

BIRDSEEKERS

HOLIDAYS FOR BIRDWATCHERS



EASY COSTA RICA I

January 2009

TRIP REPORT

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Leaders: Steve Bird & Gina Nichol



EASY COSTA RICA 1 – Jan - 2009

Leaders Steve Bird & Gina Nichol

Day 1 Saturday, January 10, 2009

The day before our departure we heard the news of a 6.1 magnitude earthquake that had struck not far from San Jose, Costa Rica. We all met at the airport sharing our apprehension about the tragedy and how it might impact our trip. Our first obstacle was to get out of the rain and ice at Heathrow and snow in Newark before we arrived in the tropical Central American climate. Kevin greeted us at the San Jose airport and we met our diver Ramon who loaded the bags and took us to our hotel. Christine was already at the hotel having arrived a few days in advance of the group. After a long journey, we settled into our lovely hotel and enjoyed a good nights sleep.

Day 2 Sunday, January 11, 2009

In the morning, most of us were out before breakfast exploring the lovely gardens behind the hotel. It was perhaps appropriate that **Clay-coloured Thrushes** were among the first birds we saw as this is Costa Rica's National Bird. Our first hummingbirds were **Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds** and we saw them nearly everyday thereafter. The prize of this mornings birding was a **Tropical Screech-Owl** roosting in a large stand of bamboo in the middle of the garden and we all managed to see it through the waving stalks. Several **Rufous-collared Sparrows** on the ground got our attention and a **Plain (Canebrake) Wren** was working a fence nearby. We moved on to another area of the garden where we could see 150 or so **Crimson-fronted Parakeets** flying in the distance. They eventually made their way over toward us and some perched in a close tree allowing excellent views. Other birds in the garden included **Inca Doves**, **Great-tailed Grackle**, **Blue-crowned Motmot**, **Squirrel Cuckoo**, a brilliant orange **Baltimore Oriole**, **Buff-throated Saltator**, and **Yellow Warbler**. In the far corner of the garden, we played cat



and mouse with an **Orange-billed Nightingale Thrush** but with patience we were all able to get excellent views of it. It was time for breakfast so we made our way back through the garden. On the way, some of us took another look at the **Tropical Screech-Owl** in the bamboo and found a second bird perched nearby. Fantastic! Not bad for our first hour of birding in Costa Rica.

After breakfast, we brought our bags out to load the vehicle. In the meantime, Gina and Steve told another birding group to check the bamboo for the **Tropical Screech-Owls** and they replied that they had already had one in the car park. This sounded odd so Steve checked the trees in the car park and soon found a **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** perched in a tree above some cars. It flew out and landed in a taller, less leafy tree and we were able to scope it. Amazing!

We left the hotel and arrived at Braullio Carrillo National Park a short time later. From the car park, we saw a juvenile **King Vulture** soaring high in the sky above. We walked a trail into the forest and managed to get on a pair of **Collared Aracarís** in a tree getting glimpses as they moved through the leaves. A **Pale-vented Thrush** also posed a challenge for us and the group were now realising some of the challenges of forest birding. A **Short-tailed Hawk** flew over an opening in

the canopy and further on we had difficult views of a female **Tawny-capped Euphonia** hidden in a tangle. A nice bright male showed well a little later making up for that. Back down at the car park, a **Rufous Mourner** showed quickly and there was a **Wood Thrush** and a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** to keep us going. Our next stop was an old butterfly garden where we were soon getting superb looks at **Violet-headed Hummingbird** and more **Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds**. A **Barred Hawk** then flew over as many **Black Vultures** were beginning to kettle in the late morning thermals.

We stopped for lunch at our regular restaurant and just as we finished our enormous lunches, Christine spotted a **Variable Seedeater** on the wire outside the open window. Phil went out to check to make sure it wasn't **Thick-billed Seedeater** while the others were finishing their coffee. The seedeater has disappeared but behind the restaurant it was very birdy and soon we were all out there watching **Great Kiskadee**, **Tropical Kingbird**, **Tropical Pewee**, **Blue-back Grassquit**, **Hoffman's Woodpecker**, **Palm** and **Blue-Grey Tanagers**, **Summer Tanager**, **Golden-hooded Tanager**, **Baltimore Oriole**, **Social Flycatcher**, and **White-tipped Dove**. The highlight of all these birds was a **Green-breasted Mango** male which showed well soon followed by a female which was very confiding perched in a small tree allowing prolonged views.



Exhilarated by the excitement, we loaded the bus and continued on passing some **Cattle Egrets** in the cow fields and then stopping when Steve spotted a **Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth** in a Cecropia close to the road. Just beyond it we turned off the main road down a track that followed a river. There were several bathers in the river and just when we thought there might be too much human disturbance here, Steve spotted a **Fasciated Tiger-heron** on a rock in the middle of the



river. We positioned ourselves to see through the vegetation on the bank and eventually the bird flew up into a tree allowing better views and photos. Extraordinary! After several minutes enjoying this striking bird, we noticed some **Keel-billed Toucans** in the trees across the river. Carole found a **Spotted Sandpiper** working up the river edge and then John spotted a very nice **Lineated Woodpecker** with a full red crest working on a dead tree across the river in a partially open area. We worked our way back along the track stopping for some **White-crowned Parrots** feeding on a fruiting tree.

A **Variegated Squirrel** patrolled the ground below for scraps of falling fruit. Back down at the river, there were two **Black Phoebes** and another **Spotted Sandpiper**. A pair of **Common Tody-Flycatchers** worked a tangle in front of us and then a **Brown Jay** flew into a tree above.

Back on the bus, we made a quick stop for a **Grey Hawk** on top of a roadside post before moving to our next stop which was a roadside marsh. Several **Pink-billed Seed-Finches** a localised speciality were already up and showing, perched on top of the tall grasses. While we were scoping them, we also found a small group of **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks**, a **Little Blue Heron**, **Northern Jacana** and our first **Passerini's Tanagers**. A **Roadside Hawk** was also seen perched on

a tree by the side of the road and we soon added **Pale-vented Pigeon**, **Blue-and-White Swallow**, **Southern Rough-winged Swallow** and **Grove-billed Ani**. Moving on we headed toward the lodge, passing some **Mantled Howler Monkeys** in the roadside trees. We reached the lodge and checked in before dinner, after which we reviewed the long list of species seen on our first excellent day in Costa Rica.

Day 3 Monday, January 12, 2009

This morning we convened near the feeders in the middle of the courtyard before breakfast. Several birds were waiting in the nearby trees but a domestic cat was staked out at the bottom of the feeders so Gina coaxed it away. Soon the birds were coming back and we got great close views of **Red-throated Ant-Tanager** (a male and a few females), **Blue-grey** and **Passerini's Tanagers**, a female **Green Honeycreeper**, **Buff-throated Saltator** and **Black-cheeked Woodpecker**. A **White-tailed Kite** was also seen perched in the distance on a tree top.



After breakfast, we headed toward the bus trying not to get distracted by the feeders. A **Long-tailed Hermit** was seen without a long tail. As we travelled toward our birding spot for the day a pair of **Great Green Macaws** were seen flying in the direction of the reserve. We were soon birding the approach road to La Selva where there were some **White-crowned Parrots** in a tree top, a **Long-billed Gnatwren** in a tangle, a **White-collared Manakin**, **Streak-headed**

Woodcreeper, **Rufous Mourner**, two **Masked Tityras**, a **Black-cowled Oriole**, **Broad-billed Motmot**, and a **Black-throated Trogon**. We had stunning views of a **Bright-rumped Attila** but a **Rufous-winged Woodpecker** proved more difficult to get on. A lovely bright red male **Summer Tanager** showed well and in the sky above we had our first **White-collared Swifts** and **Grey-rumped Swifts**. Roger, a local guide joined us and helped us sort out a female **Blue-chested Hummingbird** which was sat perched above the road. Nearby a **Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth** with a baby was hanging in a tree near the entrance gate and a little further on we scoped up a bunch of birds in some tall trees across an open area. These included a male **Shining Honeycreeper**, **Golden-hooded Tanager**, **Grey-capped Flycatcher**, **Social Flycatcher** and **Boat-billed Flycatcher**. There was also a large **Green Iguana** sunning in one of the trees. A **Paltry Tyrannulet** was seen in a nearby tree and a **Yellow-crowned Euphonia** showed briefly.



Way up in the clouds, a few **Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts** were flying and some of us managed reasonable views.

We continued toward the main reception area stopping to enjoy the antics of a pair of **Long-tailed Tyrants** flying around and perching on an aerial. A **Band-backed Wren** showed well in a tree and then we took a short break at the headquarters of La Selva, a 3,900 acre reserve of wet northern Caribbean lowland rainforest.

As we enjoyed a coffee or a cold drink, a **Common Tody-flycatcher** showed well and there were several **Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds** feeding in the purple Jamaican Vervain flowers around the veranda. Back out birding, we had several species in the open area around the main buildings including **Black-faced Grosbeak**, **Cinnamon Becard**, **Olive-backed Euphonia**, and a **Red-footed (Bronze-tailed) Plumeleteer** showing its red feet really well. The place was alive with birds and



Honeycreeper.

we soon added **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, a **Black-cheeked Woodpecker**, **Blue-chested Hummingbird**, **White-collared Manakin**, another **Black-cowled Oriole**, an excellent **Yellow-margined Flycatcher** and a **Bananquit**. Next we birded around a football pitch and added **Cocoa Woodcreeper**, **Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher**, **White-winged Becard**, some noisy **White-ringed Flycatchers** and several grumpy **Mantled Howler Monkeys**. After lunch and a short siesta, we were back on the La Selva approach road adding **Plain Xenops**, **Slaty-tailed Trogon**, a **Rufous-winged Woodpecker** which finally showed well, **Squirrel Cuckoo**, male and female **Blue Dacnis** and **Shining**

We then crossed a suspension bridge over a river and walked through the research station gardens noting some **Montezuma Oropendolas** in the tree tops tending to their long sock-like nests. A couple of **Red-ored Parrots** gave stunning views as they fed down low on a fruiting tree, while in the forest, we heard **Great Green Macaws** in the tree tops and manoeuvred around so that we were able to get on them with the scopes. Gina and Chris watched some foraging **White-nosed Coatis** and further on, a **Northern Barred Woodcreeper** showed well in front of us and we had a good look at a **Rufous Motmot**. As we moved along the trail, Roger showed us a bright yellow **Eyelash Pit Viper** curled up in a heliconia plant at eye level. It was getting dark so we walked back out of the forest passing some **Collared Peccaries**. When we got out to the open lawn, there were more **Peccaries** out feeding on the grass. By the time we got back to the car park it was getting dark. A **Common Paraque** called and then flew in landing on the ground right in front of us, before taking off and then circling around us. Fabulous! We headed back to the hotel for the night enjoying another nice dinner and update of our checklist.



Day 4 Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Once again we were at the feeders before breakfast enjoying close views of **Black-headed Saltator**, **Clay-coloured Thrush**, **Golden-hooded Tanager**, **Passerini's Tanager**, the elegant **Crimson-collared Tanager**, **Black-cheeked Woodpecker**, male and female **Green Honeycreepers**, and some **Red-tailed Squirrels** that were taking advantage of the free fruit breakfast. After breakfast, some of us caught up with male **Red-throated Ant-Tanager** and we scoped a **Brown-hooded Parrot** in the distance on top of a tree.



We loaded the vehicle and headed out for our morning cruise on the **Sarapiquí River**. As we got out to the main road, our first **Mangrove Swallow** was seen perched on a fence wire. These were much more numerous at the river and we saw **Southern Rough-winged Swallow** and **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** from the dock as we waited to board our boat. The river was very muddy and there were masses of debris everywhere from the recent earthquake. As we left the dock, a **Little Blue Heron** was seen flying and we saw the first of many **Spotted Sandpipers** along the edge of the river. A **Bright-rumped Attila** showed well on the river bank and our first **Amazon** and huge **Ringed Kingfishers** were seen. Under one of the perched **Ringed Kingfishers**, there was a **Bare-throated Tiger-Heron** standing in the mud and we rocked the boat a bit trying to get a good view. Just beyond there were three **Green Ibis** working the mud flat on the side of the river and



a **Northern Jacana**.

Some **Chestnut-mandibled Toucans** flew over and a **Green Kingfisher** was seen. We had a quick view of a **Northern Waterthrush** working the bank, but later we got better views further up the river. A **Green Basilisk** posed on a branch while an **Anhinga** did the same. Once again the boat tipped as we approached a close **Green Iguana** on a tree overhanging the river. Under that, there was a **Buff-rumped Warbler** moving along the ground and a **Louisiana Waterthrush** was spotted. Suddenly, Brain caught a glimpse of a large dark cat like creature running up the bank. It disappeared quickly and upon discussion by those who had seen it, it was most likely a

Tayra. On the way back down the river, we had better views of a **Bare-throated Tiger-Heron** spotted by Linda. All the while, **Mangrove Swallows** entertained us by flying close to the boat and perching on open dead snags. It was an enjoyable morning!

Late morning found us back at the La Selva entrance road on a small path just off the main road. This time it was a bit more challenging with a **Great Antshrike** that called and did not show and a **White-throated Crake** that did the same. A **Plain Wren** was more confiding and a **Rufous-tailed Jacamar** was spotted in the forest hawking insects from a perch. A **Golden-winged Warbler** worked its way along a tangle while a **Black-bellied Wren** called but did not show. Back out on the main road, we had a **Lineated Woodpecker**



working a distant tree and another **Rufous-tailed Jacamar** that Ramon had been watching while he was waiting by the bus for us. A few more birds showed for us here including **Streak-headed Woodcreeper**, another **Northern Barred Woodcreeper**, **Dusky-capped Flycatcher**, a male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, and **Summer Tanager**. On the way back to the lodge, we found a lone **Grey-breasted Martin** on a power line.

After lunch we had a short siesta and then some of us met up at the feeders for a walk around the grounds. A **Grey-necked Wood Rail** was seen along the edge of a shallow pond and we had better



views as we came around to an open area. The pond also had a **Great Egret** and a **Green Heron** and a small but menacing looking **Spectacled Caiman**. It began to rain so we sought shelter under a pavilion but it was only a short shower so we continued on through the garden adding a female **White-collared Manakin** and a **Black-cowled Oriole**.

In the afternoon, we drove to the edge of a river and walked over a “bridge” to an open area where there was a **Yellow-bellied Elaenia**, a **Chestnut-mandibled Toucan**, a pair of **Masked Tityras**, and a **Green Heron** that popped up out of the grass and perched on a dead stick. Carol pointed out a pair of **Barred Antshrikes** very close to us and we enjoyed excellent views of this animated



pair. Behind that were two dead trees, the first tree was later named the “tree of life” for the variety of birds it attracted including **Grey-capped Flycatcher**, **Clay-coloured Thrush**, **Thick-billed Seed Finch**, **Mourning Warbler**, **House Wren**, **Blue-black Grassquit**, and later **Grey-headed Chachalacas** and **Red-winged Blackbirds**. Several **Keel-billed Toucans** were spotted and scoped in a distant bare tree and in addition, we had good views of **Yellow Tyrannulet**, and immature male **Summer Tanager**, and a smart **Violaceous Trogon**.

As the clouds were rolling in, we walked back over the bridge to scan the river. It started raining hard but we held out under some trees where a female **Violet-crowned Woodnymph** was perched. Once the rain let up, we went back across the bridge this time walking a track and checking the tall trees along the river. An **Orange-chinned Parakeet** was perched high and there were some **Red-lobed Parrots** around. In the trees along the track we had **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** and **Plain-coloured Tanager**. Back in the open area, the tree of life was less lively but we had good views of a **Buff-rumped Warbler** perched on a tree and some **Blue-black Grassquits** in the grass. The



afternoon light, lit up two **Keel-billed Toucans** that came into a distant tree and were simply stunning in the scope. A **Pale-billed Woodpecker** was also spotted and scoped. It was an amazing afternoon of birding!

After dinner, some of us had enough energy to go out and check the garden for frogs and other night creatures. We found a pair of **Red-eyed Tree Frogs** mating on a leaf with another hanging around nearby. A **Tarantula** was seen on the wall of the game room and the ranario held a few tiny **Strawberry Poison Dart Frogs**.

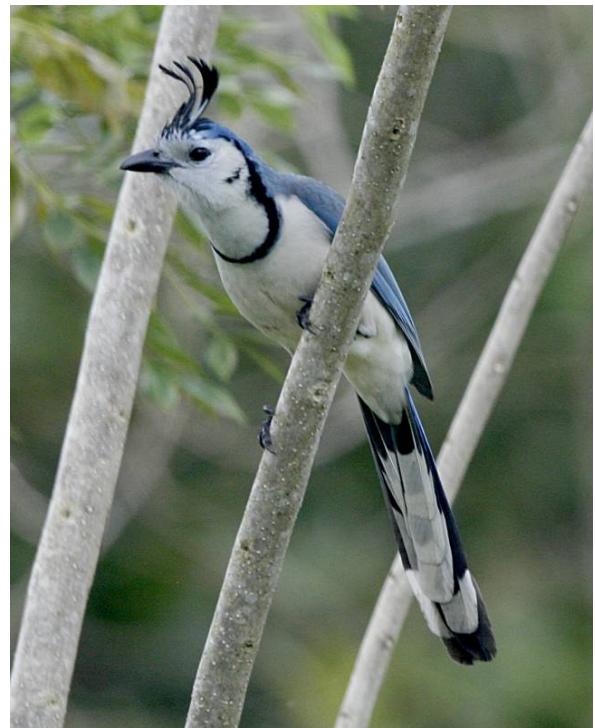
Day 5 Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Before breakfast we again enjoyed the show at the feeders. Highlights included **Red-throated Ant Tanager**, a **Bronzy Hermit** that whizzed by and **Crimson-collared Tanagers** along with **Passerini's**, **Blue-Grey**, **Palm**, and **Golden-hooded**.

After breakfast, we walked the gardens picking up **Red-legged Honeycreeper** and **Squirrel Cuckoo** before we scoped some tall flowering trees which were loaded with **Baltimore Orioles**, a young male **Orchard Oriole**, **Red-legged Honeycreepers**, **Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds** and two fluttering **Purple-crowned Fairies**. Past some ponds we walked along a hillside which held **Orange-billed Sparrows** and there were four **Grey-necked Wood-Rails** on the woodland pond as well as the **Spectacled Caiman**, and some **Roseate Skimmer** dragonflies. Above the pond was an active nest of a **Great Kiskidee**.



We then loaded up the bus and said goodbye to our nice lodge and headed toward Arenal Volcano. Our first stop was at some farm fields where we spotted two **Giant Cowbirds** in some distant trees along with some **Bronzed Cowbirds**. There were several **Blue-black Grassquits** around as well as **Northern Jacana**, **Common Ground-Doves**, **Little Blue Heron**, **Spotted Sandpiper** and **Red-winged Blackbird**. We continued on and somewhere along the road, Ramon spotted a **Laughing Falcon** perched in a bare tree top. It flew off quickly but Steve soon relocated it on the other side of the hill where we all enjoyed excellent views. Another stop for a perched **Southern Caracara** led to other birds including **Harris Hawk**, **Red-tailed Hawk** and a female **Variable Seedeater**. A **White-throated Crake** was calling but not at all cooperative as far as viewing was concerned. As we neared Arenal we could see that the volcano was in clouds. We pulled off the road to survey an open area and soon found a pair of **Tropical Mockingbirds** as well as **Yellow-faced Grassquits**, **Blue-black Grassquit**, several **Barn Swallows** flying low over a hill and some **Southern Rough-winged Swallows**. We turned off the main road toward Arenal and not far along we encountered a group of **White-throated Magpie Jays** with their showy plumage. We ascended the road up toward our lodge stopping suddenly on a small bridge over a river where there was a **Fasciated Tiger-Heron** stood on some rocks along the edge. Fantastic! A **Green Kingfisher** didn't get much attention nearby as we marvelled at the close views we had of the Tiger-Heron.



After awhile, we continued up arriving at our lodge in mid-afternoon. We quickly dropped our bags in the rooms and were immediately out of the veranda over looking Arenal Lake and some feeders which held enormous looking **Montezuma Oropendolas**, **Black-cheeked**

Woodpeckers, several **Blue-grey Tanagers**, **Passerini's** and **Crimson-collared Tanagers** and an **Olive-backed Euphonia**. A **Black-striped Sparrow** skulked below and some **Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds** were buzzing the Jamaican Vervain planted nearby. A **Red-billed Pigeon** flew in and perched on a tree above and a **Bananquit** foraged on a nearby bush. Later we walked through the gardens where we found a pine tree full of **Tennessee Warblers** and a **Wilson's Warbler**, as

well as **Violet-headed Hummingbird** showing well and further on some absolutely stunning



Bay-headed Tanagers that were seen feeding on a fruiting tree. A trail into the forest produced a calling **Nightingale Wren** which proceeded to come in very close to us.

Everyone got on to it immediately as it continued to sing just a few feet away, and we were amazed at the incredible views we had of this skulker. A **Stripe-breasted Wren** was seen but a **Spotted Antbird** took a little longer to nail down. With patience and perseverance everyone got very satisfying views of these difficult birds as well as a **Black-throated Wren**. Back out in the garden, a **Crested Guan** perched on a branch overlooking an open area and as we crossed the bridge back to our rooms, a **Northern Waterthrush** was

seen. We cleaned up and met for dinner with the rumble of the volcano in the background and always keeping watch in case the clouds lifted allowing views of falling magma rock.

Day 6 Thursday, January 15, 2009

Once again many of us took the opportunity to enjoy the birds at the feeders off the veranda before breakfast. To our surprise, a **Kinkajou** appeared and climbed up the tall branched feeder in the back, found its way over the barrier (to prevent climbing animals getting up to it) and proceeded to eat the fruit skewered on the branches. The **Kinkajou** stayed there until it had finished eating all of the fruit and in the process blocked other bird's access to that feeder. The amazing thing is that Kinkajous are normally nocturnal animals and this one was out in full daylight taking advantage of an easy, abundant fruit breakfast. Also known as the Honey Bear, Kinkajous have a prehensile tail and are excellent climbers. They have flexible ankle and knee joints which allow their hind feet to rotate 180 degrees backwards and they can hang upside down from tree limbs and also climb down trees head first which is what it did after it finished eating.



In the meantime, two **White-nosed Coatis** were patrolling the ground for any fallen scraps. The other table feeder played host to several **Montezuma Oropendolas**, one **Chestnut-headed Oropendola**, **Hepatic Tanager**, **Emerald Tanager**, and **Brown Jay**. A **Band-backed Wren** came in and showed well in the top of a tree behind the feeders.

After breakfast it was raining, so we found shelter in an elevated room overlooking the feeders. There was a **Lineated Woodpecker** working the trunk of a pine tree behind the restaurant, and a **Black-and-White Warbler** flitted around a shrub further down the hill, while a **White-crowned Parrot** perched on the top of a dead stump. Phil spotted a **Collared Aracari** perched on a high tree and we managed varying views through the branches. After a while, the rain let up so we walked out through the gardens into a lush



forest. Another **Collared Aracari** showed well above the road leading to the forest trail. Some **Southern Rough-winged Swallows** flew acrobatically around an open farm field on the other side and a **Broad-winged Hawk** came in and perched on a tree. In the forest, it began raining again but we continued on to an area where a small ravine ended at the track. We found a superb **Song Wren** and **Grey-breasted Wood Wren** in the ravine and as we were struggling to get on those birds, Gina spotted a **Black-throated Wren** working a tree on the other side of the track which some of us were able to manage. Though we could hear some activity through the rain, we struggled to pick up many birds until we reached a flock of **Lesser Greenlets** with **Wedge-billed Woodcreeper**, **Purple-crowned Fairy**, and a **Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant** amongst them. As the flock dispersed, we began walking back up the trail. In another area there were birds feeding on fruits in a tree across the river including **Bay-headed Tanager**, **Emerald Tanager**, and **Tawny-capped Euphonia**. On a hillside ahead, some people spotted a **Golden-crowned Warbler**.



We reached the area where the **Song Wrens** were earlier and this time two of them showed very well for us at the same time a **Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant** made an appearance above our heads. It was a bit confusing for a moment as the birds moved around but most of us managed to get on them. Further on, we encountered a **Stripe-breasted Wren** and realized that it was tending to a nest when it brought in a bill full of moss.

Back at the lodge for lunch, we watched a large flock of **Blue-and-White Swallows** fly over as we were being served. After lunch we were back out on the veranda watching a band of 15 or so **Coatis** walk up the hill toward the feeders. These were surely females and young as they band together for safety from predators and from the males that sometimes predate the young of their own kind. After a short break, we drove back down toward the main road. At the first bridge where we had seen the **Fasciated Tiger Heron** the day before, we slowed down to check for it and Steve shouted “SUNBITTERN!” Amazingly, a striking **Sunbittern** was working the side of the river allowing excellent views. We piled off the bus quickly, but quietly to get on the bird which actually seemed indifferent to our presence. A **Buff-rumped Warbler** was called as well but didn’t get much attention as we were so stunned at our luck and fantastic close views of the **Sunbittern**.



After several minutes of watching the bird feed and move among the rocks in the river, we had created a bit of a traffic jam. The bird had moved slowly down the river and suddenly took flight to cross to the other side, a delightful show of its strongly patterned wings. We decided that after stunning views of the **Fasciated Tiger Heron** and excellent views of the **Sunbittern** that this was to be called the “Stream of Dreams”.

We continued on making another stop along the road. A **Bananaquit** worked a mossy branch above us while **White-collared Swifts** flew seemingly into the clouds. A **Thicket Antpitta** was calling in the forest so some of us went in to try and see it. The bird seemed to come close and then stop remaining out of view. Our consolation was a nice pair of **Slaty Spinetails** working a low tangle. When we came out of the forest, Gina had spotted an adult **Ornate Hawk Eagle** perched on a tall tree on 50yards away, it showed briefly before flying down into the forest. We checked the area to try for another view with no success. From here, we walked along the road a little, picking up **Yellow Tyrannulet**. Then we boarded the bus and drove further stopping for a tree full of **Chestnut-mandibled Toucans** feeding on ripe fruits. Our next bird was a perched **White Hawk** which took flight just as we got off the bus allowing good flight views. A band of **Collared Aracaris** flew into the same tree and posed for photos. We then reached an area where we could see the lake from the road and scoped some distant **Howler Monkeys** in a tree. **The sun was beginning to set over Lake Arenal** creating a lovely red sky. A pair of **Crested Guans** perched together in a Cecropia and as darkness fell, a **Paraque** called and then buzzed by us landing on the ground in front of us. We worked our way back up the hill and to our lodge and then reconvened for dinner and the checklist.



Day 7 Friday, January 16, 2009

In the morning, some of us were up early to check the feeders which held **Montezuma Oropendolas**, at least eight **Blue-grey Tanagers**, **Palm** and **Passerini's Tanagers**, and a pair of **Hepatic Tanagers**. A couple of **Coatis** patrolled the ground for scraps and the **Kinkajou** appeared again and climbed up the feeder to claim the fruit. It started to rain so we went under cover for a few minutes noting an **Orange-chinned Parakeet** perched in a nearby tree.



We then boarded the bus to go to the Arenal Hanging Bridges and were soon in the forest crossing **our first of 14 bridges**. A **Buff-rumped Warbler** showed on the side of the trail and a **White-collared Manakin** whizzed by. Chris spotted a **Blue-black Grosbeak** which led also to sightings of **Tawny-faced Gnatwren** and **Northern Barred Woodcreeper**. At one of the lower bridges, a **Dull-mantled Antbird** showed well, and then Doreen spotted a **Semiplumbeous Hawk** perched in a tree above the trail and we all had good views of it. As we walked the trails and negotiated the various bridges, we saw **Bay-headed** and **Emerald Tanager**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Wedge-billed Woodcreeper** and a fast moving

Red-footed Plumeleteer. Chris spotted some **Orange-billed Sparrows** working up a hillside so we called back the group and everyone got good views of them as they crossed the trail. A **Tropical Parula** sang from a tree top and there was a **Tawny-capped Euphonia** feeding on some fruit low near the trail. Other birds included a female **Black-throated Trogon**, **Green Hermit**, a very skulky **White-breasted Wood Wren**, **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, **Black-and-White Warbler**, **Stripe-**

breasted Wren and **Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher**. We suddenly encountered a crazy flock of birds which included **Golden-crowned Warbler**, another **Tawny-faced Gnatwren**, **Spotted Antbird**, **Dusky Antbird**, **Spotted Woodcreeper** and **Streak-crowned Antwreio**. There was so much action happening so fast it was hard to know where to look! Once those birds moved on, we made our way to the end of the trail where a **Yellow Warbler** showed in a low tree and a **Variable Seedeater** was seen on a fence. We left the Hanging Bridges working our way back to the lodge picking up **Keel-billed Toucan** along the way.

During lunch, a **Yellow-throated Euphonia** on the feeder cleared our lunch tables as we all ran out to see it. After lunch, we walked back out into the gardens which were quite active with birds including **Brown Jays**, **Passerini's Tanagers**, a **Band-backed Wren**, **Black-cheeked Woodpeckers** and a **Rufous-winged Woodpecker** feeding on a branch. Doreen spotted a **Black-crested Coquette** perched on top of a leafless bush, this bird gave excellent views for several minutes. A close **Russet Antshrike** was a surprise and a low fruiting tree was full of **Bay-headed Tanagers**, **Olive-backed Euphonias**, **Golden-hooded Tanagers** and all were amazingly close. In the forest we played cat and mouse with a **Fulvous-bellied Antpitta** which called and came close to us but did not show. Despite that, it was a fantastic afternoon of birding. Back to the veranda, we celebrated with a drink as we watched the volcano. At last more of it was in view. We could see some burning lava rocks tumbling down the hill and then breaking up in a shower of sparks! We also enjoyed the spectacular view of the lake and later reconvened for dinner and the checklist.



Day 8 Saturday, January 17, 2009

This morning, the **Kinkajou** appeared and climbed onto the feeder before the fruit had even been put out. Finding nothing to eat, it grabbed a nearby branch and climbed into the tree and down the trunk head first. The **Kinkajou** then approached the veranda where several of us were watching and actually climbed up the railing and onto the platform. We had nothing to offer (nor did we really want to encourage that behaviour) so the Kinkajou disappeared down the hill. In the meantime, two **Coatis** were patrolling the ground under the feeders and birds were waiting until a man finally appeared with the fruit. As he was loading up the tall feeder, the Kinkajou appeared and approached it, waiting for the man to raise the feeder back up. It then proceeded to climb up and dominate that feeder for the rest of the morning. In the meantime, the **Coatis** circled trying to find a way to get to the fruit above but only got scraps that fell to the ground. Birds soon appeared to take advantage of the fruit including **Yellow-throated Euphonia**, **Hepatic Tanager**, **Olive-backed Euphonia**, **Montezuma Oropendola**, **Blue-grey Tanager**, **Red-legged Honeycreeper**, **Emerald Tanager**, **Green Honeycreeper** and **Black-cheeked Woodpecker**. Some **Bananaquits** were foraging in a nearby bush and a **Bay-headed Tanager** was seen the tree above the feeders.



After breakfast, we loaded up the vehicle and headed down the hill stopping at the Casonas below to check the grounds there. A **White Hawk** soared over the valley while a **Squirrel Cuckoo**

worked the branches of a large tree. A **Thicket Antpitta** was calling from the forest and a **Short-billed Pigeon** was spotted feeding on some fruits. We walked out toward the road where there was a pair of **Tropical Parulas** foraging low on a tree and showing nicely for us. A **Purple-crowned Fairy** fluttered in also giving good views. Down the road we found **Southern Rough-winged Swallow** and **Tropical Pewee** before re-boarding the van to continue down. We hadn't travelled far when we stopped for a **Broad-billed Motmot** perched on a power line right next to us allowing excellent views. We then drove out the gate and stopped again at the "Stream of Dreams" where the **Fasciated Tiger-Heron** was once again spotted walking in the water along the waters edge. Fantastic!



Further on, we stopped and had a short walk noting a young male **Baltimore Oriole** in the tree tops. Rick spotted a **Rufous-tailed Jacamar** which was close enough for photos and we scoped an **Orange-chinned Parakeet** in a bare tree, the scope allowing us to see its orange chin. At another "crazy" corner, a large flock was moving through quickly including **White-shouldered Tanager**, **Plain Xenops**, **Black-and-White Warbler**, **Russet Antshrike**, **Variable Seedeater** and **Golden-winged Warbler**. Some friendly policemen stopped by on their motorcycle to say hello and while we were exchanging pleasantries, Steve heard the call of a Motmot, which seemed to get him excited! It wasn't long before a **Keel-billed Motmot** was sat perched right next to us on the side of the road. Incredible! and a rarely seen bird in Costa Rica. As we watched it a **Broad-billed Motmot** appeared in the branches nearby also calling. It was a great comparison and we were all thrilled to see the **Keel-billed**.



After that, we found a **Black-throated Wren** in a low bush near the road and at the next corner, a pair of **Rufous-tailed Jacamars** flew off and a **Summer Tanager** was seen as well as a **Mourning Warbler** working up a bank. A **Dusky Antbird** showed briefly as did a **Black-headed Saltator**. We travelled for awhile and then stopped for lunch at a German bakery which looked out onto a very noisy street. Continuing on, we stopped for a **Laughing Falcon** that was calling continuously from its perch on a Cecropia. We also stopped at a little pond where there were several domestic Muscovy Ducks and **Black-bellied Whistling Duck**. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** flew from a perch and was then relocated in a nearby farm field. A **Stripe-headed Sparrow** showed briefly and was later seen again on the other side of the road. Some of us were distracted by some **Mantled Howler Monkeys** that came in close overhead, one carrying a baby. Linda spotted a **Mangrove Cuckoo** perched in a shrub and everyone was called over to see it in the scope. Further on, a **Hoffmann's Woodpecker** was seen working a tree trunk and a pair of **Brown-crested Flycatchers** showed along with a **Yellow-olive Flycatcher**. Out near the bus, a scruffy Euphonia was seen and later identified as **Scrub Euphonia** and a **Canivet's Emerald** was also seen. An **Inca Dove** perched on a wire while large groups of **Great-tailed Grackles** flew over.

Five **Rufous-naped Wrens** emerged from a nearby hedge and flew into a tree and working their way over to a nest where we enjoyed fabulous views. We then moved on to a wet meadow which held three **Southern Lapwings** and recent colonist of Costa Rica, with all but a few pairs in the country. Further out into the dryer part of the field there was an **Eastern Meadowlark** among several **Great-tailed Grackles**.



We arrived at our hotel as the sun was setting and walked out to the lagoon in the back of the grounds. The water level was low but there were 70 or so **Blue-winged Teal** at one end and a few **Spotted Sandpipers** flying around. A **Great Blue Heron** was seen flying in the distance and a **Great Egret** flew over. We scoped a **Southern Caracara** perched on a distant tree and some of us got onto a **Western Kingbird** that flew over and then disappeared into the

sun. One of our target birds a **Spot-breasted Oriole** was much more obliging in a low tree and we manoeuvred ourselves to get better views of this gorgeous bird. As darkness fell, we settled into our rooms and had dinner before catching up with the checklist.

Day 9 Sunday, January 18, 2009

In the morning before breakfast some of us were in the grounds of our hotel. There were both **Streak-backed** and **Spot-breasted Orioles**, **White-winged Doves**, and several **Stripe-headed Sparrows** in a hibiscus right near the front door. We 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. Along the way we passed expansive farm fields lined with fences and trees. Ramon spotted a **Turquoise-browed Motmot** perched on a tree branch near the road and we all got out to view it, while beyond was a male



Orchard Oriole moving in a roadside bush. We made another stop for three **Double-striped Thick-knees** in a farm field and as we watched them, an **American Kestrel** came in and perched on one of the fence posts. Yet another stop for a tree full of **Orange-fronted Parakeets** yielded fantastic views of the birds feeding in a low tree near the road while a **White-lored Gnatcatcher** caught our attention on a fencepost. Further on a **Roadside Hawk** was seen perched on a post. It stayed for a few minutes and then flew off showing the rufous patches on the wings. From the bus, Steve spotted some **Swainson's Hawks** flying over the road so we got out to get better views. While we were out, a **White-throated Magpie Jay** was seen in a nearby tree and a **Laughing Falcon** perched nearby showed well. By this time we were wondering if we would ever make it to Palo Verde but the birding along the way was too good to pass up. Suddenly, Christine yelled that there were some



quail on the ground under a tree, and with quick manoeuvring from Ramon our driver this turned out to be six **Spot-bellied Bobwhites** which we all had great views of. Across the road was a **Bare-throated Tiger Heron** and a little further on Ramon spotted a large white bird flying toward us which turned out to be a **Jabiru**. We watched as the bird flew by enjoying the great views in the morning light. Amazing!

Finally, we reached the entrance to Palo Verde. At the headquarters, while some were taking advantage of the facilities, we had a **Black-headed Trogon**. We drove into the park and got out to bird along the road. A fruiting tree held some **Nutting's Flycatchers**, and we saw **Lesser Greenlet** and **Yellow-throated Vireo** in the same area. There were several **Wood Storks** flying over and an **Anhinga** was seen. We stopped in an **area overlooking the wetlands** and soon found a **Snail Kite** flying over the hundreds of **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks**. Steve picked out one **Muscovy Duck** in amongst one group and we also found **Glossy Ibis**, **Black-necked Stilt** and **Northern Jacana**. Several **Cattle Egrets** were seen around the horses that were grazing in the water and **Roseate Spoonbills** were flying in the distance. A **Royal Tern** was also seen and there were several **Anhingas** perched on posts drying their wings. We then walked to



an area with a small boardwalk and as we approached we interrupted a pair of mating **Ctenosaurs**. There was a juvenile **Snail Kite** feeding on a Queen Snail not far from the boardwalk but most of the other birds were fairly distant and species we had already seen. We continued walking along the shore and found **Ringed Kingfisher**, a few **Groove-billed Anis** and **Hoffmann's Woodpecker**. We stopped at some buildings for cold drinks and made our way up to a veranda overlooking the marsh. Amongst the large groups of **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks**, Steve managed to pick out a couple of **Fulvous Whistling Ducks** which we all eventually got on through the scope, and then just before lunch, an **Osprey** flew over.

After lunch, we drove through a marshy area where we had close views of **Wood Storks**, **Anhinga**, **Northern Jacana**, **Black-crowned Night-Herons**, **Great and Snowy Egrets**, **Great Blue Herons**, **Green Herons**, **Purple Gallinule** and an incredibly large **Spectacled Caiman**. On the way out, Ramon spotted a **Broad-winged Hawk** perched by a termite nest on a tree. We stopped back at our hotel to pick up the luggage and did one last check of the lagoon where there were **Blue-winged Teal**, **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs** and a **Spotted Sandpiper**. We continued on stopping next to a pond with several **Least Grebes**, before moving on to some salt pans which held a variety of shorebirds including **Willet**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Black-necked Stilt** and a flock of **Sanderlings** which were flying around with four **Semipalmated Plovers**. We also had **Least Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **Whimbrel**, **Black-bellied Plover**, **Stilt Sandpipers** and **Western Sandpipers**. Some **Laughing Gulls** flew in and **Magnificent Frigatebird** was seen. We made our way back to the coach where a **Peregrine Falcon** was spotted perched on a tree, and below it, a **Yellow-**



naped Parrot was seen with its head poking out of a hole in a dead palm. We wondered if it was aware of the Peregrine above. From here we travelled to the Tarcole River area and despite the traffic and road works; we arrived in the evening and checked into our rooms before dinner.

Day 10 Monday, January 19, 2009

Those of us that were out early had **Scarlet Macaw** as the first bird of the day in a tree just up the hill from our rooms. In the gardens, we found a very vocal **Scaly-breasted Hummingbird** and a pair of **Red-legged Honeycreepers**. A **Chestnut-mandibled Toucan** perched in a large tree the top of it was being lit up by the sun and a **Slaty-tailed Trogon** perched in a low tree made for excellent viewing and photos. Other birds in the garden included **Tennessee Warbler**, **Ochre-bellied Flycatcher**, **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, **Masked Tityra**, **Philadelphia Vireo**, male and female **Rose-throated Becard** and **Lesser Greenlet**. During breakfast, two **White Ibis** flew in and landed in the river near the restaurant, and as we watched them, we noticed a **Ringed Kingfisher** perched on an overhanging branch.

After breakfast, we headed up the hill behind our hotel. At the first corner, a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was seen feeding on some flowers. A **Blue-throated Goldentail** showed well and we found a Pacific race **Variable Seedeater**, **Yellow-throated Vireo** and a young male **Summer Tanager**. We walked up the road and had stunning looks at the **Blue-throated Goldentail**, another **Philadelphia Vireo** and a **Common Tody-Flycatcher**. A soaring **Magnificent Frigatebird** reminded us that we were



not far from the sea and soaring with it we noted three **Double-toothed Kites** and a dark phase **Short-tailed Hawk**. On the next corner we found a pair of **Grey-headed Tanagers** feeding feverishly on an ant swarm not far from the road. For the next hour we strained to see the other birds that visited the swarm including **Swainson's Thrush**, **Bicoloured Antbird**, **Chestnut-backed Antbird**, **Ruddy Woodcreeper**, **Yellow-olive Flycatcher**, **Tawny-winged Woodcreeper** and a **White-whiskered Puffbird** that flew in to a perch above and posed on an exposed branch for wonderful scope views. After a long time at "frustration corner", we moved on noting some **White-faced Capuchin Monkeys** in the trees. We stopped at an overlook where we could see the ocean and the Nicoya Peninsula. Below us, a pair of **Scarlet Macaws** flew across a hillside over the valley and then an adult **King Vulture** flew over and looked absolutely incredible against the bright blue sky. Some noisy **Brown Jays** flew by and a **White Hawk** soared up the valley. Another **King Vulture** gave a command performance before we continued up to the top of the hill and stopped in to a café for a cold drink. A **Band-tailed Barbthroat** showed well feeding on a ginger flower and there were a number of **Groove-billed Anis** around. Moving back down the hill, we stopped for a **Grey Hawk** that had just caught prey on the road and flew up to a branch where it proceeded to tear it apart.



We arrived back at the hotel for lunch and a short siesta and then headed down to the Tarcole River for an afternoon birding cruise. On the way, we all enjoyed good views of **Stripe-headed Sparrow**, **Mangrove Black Hawk**, and **Ruddy Ground-Dove** and **Common Ground-Dove** on a wire. There were several **Scarlet Macaws**

feeding in a tree just above the level of the vehicle so we all had great views of them. A small pond held **Great Egret**, **Snowy Egret** and **Wood Stork** and when we arrived at the river, a **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** was found in the trees above a small building.

We boarded our boat and headed up the river which was flowing fast against us. There were several **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** along the banks and some **Mangrove Swallows** that followed the boat during most of our journey. A **Purple Gallinule** was seen briefly just before we passed a juvenile **Black-crowned Night Heron**. A **Green Iguana** with an orange head was seen on a sandy bank just before we stopped at a tree on the river bank that held three amazing looking **Boat-billed Herons**.

Our driver, Luis, manoeuvred the boat so that we could all see them well. While we were watching them, a **Pacific Basilisk** was seen as well as a **Green Kingfisher**. Further on, we had an **Osprey** perched in a tree and a group of **Yellow-headed Caracaras** on the bank. Also along the bank were **Tricoloured Heron**, **Little Blue Heron**, **Green Heron**, **Snowy Egret** and a **Central American Crocodile** in the water near the shore. Luis positioned us close to a mud flat which held **Semipalmated** and **Black-bellied Plovers** and some **Roseate Spoonbills** worked the shallow water near the bank with some **White Ibis**. A **Mangrove Black-Hawk** was also on the mud flat and a **Greater Yellowlegs** was seen with the larger water birds.



Back out to the main channel, we had **Amazon Kingfisher** four **Killdeer** and a pair of **Double-striped Thick-knees** up on top of the bank. A **Collared Plover** was seen at the waters edge and a large flock of **Orange-fronted Parrots** flew over. We turned around and headed back down the river. We saw at least three more **Boat-billed Herons**, a tree full of **Orchard** and **Baltimore Orioles** and another tree full of **Grey-breasted Martins**. A pair of **Yellow-naped Parrots** flew past as we swiftly floated down the river. On a sandbar there were some **Ruddy Turnstones** and a few **Willetts** as well as some dead trees in the water which held **Neotropic Cormorants**.



We reached the mouth of the river where there were an incredible number of birds roosting on the exposed sandbars including **Brown Pelicans**, **Laughing Gulls**, **Royal Terns** and **Sandwich Terns**. Steve picked out one **Elegant Tern** in the flock and again Luis positioned us so that we could see it and compare it with the other terns. In the air, there were several **Magnificent Frigatebirds** and a few **Ospreys**. After we had our fill of the seabirds, we turned around and went back up the river taking a side channel into the mangroves. A gorgeous pair of **Prothonotary Warblers** was seen working in the mangroves and a pair of **Barred Antshrikes** showed particularly well. We veered off to a small channel where we had incredible views of an **American Pygmy Kingfisher**. The bird stayed on a branch very close to us and crossed the channel so that both sides of the boat had exceptionally close views. Incredible! We slowly backed down the channel completely mesmerized by this amazing experience. Back in the main channel, a very quick moving **Mangrove Warbler** eluded

most of us as it disappeared into the mangroves and a **Northern Waterthrush** put in an appearance on the bank at the same time Luis pointed out a **Northern Tamandua** which looked like a ball of fur on a branch.

Back out of the mangroves on the main river channel, the sky was lit up with a **gorgeous sunset** glowing red, orange and pink. In the distance the seabirds were soaring and suddenly swallows appeared from every direction and swirled about in the sky above the river in large numbers. Eventually, they descended into some marsh grasses with still more arriving all of the time. Against the backdrop of the sunset, this was an incredible sight which we enjoyed for several minutes while the boat men attempted to free us from being stuck in the mud. Back up river, there were several **Lesser**



Nighthawks flying and a number of **Scarlet Macaws** flying in to roost for the night. At one point, one of the boat men had to jump into the water to push us off the mud. We had no worries as it was such a beautiful evening and a wonderful experience, anyway we were soon back at the dock and heading back to the hotel for the evening.

Day 11 Tuesday, January 20, 2009

This morning those out before breakfast saw a fruiting tree full of trogons including five **Slaty-tailed Trogons**, at least two **Violaceous Trogons** and two **Black-headed Trogons**. During breakfast we watched a **White-tipped Dove** and a **White Ibis** walking in the river., and then as we gathered to go on our morning excursion there was a **Streaked Flycatcher** showing well in a tree in the garden. We headed into Carara

National Park to explore the dry Pacific tropical forest. As we arrived a **Scarlet Macaw** flew over and we picked up **Dot-winged Antwren** as we entered the trail. A **Cocoa Woodcreeper** was calling in the forest and a **Tropical Gnatcatcher** showed well on some branches above us. A **Black-hooded Antshrike** was calling and eventually showed for us. A pair of **Dot-winged Antwrens** were very busy building a nest in a vine tangle next to the trail and nearby a **Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher** was seen very well alongside a pair of **Barred**



Antshrikes. A couple of **Chestnut-backed Antbirds** were very close to the trail and some **Rufous-and-White Wrens** were seen up in a tangle, one with nesting material in its bill. A **Slaty-tailed Trogon** was calling and was eventually spotted and scoped in the trees above, while further on, a **Violaceous Trogon** was also spotted perched high in a leafless tree. The prize of the trogons, however, was a **Baird's Trogon** that we found on a little side trail. We were able to scope it on its high perch and enjoyed excellent views of it. Further into the narrow trail, Steve spotted a **Tawny-crowned Greenlet** which proved elusive for many of us. Back out on the main trail, there was a

very vocal **Blue-throated Goldentail** near some orange flowers, and an **Osprey** flew over just before a couple of **Crested Guans** landed in the branches above us. Our attention was soon diverted to a **Black-crowned Tityra** which flew in and worked its way overhead into some thick leaves. Most of us managed to see it when it perched in a hole in the foliage. A **Great-crested Flycatcher** was a little easier but still a challenge to see in the mass of branches and vines below the forest canopy. Below that a **Blue-black Grosbeak** was spotted as well as another **Tropical Gnatcatcher** and a **White-shouldered Tanager** came into the same area. A little further up the trail a pair of **White-winged Becards** flew in and a **Long-tailed Hermit** flitted around some flowers. A **Plain Xenops** worked along a thin branch and a **Yellow-bellied Elaenia** was spotted. We turned around to head back out the trail and saw a **Great Black Hawk** fly out of the canopy through an open area and perch briefly. From Carara we drove over to the Tarcole River bridge where there were several large **Central American Crocodiles** in the water near the bridge. A dead croc was laid out on the sandbar upstream and the carcass was being fed on by more than 100 **Black Vultures**. There were

also **Black-necked Stilts** around as well as **Northern Jacana**, **Great Egret** and **Spotted Sandpiper**. Back at the hotel, some of us walked in the grounds and found **Streaked Flycatcher** and **Green Honeycreeper**. We crossed a rickety bridge over the small river into the forest, where a **Long-tailed Manakin** showed briefly but disappeared before most people made it across the bridge. There were several birds here and we had varying views of **White-whiskered Puffbird**, **Slaty Antwren**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, **Black-tailed Flycatcher**, **Cocoa Woodcreeper**, **Plain Xenops**, and **Buff-throated Saltator**.



After lunch and a short siesta we went back to Carara National Park, this time starting out in the car park next to the headquarters. **Costa Rican Swifts** were flying above and we had **Ruddy** and **Common Ground-Doves** in the trees near the road allowing good comparative views. At the entrance to the trail into the forest we had **Blue-grey Tanager**, male and female **Rose-throated Becard**, **Rufous-naped Wren**, **Yellow-olive Flycatcher** and **Great Crested Flycatcher**. Most of us managed to get onto a **Rufous-capped Warbler** that stayed low to the ground and then moved into a tangle. A **Melodious Blackbird** appeared on a light post and flew into the forest and a **Scaly-breasted Hummingbird** was much easier showing well and lit up by the afternoon sun while it perched on a bare branch above us. After a half hour of so at the edge of the car park we finally ventured into the forest crossing several **Leaf Cutter Ant** trails and a large colony along the edge of the trail. Phil spotted an **Ovenbird** up on the hillside above the trail and we called everyone back to get on this cracking bird. A **Ruddy Quail Dove** disappeared quickly but Christine relocated it and we all had better views. While we were enjoying that, Brian and Linda spotted another bird in the same area which turned out to be a **Black-faced Antthrush**. This bird was quickly relocated and we proceeded to watch it singing from a pale log for several minutes. Excellent! The call of a **Collared Forest Falcon** resonated through the forest but seeing the bird was another story. A **Grey-chested Dove** quickly moved away from the path and disappeared into the undergrowth and further on a large **Central American Agouti** stood for several minutes in open view on the track. We stopped at a little stream for several minutes and enjoyed shifting views of several species coming into the stream to bath including **Ochre-bellied Flycatcher**, **Blue-crowned Manakin** and **Chestnut-backed Antbird**. It was a lovely scene as the daylight was fading and after several minutes of enjoying the show, we continued on the trail out of the forest to our vehicle and back to the hotel.

Day 12 Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Some of us were up and out before breakfast birding the grounds of Villa Lapas. The fruiting tree once again held several **Slaty-tailed Trogons** and in nearby branches we had **Philadelphia** and **Yellow-throated Vireo**. After breakfast, we took a look at a **Tent-making Bat** in a palm tree near the restaurant and noted **Costa Rican Swifts** flying in the clouds. We packed the vehicle and set off for the mangroves near the Tarcole River. On the way in, we had **Mangrove Black Hawk** and once in the mangroves we had excellent views of a low flying **Zone-tailed Hawk**. John spotted a **Scaly-breasted Hummingbird** and nearby a young bird begging for food and being fed by the adult. There was a **Rufous-browed Peppershrike** singing but it stayed well hidden. Other birds seen here included **Brown-crested Flycatcher**, **Black-headed Trogon**, **Orange-chinned Parakeet**, several **Scarlet Macaws**, **Cattle Egrets** and **Wood Storks** and **Magnificent Frigatebirds** flying over.

We left here and headed toward Orotina where we found the world famous pair of **Black-and-White Owls** in the trees in the middle of the park. A lazy looking **Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth** was also seen in a tree at one corner of the park. Continuing on along the Pan-American highway, we stopped at a hummingbird café to check the feeders. To our delight there were several **Fiery-throated Hummingbirds** coming right in to the feeders outside the window as well as **Volcano Hummingbird**, **Green Violetear**, and **Magnificent Hummingbird**. A **Large-footed Finch** was spotted on the hedge below and we had a nice close **Sooty Robin** as we walked back to the bus.



We drove up to Cerro de la Muerte in the Talamanca Range to check for birds in the paramo. The area was shrouded in heavy mist as we walked a quiet, wet trail. A **Black-capped Flycatcher** showed very well for us and there were a few more **Sooty Robins** around. We continued on up to



the towers and found a gorgeous pair of **Volcano Juncos**. From here, we moved on toward our wonderful lodge, stopping at a private home on the way to check some feeders. There were several **Flame-coloured Tanagers** coming in for bananas, as well as **Black-throated Green Warbler**, **Yellow-bellied Siskin**, three or four very confiding **Large-footed Finches**, **Yellow-thighed Finch**, some **Volcano Hummingbirds** feeding on purple flowers, a male **Wilson's Warbler** and some **Sooty-capped Bush Tanagers**. We were thrilled when two **Long-tailed Silky Flycatchers** flew in and landed in a tree right above our heads. As darkness fell, we continued down into the valley to our

lovely lodge along the Savegre River. We checked in and later met for dinner and a review of the day.

Day 13 Thursday, January 22, 2009

What a day! Before breakfast, we had an **Acorn Woodpecker** in a tall tree behind the restaurant. A flock of **Yellow-bellied Siskins** feeding atop a tree next to the reception area and a **Yellow-thighed Finch** appeared and flitted around a gate in front of us. A **Collared Redstart** worked a small tree in the same area and there were several **Rufous-collared Sparrows** on the ground and a

Red-tailed Hawk soaring high above. As we boarded the bus to head up the hill to look for Quetzals, a **Slaty Flowerpiercer** was seen in a flowering bush near the car park. As we drove up the hill, we stopped for a pair of **Black Guans** working their way up a tree. We entered an area where there was a grove of trees on the hillside and walked up to an open area to get a view of the hillside. It took no time at all to spot a male **Resplendent Quetzal** feeding in a tree not far up the hill so we moved closer for better views. Gorgeous! A second male appeared and they both fluttered about the tree. We scoped them as they sat still on the branches, their long streamer tails blowing like green ribbons in the breeze. We then walked up the hill positioning ourselves closer to the tree for the best possible views of these spectacular, mythical birds. Eventually the two males flew off and their flight views elicited gasps of delight from the crowd. Another **Quetzal** flew into a tree down the hill and some of us went to down to get a closer look at it. It was a magical morning and we hadn't even had breakfast yet!



After breakfast, we saw our first and only **Silver-throated Tanagers** feeding on a tree near the restaurant before flying back into the gardens. There were several **Blue-and-White Swallows** zipping around and noisy **Sulphur-winged Parakeets** flying over and disappearing into the trees. We gathered to take advantage of transport to the forest above the lodge and held on tight while the 4-wheel drive vehicles climbed up the steep hill with numerous hairpin turns. At the top, there was a beautiful forest of towering trees. We could hear some birds in the canopy but getting on them was another story. Gina spotted a **Buffy Tuftedcheek** feeding on a bromeliad which then flew over us and disappeared into a nest hole 30 feet up on a dead stump. After several minutes of watching the hole, the bird did not reappear until a gentle tap on the lower trunk got its attention and it peered out the hole. We walked a short way down the road picking up **Mountain Thrush**, **Collared Redstart**, **Wilson's Warbler** and an amazingly close **Black-billed Nightingale Thrush** perched on a vine near an old stump. Then we took a trail into the forest stopping for an **Ochraceous Wren** that flew into a large trunk right next to the track. Along the trail we also had, **Spot-crowned Woodcreeper**, **Grey-breasted Wood Wren**, **Sooty-capped Bush Tanager**, and a **Ruddy-capped Nightingale Thrush**. A **Silvery-fronted Tapaculo** was calling near a small stream but did not show. We followed the trail along the stream and stopped to check for **Zeledonia**. While Steve was looking back across to the opposite bank a **Zeledonia**



appeared in front of him and disappeared quickly. After a few minutes, a female **Silver-fronted Tapaculo** crossed the stream with food in its bill right in front of some of us! A few steps further brought a **Stripe-tailed Emerald** flitting on the hillside near the stream. We continued on encountering a flock which included several **Ruddy Treerunners**, a **Flame-throated Warbler** which we eventually got cracking views of and a **Hairy Woodpecker** that was so incredibly close feeding on a fallen tree that some of us had to step back to avoid flushing it. We came out of the forest and headed down the steep road that we had driven up earlier. On the way down, Linda spotted a **Spangle-cheeked Tanager** perched in the open on a dead tree. Fabulous!



Several **White-collared Swifts** buzzed our heads and we could here their wings slicing through the air as they passed. A **Black-and-white Warbler** was seen and a **Yellow-faced Grassquit** crossed in front of us. As we reached the lodge, several **Sulphur-winged Parakeets** flew over our heads

and vanished like magic into the leaves of a tree.

We enjoyed a nice lunch and some time at the feeders outside the restaurant which held **White-throated Mountain Gems**, **Green Violetears**, **Magnificent Hummingbirds**, **Scintillant Hummingbird** and **Volcano Hummingbird**. After lunch we walked down toward the Savegre River. A forest trail led from the gardens to another open area and as we walked a **Yellowish Flycatcher** came in very close and then a friendly American showed us a **Scintillant Hummingbird** nest low in a bush. At the river, we had a **Black Phoebe** on a rock and a **Mountain Elaenia** on a tangle above the river bank. The Elaenia disappeared and while we searched for it we picked up a perched **Stripe-tailed Emerald**. Further on, we crossed a rickety bridge over the gorgeous river and walked a trail in the forest. A couple of **Black-faced Solitaires** showed as well as **Common Bush Tanager** and a very busy **Tufted Flycatcher**. On the way back a **Black-cheeked Warbler** was seen by most of us. We boarded the coach to head up the hill but were soon



back off the bus to look at a **Cooper's Hawk** that was flying overhead. Further on we stopped near a lonely bull in a field and got a nice view of a **Volcano Hummingbird** showing its purple gorget and some **Yellow-faced Grassquits**. The sun was setting lighting up the sky with pink and purple hues. We stopped alongside the road at dusk and could hear the sound of a **Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl** calling in the distance. As it got darker a **Dusky Nightjar** started calling and soon it was perched on a post not far from Steve's head! We had amazingly close views of the bird and it was a fabulous way to end an amazing day of birding!

Day 14 Friday, January 23, 2009

This morning we had an early departure back to San Jose

In Cartago, we bid goodbye to Phil, Christine, Brian, Isobel, Angela and Chris who were continuing on to Rancho Naturalista for a few days. Then we continued on to the airport in San Jose where the rest of the group checked in for their flight back to the UK.

Costa Rica is a wonderfully diverse country with incredible birds and this was a fantastic trip with lots of great memories and excellent sightings. We thank the group for their enthusiasm and good humour which made the trip very enjoyable.

Steve and Gina

BIRDLIST FOR COSTA RICA EASY 1 - 2009

SPECIES recorded	Scientific Name	No of days out of 13 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	Heard only
2	Least Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>	1	8
3	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	1	30
4	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	4	10
5	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	1	100+
6	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	3	20+
7	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	2	10
8	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	7	12
9	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	8	30
10	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	3	4
11	Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	7	30
12	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	10	L/C
13	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	4	10
14	Yellow-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	1	12
15	Black-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nyctanassa nycticorax</i>	2	4
16	Boat-billed Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearia</i>	1	10
17	Bare-throated Tiger-heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>	5	3
18	Fasciated Tiger-heron	<i>Tigrisoma fasciatum</i>	3	1
19	Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	4	50+
20	Jabiru	<i>Jabiru mycteria</i>	1	1
21	White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	3	10+
22	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	1	3
23	Green Ibis	<i>Mesembrinibis cayennensis</i>	1	6
24	Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Ajaia ajaja</i>	3	7
25	Fulvous Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>	1	2
26	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	3	200+
27	Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>	1	1
28	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	2	60+
29	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	13	N/C
30	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	13	N/C
31	King Vulture	<i>Sarcorampus papa</i>	2	5
32	White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	1	1

33	Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>	1	3
34	Double-toothed Kite	<i>Harpagus bidentatus</i>	1	3
35	Coopers Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	1	1
36	Harris's Hawk	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>	1	1
37	Black-chested (Barred) Hawk	<i>Leucopternis princeps</i>	1	1
38	Semiplumbeous Hawk	<i>Leucopternis semiplumbea</i>	1	1
39	White Hawk	<i>Leucopternis albigollis</i>	3	1
40	Mangrove Black-hawk	<i>Buteogallus subtilis</i>	2	3
41	Great Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>	1	1
42	Grey Hawk	<i>Asturina plagiata</i>	6	3
43	Roadside Hawk	<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>	6	4
44	Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	2	2
45	Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>	4	1
46	Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	1	7
47	Zone-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>	1	1
48	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	2	3
49	Ornate Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus ornatus</i>	1	1
50	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	4	6
51	Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>	6	3
52	Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>	2	10+
53	Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>	4	1
54	Collared Forest-Falcon	<i>Micreastur semitorquatus</i>	1	Heard only
55	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	1	1
56	Bat Falcon	<i>Falco rufigularis</i>	1	1
57	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1	1
58	Grey-headed Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis cinereiceps</i>	4	3
59	Crested Guan	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>	4	4
60	Black Guan	<i>Chamaepetes unicolor</i>	1	2
61	Crested (spot-bellied) Bobwhite	<i>Odontophorus guttatus</i>	1	8
62	White-throated Crake	<i>Laterallus albigularis</i>	2	Heard only
63	Grey-necked Wood-rail	<i>Aramides cajanea</i>	2	4
64	Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>	2	3
65	Sunbittern	<i>Eurypyga helias</i>	1	1
66	Northern Jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>	6	12
67	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	3	20
68	Double-striped Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus bistriatus</i>	2	3
69	Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>	1	3
70	Black-bellied (grey) Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	2	10
71	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	2	10
72	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	1	6
73	Collared Plover	<i>Charadrius collaris</i>	1	1
74	(Hudsonian) Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus</i>	2	8
75	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	2	20
76	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flaviceps</i>	1	3
77	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	9	80+
78	Willet	<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>	2	25
79	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	1	20
80	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseas</i>	1	15
81	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	1	20
82	Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	1	6+
83	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	1	50+

84	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	2	10
85	Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Micropalama himantopus</i>	1	12
86	Laughing Gull	<i>Larus atricilla</i>	2	300+
87	Royal Tern	<i>Sterna maxima</i>	2	30
88	Elegant Tern	<i>Sterna elegans</i>	1	1
89	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	1	15
90	Rock (Feral) Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	5	L/C in cities
91	Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Columba fasciata</i>	2	2
92	Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Columba cayennensis</i>	7	20+
93	Red-billed Pigeon	<i>Columba flavirostris</i>	4	4
94	Ruddy Pigeon	<i>Columba subvinacea</i>	1	1
95	Short-billed Pigeon	<i>Columba nigrirostris</i>	1	1
96	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	3	40+
97	Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca squammata</i>	6	L/C
98	Common Ground-dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	8	15+
99	Ruddy Ground-dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	4	4
100	White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	4	6
101	Grey-chested Dove	<i>Leptotila cassini</i>	3	1
102	Ruddy Quail-Dove	<i>Geotrygon montana</i>	1	1
103	Great Green Macaw	<i>Ara ambigua militaris</i>	1	4
104	Scarlet Macaw	<i>Ara macao</i>	3	20+
105	Crimson-fronted Parakeet	<i>Aratinga finschi</i>	1	50+
106	Orange-fronted Parakeet	<i>Aratinga canicularis</i>	3	8+
107	Sulphur-winged Parakeet	<i>Pyrrhura hoffmanni</i>	1	20
108	Orange-chinned Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris jugularis</i>	6	10
109	Brown-hooded Parrot	<i>Pionopsitta haematotis</i>	1	1
110	White-crowned Parrot	<i>Pionus senilis</i>	4	2
111	Red-lored Parrot	<i>Amazona autumnalis</i>	5	6
112	Yellow-naped Parrot	<i>Amazona auropalliata</i>	2	4
113	Mangrove Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus minor</i>	2	1
114	Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	6	2
115	Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>	10	40+
116	Tropical Screech-Owl	<i>Otus choliba</i>	1	2
117	Black-and-white Owl	<i>Strix nigrolineata</i>	1	2
118	Costa Rican Pygmy-owl	<i>Glaucidium costaricensis</i>	1	Heard only
119	Ferruginous Pygmy-owl	<i>Glaucidium griseiceps</i>	2	1
120	Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>	1	10
121	Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>	2	2
122	Dusky Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus saturatus</i>	1	1
123	Chestnut-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne rutila</i>	2	40
124	White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>	5	50+
125	Costa Rican Swift	<i>Chaetura fumosa</i>	2	8
126	Grey-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>	2	40+
127	Lesser swallow-tailed Swift	<i>Panyptila cayennensis</i>	2	4
128	Bronzy Hermit	<i>Glaucis aenea</i>	1	1
129	Band-tailed Barbthroat	<i>Threnetes ruckeri</i>	1	1
130	Green Hermit	<i>Phaethornis guy</i>	1	1
131	Long-billed (-tailed) Hermit	<i>Phaethornis longirostris</i>	3	1
132	Scaly-breasted Hummingbird	<i>Phaeochroa cuvierii</i>	3	4
133	Green Violet-ear	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>	2	10
134	Green-breasted Mango	<i>Anthracothorax prevostii</i>	2	2

135	Violet-headed Hummingbird	<i>Klais guimeti</i>	4	3
136	Black-crested Coquette	<i>Lophornis helenae</i>	1	1
137	Canivet's Emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon canivetii</i>	1	1
138	Violet-crowned Woodnymph	<i>Thalurania colombica</i>	1	1
139	Fiery-throated Hummingbird	<i>Panterpe insignis</i>	1	6
140	Blue-throated Goldentail	<i>Hylocharis eliciae</i>	1	2
141	Blue-chested Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia amabilis</i>	1	2
142	Steely-vented Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia saucerrottei</i>	2	2
143	Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>	9	10+
144	Stripe-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Eupherusa eximia</i>	1	2
145	Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer	<i>Chalybura urochrysis</i>	2	2
146	White-throated Mountain-gem	<i>Lampornis cinereicauda</i>	1	4
147	Green-crowned Brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa jacula</i>	1	1
148	Magnificent Hummingbird	<i>Eugenes fulgens</i>	2	6
149	Purple-crowned Fairy	<i>Heliothryx barroti</i>	4	2
150	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	1	2
151	Volcano Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus flammula</i>	2	4
152	Scintillant Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus scintilla</i>	1	2
153	Resplendent Quetzal	<i>Pharomachrus mocinno</i>	1	3
154	Slaty-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon massena</i>	4	6
155	Baird's Trogon	<i>Trogon bairdii</i>	1	1
156	Black-headed Trogon	<i>Trogon melanocephalus</i>	3	2
157	Black-throated Trogon	<i>Trogon rufus</i>	3	2
158	Violaceous Trogon	<i>Trogon violaceus</i>	3	3
159	Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle torquata</i>	6	3
160	Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>	2	4
161	Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	5	2
162	American Pygmy-Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>	1	1
163	Broad-billed Motmot	<i>Electron platyrhynchum</i>	3	2
164	Keel-billed Motmot	<i>Eumomota carinatum</i>	1	1
165	Turquoise-browed Motmot	<i>Eumomota superciliosa</i>	1	1
166	Rufous Motmot	<i>Baryphthengus martii</i>	3	2
167	Blue-crowned Motmot	<i>Momotus momota</i>	1	1
168	Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>	2	3
169	White-whiskered Puffbird	<i>Malacoptila panamensis</i>	2	2
170	Collared Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus torquatus</i>	2	6
171	Fiery-billed Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus frantzii</i>	1	2
172	Keel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos sulfuratus</i>	4	2
173	Chestnut-mandibled Toucan	<i>Ramphastos swainsonii</i>	4	4
174	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	2	3
175	Black-cheeked Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes pucherani</i>	6	6
176	Hoffmanns' Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes hoffmannii</i>	6	4
177	Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	1	3
178	Rufous-winged Woodpecker	<i>Piculus simplex</i>	2	3
179	Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	3	2
180	Pale-billed Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i>	1	1
181	Tawny-winged Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla anabatina</i>	1	1
182	Ruddy Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla homochroa</i>	1	1
183	Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>	2	2
184	Northern Barred-Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae</i>	3	1
185	Cocoa Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus guttatus</i>	2	2

186	Spotted Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus erythropygius</i>	1	1
187	Streak-headed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>	3	3
188	Spot-crowned Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes affinis</i>	1	2
189	Slaty Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis brachyura</i>	1	2
190	Ruddy Treerunner	<i>Margarornis rubiginosus</i>	1	6
191	Buffy Tuftedcheek	<i>Pseudocolaptes lawrencii</i>	1	1
192	Plain Xenops	<i>Xenops minutus</i>	3	1
193	Great Antshrike	<i>Taraba major</i>	1	Heard only
194	Barred Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>	3	2
195	Black-hooded Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus bridgesi</i>	1	3
196	Russet Antshrike	<i>Thamnistes anabatinus</i>	2	1
197	Streak-crowned Antwren	<i>Dysithamnus striaticeps</i>	1	1
198	Dot-winged Antwren	<i>Microrhophias quixensis</i>	1	4
199	Dusky Antbird	<i>Cercomacra tyrannina</i>	4	2
200	Dull-mantled Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza laemosticta</i>	1	1
201	Chestnut-backed Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza exsul</i>	2	6
202	Bi-colored Antbird	<i>Gymnopithys leucaspis</i>	3	2
203	Spotted Antbird	<i>Hylophylax naevioides</i>	2	2
204	Black-faced Antthrush	<i>Formicarius analis</i>	1	1
205	Streak-chested Antpitta	<i>Hylopezus perspicillatus</i>	1	Heard only
206	Fulvous-bellied Antpitta	<i>Hylopezus dives</i>	2	Heard only
207	Silvery-fronted Tapaculo	<i>Scytalopus argentifrons</i>	1	1
208	Blue-crowned Manakin	<i>Pipra coronata</i>	1	1
209	Long-tailed Manakin	<i>Chiroxiphia linearis</i>	1	1
210	White-collared Manakin	<i>Manacus candei</i>	2	3
211	Orange-collared Manakin	<i>Manacus aurantiacus</i>	1	1
212	Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>	2	1
213	Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Poecilatriccus sylvia</i>	1	1
214	Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>	6	3
215	Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum nigriceps</i>	1	1
216	Paltry Tyrannulet	<i>Zimmerius vilissimus</i>	2	2
217	Yellow Tyrannulet	<i>Capsiempis flaveola</i>	2	4
218	Yellow-bellied Elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>	1	2
219	Mountain Elaenia	<i>Elaenia frantzii</i>	1	2
220	Torrent Tyrannulet	<i>Serpophaga cinerea</i>	1	1
221	Scale-crested Pygmy-tyrant	<i>Lophotriccus pileatus</i>	3	1
222	Yellow-olive Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>	3	1
223	Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher	<i>Myiobius sulphureeipygius</i>	1	1
224	Black-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Myiobius atricaudus</i>	1	1
225	Tufted Flycatcher	<i>Mitrephanes phaeocercus</i>	1	2
226	Tropical Pewee	<i>Contopus cinereus</i>	4	1
227	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	4	2
228	Yellowish Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flavescens</i>	1	42
229	Black-capped Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax atriceps</i>	2	1
230	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	6	2
231	Long-tailed Tyrant	<i>Colonia colonus</i>	1	2
232	Bright-rumped Attila	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>	2	2
233	Rufous Mourner	<i>Rhytipterna holerythra</i>	3	2
234	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>	2	2
235	Nutting's Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus nuttingi</i>	1	1
236	Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	1	1

237	Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>	2	2
238	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	13	C
239	Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	1	2
240	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	2	30
241	Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>	1	1
242	White-ringed Flycatcher	<i>Conopias albobittata</i>	1	1
243	Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>	3	2
244	Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	12	C
245	Grey-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes granadensis</i>	3	10
246	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	12	L/C
247	Cinnamon Becard	<i>Pachyrampus cinnamomeus</i>	1	2
248	White-winged Becard	<i>Pachyrampus polychopterus</i>	2	2
249	Rose-throated Becard	<i>Pachyrampus aglaiae</i>	2	2
250	Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>	4	5
251	Black-crowned Tityra	<i>Tityra inquisitor</i>	1	1
252	Mangrove Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>	4	100+
253	Grey-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea [subis]</i>	3	30
254	Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Notiochelidon cyanoleuca</i>	6	200
255	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	3	10
256	Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>	7	40+
257	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	5	600+
258	Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher	<i>Ptilogonys caudatus</i>	2	2
259	Rufous-naped Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus rufinucha</i>	4	5
260	Band-backed Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus zonatus</i>	3	4
261	Black-throated Wren	<i>Thryothorus atrogularis</i>	4	1
262	Bay Wren	<i>Thryothorus nigricapillus</i>	1	1
263	Stripe-breasted Wren	<i>Thryothorus thoracicus</i>	4	1
264	Rufous-and-white Wren	<i>Thryothorus rufalbus</i>	2	2
265	Plain Wren	<i>Thryothorus modestus</i>	2	2
266	Southern House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	7	4
267	Ochraceous Wren	<i>Troglodytes ochraceus</i>	1	3
268	White-breasted Wood-Wren	<i>Henicorhina leucosticta</i>	1	1
269	Grey-breasted Wood-wren	<i>Henicorhina leucophrys</i>	3	2
270	Northern Nightingale Wren	<i>Microcerculus philomela</i>	1	1
271	Song Wren	<i>Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus</i>	1	1
272	Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	1	2
273	Black-faced Solitaire	<i>Myadestes melanops</i>	1	1
274	Black-billed Nightingale-thrush	<i>Catharus gracilirostris</i>	1	1
275	Orange-billed Nightingale-thrush	<i>Catharus aurantiirostris</i>	1	1
276	Ruddy-capped Nightingale-thrush	<i>Catharus frantzii</i>	1	1
277	Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	1	1
278	Wood Thrush	<i>Catharus mustelinus</i>	3	2
279	Sooty Thrush	<i>Turdus nigrescens</i>	3	8
280	Mountain Thrush	<i>Turdus plebejus</i>	2	20
281	Pale-vented Thrush	<i>Turdus obsoletus</i>	1	2
282	Clay-coloured Thrush	<i>Turdus grayi</i>	12	C
283	Tawny-faced Gnatwren	<i>Microbates cinereiventris</i>	1	4
284	Long-billed Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>	1	2
285	White-lored Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila albiloris</i>	1	4
286	Tropical Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila plumbea</i>	2	2
287	Brown Jay	<i>Psilorhinus morio</i>	6	3
288	White-throated Magpie-jay	<i>Calocitta Formosa</i>	2	10

289	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	3	N/C
290	Rufous-browed Peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>	1	1
291	Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	4	1
292	Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	5	5
293	Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	3	1
294	Tawny-crowned Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus ochrace</i>	1	1
295	Lesser Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus decurtatus</i>	3	1
296	Yellow-bellied Siskin	<i>Carduelis xanthogastra</i>	2	20
297	Golden-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	4	1
298	Tennessee Warbler	<i>Vermivora peregrina</i>	6	8
299	Tropical Parula	<i>Parula pitiayumi americana</i>	2	3
300	Flame-throated Warbler	<i>Parula gutturalis</i>	1	2
301	Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	10	4
302	Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	8	6
303	Townsend's Warbler	<i>Dendroica townsendi</i>	1	2
304	Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	2	3
305	Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	5	2
306	Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	1	6
307	Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	1	1
308	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	4	3
309	Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	1	1
310	Mourning Warbler	<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>	2	1
311	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	6	6
312	Collared Redstart	<i>Myioborus torquatus</i>	1	6
313	Golden-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>	2	3
314	Black-cheeked Warbler	<i>Basileuterus melanogenys</i>	1	1
315	Three-striped Warbler	<i>Basileuterus tristriatus</i>	1	1
316	Buff-rumped Warbler	<i>Basileuterus fulvicauda</i>	3	2
317	Zeledonia	<i>Zeledonia coronata</i>	1	1
318	Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	5	3
319	Common Bush-tanager	<i>Chlorospingus ophthalmicus</i>	1	3
320	Sooty-capped Bush-tanager	<i>Chlorospingus pileatus</i>	2	6
321	Gray-headed Tanager	<i>Eucometis penicillata</i>	1	6
322	White-shouldered Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus luctuosus</i>	2	6
323	Red-throated Ant-tanager	<i>Habia fuscicauda</i>	3	2
324	Flame-coloured Tanager	<i>Piranga bidentata</i>	2	6
325	Hepatic Tanager	<i>Piranga flava</i>	3	4
326	Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	9	3
327	Crimson-collared Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus sanguinolentus</i>	5	4
328	Passerini's Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus passerinii</i>	7	L/C
329	Blue-grey Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	10	12
330	Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	10	6
331	Scrub Euphonia	<i>Euphonia affinis</i>	1	1
332	Yellow-crowned Euphonia	<i>Euphonia luteicapilla</i>	1	1
333	Yellow-throated Euphonia	<i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>	2	2
334	Olive-backed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia gouldi</i>	6	2
335	Tawny-capped Euphonia	<i>Euphonia annae</i>	2	1
336	Plain-colored Tanager	<i>Tangara inornata</i>	1	4
337	Emerald Tanager	<i>Tangara florida</i>	3	1
338	Silver-throated Tanager	<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>	2	2
339	Golden-hooded Tanager	<i>Tangara larvata</i>	8	6

340	Bay-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>	4	8
341	Spangle-cheeked Tanager	<i>Tangara dowii</i>	1	1
342	Blue Dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>	2	8
343	Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>	6	3
344	Shining Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes lucidus</i>	3	1
345	Red-legged Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>	6	4
346	Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>	6	L/C
347	Volcano Junco	<i>Junco vulcani</i>	1	2
348	Stripe-headed Sparrow	<i>Aimophila ruficauda</i>	3	6
349	Orange-billed Sparrow	<i>Arremon aurantirostris</i>	4	2
350	Black-striped Sparrow	<i>Arremonops conirostris</i>	4	2
351	Chestnut-capped Brush-finch	<i>Atlapetes brunneinucha</i>	1	3
352	Large-footed Finch	<i>Pezopetes capitalis</i>	1	4
353	Yellow-thighed Finch	<i>Pselliophorus tibialis</i>	2	4
354	Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>	6	10
355	Variable Seedeater	<i>Sporophila americana</i>	8	8
356	White-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila torqueola</i>	1	1
357	Nicaraguan Seed-finch	<i>Oryzoborus nuttingi</i>	1	1
358	Thick-billed Seed-finch	<i>Oryzoborus angolensis</i>	2	1
359	Yellow-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris olivacea</i>	2	10
360	Slaty Flower-piercer	<i>Diglossa plumbea</i>	2	3
361	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	4	3
362	Black-faced Grosbeak	<i>Caryothraustes poliogaster</i>	1	2
363	Black-headed Saltator	<i>Saltator atriceps</i>	4	2
364	Buff-throated Saltator	<i>Saltator maximus</i>	9	6
365	Grayish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>	2	2
366	Blue-black Grosbeak	<i>Cyanocompsa cyanooides</i>	1	1
367	Chestnut-headed Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius wagleri</i>	1	1
368	Montezuma Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius montezuma</i>	8	20
369	Spot-breasted Oriole	<i>Icterus pectoralis</i>	2	2
370	Streak-backed Oriole	<i>Icterus pustulatus</i>	1	2
371	Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	8	12
372	Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>	3	10
373	Black-cowled Oriole	<i>Icterus dominicensis</i>	4	4
374	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	3	20
375	Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	1	4
376	Melodious Blackbird	<i>Dives dives</i>	1	1
377	Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	10	L/C
378	Bronzed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>	1	6
379	Giant Cowbird	<i>Scaphidura oryzivora</i>	1	2

Mammals & Other Sightings:

1.	White-nosed Coati	<i>Nasua narica</i>	7	17
2.	Variiegated Squirrel	<i>Sciurus variegatoides</i>	6	4
3.	Red-tailed Squirrel	<i>Sciurus granatensis</i>	3	2
4.	Mountain Squirrel	<i>Syntheosciurus brochus</i>	1	1
5.	Central American Agouti	<i>Dasyprocta punctata</i>	1	1
6.	Collared Peccary	<i>Tayassu tajacu</i>	1	5
7.	Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth	<i>Choleopus hoffmanni</i>	2	1 plus baby
8.	Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth	<i>Bradypus variegates</i>	1	1

9.	Tent-making Bat	<i>Uroderma bilobatum</i>	1	1
10.	Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	1	1
11.	Kinkajou	<i>Potos flavus</i>	3	1
12.	Mantled Howler Monkey	<i>Alouatta palliata</i>	8	8
13.	White-faced Capuchin	<i>Cebus capucinus</i>	2	6
14.	Tayra	<i>Eira barbara</i>	1	1
15.	Northern Tamandua	<i>Tamandua mexicana</i>	1	1
16.	Amivu Lizard	<i>Ameiva quadrilineata</i>	1	1
17.	Ctenosaur	<i>Ctenosaura similis</i>	4	10
18.	Green Iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>	3	8
19.	Pacific Basilisk	<i>Basiliscus basiliscus</i>	1	1
20.	Green Basilisk	<i>Basiliscus plumifrons</i>	1	2
21.	Central American Whiptail	<i>Ameiva festiva</i>	2	4
22.	Green Spiny Lizard	<i>Sceloporus malachiticus</i>	1	1
23.	Brown Forest Skink	<i>Sphenomorphus cherriei</i>	3	6
24.	Tropical House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	8	L/C
25.	Marine Toad	<i>Bufo marinus</i>	2	2
26.	Red-eyed Tree Frog	<i>Agalychnis callidryas</i>	1	3
27.	Strawberry Poison Dart Frog	<i>Dendrobates pumilio</i>	2	3
28.	Central American Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>	2	20
29.	Spectacled Caiman	<i>Caiman crocodylus</i>	2	2
30.	Eyelash Pit Viper	<i>Bothriechis schlegii</i>	1	1
31.	Katydid	<i>Tettigoniidae species ?</i>	3	2
32.	Monarch Butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	6	8
33.	Blue Morpho	<i>Nymphalidae morphinae</i>	4	3
34.	Green Page Moth	<i>Urania fulgens</i>	3	Several seen
35.	Doris	<i>Heliconius doris</i>	?	Seen
36.	Zebra Butterfly	<i>Heliconius charitonius,</i>	?	Seen
37.	Orange-barred Sulphur	<i>Phoebis philea</i>	?	Seen
38.	Red Passion Flower Butterfly	<i>Heliconius erato</i>	?	Seen
39.	Cardinal Meadowhawk	<i>Sympetrum illotum</i>	?	Several seen
40.	Roseate Skimmer	<i>Orthemis ferruginea</i>	?	Several seen
41.	Great Pondhawk	<i>Erythemis vesiculosa</i>	?	Several seen
42.	Firefly	<i>Lampyridae sp</i>	1	Several
43.	Army Ant	<i>Eciton burchelli</i>	1	Swarm found
44.	Leaf-cutter Ants	<i>Atta cephalotes</i>	5	Many seen

Please note that our checklists do not include species seen by leaders only.

We also do not include single observer sightings or very poor views.

We do not count heard only or subspecies, although they are noted.

This we believe gives us a very honest accurate group total.

With this in mind we welcome you to compare our lists with other companies, check out our high standards and above all our prices which offer the very best value for money.

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