakin	<i>Corapipo altera</i>	7	3
288	White-collared Manakin	<i>Manacus candei</i>	8	4
289	Red-capped Manakin	<i>Ceratopipra mentalis</i>	1	1
290	Northern Royal Flycatcher	<i>Onychorhynchus mexicanus</i>	1	1
291	Sulphur-rumped Myiobius	<i>Myiobius sulphureipygius</i>	2	3
292	Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Terenotriccus erythrurus</i>	1	1
293	Black-crowned Tityra	<i>Tityra inquisitor</i>	3	20
294	Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>	4	4
295	Northern Schiffornis	<i>Schiffornis veraepacis</i>	2	1
296	Barred Becard	<i>Pachyramphus versicolor</i>	1	H - (1)
297	Cinnamon Becard	<i>Pachyramphus cinnamomeus</i>	2	2
298	Rose-throated Becard	<i>Pachyramphus aglaiae</i>	1	1
299	Rufous-browed Peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>	1	H - (1)
300	Lesser Greenlet	<i>Pachysylvia decurtata</i>	7	4
301	Yellow-green Vireo	<i>Vireo flavoviridis</i>	1	1
302	Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	3	1
303	Brown-capped Vireo	<i>Vireo leucophrys</i>	1	2
304	Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	8	2
305	Yellow-winged Vireo	<i>Vireo carmioli</i>	2	2
306	Brown Jay	<i>Psilorhinus morio</i>	5	12
307	White-throated Magpie-Jay	<i>Calocitta formosa</i>	2	8
308	Black-and-yellow Phainoptila	<i>Phainoptila melanoxantha</i>	1	2
309	Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher	<i>Ptiliogonys caudatus</i>	3	4
310	Mangrove Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>	5	2
311	Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Pygochelidon cyanoleuca</i>	16	20
312	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	9	40
313	Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>	3	4
314	Grey-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>	6	10
315	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	12	40
316	Band-backed Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus zonatus</i>	1	H - (2)

317	Rufous-backed Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus capistratus</i>	6	6
318	Black-throated Wren	<i>Pheugopedius atrogularis</i>	5	2
319	Spot-breasted Wren	<i>Pheugopedius maculipectus</i>	2	2
320	Cabanis's Wren	<i>Cantorchilus modestus</i>	3	2
321	Canebrake Wren	<i>Cantorchilus zeledoni</i>	1	H - (1)
322	Riverside Wren	<i>Cantorchilus semibadius</i>	1	H - (1)
323	Bay Wren	<i>Cantorchilus nigricapillus</i>	6	2
324	Stripe-breasted Wren	<i>Cantorchilus thoracicus</i>	7	6
325	Southern House Wren	<i>Troglodytes musculus</i>	10	4
326	Ochraceous Wren	<i>Troglodytes ochraceus</i>	2	2
327	Timberline Wren	<i>Thryorchilus browni</i>	1	2
328	White-breasted Wood Wren	<i>Henicorhina leucosticta</i>	8	6
329	Grey-breasted Wood Wren	<i>Henicorhina leucophrys</i>	3	4
330	Northern Nightingale-Wren	<i>Microcerculus philomela</i>	2	1
331	Trilling Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>	2	2
332	Tawny-faced Gnatwren	<i>Microbates cinereiventris</i>	1	2
333	White-browed Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila bilineata</i>	2	4
334	Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	10	5
335	Black-faced Solitaire	<i>Myadestes melanops</i>	3	2
336	Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	6	4
337	Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush	<i>Catharus mexicanus</i>	4	2
338	Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush	<i>Catharus fuscater</i>	1	1
339	Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	8	6
340	Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush	<i>Catharus gracilirostris</i>	2	2
341	Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush	<i>Catharus frantzii</i>	3	4
342	Sooty Thrush	<i>Turdus nigrescens</i>	3	5
343	Mountain Thrush	<i>Turdus plebejus</i>	4	14
344	Pale-vented Thrush	<i>Turdus obsoletus</i>	1	3
345	Clay-colored Thrush	<i>Turdus grayi</i>	18	15
346	American Dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>	1	2
347	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	8	4
348	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	2	2
349	Elegant Chlorophonia	<i>Chlorophonia elegantissima</i>	2	16
350	Golden-browed Chlorophonia	<i>Chlorophonia callophrys</i>	2	2
351	Scrub Euphonia	<i>Euphonia affinis</i>	4	4
352	Yellow-crowned Euphonia	<i>Euphonia luteicapilla</i>	1	2
353	White-vented Euphonia	<i>Euphonia minuta</i>	2	2
354	Yellow-throated Euphonia	<i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>	10	8
355	Olive-backed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia gouldi</i>	6	4
356	Tawny-capped Euphonia	<i>Euphonia anneae</i>	6	4
357	Sooty-capped Chlorospingus	<i>Chlorospingus pileatus</i>	4	20
358	Common Chlorospingus	<i>Chlorospingus flavopectus</i>	3	8
359	Stripe-headed Sparrow	<i>Peucaea ruficauda</i>	3	4
360	Olive Sparrow	<i>Arremonops rufivirgatus</i>	1	1
361	Black-striped Sparrow	<i>Arremonops conirostris</i>	6	4
362	Orange-billed Sparrow	<i>Arremon aurantirostris</i>	6	4
363	Chestnut-capped Brushfinch	<i>Arremon brunneinucha</i>	3	1
364	Sooty-faced Brushfinch	<i>Arremon crassirostris</i>	3	2
365	Volcano Junco	<i>Junco vulcani</i>	1	4
366	Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>	8	30
367	Large-footed Finch	<i>Pezopetes capitalis</i>	3	4

368	White-eared Ground Sparrow	<i>Melozona leucotis</i>	2	2
369	Cabanis's Ground Sparrow	<i>Melozona cabanisi</i>	1	4
370	Yellow-thighed Brushfinch	<i>Atlapetes tibialis</i>	5	6
371	Zeledonia	<i>Zeledonia coronata</i>	1	H - (6)
372	Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	1	1
373	Red-breasted Meadowlark	<i>Leistes militaris</i>	2	2
374	Yellow-billed Cacique	<i>Amblycercus holosericeus</i>	1	2
375	Chestnut-headed Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius wagleri</i>	3	20
376	Montezuma Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius montezuma</i>	11	30
377	Scarlet-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus microrhynchus</i>	2	2
378	Streak-backed Oriole	<i>Icterus pustulatus</i>	3	2
379	Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	17	12
380	Spot-breasted Oriole	<i>Icterus pectoralis</i>	3	2
381	Black-cowled Oriole	<i>Icterus prothemelas</i>	6	2
382	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	2	50
383	Giant Cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>	1	1
384	Bronzed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>	3	15
385	Melodious Blackbird	<i>Dives dives</i>	13	10
386	Nicaraguan Grackle	<i>Quiscalus nicaraguensis</i>	1	1
387	Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	15	30
388	Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	1	2
389	Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia motacilla</i>	5	1
390	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>	5	2
391	Golden-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	5	2
392	Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	6	1
393	Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	2	3
394	Flame-throated Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis gutturalis</i>	2	4
395	Tennessee Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis peregrina</i>	10	10
396	Grey-crowned Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis poliocephala</i>	1	1
397	Olive-crowned Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis semiflava</i>	1	1
398	Mourning Warbler	<i>Geothlypis philadelphia</i>	2	2
399	Kentucky Warbler	<i>Geothlypis formosa</i>	1	1
400	Hooded Warbler	<i>Setophaga citrina</i>	1	2
401	Cape May Warbler	<i>Setophaga tigrina</i>	1	1
402	American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	2	1
403	Tropical Parula	<i>Setophaga pitayumi</i>	7	4
404	Bay-breasted Warbler	<i>Setophaga castanea</i>	4	2
405	Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Setophaga fusca</i>	1	1
406	American Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga aestiva</i>	14	10
407	Mangrove Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	1	1
408	Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Setophaga pensylvanica</i>	11	12
409	Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Setophaga virens</i>	4	2
410	Buff-rumped Warbler	<i>Myiothlypis fulvicauda</i>	2	3
411	Chestnut-capped Warbler	<i>Basileuterus delatirii</i>	1	2
412	Black-cheeked Warbler	<i>Basileuterus melanogenys</i>	2	2
413	Golden-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>	3	4
414	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	8	5
415	Slate-throated Whitestart	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>	2	2
416	Collared Whitestart	<i>Myioborus torquatus</i>	2	2
417	Flame-colored Tanager	<i>Piranga bidentata</i>	3	8
418	Tooth-billed Tanager	<i>Piranga lutea</i>	1	1

419	Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	17	8
420	Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	3	1
421	Red-throated Ant Tanager	<i>Habia fuscicauda</i>	1	4
422	Carmioli's Tanager	<i>Chlorothraupis carmioli</i>	2	4
423	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	4	2
424	Blue-black Grosbeak	<i>Cyanoloxia cyanoides</i>	3	2
425	Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	1	1
426	Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>	6	6
427	Black-and-yellow Tanager	<i>Chrysothlypis chrysomelas</i>	4	4
428	Red-legged Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>	9	8
429	Shining Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes lucidus</i>	1	2
430	Scarlet-thighed Dacnis	<i>Dacnis venusta</i>	5	2
431	Blue Dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>	1	2
432	Cinnamon-bellied Saltator	<i>Saltator grandis</i>	5	4
433	Buff-throated Saltator	<i>Saltator maximus</i>	7	2
434	Black-headed Saltator	<i>Saltator atriceps</i>	5	4
435	Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	12	6
436	Yellow-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris olivaceus</i>	5	4
437	Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>	3	10
438	White-shouldered Tanager	<i>Loriotus luctuosus</i>	2	2
439	Tawny-crested Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus delatrii</i>	1	6
440	White-throated Shrike-Tanager	<i>Lanio leucothorax</i>	2	1
441	Crimson-collared Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus sanguinolentus</i>	5	2
442	Passerini's Scarlet-rumped Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus passerinii passerinii</i>	11	10
443	Morelet's Seedeater	<i>Sporophila moreletii</i>	6	10
444	Variable Seedeater	<i>Sporophila corvina</i>	7	10
445	Thick-billed Seed Finch	<i>Sporophila funerea</i>	2	4
446	Nicaraguan Seed Finch	<i>Sporophila nuttingi</i>	2	1
447	Peg-billed Finch	<i>Acanthidops bairdi</i>	1	1
448	Slaty Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa plumbea</i>	4	4
449	Blue-and-gold Tanager	<i>Bangsia arcae</i>	1	1
450	Speckled Tanager	<i>Ixothraupis guttata</i>	2	4
451	Blue-grey Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	17	6
452	Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	13	4
453	Golden-hooded Tanager	<i>Stilpnia larvata</i>	8	5
454	Spangle-cheeked Tanager	<i>Tangara dowii</i>	4	6
455	Bay-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>	3	4
456	Rufous-winged Tanager	<i>Tangara lavinia</i>	1	2
457	Emerald Tanager	<i>Tangara florida</i>	4	4
458	Silver-throated Tanager	<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>	11	7
459	Plain-colored Tanager	<i>Tangara inornata</i>	1	2
	Mammal sightings			
1	White-nosed Coatimundi	<i>Nasua narica</i>	5	22
2	Variagated Squirrel	<i>Sciurus variegatoides</i>	7	4
3	Deppe's Mountain Squirrel	<i>Sciurus deppei</i>	2	2
4	Red-tailed Mountain Squirrel	<i>Sciurus granatensis</i>	2	2
5	Alfaro's Pygmy Squirrel	<i>Microsciurus alfari</i>	1	1
6	Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth	<i>Bradypus variegatus</i>	2	2
7	Collared Peccary	<i>Pecari tajacu</i>	3	5
8	Baird's Tapir	<i>Tapirus bairdii</i>	1	2

9	Central American Spider Monkey	<i>Ateles geoffroyi</i>	2	7
10	Mantled Howler	<i>Alouatta palliata</i>	5	11
11	White-faced Capuchin	<i>Cebus imitator</i>	5	8
12	Central American Tapeti	<i>Sylvilagus gabbi</i>	1	1
13	Central American Tent Bat	<i>Uroderma bilobatum</i>	1	12
	Herp sightings			
1	Neotropical Slider	<i>Trachymys sp</i>	2	2
2	Strawberry (Blue Jeans) Poison-Dart Frog	<i>Oophaga pumilio</i>	2	4
3	Green & Black Poison-Dart Frog	<i>Dendrobates auratus</i>	1	1
4	Brilliant Forest Frog	<i>Lithobates warszewitschii</i>	1	5
5	Common Rain Frog	<i>Craugastor fitzingeri</i>	1	1
6	Swamp Tree Frog	<i>Tlalocohyla sp</i>	1	1
7	Hour Glass Tree Frog	<i>Dendropsophus ebraccatus</i>	3	8
8	Red-eyed Tree Frog	<i>Agalychnis callidryas</i>	4	4
9	Common Dink Frog	<i>Diasporus diastema</i>	6	2
10	Central American Bull Frog	<i>Leptodactylus savagei</i>	2	1
11	Cane Toad	<i>Rhinella marina</i>	1	1
12	Central American Boa	<i>Boa imperator</i>	1	1
13	Afro-American House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i>	18	6
14	Dry Forest Anole	<i>Anolis cupreus</i>	2	2
15	Pug Nosed Anole	<i>Anolis capito</i>	1	1
16	Emerald Basilisk	<i>Basiliscus basiliscus</i>	5	2
17	Brown Basilisk	<i>Basiliscus vittatus</i>	3	5
18	Central American Whiptail	<i>Ameiva festiva</i>	2	2
19	Black Spiny-tailed Iguana	<i>Ctenosaura similis</i>	2	4
20	Green Iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>	8	13
21	American Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>	1	3
22	Spectacled Caiman	<i>Caiman crocodilus</i>	1	1



Bird's Wildlife & Nature Tours

Bird's Wildlife & Nature LTD, 44 Courtland Crescent, Plymouth UK PL7 4HL
 UK +44 (0) 7481 843971
www.birdswildlife.com