

BIRDSEEKERS

HOLIDAYS FOR BIRDWATCHERS



EASY COSTA RICA II

January/February 2009

TRIP REPORT

Bird list starts on page 24

Leaders: Steve Bird & Gina Nichol



Day 1 Sunday, January 25, 2009

Nigel and Beverly had arrived a few days early and were already settled into the hotel when the rest of the group arrived from London in the evening. Gina and Steve met the group at the airport with our trusty driver Ramon and after a long journey all were happy to be in warm Costa Rica. After checking into the hotel, we retired for the evening in anticipation of the adventures that lie ahead.

Day 2 Monday, January 26, 2009

Despite the short night, most of us were out in the morning in the lovely Bougainvillea Hotel Gardens looking out for our first Costa Rica birds. For many of us one of them was Costa Rica's national bird, the **Clay-coloured Thrush**. We would soon find this bird everywhere we went. Other birds in the garden included a female **Canivet's Emerald**, a nice looking **Greyish Saltator**, a **Tropical Screech-Owl** tucked into some bamboo, **Rufous-collared Sparrow**, **Blue-grey Tanager**, **Yellow Warbler** and **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird**. A **Plain Wren** showed briefly at the fruit pit and a **House Wren** was seen in the plant nursery. Some people had quick views of **White-eared Ground Sparrow** and there were several **Blue-and-White Swallows** flying overhead. A **Blue-crowned Motmot** looked stunning sat on a branch,



before flying toward us and almost taking our heads off!



Peter spent some time photographing and got pictures of a **Variiegated Squirrel** feeding on a fruit feeder and a cracking picture of the **White-eared Ground Sparrow**. On our way to breakfast, we added both male and female **Hoffman's Woodpeckers** perched in glorious sunlight on a large Guanacaste tree

After breakfast, we loaded the vehicle and headed toward

Braulio Carrillo National Park. We ticked our first **Black Vultures** as we drove out of San Jose and then saw them every day of the tour. Along the way, we stopped at a bridge and got out to check the trees. The traffic thundered past and although not the best place to bird from that did not deter our excitement when three **Yellow-eared Toucanets** flew into one of the trees across the road. It was amazing to see this very uncommon Central American endemic along the road as one of our first birds of the trip! A **Black-cheeked Woodpecker** and a few **Social Flycatchers** didn't get too much attention, nor did a **Spotted Woodcreeper** especially when Steve heard a **Slate-coloured Grosbeak** calling nearby. It did not take him long to locate the bird and soon we were watching it calling from the top of a sparsely leaved tree. Incredible! A short time later, Ramon spotted a small flock of **Black-faced Grosbeaks** moving in some more distant trees. Then Steve spotted a distant **Bat**



Falcon and as we were getting the scopes on it another was spotted. What a morning so far! Back on the bus we barely had time to catch our breath!

The entrance to Braulio Carrillo was just ahead and as we got out of the vehicle, a small flock of **Dusky-faced Tanagers** caught our attention down by the road. They flitted among the leaves making them a real challenge to see before they moved deeper into the forest. As we walked back up toward the trails, we noticed a lot of activity in the trees behind the headquarters building and soon we were treated to the chaos of a large mixed flock of birds moving in every direction. Amongst these were stunning **Black-and-Yellow Tanagers**, **White-shouldered Tanager**, **Collared Aracari**, **Pale-vented Thrush**, **Scarlet-rumped Cacique**, a male **Collared Trogon**, **Cinnamon Woodpecker** and **Green Hermit**. It was hard to know where to look! Once the flock thinned out, Ramon motioned us back to the bus to see a **Tiny Hawk** that he had found in the top of a distant tree. We scoped it and discussed its features to ensure accurate identification. We managed a short walk in the forest but by then it had started to rain so we turned around and headed back out to the car park where all the activity had been.



From a shelter, we saw a few more birds where the flock had originally been including **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Golden-bellied Flycatcher**, **Tawny-capped Euphonia** and a **Purple-crowned Fairy**. The rain had subsided so we loaded the vehicle and continued to the old butterfly garden where we had good views of a **Stripe-throated (Little) Hermit**, several **Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds** and at least one **Violet-headed Hummingbird**. A **Grey Hawk** gave nice flight views overhead, just before we were ready to leave and continue on for lunch at Roberto's. Here we had a **Variable Seedeater** from the window and after lunch we got **Roadside Hawk** flying over the parking lot and calling. An **Osprey** flew by and there were **Chestnut-collared Swifts** in the clouds. Peter had wandered behind the restaurant where there was a female **Green-breasted Mango** and a **Blue-black Grassquit**.



Our next stop was a new area along a mossy rock filled river which held **Buff-rumped Warbler**, **Northern Waterthrush** and for comparison an immaculate **Louisiana Waterthrush**. There were several dragonflies flying around the puddles in the track including a nice **Roseate Skimmer**. **Grey-rumped Swifts** were flying above and it was time to get familiar with the call of the **Chestnut-sided Warbler** which would be a common bird throughout the tour. Further on, Howard spotted a **White-whiskered Puffbird** on a post so we scoped it. After a few minutes, it moved off the post to a branch where it was mobbed by a **Violet-headed Hummingbird**. Around the corner, we found a gorgeous **Purple-crowned Fairy** feeding on some orange flowers very close and just above our heads.

We all agreed that we could not have had better views of this lovely bird. In the sky above, Steve pointed out some **Vaux's Swifts** among the **Grey-rumped Swifts** as some of us tried to get to grips with swift identification. As we walked back along the track, a nice male **Baltimore Oriole** showed

well and we also saw some **White-shouldered Tanagers**, a **Streak-headed Woodcreeper**, **Olive-backed Euphonia**, **Golden-winged Warbler** and a **Keel-billed Toucan**. Our next stop was along the road for a **Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth** that Steve probably put there! high up in a Cecropia tree. A **Masked Tityra** was also seen at this site before we moved on. We did a quick check of a fast flowing river and also picked up **Spotted Sandpiper** and **Black Phoebe**.

As the sun was going down we stopped along the road beside an open area of marshland. In the nearby trees there were a couple of **Black-cowled Orioles**, and a **Social Flycatcher** was catching insects from a post. A **Laughing Falcon** flew in and perched in a close tree posing for photos, while **Southern Rough-winged Swallows** were flying over the marsh alongside other species such as **Pale-vented Pigeons**, **Passerini's Tanagers**, **Cattle Egret** and **Snowy Egret**. In the marsh, we had some **Northern Jacanas** and a **Purple Gallinule** and as we scoped the far side of the marsh we could see both male and female **Nicaraguan Seed-Finch** moving amongst the grasses. In the same area an **Olive-crowned Yellowthroat** appeared and showed well in the afternoon light. Some of us crossed the muddy grass to the fence line for a closer look over the marsh where a **White-throated Crake** constantly called and eventually came out to the edge of the fence providing a nice point blank view for Nigel. From here, we continued on to our lovely lodge where they greeted us with a cool cloth and cold drink. We settled into our rooms and met at the bar before dinner. We were quickly pulled away to look at a beautiful **Red-eyed Tree Frog** sat on the leaf of a heliconia. After a photo session with this colourful creature we enjoyed an excellent dinner and caught up on the checklist.



Day 3 Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Several of us were out in the morning before breakfast watching the feeders and the antics of several **Black-cheeked Woodpeckers**, **Black-cowled Oriole**, **Passerini's Tanager**, **Palm Tanager**, **Crimson-collared Tanager** and **Blue-grey Tanager**. A **Red-tailed Squirrel** had to be chased off a few times so that the **Black headed** and **Buff-throated Saltators** could come in and just before we went into the dining room a cracking male **Red-throated Ant Tanager** paid a visit.

After breakfast, we boarded the coach and set off towards the Sarapiquí River for our morning boat ride. On the way, we made a quick stop for a perched **Short-tailed Hawk** in a tree just down a hill from some **Montezuma Oropendola** nests and as we pulled away we noted a second **Short-tailed Hawk** in another tree. We arrived at the boat launch and were immediately distracted by some **Groove-billed Anis** in the car park. As we walked down the boat ramp, to the rain swollen river it started to drizzle but soon cleared into what turned out to be a lovely morning.



As we set off from the dock, some **Mangrove Swallows** followed the boat and continued to do so for most of the trip. There were several **Spotted Sandpipers** along the banks and a number of **Southern Rough-winged Swallows** hawking insects over the water. Not far up river, Hugh spotted a **Green Ibis** on the bank and our boat driver manoeuvred close and quietly for excellent views. An **Anhinga** was perched high on a tree drying out its wings while a **Ringed Kingfisher** was seen perched on an overhanging branch across the river. Several **Buff-rumped Warblers** were seen and we also had very nice views of **Little Blue Herons** and **Bare-throated Tiger Herons** as we cruised up the river. We reached an area where a smaller tributary was flowing into the main channel and here Veronica spotted a female **Belted Kingfisher** perched on a branch. A pair of **Bay Wrens** were working the branches of a fallen tree, one with nesting material in its bill and both showed very well. A **Green Heron** was seen on the bank and a **Great Blue Heron** kept flying just



ahead of us as we travelled up the river. Howard spotted a **Squirrel Cuckoo** that flew into a low Cecropia and we were distracted from that by a **Green Kingfisher** that flashed past. Under the La Selva bridge, a **Bright-rumped Attila** showed briefly just before a large **Green Iguana** fell into the water with a massive splash and then climbed up onto a tree stump.

We continued up river, further than Gina or Steve had ever been before, and enjoyed the fabulous scenery of the La Selva rainforest. Steve spotted some **Cliff Swallows** above us, before we turned around and headed back down river where the current was now taking us quickly. Not far down, Gina spotted a **Neotropical Otter** crawling out of the river onto the bank. As soon as it was spotted, it crawled back into the water and disappeared and we thought that it was gone. The boatman



pulled some amazing manoeuvres against the current and turned the boat around to head back to the area where the otter had been seen. Amazingly, we relocated the animal on the other side of the river. As we got close, it climbed out of the water and inspected a rock under a root for a few minutes and then went back into the water swimming upstream right beside the boat! Watching the behaviour of this gorgeous animal was truly a once in a lifetime experience and we all agreed that it could not have been any better.

After this incredible experience, we were on a high as we cruised back down toward the dock. We added a couple of **Grey Hawks**, including a juvenile and then an **Amazon Kingfisher** flew by. A **Black River Turtle** was sunning on the bank and once again the boat driver turned the boat around and so we could get better close views of it. The boat driver was on a roll as he spotted a **Slaty-tailed Trogon** perched on the other side of the river and we all enjoyed great views of it.

When we reached the dock, we thanked our fantastic boatman and headed back to the hotel for lunch adding a **Roadside Hawk** sitting on a fencepost along the way.

We had a bit of time before lunch so we gathered at the feeders before taking a walk around the grounds. It was difficult to pull ourselves away from the **Golden-hooded Tanagers** on the feeder.

Passerini's and **Blue-grey Tanagers** were also there, as well as a **Black-throated Saltator**. Above us, there was a bright **Green Basilisk** in the tree showing its blue spotted pattern nicely. We walked along the paths of the lodge grounds to the "ranario" where Steve found a **Strawberry Poison Dart frog**.



In an area around some ponds, there were several birds including **Masked Tityra**, **Boat-billed Flycatcher**, **Ruddy Ground-Dove**, **Streak-headed Woodcreeper**, **Baltimore Oriole**, **Grey-capped Flycatcher**, **White-tipped Dove**, **Summer Tanager**, **White-winged Becard**, **Common Tody-flycatcher**, **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** and **Yellow-olive Flycatcher**. Ramon joined us immediately spotting a **Squirrel Cuckoo** and as we continued along we had a nice pair of **Barred Antshrikes** and a **Thick-billed Seed Finch**. In a woodland pond there were three **Spectacled Caimans** and around the edges we had **Little Blue Heron** and **Grey-necked Wood Rail**. Heading back toward the dining room we added **Yellow-faced Grassquit** and **Variable Seedeater**.

After lunch, we drove to an area near the river. As we got out of the bus there was a juvenile

Broad-winged Hawk perched low on a tree. We walked over a "bridge" and along a road on the other side where a **Great Crested Flycatcher** challenged our spotting skills as it blended into the leaves. We stopped to survey an open area where there was a nice **Grey-crowned Yellowthroat** and a couple of **Yellow Tyrannulets**.



Other than that, the area was quiet so we moved on to another spot near La Selva. We walked along the road and picked up **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** and a couple of **Rufous Mourners** but the prize was a gorgeous **Chestnut-coloured Woodpecker** working the trunk of a tree. We positioned ourselves for the best angle on this bird and were rewarded with fairly good views. A **Masked Tityra** perched in the sunlight on top of another tree vied for our attention and further on a **Broad-billed**

Motmot was perched on the power lines right over our heads. A **Grey Catbird** disappeared into the thick brush behind a fence and in the tree above we had **Yellow-bellied Elaenia**, **Golden-hooded Tanager**, **Green Honeycreeper**, a group of **Plain-coloured Tanagers** and male and female



Scarlet-thighed Dacnis. Reaching an area overlooking an open field we spotted some **Crested Guans** in a distant tree. The **Guans** eventually flew into a tree closer to us which also had **Baltimore Oriole**, more **Dusky-capped Flycatchers** and a couple of **Band-backed Wrens**. Some **Red-legged Honeycreepers** showed in a distant bare tree and we scoped a **White-crowned Parrot** as the sun was setting in the background. We returned to the hotel for a lovely dinner and caught up on the checklist before retiring for the evening.

Day 4 Wednesday, January 28, 2009

This morning we were out before breakfast watching the antics of the birds at the feeders. Once again there were several **Passerini's Tanagers** as well as **Blue-grey Tanager**, **Golden-hooded Tanager**, **Buff-throated Saltator** the omnipresent **Clay-coloured Thrush**, and the striking male **Red-throated Ant-Tanager**. After breakfast we gathered to board the bus where from the car park we had some **Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts** flying over. A **Black-cowled Oriole** was seen and some **Crimson-fronted Parakeets** flew over as well as a very high **Neotropic Cormorant**. We then drove through town toward La Selva stopping for some **Grey-breasted Martins** on a wire and would you believe a **House Sparrow**. A **Crested Caracara** flew over as we continued on and soon we were birding the approach road to La Selva Reserve. A nice pair of **Slaty-tailed Trogons** showed well as did a **Squirrel Cuckoo**. A **Long-billed Hermit** (formally Long-tailed) flitted by and both male and female **Fasciated Antshrikes** were seen. Other birds recorded here included **Band-backed Wren**, **Streak-headed Woodcreeper**, **Rufous-tailed Jacamar**, a female **White-crowned Manakin** and a **Grey-headed Chachalaca**. On reaching an area overlooking a large open vista and some distant trees, Gina spotted a superb male **Snowy Cotinga** as it flew into and perched in a bare tree, where it



quickly flew off and we tried to relocate it to no avail. Our consolation was a small group of **Keel-billed Toucans** that were flying over and perching on high trees allowing excellent views. Some **Grey-rumped Swifts** were circling high in the sky and a very scruffy **Bay-headed Tanager** was seen in a close tree. Also seen here were **Olive-backed Euphonia**, some **Yellow-bellied Elaenias** and a **Tropical Pewee**. We walked further up the road toward the entrance and spotted another **Snowy Cotinga** in a closer tree. It was a male and was soon joined by a female giving us amazing views of both. The birds worked the upper branches of a bare tree allowing excellent scope views and even a few digishots!

We arrived at the headquarters of La Selva reserve and met our guide Rudolpho who gave us an excellent tour within this 3,900 acre reserve of wet northern Caribbean lowland rainforest. We walked a forest trail where a pair of **Rufous-tailed Jacamars** were calling and seen well. A **Lineated Woodpecker** was spotted working on a tree trunk just before a **Grey-headed Kite** flew over. Then a **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen perched on a lower branch and some **Collared Aracaris** showed well. A female **Summer Tanager** and **Northern Barred Woodcreeper** were watched before we crossed a muddy trail and found a couple of **Black-throated Wrens** working through a tangle in a tree. On the way back, we watched a **Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth** coming down a tree, and a **Bare-crowned Antbird** called but did not show, although we were compensated with reasonable looks at a tiny **Black-headed Tody Flycatcher**.

As we crossed the bridge over the Sarapiquí River, we heard the loud splash of a large **Green Iguana** that had fallen from its sunning perch into the water. It swam down stream under the bridge and then climbed out onto a partially submerged log. We walked through an open area surrounded

by buildings for the biological station, and on one tall tree there were a group of **Montezuma Oropendola** and several long sock-like nests hanging from the branches. Some of the males were displaying which made for a few minutes of awe and entertainment and they dropped upside down under the branch and swung back upright cackling as they went. Rudolpho went off the trail to check for something and then brought us all in on a side trail to see a **Vermiculated Screech Owl** on a day roost. We carefully positioned ourselves so as not to disturb the bird and all got reasonable views of it from the side. While waiting our turn to see the owl a **Bright-rumped Attila** showed briefly and some **Mantled Howler Monkeys** were seen in the trees above us. As we came out of the trail, a confiding **Red-footed Plumeleteer** was seen feeding on the flowers of a stand of large Heliconia plants. As we walked back towards the headquarters the skies opened up with heavy rain which had some of us run for cover while others either got wet or were witness to a large bromeliad-covered tree that fell onto the football pitch. We enjoyed a drink and an excellent picnic lunch produced by Ramon with help from Beverly, Nigel and Robbie. Looks like we were made redundant at this point.

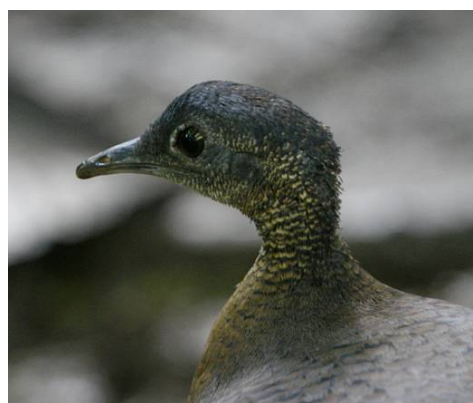
Soon after lunch, the rain subsided and we were back out on the trails. A **White-whiskered Puffbird** showed well and a few **Scarlet-rumped Caciques** flew through the canopy above us. Other birds included **Masked Tityra**, **Northern Barred Woodcreeper** and a nice **Rufous-winged Woodpecker** spotted by Jen. A **Zone-tailed Hawk** flew over showing its under tail bands well and a pair of **Pale-billed Woodpeckers** flew into some branches above the trail allowing excellent views. The female was perched on a branch hanging her wings out to dry and we had several minutes watching the pair before they flew off into the forest.



Continuing on we found a small group of **Rufous Mourners**, **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** a **Tropical Gnatcatcher** and a pair of **Rufous-tailed Jacamars** with the female watched catching and devouring a moth. As we walked the trail, we would hear the wing-snapping of **White-collared Manakins** dancing on a lek deep in the forest but they never came in close enough to see.

Later in the afternoon Rudolpho took us back out on the trails. At the far end of the bridge, there were at least two **Rufous Motmots** in the trees, while further into the forest, Rudolpho showed us a group of **Lesser Sac-winged Bats** roosting on a large tree trunk. Birds seen here included a perched **White-crowned Parrot**, **Cinnamon Becard**, **Olive-backed Euphonia**, **Streak-headed**

Woodcreeper, **Band-backed Wren** and a **Grey-necked Woodrail** that walked up the path just a few feet in front of us. At the next trail junction a male **White-ruffed Manakin** appeared briefly and we added **Wedge-billed Woodcreeper** and female **Summer Tanager**. A **Great Tinamou** was seen very close to the trail causing a bit of excitement and we all had excellent views of this bird. We crossed a boardwalk over a marsh and scoped two **Crested Owls** on a day roost in the leaves of a large palm, and nearby a **Black-capped Pygmy Tyrant** was heard and soon located tending to its nest high above us.



Back into the forest, the wind had picked up but that didn't bother our second **Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth** which lazed in the branches of a tree. A **Western Slaty Antshrike** called in the distance but was too far away to see as were a band of distant **Spider Monkeys**. Ahead of us a **Collared Peccary** crossed the track and further along the trail Rudolpho spotted a **White-necked Puffbird** perched high in a tree. We had excellent scope views of this difficult to see bird. On the way back, Rudolpho pointed out a group of eight **Honduran White Bats** (*Actophyla alba*) roosting on the underside of a large leaf just two feet from the ground. Once again we all positioned ourselves to get a look without disturbing these unusual creatures. Further on, a **Double-toothed Kite** flew in and perched on a branch and Nigel got a cracking photo of it. Back near a small metal bridge another **Great Tinamou** was seen as darkness fell on the forest. We came out of the forest where it seemed like daylight, and once more enjoyed the antics of the **Montezuma Oropendolas** displaying at their nesting colony. If that wasn't enough, a male **Great Curassow** strutted out across a grassy area right in front of us showing incredibly well. Excellent! It was now near dark and as we drove out of the reserve a **Common Pauraque** was seen on the road. It was a fabulous day in La Selva and we celebrated with drinks at the bar of our lodge, dinner, and then a recap on the checklist.



Day 5 Thursday, January 29, 2009

At the feeders before breakfast, there were the usual suspects including **Black-headed Saltator**, **Crimson-collared Tanager** and **Golden-hooded Tanager**. A flock of **Crimson-fronted Parakeets** flew over in the distance and Alan found some **Orange-billed Sparrows** on the path near the ponds. Other highlights at the feeders included **Black-cheeked Woodpecker**, **Black-cowled Oriole**, **Greyish Saltator** and **Red-throated Ant Tanager**. After breakfast, we loaded up the vehicle and checked out of our lovely lodge to travel towards Arenal Volcano. Along the way, we picked up **Amazon Kingfisher**, **White-collared Seedeater** and had poor views of some distant **Bronze Cowbirds**. A **White-tailed Kite** was seen hovering and **Eastern Meadowlarks** and **Red-winged Blackbirds** were seen perched on fence posts. By a little pond, there was a **Northern Jacana**, **Common Tody-Flycatcher** and a **Yellow Warbler**. A mid-morning stop at Las Iguanas Café offered quite a spectacle as more than 50 **Green Iguanas** of all sizes up to 5ft, and colours varying from orange, to grey and green were sunning on the branches of trees next to a river.



We stopped at farm where there were at least 75 **Red-winged Blackbirds** feeding on the ground with a few **Great-tailed Grackles**. A few **Common Ground-Doves** were seen here as well and while we were stopped for road works, a **Yellow Tyrannulet** was spotted in a small tree. At another stop near some crop fields, we added **Southern House Wren**, **White-collared Seedeater**, **Eastern Wood-Pewee** and a pair of very nice **Blue Dacnis** feeding on a fruiting tree. A **White-throated Crake** was calling from a grassy hummock but refused to show. Further on, we stopped at a regular site for **Tropical Mockingbird** and soon picked up **Northern Rough-winged** and **Mangrove Swallows**

flying around but no **Mockingbirds**. The prize here was cracking views of a **Grey-crowned Yellowthroat** that came in for a close look at us, while in the distance a **White Hawk** was seen flying and then perched on an open branch for scope views.



We then stopped for lunch with a view of Arenal Volcano mostly covered in cloud. In front of the café there was a feeding tray which had several **Clay-coloured Thrushes**. On further inspection and to our surprise, a **Tropical Mockingbird** was feeding here as well. We waited patiently for it to come back to the feeder and were rewarded with amazingly close views! **Greyish** and **Buff-throated Saltators** were also visiting the feeder and we were momentarily distracted by two **White Hawks** flying above the restaurant. A **Melodious Blackbird** was seen briefly but then disappeared. After lunch we searched again for the **Melodious Blackbird** and got great views of a pair working amongst the leaves of a large tree. There were **Hoffmann's Woodpeckers** around and some **Baltimore Orioles** and the very familiar **Rufous-collared Sparrows** on the ground. A **White-necked Jacobin** came in to feed on some flowers and was soon chased off by some **Great Kiskadees**. Again, with patience, we waited and watched and were soon treated to more good views of it both perched and feeding on the flowers. The area also produced a **Tropical Pewee**, several **Great-tailed Grackles** and a **Yellow Warbler**. Not bad for a lunch stop!

We arrived at our lodge at the foot of Arenal Volcano and proceeded directly to the veranda where there were some fruit feeders. Steve supplemented the feeders with some extra bananas and soon we were watching **Montezuma Oropendola**, **Yellow-throated Euphonia**, **Blue-grey Tanager** and **Brown Jay** all at close range. A couple of **White-nosed Coatis** were foraging beneath the feeder for fallen scraps, but there wasn't much in the way of food on the ground so one Coati climbed up the Old Lava Flow sign and another climbed right up on the railing walking nonchalantly right in front of where we were all standing to watch the feeders. A stunning **Emerald Tanager** appeared eliciting gasps of delight from the crowd just as it started to rain so we all went in and enjoyed a cup of coffee in the restaurant until it let up. Soon we were back out watching **White-collared Swifts** showing well with the volcano in the background and an **Olive-backed Euphonia** on the feeder.

Steve picked up a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** working on a distant tree and luckily it showed again for those that missed it the first time. A female **Hepatic Tanager** came to the feeder and the **Emerald Tanager** showed again drawing a "Yabba, dabba, doo" from Robbie.



We tore ourselves away from the feeders for a walk through the lodge's lovely gardens. A small fruiting tree held a close **Collared Aracari** and Nigel got great photos of it. Some **Swainson's Hawks** flew over and as we entered the forest a **Grey-headed Chachalaca** was seen.

Around one corner, we got an unusual sighting of a **Coyote** moving through the undergrowth and disappearing quickly, and in the same area we had **Stripe-breasted Wren** and a **Squirrel Cuckoo** above the trail. A **Thicket Antpitta** was calling and some people managed quick views as it cross the trail and perched for a milli-second. Back out in the garden, we added **Black-striped Sparrow**, several **Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds**, a female **Summer Tanager** and another **Tropical Pewee**. It was starting to get dark so some of us went back to the lodge, while the remainder of us decided to take the trail back through the forest and were rewarded with close views of two **Spotted Antbirds**. As we crossed back through the garden we also had **Broad-winged Hawk**, a couple of **Band-backed Wrens**, another **Black-striped Sparrow**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Variable Seedeater** and **Bananaquit**. Later on we met for dinner, hoping for a view of the volcano at night but unfortunately as usual, it was under cloud. Nevertheless, this was a wonderful area and we looked forward to exploring more of it.



Day 6 Friday, January 30, 2009

In the morning, most of us were out watching the feeders before breakfast. There were several **Montezuma Oropendolas** making good use of the fruit on the taller feeder. **Black-striped Sparrows** foraged on the ground below and **Blue-grey Tanager**, **Hepatic Tanager** male and female and a **Scrub Euphonia** all visited the table feeders, while **White-nosed Coatis** patrolled around and a group of **Orange-chinned Parakeets** came in and perched on the tree top. **Blue-and-White Swallows** were flying overhead as we watched **Olive-backed Euphonia**, **Crimson-collared** and **Passerini's Tanagers**, **Buff-throated Saltator**, **Brown Jays**, **Black-cheeked Woodpecker** and a handsome male **Yellow-throated Euphonia** all taking turns at the table feeder. A **Wilson's Warbler** was spotted in some bushes down the hill and a **Grey-chested Dove** was seen on the ground while a couple of **White-crowned Parrots** passed overhead. The real treat here was a **Kinkajou** that came in and climbed up onto the table feeder. Though it cleared the feeder of birds, it was amazing to see this normally nocturnal animal so well.

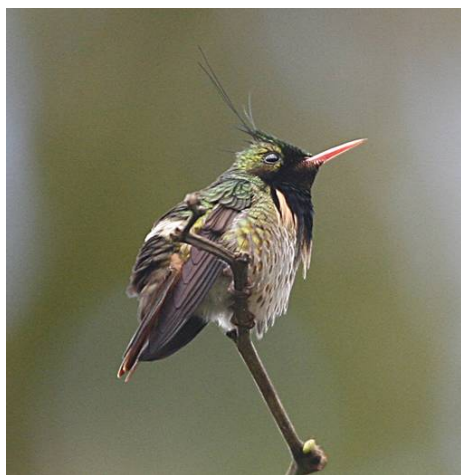


After breakfast, we walked through the gardens toward a different forest trail. Nigel spotted a **Red-billed Pigeon** perched on a Cecropia as we passed an open field where Ramon found us a **Crested Guan** sat in a large tree. We turned off the open track into the forest trail immediately connecting with a small flock of **Olive Tanagers**. Also nearby were **Chestnut-sided Warblers** and a **Tropical Parula** flitted about in a sparsely leaved tree above the trail. A female **White-collared Manakin** showed briefly and a **Semiplumbeous Hawk** showed superbly well perched high on a tree. A **Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant** was heard calling but remained elusive for most of us. A **Stripe-breasted Wren** was much more confiding as it flew into a tree right next to us on the track, and in the branches above us there was an **American Redstart** and a **Lesser Greenlet**. Steve got us all on a **White-throated Robin** which was on a low perch deep in the forest, while nearby a **Golden-winged Warbler** was seen and a **White-breasted Wood Wren** gave stunning views as it moved back and forth across the trail in front of us and tended to a nest.



Black-and-White Warbler was also seen along the trail and a **Tawny-capped Euphonia** was added. We then crossed the Danta Hanging Bridge to an open area. In some trees along the edge, there was a **Black-cheeked Woodpecker** and a couple of **Orange-chinned Parakeets** feeding on some flowers. We made our way back along the forest trail and emerged from the forest where it was noticed that more of the **Volcano was in view**. A **Crested Caracara** flew in front of the volcano enhancing these spectacular views. Back in the gardens, several **Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds** were flitting around the Vervain flowers. A **Violet-headed Hummingbird** also came in and we were thrilled to see a male **Black-crested Coquette** feeding before perching on a bare branch for several minutes. After enjoying the hummingbirds, we walked another trail within the forest. A **Crested Guan** perched on a tree above the track and further on Alan found a **Spotted Antbird** down an embankment that eventually flew in and perched not five feet from us.

In the garden there were two more **Black-crested Coquettes** perched in a partially bare low shrub allowing great views and we were elated to have found three of these little gems in the garden



During lunch, the clouds lifted and the top of the volcano was in view briefly a few times. There were also **Chestnut-collared** and **White-collared Swifts** actually showing their respective coloured collars as they flew in front of the volcano, and just before the clouds closed in there were two **Short-tailed Hawks** circling above. After lunch, we drove down the road stopping at a stream where there was a **Fasciated Tiger-Heron** feeding around some rocks. Just up from the heron, a flock flew across with **Silver-throated Tanager, Emerald Tanager, Philadelphia Vireo** and

Black-and-White Warbler, and nearby a **Grey Hawk** was seen soaring high above. We stopped along the road and walked to an area along a river where there were several **Southern Rough-winged Swallows, Spotted Sandpiper, Black Phoebe, Green Kingfisher** and another **Crested Guan**. Further stops near some Cecropia trees held **Cinnamon Becard, Streak-headed Woodcreeper, Boat-billed Flycatcher, Social Flycatchers** and some young male **Summer Tanagers** changing colour from yellow to red. Another **Grey-crowned Yellowthroat** showed well here and Nigel found a **Band-tailed Pigeon**. We started back toward the coach but were waylaid by **Masked Tityra, Yellow-olive Flycatcher, Black-and-White Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler** and **Yellow-throated Vireo**. Once again on the coach we continued on stopping for a **White-throated Magpie Jay** on the corner. We stopped for photos and Peter's attempts to remain camouflaged while photographing the bird sent Robbie into hysterics which lasted the rest of the afternoon.



We continued on along the road stopping at another corner with a lovely view of Arenal Lake. A **Broad-billed Motmot** was heard calling up in a tree and it was soon discovered that a pair of rare **Keel-billed Motmots** were in the area as well. With patience, we found them and everyone had several very good views of these seldom seen Costa Rican birds. The thrill of seeing this superb species elicited a victory dance from Steve. You know it's good when Steve dances! But that wasn't all as we had a brief look at a male **White-collared Manakin**, a **Purple-crowned Fairy**, and **Yellow-olive Flycatcher**. A **Nightingale Wren** called very close but could not be located in the black holes behind the thick vegetation. By now the sun was setting over the lake and there was a gorgeous orange sky. A couple of **Black-cowled Orioles** were silhouetted as they flew out of a tree and the **sunset** was too



beautiful to be left un-photographed. As darkness fell, a **Common Pauraque** appeared in the road and as we travelled back toward the lodge, there were a few more seen, as well as a **Common Opossum**. When we arrived back at the lodge, Beverly and Nigel regaled us with the story of the **Coati** that had marauded their room in search of food. (Future note, always leave the veranda door closed and locked when not in the room!) They recovered most of their strewn items and were

left with a good story about being done over by a Coati. Later in the evening we met for dinner and caught up with the checklist.

Day 7 Saturday, January 31, 2009

There were rain showers this morning when we got up so we checked the feeders from the shelter above some of the rooms. There was a **Hepatic Tanager** and some **Clay-coloured Thrushes** on the walkways and a **House Wren** showed briefly. A **White-necked Jacobin** visited the flowers near the feeders as did a **Violet-headed Hummingbird**, while several **Blue-and-White Swallows** flew close by as we watched from our elevated perch, and a wet **Red-billed Pigeon** was walking on the path below the feeders looking quite bedraggled. Beverly and Nigel reported that the **Coati** that had ransacked their room yesterday had returned to the scene of the crime for another go. Fortunately, the door leading out to the veranda was locked this time preventing its entry.

After breakfast, we drove down the hill with our destination being the Arenal Hanging Bridges. We passed a **Broad-billed Motmot** perched on a power line above the road allowing excellent views through the raindrops. As we crossed the "Stream of Dreams" Ramon spotted a lovely **Sunbittern** which we all got good views of as it walked among the rocks on the riverbed. It flew from the edge of the river to a rocky bar in the middle where it received gasps of delight from the crowd as it showed its gorgeous wing pattern.



The next stream along had a **Spotted Sandpiper** and a **Snowy Egret** and there were **Crested Guans** and **Grey-headed Chachalacas** in the trees.

At the hanging bridges, it was raining fairly heavily so we waited a few minutes until it let up and walked into the forest. It was still raining lightly but we persevered. A **Wood Thrush** was seen briefly and from one of the bridges we found a very wet **Broad-billed Motmot** sat on a perch in the open. Further on along the trail we had varying looks at **Orange-billed Sparrows** and a quick view of a **Tawny-crested Tanager**. The rain had gotten heavier and after the fourth bridge we decided to call it quits and try the trails later in the day hopefully after the rain subsided. We headed back past the same wet **Broad-billed Motmot** this time sat on the railing of the bridge. Over another bridge we encountered a flock including **Buff-throated Foliage Gleaner**, **Slaty-capped Flycatcher** and **Tawny-capped Euphonia**. Unfortunately our optics were so wet at this point that it was difficult to get on the birds before they moved off into the forest.



We boarded the bus back to the lodge, most of us dripping wet. At least we were under cover now, which wasn't the case for a couple of very wet **Orange-chinned Parakeets** perched on a tree by the road. Back over the "Stream of Dreams" the **Sunbittern** was seen again, this time walking along the bank on the other side. As we pulled away it flew across the stream showing its lovely wing pattern.

After lunch, the rain had subsided a bit so we went back to try the Arenal Hanging Bridges again.

On the way, we stopped along the road for a **White Hawk** that flew in and perched for photos. Just up from there, can you believe it we found another **Keel-billed Motmot** which was perched on the power line allowing amazingly close views. We reached the entrance to the hanging bridges and it was relatively dry so we ventured out, after the fifth bridge, the rain started and continued steady during the rest of the walk. Ian spotted a **Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant** that we all managed to get on but that was it! A complete wash-out, so we headed back to the lodge as the rain continued and later met for dinner and an update of the checklist.



Day 8 Sunday, February 1, 2009

Once again we were out watching the feeders before breakfast and once again the tall feeder was dominated by **Montezuma Oropendolas** and a few **Brown Jays**. A **Wilson's Warbler** was seen down the hill in the brush and we enjoyed views of the usual brightly coloured tanagers. After a quick check of the feeders, we headed over the hanging bridge to the garden. We had nice looks at a **Red-legged Honeycreeper** as well as **Bananaquit**, **Variable Seedeaters** in the grass, and a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**. In the forest, we had a female **Dusky Antbird** and a **Song Wren** that was singing down the hill, the bird came in briefly but stayed out of view for most of us. Further on, a **Nightingale Wren** was heard very close to the trail and a few people managed views before it flew off. Back in the garden, we had **Tropical Parulas**, **Paltry Tyrannulet**, **Social Flycatcher** and a **White-crowned Parrot** perched in a tree. A **Black-crested Coquette** flew right in front of us and fed on some purple flowers. Brilliant! Back at the feeders, there was a pair of **Hepatic Tanagers**,

Brown Jay, Blue-grey Tanager, Clay-coloured Thrush, Passerini's Tanagers, Buff-throated Saltator, Golden-hooded Tanager, Black-cheeked Woodpecker and a **Streak-headed Woodcreeper** worked the trunk of the tree right behind the feeders.

After breakfast, we loaded up and departed the lodge. Heading down the hill, we had **Little Blue Heron** and **Snowy Egret** on a small stream. Ramon found two **Eastern Meadowlarks** on the grass at the edge of a meadow and a **Golden-olive Woodpecker** showed well on a tree. Several **White-throated Magpie Jays** performed nicely just before a dancing man appeared flushing them off. As we watched the Jays in a tree an **Eastern Wood-Pewee** came in and perched on a fence wire.

Continuing on we drove alongside Arenal Lake where the wind was quite strong. There were still a few raptors around including **Crested Caracara, Grey Hawk** and **Roadside Hawk**. The landscape changed as we entered the dry zone, and a quick stop at a small pond yielded several **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks** and a few **Blue-winged Teal**. Peter found us a **Lesser Nighthawk** perched on a tree branch which was a nice treat and the cow fields held several **Cattle Egrets** and some close **Groove-billed Anis**. Our first **Wood Storks** flew above while a couple of **Rufous-naped Wrens** were very confiding and allowed excellent photo opportunities as they worked along a fence. Further along we found a **Long-billed Starthroat** perched over the road which flew off but then reappeared allowing good scope views. A nearby tree with red flowers had **Cinnamon Hummingbird**, a male **Green-breasted Mango**, **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, a **Scrub Euphonia**, **Tennessee** and **Yellow Warbler**. The next tree had several **Baltimore Orioles** and a few **Orange-fronted Parakeets**. Back at the coach we added **Barn Swallows** and **Great-tailed Grackles** before continuing on with a further stop for a couple of **Double-striped Thick-knees** in an open field that Gordon had spotted. Our next stop at a wet field yielded three **Southern Lapwings**, a relatively new colonist species for Costa Rica with just a few pairs in the country.



We reached our hotel in the late afternoon, settled into our rooms and were back out checking the grounds and surrounding area in the afternoon light. A small lagoon held a mixed flock of **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** allowing good comparative views. There were also, **Blue-winged Teal**, and a few **Spotted Sandpipers**, and a lone **Killdeer** roosting on the mud behind. A **Great Blue Heron** flew in followed by four **Roseate Spoonbills**. Fantastic! Other birds seen around the dried up part of the lagoon included **White-winged Dove**, **Common Ground-Dove** and a **Roadside Hawk**. A **Great Egret** was the only bird taking advantage of the trapped fish in a pool that was drying up and in the shrubs beyond the pond; we had a nice **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**. A **Baltimore Oriole** was seen on a palm tree and an **Osprey** flew over the pond as we headed back around. Near the hotel, there was a female **Green-breasted Mango** feeding on the flowers of a tree above us and we found both **Streak-backed Oriole** and **Spot-breasted Orioles** two of our target birds, in the fruiting trees. The sunset once again created a blazing orange sky and some of us spent the last few minutes of daylight enjoying a beer and getting some good views of the orioles. Later we met for dinner and a checklist update before retiring in anticipation of our full day in the Palo Verde National Park.



Day 9 Monday, February 2, 2009

After breakfast, we loaded the bus and headed toward Palo Verde National Park in Costa Rica's northern pacific lowlands where, in January and February, the Tempisque River floods and attracts more migratory waterfowl than any other place in Central America. We birded the road leading to the park entrance making several birding stops along the way. Our first stop was for a small group of **Orange-fronted Parakeets** feeding in a flowering tree. The morning light lit them up wonderfully and we also found **Hoffmann's Woodpecker**, **Rufous-naped Wren** and a female **Canivet's Emerald**. The prize here, though, was a gorgeous **Turquoise-browed Motmot** which perched on branches, wires, and the ground, glowing in the morning light. Our next stop was for a pair of **American Kestrels** in an open field, where we also had great views of **Stripe-headed Sparrow** and **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**. We then stopped by a bridge to look at several **Swainson's Hawks** flying over in a straight, continuous stream. There were all ages and colour morphs seen making for an interesting comparison. A **Roadside Hawk** was perched low in a bush near the road and some of us stalked a **Brown-crested Flycatcher** on a side trail. Another **Streak-backed Oriole** was seen here as well. The next stop was on an S-turn on a hillside where Steve spotted a **Mangrove Cuckoo** very close to the road. A pool near some rice paddies held **Least** and **Semipalmated Sandpipers** but the wind made it difficult to see them well. The next stop along the road yielded **Inca Doves** and a group of **White-faced Capuchin** monkeys. Three **Black-headed Trogons** showed very well a little further on and as we followed them we also picked up a **Scrub Euphonia** feeding on some fruits and some **Howler Monkeys** in the trees behind. We walked into the forest and for some reason were buzzed by a **White-tipped Dove**. The forest was quiet but we did manage to pull out some **Nutting's Flycatchers** and another local specialty the **White-lored Gnatcatcher**.



An area overlooking the expansive marshes of Palo Verde held several **Limpkins**, many **Glossy Ibis**, hundreds of **Black-bellied Whistling Duck**, **Northern Jacana**, **Roseate Spoonbill**, **Anhinga**, **Black-necked Stilt**, several **Snail Kites** and **White Ibis**. Another area near a boardwalk had a distant **Peregrine Falcon** and an **Osprey**. There was a very large nest on a very distant tree which was probably a Jabiru nest and while scanning Gina then spotted two **Jabirus** circling around amongst the clouds. After lunch, we headed back out picking up a **Great Black Hawk** along the road.

Moving on we stopped in an area of scrub which held some bright **Blue Grosbeaks**. Ramon negotiated the coach through the narrow thorn-lined track to some open ponds which held lots of **Black-necked Stilts**, **Short-billed Dowitchers**, **Grey Plovers**, a **Tricoloured Heron**, a few **Hudsonian Whimbrel**, some **White Ibis**, **Willetts** and a **Royal Tern**. We walked out onto a beach where the low tide exposed a large sand flat which held several **Marbled Godwits**, some **Caspian Terns**, **Least Sandpipers** and **Semipalmated Plover**. There were a few **Neotropic Cormorants** and **Laughing Gulls** and plenty of **Brown Pelicans** and **Magnificent Frigatebirds** around.



A **Black Skimmer** was spotted in the distance, and worked its way toward us skimming along the edge of the sand. Fabulous! As we turned to head back, Nigel spotted a **Collared Plover** on the sand at the edge of the water and we had fantastically close views of it. We got back to the coach and headed back out through the thorn-lined track picking up a female **Indigo Bunting** along the way. From here we headed toward the Pacific coast and our lodge in the Tarcole area. We arrived and settled in meeting again for dinner and an update of the checklist.



Day 10 Tuesday, February 3, 2009

In the morning those out before breakfast had **Scarlet Macaw** as their very first bird of the day. A fruiting tree up the hill behind our rooms also held **Rose-throated Becard** and **Masked Tityra**. We rose early to travel up to the top of the ridge overlooking the valley. At our first stop, we quickly found a **Western Tanager** which flew off initially but was soon relocated. We went for coffee at a café overlooking the valley and birded the area picking up **Yellow-bellied Elaenia**, **Orange-chinned Parakeets**, **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, **Steely-vented Hummingbird** and **Yellow-crowned Euphonia**. A few **Mealy Parrots** flew over and one perched allowing us to scope it. There were **Rufous-naped Wrens** around and some **Chestnut-mandibled Toucans** flew in and perched in a bare Guanacaste tree above the café. As we worked our way back down the valley stopping along the road near another overlook, there was some obvious bird activity, so we walked up the road and found **Barred Antshrike**, **Philadelphia Vireo**, **Green Honeycreeper**, **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** and **Ochre-bellied Flycatcher**. Alan spotted a **Swainson's Thrush** in a tree near another **Western Tanager** and Steve heard and then spotted a **Fiery-billed Aracari** that quickly disappeared. In a few minutes, the Aracari came back into view and we all enjoyed excellent looks at this cracking bird. The next bird, a **Paltry Tyrannulet** did not get as much of a reaction, nor did the **Mountain Elaenia** that was seen briefly. A **Yellow-crowned Euphonia** capped our early birding foray and we returned to the lodge for a late breakfast. As we were gathering in the dining room, two **Northern Waterthrushes** were showing in the river just off the veranda and a **Shining Honeycreeper** was perched high in some branches directly above us.



Nearly finished with breakfast, we were called out for a **Scaly-breasted Hummingbird** in the garden. A male **Red-legged Honeycreeper** showed well and a male **Rose-throated Becard** was seen, while nearby there was a tree full of **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** and some **Philadelphia Vireos**. We then walked over the suspension bridge into a forest on the other side of the river. A **Brown-capped Flycatcher** showed right away but a male **Long-tailed Manakin** was a bit of a challenge to get on. Eventually it sat motionless high in a branch while everyone managed to get good views of it. The area was quite birdy and during our walk we found **Rufous-breasted Wren**, **Dusky Antbird**, **Yellow-throated Vireo**, **Streaked Flycatcher**, **Golden-hooded Tanager**, **Blue-throated Goldentail** and had the best views ever of **Long-billed Gnatwren**. A pair of **Chestnut-backed Antbirds** moved through the undergrowth and came in close, and a **White-whiskered Puffbird** sat motionless. As we got back around toward the river bank, a **Northern Barred Woodcreeper** landed in front of us with a cicada in its bill and then swallowed it whole, head first. A **Yellow-throated Euphonia** showed well and there were several **Baltimore Orioles** feeding on flowers in the trees. Our last bird was a bright male **Orange-collared Manakin** perched right in front of us on the trail. Spectacular!

After lunch, we set off for our afternoon boat ride on the Tarcole River. On the way to the dock, we stopped for a **Bare-throated Tiger Heron**, **Great Egret** and **Little Blue Heron** in a small pond. There was a perched **Grey Hawk** and a **Mangrove Black Hawk** seen and then a **Violaceous Trogon** posed for photos on the power line. At another small pond in a farm field, we had **Killdeer** and **Spotted Sandpiper** and at the Tarcole Lodge we found **Hoffmann's Woodpecker**, several **Magnificent Frigatebirds** in the distance, a Juvenile **Mangrove Black Hawk** perched over the marsh, an **Osprey** and many distant **Brown Pelicans**.

We arrived at the boat dock and as we walked down the ramp, the boat driver pointed out two **Turquoise-browed Motmots** perched on one of the lines that held a boat near the bank. There was a hole nearby that could have been there nest. Meanwhile, some of us had a quick look at a **Ferruginous Pygmy Owl** that was mobbed by another bird and flew away.

On the river, there were many **Mangrove Swallows**, some coming very close to the boat. Above the river there were **Grey-breasted Martins** flying around and there were also several herons along the river including a few white phase **Little Blue Herons** and some **Snowy Egrets**. The boat driver manoeuvred us close to some mangroves at the rivers edge so that we could see three **Boat-billed Herons** tucked in on the branches, and then we continued down the river adding **Amazon Kingfisher**, **Green Herons**, **Bare-throated Tiger Herons**, several **Anhingas**, a **Pacific Basilisk** on a log, **Yellow-crowned Night Heron**, **Tricoloured Herons** and some **Crocodiles** in the water near the mouth of the river. There were also **Whimbrel** and a few **Ruddy Turnstones** on the mud flats. Heading back up river, we turned into a narrower channel that led into the mangroves. A female **Barred Antshrike** was the first species here and then we had several **Northern Waterthrush** along the edges. There were many **Mangrove Black Hawks**



including several juveniles and none of them seemed very bothered by our presence. A **Mangrove Warbler** showed well followed by a cracking **Prothonotary Warbler**. We followed an even smaller channel deep into the mangroves and immediately found a **Yellow Warbler** and **Mangrove Warbler** together. An **American Pygmy Kingfisher** flew down the channel toward us, through the boat, missing a couple of us by inches and then landed behind us where we spent several minutes marvelling at and photographing this little gem. Back out on the main mangrove channel, there were more **Mangrove Black Hawks**, a distant **Plumbeous Kite** and a group of six **White Ibis** that flew up the river. A **Common Ground-Dove** was seen and there was another bright **Prothonotary Warbler**. Out on the mudflats on the river were several **Grey Plovers** and **Ruddy Turnstones** and as the sun began to set and we travelled back up the river it created a beautiful skyscape. The light was perfect and lit up the many pairs of **Scarlet Macaws** that were flying in to roost (up to 15 pairs) reflecting luminous red. Brilliant! Some **Yellow-naped Parrots** flew over and we had more views of **Boat-billed Herons**. Even more **Scarlet Macaws** flew by and we began to notice **Lesser Nighthawks** as well. It was a magical afternoon!



Day 11 Wednesday, February 4, 2009

On our way to breakfast, a **Bare-throated Tiger Herons** flew up the river and at least two were later seen in the large tree above reception where they were building a nest. After breakfast, we set off for Carara National Park to explore the dry Pacific tropical forest a few miles away. We checked in at the main headquarters and looked at two **Steely-vented Hummingbirds** in a nest, while nearby a **White-fronted Parrot** flew in and perched allowing nice scope views. We moved on to bird the River Trail and immediately started to build our list for the day with a pair of **Thick-billed Euphonias** in the car park. Along the trail, we had **Plain Xenops, Yellow-throated Vireo, Yellow Warbler**, a nice **Northern Royal Flycatcher, Lesser Greenlet, Band-tailed Barbthroat** and **Cocoa Woodcreeper**. A **Slaty-tailed Trogon** was calling in the wood and some of us walked up for a closer view. A pair of **Blue-black Grosbeaks** disappeared quickly but a **Black-hooded Antshrike** was a little easier. In addition, we had **Blue Dacnis**, a small flock of **White-shouldered Tanagers**, two more **Orange-collared Manakin** males, a very close **Rufous-and-White Wren, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Blue-throated Goldentail, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper**, a **Cocoa Woodcreeper** and a **Goliath Frog** perched on a vine. From here we went up the hill, behind our lodge to look for raptors and indeed had four **King Vultures**, three **Plumbeous Kites**, a pair of **Scarlet Macaws** in a tree, several **White-collared Swifts** and some **Costa Rican Swifts**.



In the afternoon we went back to Carara, this time following a trail into the forest from another starting point. We had **White-collared Swifts** and a fleeting glimpse of a **Riverside Wren** before stopping at a small stream where several birds were coming into bathe. We settled in to watch the show as four male **Red-capped Manakins** came in to the water (at one point, all were there at the same time!). A **Blue-crowned Manakin** joined them and perched side by side on a diagonal branch next to a Red-capped. A **Long-tailed Hermit** also flew in and dipped in the pool and a **Chestnut-backed Antbird** came very close as it investigated its bathing opportunities. **Black-and-white Warbler** and **Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** also appeared and it was an amazing hour of close views of some stunning birds. It was cloudy and we were starting to lose the light so we continued through a very quiet forest adding just a few species for our efforts including **King Vulture, Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher, Tropical Gnatcatcher, Central American Agouti** and some **White-faced Capuchins**. In the meantime, the photographers stayed at the Manakin pools a little longer and then went to meet the rest of the group at the park headquarters. The two baby **Steely-vented Hummers** in the nest got lots of photo attention and we scoped a **Laughing Falcon** that Ramon found.



Day 12 Thursday, February 5, 2009

A few of us were out in the morning before breakfast watching **Scarlet Macaws** fly over. A few **Costa Rican Swifts** were also flying low over the hillside behind our rooms and in the fruiting tree on the hillside there was **Social Flycatcher, Streaked Flycatcher** and a male **Rose-throated Becard**. After breakfast, we checked out of the hotel and drove down toward the coast.

Along the way, we stopped by a small pond that held **Anhinga**, **Mangrove Black Hawk**, **Bare-throated Tiger Heron** and a **Great Egret**. Overnight, a wind storm had taken down some power lines so Ramon had to find another route into our morning birding area. We walked into some mangroves where there were several birds to be seen including **Streak-headed Woodcreeper**, **Black-crowned** and **Masked Tityra**, a female **Rose-throated Becard**, **Black-headed Trogon**, **Tropical Gnatcatcher** and **Philadelphia Vireo**. Our target bird here was the endemic **Mangrove Hummingbird** and it did not take long to spot one foraging in the flowers of some trees we were stood beside. The bird disappeared but was soon relocated and allowed good views as it fed and perched in the flowers. Once we had our fill of the hummingbird, we walked out to some open farm fields where there were a couple of **Eastern Wood-Pewees** and a **Hoffmann's Woodpecker**. An **Osprey** flew over as did a **Magnificent Frigatebird** showing its red gular pouch and a **Grey Hawk** showed briefly while a **Green-breasted Mango** made an appearance in a tree along the edge of the field.



We left the coast stopping in the village square of Orotina to find the famous **Black-and-White Owls** that live in the park. In a few minutes we were stood in the centre of the park with scopes and cameras focused on two birds sat side by side. From here we ascended into the mountains. As we climbed the weather conditions deteriorated from windy to rainy and misty. There were several trees down along the road due to the last night's wind storm and it was still very gusty.

By the time we reached Mirador Quetzales it was still raining. We quickly ran for shelter in the café where we were greeted by countless hummingbirds buzzing to and fro from the many feeders just outside the windows. There were easily 20 **Fiery-throated Hummingbirds** around and their indifference to our presence made it possible to get within inches of them. In fact several of us including Robbie held their hands out for these miniature jewels to land on. Amazing! Cameras clicked away at these little gems as well as several **Magnificent Hummingbirds** and a few **Green Violetears**. A tiny **Volcano Hummingbird** also came in like an insect and then a **White-throated Mountain Gem** floated in to the feeder at the corner of the building. We enjoyed the hummingbird show for a long time over a nice hot cup of coffee and also picked up some additional species including **Black-and-Yellow Silky Flycatcher**, **Yellow-thighed Finch**, **Flame-coloured Tanager**, **Slaty Flowerpiercer**, **Sooty-capped Brush Finch** and **Wilson's Warbler**. Despite the foul weather it was a great afternoon of birding!



We left Mirador and headed down into the valley toward the Savegre river and our wonderful lodge. A **Black Guan** showed briefly on our way down the hill just before we made a stop at a private home that had feeders. Our host put out some bananas which immediately attracted a

Flame-coloured Tanager. A **Mountain Squirrel** tried to steal one of the bananas and then fell from the feeders creating a comical moment. There were more **Yellow-thighed Finches** around and some **Large-footed Finches** showed very close. We picked up our first **Sooty Thrush** here before continuing down the hill to our lodge. When we arrived at the lodge some of us noticed a strange light crossing the sky slowly. It later transpired that this was the Comet Lulin. Excellent!

Day 13 Friday, February 6, 2009

This morning we rose early to go up to our regular spot to look for the most beautiful of birds, the **Resplendent Quetzal**. The electricity was out at the lodge due to the continuing wind storm and there was an air of nervousness as

we crossed the bridge over the Savegre River. The wind was still fairly strong and there was a heavy mist in the air and we wondered if our target bird would show in these conditions, especially having been told that none were seen the previous days. We arrived at the car park and walked up the hill where Steve immediately spotted a male **Resplendent Quetzal** perched low in a tree. Phew!!

Slightly out of breath already, the bird took our breath away glowing red and green in the moss laden tree. Another bird flew in to a more heavily leafed tree while another two males flew further up the hill to a fruiting avocado. Some of us followed them up the hill but the birds remained hidden in a thick bush probably to avoid the wind that was whipping the hillside. The rest of us set up a scope on another male perched in the original trees. A moment later, two males flew back down to the original trees right over the heads of those who had remained in the lower observation area. Wow! The magnificence of this view brought



tears to some people's eyes as we watched these fabulous birds in a scope. For the next few minutes, we marvelled at these remarkable birds, cameras clicking away as they sat not far above our heads seemingly unfazed by our presence. It was an incredible experience and all before breakfast! After an hour or so with the four brilliant male **Quetzals**, we headed back down toward the vehicle. Other birds were once again attracting our attention including **Sooty-capped Bush Tanager** and a nice low down **Flame-throated Warbler**. We birded around the bridge adding **Mountain Elaenia**, **Ruddy-capped Nightingale Thrush**, **Band-tailed Pigeon**, **Volcano Hummingbird**, **Grey-breasted Wood Wren**, and **Collared Redstart**. By this time our stomachs were telling us it was time for breakfast so we headed back to the lodge. After breakfast, we birded the gardens of the lodge and walked to an open area near a small pond. We had good views of **Yellow-thighed Finch** here as well as **Black-cheeked Warbler**, **Dark Pewee**, **Ochraceous Wren** and a pair of **Acorn Woodpeckers** working on a dead stump. There were also **Black-capped Flycatchers** around as well as **Scintillant Hummingbird**, **Wilson's Warbler**, **Black-faced**

Solitaire, Flame-coloured Tanager, Green Violetear, Flame-throated Warbler, Spot-crowned Woodcreeper and Mountain Elaenia. Some **Sulphur-winged Parakeets** flew over and we could pick up their colour in the morning light. We walked out to the road where there was a **Yellow-winged Vireo** open view and a **Slaty Flowerpiercer** working some red flowers. A **Stripe-tailed Hummingbird** showed well for us here as well.

We checked along the river and found a **Torrent Tyrannulet** that disappeared quickly but when we repositioned ourselves further down the road we had excellent views as the bird came toward us. We turned off the road and walked down to a trail along the river adding **Black-thighed Grosbeak, Common Bush Tanager and Yellowish Flycatcher.** We then crossed a log bridge and walked the trail on the other side of the river where we found **Ruddy Treerunner, Collared Redstart** and had the best views ever of **Spangle-cheeked Tanager.** We also had excellent views of a close **Flame-throated Warbler** and a **Black-throated Green Warbler.** Howard found a **Townsend's Warbler** that vanished before the rest of us could get on it and back across the bridge, we found a **Tufted Flycatcher** hawking insects above the trail. A



Yellowish Flycatcher showed well and we added **Yellow-bellied Siskin** on a fence as we walked back toward the lodge.



After lunch, we went up to the Paramo and found the area was shrouded in heavy mist and wind making for very wet conditions. A **Black-billed Nightingale Thrush** showed briefly and despite our best efforts no other birds showed. Although the weather was against us, we still wanted to bird so we walked down the road that leads into the valley. Our rewards included **Black-checked Warbler,** a flock of **Band-tailed Pigeons** and a **Buffy Tuftedcheek** spotted

by Howard as we stood on the edge of the road looking into the forest. Another stop at a private home produced **Yellow-thighed Finch, Rufous-collared Sparrow, Flame-coloured Tanager, Volcano Hummingbird, Large-footed Finch and Mountain Elaenia.** By the time we made our last stop of the day, the mist was lifting and the sky was gleaming with an orange and pink sunset. As darkness fell, we heard the sound of a **Dusky Nightjar** calling and were soon watching it perched on a post just above Steve's head! Back at the lodge, the power was still out so we met for dinner by candlelight. Fortunately, the power came back on during dinner allowing us to catch up on our checklist before retiring for the evening.

Day 14 Saturday, February 7, 2009

On our last morning, Nigel, Beverly, Peter, Alan, and Christine made an early start to enjoy more views of the **Resplendent Quetzal** and get some photos. A few others enjoyed the grounds of our lovely lodge while the rest of us went up the mountain in a 4x4 to walk the Los Robles trails an area with incredibly tall moss covered oak trees. It was still windy and misty but the sun was out creating a beautiful rainbow over the valley. We heard a **Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl** in the tree tops

some distance away but were unable to see it and an **Emerald Toucanet** proved difficult in some high branches before it disappeared completely. A **Black-cheeked Warbler** showed on the side of the trail and we had incredible, close views of a male **Silvery-fronted Tapaculo**. Amazing! There were lots of **Wilson's Warblers** around and a **Yellowish Flycatcher** and then a small flock with **Flame-throated Warblers**, **Wilson's** and **Black-throated Green Warblers** kept us entertained. A **Cocoa Woodcreeper** was seen and in a tree covered by a large tangle vines were several **Sooty-capped Bush Tanagers**, **Yellow Warblers** more **Wilson's Warblers** and a few **Ruddy Treerunners**.

After lunch, we loaded up the vehicle and ascended out of the valley toward Cartago where we said goodbye to Ian and Nigel who were continuing on to Rancho Naturalista. On to San Jose, we said goodbye to Nigel and Beverly who were continuing on their own for another week and then we checked into our lovely hotel for the evening and out last dinner together. We reviewed our wonderful trip and, difficult as it was, each chose our five best sightings of the trip and shared them after dessert. Each of our choices brought back fond memories for many of us. We tallied the top five species of the trip which were **Resplendent Quetzal**, **Keel-billed Motmot**, **Turquoise-browed Motmot**, **Sunbittern** and normally skulking **Silvery-throated Tapaculo**.



Day 15 Sunday, February 8, 2009

This morning we had an early departure for the airport. As we approached the cue, chaos ensued at the check in counter as the airline attempted to reroute us in anticipation of a cancelled flight to Newark. Most of us got on to the flight to Houston but after all that, our original flight went on as scheduled and we all met up in Heathrow to say our goodbyes.

This fantastic tour provided us with so many brilliant Costa Rican birds. It was a pleasure to share the excitement of our many unexpected sightings and marvel at the exceptional views we had of many of the birds. Despite some inclement weather, with many sharp eyes and the help of a keen birder/driver, we had an excellent trip! Thank you all!

Steve & Gina

Checklist starts on next page

BIRDLIST FOR COSTA RICA EASY 2009

	SPECIES	Scientific Name	No of days out of 12 recorded	Highest daily count L/C = Locally Common N/C = No count i.e numerous Bold + E = Endemic
1	Great Tinamou	<i>Tinamus major</i>	2	2
2	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	4	10+
3	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	4	6
4	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	2	200
5	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	4	12
6	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	2	4
7	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	5	6
8	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	8	N/C
9	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	4	6
10	Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	7	20
11	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	11	L/C
12	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	5	6
13	Yellow-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	2	6
14	Boat-billed Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearia</i>	1	6
15	Bare-throated Tiger-heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>	4	4
16	Fasciated Tiger-heron	<i>Tigrisoma fasciatum</i>	1	1
17	Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	4	40
18	Jabiru	<i>Jabiru mycteria</i>	1	2
19	White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	4	40
20	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	1	3
21	Green Ibis	<i>Mesembrinibis cayennensis</i>	2	6
22	Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Ajaia ajaja</i>	2	4
23	Black-bellied Whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	2	400
24	Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>	1	7
25	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	2	20
26	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	13	C
27	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	13	C
28	King Vulture	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>	1	6
29	Grey-headed Kite	<i>Leptodon cayanensis</i>	1	1
30	White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	1	1
31	Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabiiis</i>	1	3
32	Double-toothed Kite	<i>Harpagos bidentatus</i>	1	1
33	Plumbeous Kite	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>	2	2
34	Tiny Hawk	<i>Accipiter superciliosus</i>	1	1
35	Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	1	1
36	Black-chested Hawk	<i>Leucopternis princeps</i>	1	1
37	Semiplumbeous Hawk	<i>Leucopternis semiplumbea</i>	1	1
38	White Hawk	<i>Leucopternis albicollis</i>	3	3
39	Mangrove Black-hawk	<i>Buteogallus subtilis</i>	2	6
40	Great Black-hawk	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>	1	1
41	Grey Hawk	<i>Asturina plagiata</i>	7	3
42	Roadside Hawk	<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>	7	2
43	Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	5	3
44	Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>	3	2
45	Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	2	12
46	Zone-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>	1	1

47	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	3	1
48	Black Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus tyrannus</i>	1	1
49	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	7	2
50	Crested Caracara	<i>Polyborus plancus</i>	4	3
51	Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>	2	10
52	Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>	3	1
53	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	1	3
54	Bat Falcon	<i>Falco ruficularis</i>	1	2
55	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1	1
56	Grey-headed Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis cinereiceps</i>	3	3
57	Crested Guan	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>	4	3
58	Black Guan	<i>Chamaepetes unicolor</i>	2	2
59	Great Curassow	<i>Crax rubra</i>	1	1
60	White-throated Crake	<i>Laterallus albigularis</i>	2	Heard only
61	Grey-necked Wood-rail	<i>Aramides cajanea</i>	3	3
62	Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinicus</i>	1	2
63	Sunbittern	<i>Eurypyga helias</i>	1	1
64	Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	1	7
65	Northern Jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>	4	6
66	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	2	100
67	Double-striped Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus bistriatus</i>	2	2
68	Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>	1	3
69	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	2	80
70	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	1	20
71	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	2	1
72	Collared Plover	<i>Charadrius collaris</i>	1	1
73	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	1	10
74	Hudsonian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus</i>	2	10
75	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	2	25
76	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	2	6
77	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	7	20+
78	Willet	<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>	1	8
79	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	2	6
80	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	1	200
81	Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	1	6
82	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	2	60
83	Laughing Gull	<i>Larus atricilla</i>	2	N/C
84	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	1	20
85	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	1	10
86	Royal Tern	<i>Sterna maxima</i>	1	2
87	Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>	1	1
88	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	4	N/C
89	Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Columba fasciata</i>	4	12
90	Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Columba cayennensis</i>	7	12+
91	Red-billed Pigeon	<i>Columba flavirostris</i>	2	2
92	Short-billed Pigeon	<i>Columba nigrirostris</i>	2	1
93	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	5	10+
94	Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>	7	N/C
95	Common Ground-dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	4	N/C
96	Ruddy Ground-dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	6	N/C
97	White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	4	N/C

98	Grey-chested Dove	<i>Leptotila cassini</i>	2	1
99	Great Green Macaw	<i>Ara ambiguu militaris</i>	1	Heard only
100	Scarlet Macaw	<i>Ara macao</i>	3	30
101	Crimson-fronted Parakeet	<i>Aratinga finschi</i>	1	2
102	Orange-fronted Parakeet	<i>Aratinga canicularis</i>	2	8
103	Sulphur-winged Parakeet	<i>Pyrrhura hoffmanni</i>	2	10
104	Orange-chinned Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris jugularis</i>	5	4+
105	White-crowned Parrot	<i>Pionus senilis</i>	5	4
106	White-fronted Parrot	<i>Amazona albifrons</i>	1	1
107	Red-lore Parrot	<i>Amazona autumnalis</i>	4	4
108	Mealy Parrot	<i>Amazona farinosa</i>	1	4
109	Mangrove Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus minor</i>	1	1
110	Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	4	1
111	Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>	8	N/C
112	Lesser Ground-cuckoo	<i>Morococcyx erythropygus</i>	1	Heard only
113	Tropical Screech-owl	<i>Otus choliba</i>	1	1
114	Vermiculated Screech-owl	<i>Otus vermiculatus</i>	1	1
115	Black-and-white Owl	<i>Strix nigrolineata</i>	1	2
116	Crested Owl	<i>Lophostrix cristata</i>	1	2
117	Ferruginous Pygmy-owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>	1	1
118	Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>	3	50+
119	Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>	2	5
120	Dusky Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus saturatus</i>	1	1
121	Chestnut-collared Swift	<i>Cypseloides rutilus</i>	1	20
122	White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>	8	200
123	Costa Rican Swift	<i>Chaetura fumosa</i>	2	50
124	Grey-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>	4	20
125	Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi richmondi</i>	1	10
126	Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift	<i>Panyptila cayennensis</i>	3	4
127	Bronzy Hermit	<i>Glaucis aenea</i>	2	1
128	Band-tailed Barbthroat	<i>Threnetes ruckeri</i>	1	1
129	Green Hermit	<i>Phaethornis guy</i>	1	1
130	Stripe-throated Hermit	<i>Phaethornis striigularis</i>	2	1
131	Scaly-breasted Hummingbird	<i>Phaeochroa cuvierii</i>	2	2
132	White-necked Jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	2	1
133	Green Violet-ear	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>	3	6+
134	Green-breasted Mango	<i>Anthracothorax prevostii</i>	3	2
135	Violet-headed Hummingbird	<i>Klais guimeti</i>	4	2
136	Black-crested Coquette	<i>Lophornis helenae</i>	2	4
137	Canivet's Emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon canivetii</i>	2	1
138	Violet-crowned Woodnymph	<i>Thalurania colombica</i>	1	1
139	Fiery-throated Hummingbird	<i>Panterpe insignis</i>	1	20
140	Blue-throated Goldentail	<i>Hylocharis eliciae</i>	2	1
141	Mangrove Hummingbird E	<i>Amazilia boucardi</i>	1	1
142	Cinnamon Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia rutila</i>	1	2
143	Steely-vented Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia saucerrottei</i>	3	4
144	Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>	10	L/C
145	Stripe-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Eupherusa eximia</i>	1	1
146	Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer	<i>Chalybura urochrysia</i>	1	1
147	White-throated Mountain-gem	<i>Lampornis cinereicauda</i>	3	3
148	Magnificent Hummingbird	<i>Eugenes fulgens</i>	3	10

149	Purple-crowned Fairy	<i>Heliothryx barroti</i>	2	1
150	Long-billed Starthroat	<i>Helioaster longirostris</i>	1	2
151	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	3	2
152	Volcano Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus flammula torridus</i>	2	4
153	Scintillant Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus scintilla</i>	2	2
154	Resplendent Quetzal	<i>Pharomachrus mocinno</i>	2	4
155	Slaty-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon massena</i>	4	3
156	Black-headed Trogon	<i>Trogon melanocephalus</i>	2	4
157	Collared Trogon	<i>Trogon collaris</i>	1	1
158	Violaceous Trogon	<i>Trogon violaceus</i>	3	1
159	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	1	1
160	Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle torquata</i>	2	1
161	Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>	3	1
162	Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	5	3
163	American Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>	1	1
164	Broad-billed Motmot	<i>Electron platyrhynchum</i>	4	2
165	Keel-billed Motmot	<i>Electron carinatum</i>	2	2
166	Turquoise-browed Motmot	<i>Eumomota superciliosa</i>	2	2
167	Rufous Motmot	<i>Baryphthengus martii</i>	1	2
168	Blue-crowned Motmot	<i>Momotus momota</i>	1	1
169	Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>	2	2
170	White-necked Puffbird	<i>Notharchus macrorhynchos</i>	1	1
171	White-whiskered Puffbird	<i>Malacoptila panamensis</i>	3	2
172	Emerald Toucanet	<i>Aulacorhynchus prasinus</i>	1	1
173	Collared Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus torquatus</i>	4	10
174	Fiery-billed Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus frantzii</i>	1	1
175	Yellow-eared Toucanet	<i>Selenidera spectabilis</i>	1	3
176	Keel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos sulfuratus</i>	4	8
177	Chestnut-mandibled Toucan	<i>Ramphastos swainsonii</i>	3	4
178	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	2	3
179	Black-cheeked Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes pucherani</i>	6	6
180	Hoffmanns' Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes hoffmannii</i>	7	4
181	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	1	1
182	Rufous-winged Woodpecker	<i>Piculus simplex</i>	1	2
183	Golden-olive Woodpecker	<i>Piculus rubiginosus</i>	1	1
184	Cinnamon Woodpecker	<i>Ceelus loricatus</i>	1	2
185	Chestnut-coloured Woodpecker	<i>Ceelus castaneus</i>	1	1
186	Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	2	1
187	Pale-billed Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i>	1	2
188	Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>	4	1
189	Northern Barred Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocolaptes certhia</i>	2	1
190	Cocoa Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus guttatus</i>	2	2
191	Spotted Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus erythropygius</i>	2	1
192	Streak-headed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>	5	3
193	Spot-crowned Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes affinis</i>	2	3
194	Ruddy Treerunner	<i>Margarornis rubiginosus</i>	2	4
195	Buffy Tuftedcheek	<i>Psuedocolaptes lawrencii</i>	1	1
196	Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner	<i>Automolus ochrolaemus</i>	1	1
197	Plain Xenops	<i>Xenops minutus</i>	1	4
198	Fasciated Antshrike	<i>Cymbilaimus lineatus</i>	1	3
199	Barred Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>	3	2

200	Black-hooded Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus bridgesi</i>	1	3
201	Western Slaty Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus atrinucha</i>	1	Heard only
202	Dot-winged Antwren	<i>Microrhopias quixensis</i>	1	4
203	Dusky Antbird	<i>Cercomacra tyrannina</i>	2	1
204	Bare-crowned Antbird	<i>Gymnocichla nudiceps</i>	1	Heard only
205	Chestnut-backed Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza exsul</i>	3	3
206	Spotted Antbird	<i>Hylophylax naevioides</i>	3	2
207	Fulvous-bellied Antpitta	<i>Hyllopezus dives</i>	3	Heard only
208	Silvery-fronted Tapaculo	<i>Scytalopus argentifrons</i>	1	1
209	Snowy Cotinga	<i>Carpodectes nitidus</i>	1	3
210	Red-capped Manakin	<i>Pipra mentalis</i>	1	5
211	Blue-crowned Manakin	<i>Pipra coronata</i>	1	2
212	Long-tailed Manakin	<i>Chiroxiphia linearis</i>	1	1
213	White-ruffed Manakin	<i>Corapipo altera</i>	2	1
214	White-collared Manakin	<i>Manacus candei</i>	3	1
215	Orange-collared Manakin	<i>Manacus aurantiacus</i>	2	2
216	Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>	2	2
217	Slaty-capped Flycatcher	<i>Leptopogon superciliaris</i>	1	1
218	Common Tody-flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>	4	3
219	Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum nigriceps</i>	1	1
220	Paltry Tyrannulet	<i>Zimmerius vilissimus</i>	2	2
221	Yellow Tyrannulet	<i>Capsiempis flaveola</i>	2	3
222	Yellow-bellied Elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>	3	3
223	Mountain Elaenia	<i>Elaenia frantzii</i>	3	4
224	Torrent Tyrannulet	<i>Serpophaga cinerea</i>	1	1
225	Black-capped Pygmy-tyrant	<i>Myiornis atricapillus</i>	1	1
226	Scale-crested Pygmy-tyrant	<i>Lophotriccus pileatus</i>	2	1
227	Yellow-olive Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>	3	2
228	Northern Royal-flycatcher	<i>Onychorhynchus coronatus</i>	1	1
229	Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher	<i>Myiobius barbatus</i>	1	1
230	Tufted Flycatcher	<i>Mitrephanes phaeocercus</i>	2	2
231	Dark Pewee E	<i>Contopus lugubris</i>	2	2
232	Eastern Wood-pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	2	2
233	Tropical Pewee	<i>Contopus cinereus</i>	3	4
234	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	3	1
235	Yellowish Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flavescens</i>	2	2
236	Black-capped Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax atriceps</i>	2	2
237	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	4	1
238	Long-tailed Tyrant	<i>Colonia colonus</i>	1	2
239	Bright-rumped Attila	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>	2	2
240	Rufous Mourner	<i>Rhytipterna holerythra</i>	2	4
241	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>	3	3
242	Nutting's Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus nuttingi</i>	1	2
243	Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	1	1
244	Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>	2	1
245	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	13	C
246	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	2	10
247	Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>	5	2
248	Golden-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes hemichrysus</i>	1	4
249	Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>	3	2
250	Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	10	L/C

251	Grey-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes granadensis</i>	6	10
252	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	10	L/C
253	Cinnamon Becard	<i>Pachyramphus cinnamomeus</i>	2	2
254	White-winged Becard	<i>Pachyramphus polychopterus</i>	1	1
255	Rose-throated Becard	<i>Pachyramphus aglaiae</i>	3	2
256	Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>	6	4
257	Black-crowned Tityra	<i>Tityra inquisitor</i>	1	2
258	Mangrove Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>	4	10+
259	Grey-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>	8	10
260	Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Notiochelidon cyanoleuca</i>	7	L/C
261	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	3	4
262	Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>	8	30+
263	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	3	100
264	Cliff Swallow	<i>Hirundo pyrrhonota</i>	1	4
265	Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher	<i>Ptilogonys caudatus</i>	2	4
266	Black-and-yellow Silky-flycatcher	<i>Phainoptila melanoxantha</i>	1	2
267	American Dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>	1	1
268	Rufous-naped Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus rufinucha</i>	6	6
269	Band-backed Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus zonatus</i>	3	3
270	Black-throated Wren	<i>Thryothorus atrogularis</i>	1	2
271	Rufous-breasted Wren	<i>Thryothorus rutilus</i>	1	2
272	Riverside Wren	<i>Thryothorus semibadius</i>	1	1
273	Bay Wren	<i>Thryothorus nigricapillus</i>	1	2
274	Stripe-breasted Wren	<i>Thryothorus thoracicus</i>	3	3
275	Rufous-and-white Wren	<i>Thryothorus rufalbus</i>	1	1
276	Plain Wren	<i>Thryothorus modestus</i>	1	1
277	Southern House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon musculus</i>	9	2
278	Ochraceous Wren	<i>Troglodytes ochraceus</i>	1	1
279	White-breasted Wood-wren	<i>Henicorhina leucosticta</i>	2	2
280	Grey-breasted Wood-wren	<i>Henicorhina leucophrys</i>	2	2
281	Northern Nightingale Wren	<i>Microcerculus philomela</i>	2	1
282	Song Wren	<i>Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus</i>	1	1
283	Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	1	1
284	Grey Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	1	1
285	Black-faced Solitaire	<i>Myadestes melanops</i>	2	1
286	Black-billed Nightingale-thrush	<i>Catharus gracilirostris</i>	1	4
287	Ruddy-capped Nightingale-thrush	<i>Catharus frantzii</i>	2	2
288	Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	2	1
289	Wood Thrush	<i>Catharus mustelinus</i>	5	2
290	Sooty Robin	<i>Turdus nigrescens</i>	3	10
291	Mountain Thrush	<i>Turdus plebejus</i>	3	2
292	Pale-vented Thrush	<i>Turdus obsoletus</i>	1	4
293	Clay-coloured Thrush	<i>Turdus grayi</i>	12	L/C
294	White-throated Thrush	<i>Turdus assimilis</i>	1	5
295	Long-billed Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaemus melanurus</i>	1	1
296	White-lored Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila albiloris</i>	2	2
297	Tropical Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila plumbea</i>	3	2
298	Brown Jay	<i>Psilorhinus morio</i>	8	6
299	White-throated Magpie-jay	<i>Calocitta Formosa</i>	3	10
300	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	6	4
301	Yellow-winged Vireo	<i>Vireo carmioli</i>	2	2

302	Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	3	1
303	Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	6	8
304	Lesser Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus decurtatus</i>	2	3
305	Yellow-bellied Siskin	<i>Carduelis xanthogastra</i>	1	1
306	Golden-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	2	2
307	Tennessee Warbler	<i>Vermivora peregrina</i>	8	3
308	Tropical Parula	<i>Parula pitiayumi</i>	2	2
309	Flame-throated Warbler	<i>Parula gutturalis</i>	2	5
310	Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	9	5
	Mangrove Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia bryanti</i>	1	2
311	Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	10	6
312	Townsend's Warbler	<i>Dendroica townsendi</i>	1	1
313	Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	2	2
314	Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	6	1
315	American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	2	2
316	Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	1	6
317	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	4	2
318	Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	3	1
319	Olive-crowned Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis semiflava</i>	1	2
320	Gray-crowned Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis poliocephala</i>	3	2
321	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	6	3
322	Collared Redstart	<i>Myioborus torquatus</i>	2	6
323	Black-cheeked Warbler	<i>Basileuterus melanogenys</i>	2	4
324	Buff-rumped Warbler	<i>Basileuterus fulvicauda</i>	3	4
325	Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	7	2
326	Common Bush-tanager	<i>Chlorospingus ophthalmicus</i>	2	2
327	Sooty-capped Bush-tanager	<i>Chlorospingus pileatus</i>	2	20
328	Black-and-yellow Tanager	<i>Chlorospingus chrysomelas</i>	1	1
329	Dusky-faced Tanager	<i>Mitrospingus cassinii</i>	1	4
330	Olive Tanager	<i>Chlorothraupis carmioli</i>	3	6
331	White-shouldered Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus luctuosus</i>	3	4
332	Tawnycrested Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus delatrii</i>	1	1
333	Red-throated Ant-tanager	<i>Habia fuscicauda</i>	3	4
334	Flame-coloured Tanager	<i>Piranga bidentata</i>	3	6
335	Hepatic Tanager	<i>Piranga flava</i>	4	2
336	Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	7	3
337	Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	1	6
338	Crimson-collared Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus sanguinolentus</i>	4	4
339	Passerini's Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus passerinii</i>	7	10+
340	Blue-grey Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	10	12+
341	Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	8	10+
342	Scrub Euphonia	<i>Euphonia affinis</i>	3	2
343	Yellow-crowned Euphonia	<i>Euphonia luteicapilla</i>	2	2
344	Thick-billed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia lanirostris</i>	1	2
345	Yellow-throated Euphonia	<i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>	3	2
346	Olive-backed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia gouldi</i>	4	2
347	Tawny-capped Euphonia	<i>Euphonia anae</i>	3	2
348	Plain-coloured Tanager	<i>Euphonia inornata</i>	2	3
349	Emerald Tanager	<i>Tangara florida</i>	2	2
350	Silver-throated Tanager	<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>	2	12
351	Bay-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>	2	2

352	Golden-hooded Tanager	<i>Tangara larvata</i>	8	6
353	Spangle-cheeked Tanager	<i>Tangara dowii</i>	2	2
354	Scarlet-thighed Dacnis	<i>Dacnis venusta</i>	1	1
355	Blue Dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>	3	2
356	Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>	6	3
357	Shining Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes lucidus</i>	1	1
358	Red-legged Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>	7	4
359	Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>	6	L/C
360	Stripe-headed Sparrow	<i>Aimophila ruficauda</i>	1	10
361	White-eared Ground-sparrow	<i>Melospiza leucotis</i>	1	1
362	Orange-billed Sparrow	<i>Arremon aurantiirostris</i>	2	2
363	Black-striped Sparrow	<i>Arremonops conirostris</i>	4	2
364	Large-footed Finch	<i>Pezopetes capitalis</i>	2	3
365	Yellow-thighed Finch	<i>Pselliophorus tibialis</i>	3	6
366	Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>	2	5
367	Variable Seedeater	<i>Sporophila americana</i>	9	10
368	White-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila torqueola</i>	1	4
369	Nicaraguan seed-Finch	<i>Oryzoborus nuttingi</i>	1	5
370	Thick-billed seed-Finch	<i>Oryzoborus angolensis</i>	2	1
371	Yellow-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris olivacea</i>	6	4
372	Slaty Flower-piercer	<i>Diglossa plumbea</i>	3	4
373	Black-thighed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus tibialis</i>	1	2
374	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	2	4
375	Black-faced Grosbeak	<i>Caryothraustes poliogaster</i>	1	4
376	Slate-coloured Grosbeak	<i>Pitylus grossus</i>	1	1
377	Black-headed Saltator	<i>Saltator atriceps</i>	2	1
378	Buff-throated Saltator	<i>Saltator maximus</i>	7	4
379	Greyish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>	2	4
380	Blue Grosbeak	<i>Guiraca caerulea</i>	1	10
381	Blue-black Grosbeak	<i>Cyanocompsa cyanoides</i>	1	1
382	Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	1	2
383	Montezuma Oropendola	<i>Gymnostinops montezuma</i>	7	30
384	Scarlet-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus uropygialis</i>	2	1
385	Spot-breasted Oriole	<i>Icterus pectoralis</i>	2	2
386	Streak-backed Oriole	<i>Icterus pustulatus</i>	2	2
387	Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	8	12
388	Black-cowled Oriole	<i>Icterus dominicensis</i>	5	3
389	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	3	10
390	Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	3	4
391	Melodious Blackbird	<i>Dives dives</i>	1	2
392	Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	12	C
393	Bronzed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>	1	10

Mammals & Other Sightings:

1.	Neotropic Otter	<i>Lutra longicaudis</i>	1	1
2.	White-nosed Coati	<i>Nasua narica</i>	5	4
3.	Variiegated Squirrel	<i>Sciurus variegatoides</i>	7	4
4.	Red-tailed Squirrel	<i>Sciurus granatensis</i>	3	2
5.	Mountain Squirrel	<i>Syntheosciurus brochus</i>	3	1

6.	Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	1	1
7.	Central American Agouti	<i>Dasyprocta punctata</i>	1	1
8.	Northern Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	1	1
9.	Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	1	1
10.	Collared Peccary	<i>Tayassu tajacu</i>	1	2
11.	Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth	<i>Choleopus hoffmanni</i>	1	2
12.	Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth	<i>Bradypus variegates</i>	1	1
13.	Tent-making Bat	<i>Uroderma bilobatum</i>	2	2
14.	Lesser Sac-winged Bat	<i>Saccopteryx leptura</i>	1	5
15.	Honduran White Bat	<i>Ectophylla alba</i>	1	8
16.	Kinkajou	<i>Potos flavus</i>	1	1
17.	Mantled Howler Monkey	<i>Alouatta palliata</i>	5	10
18.	White-faced Capuchin	<i>Cebes capucinus</i>	2	4
19.	Black River Turtle	<i>Rhinoclemmys funerea</i>	1	1
20.	Ctenosaur	<i>Ctenosaura similis</i>	5	4
21.	Green Iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>	4	30+
22.	Green Basilisk	<i>Basiliscus plumifrons</i>	3	2
23.	Pacific Basilisk	<i>Basiliscus basiliscus</i>	3	2
24.	Tropical House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	5	4
25.	Brown forest Skink	<i>Sphenomorphus cherriei</i>	1	1
26.	Marine Toad	<i>Bufo marinus</i>	1	1
27.	Common Dink Frog	<i>Eleutherodactylus diastema</i>	1	1
28.	Gladiator Frog	<i>Hyla rosenbergi</i>	1	1
29.	Red-eyed Tree Frog	<i>Agalychnis callidryas</i>	2	1
30.	Strawberry Poison Dart Frog	<i>Dendrobates pumilio</i>	1	2
31.	Central American Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>	1	20+
32.	Spectacled Caiman	<i>Caiman crocadilus</i>	1	1
33.	Monarch Butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	2	4
34.	Blue Morpho	<i>Morpho peleides</i>	5	2
35.	Owl Butterfly	<i>Caligo eurilochus</i>	1	1
36.	Leaf-cutter Ants	<i>Atta cephalotes</i>	4	Numerous
37.	Firefly	<i>Lampyridae sp</i>	1	N/C

Please note that our checklists do not include species seen by the leaders only. We also do not include single observer sightings or poor views. We do not count heard only or subspecies, although they are noted. This we believe gives us a very honest and accurate group total.

BIRDSEEKERS – Holidays for Birdwatchers
2a Plymouth Rd, Plympton
Plymouth, Devon, U.K, PL7 4JR
Tel: 01752 342001
e-mail: info@birdseekers.com
Website: <http://www.birdseekers.co.uk>