Golden-hooded Tanagers were typically easy to find on this tour

Tour Leader: Cameron Cox

Thanks to tour participants Carla and Lenny Corin for the use of some of their photos in this report
INTRODUCTION

There are many traits one could ascribe to Costa Rica. Beautiful is certainly one, with both Caribbean and Pacific beaches, towering mountains, and stunning forests. Diverse is a term that encapsulates the country’s birdlife, with over 900 species packed into the 128th largest country in the world. Exciting is another trait that describes Costa Rica, because how could you not feel excitement when visiting this tropical paradise with something new around each corner? To me though, the word that I gravitate to when describing Costa Rica is “easy”. It is easy to get to being only a short flight from most North American cities. The trails are easy, wide, and largely flat. The transportation is easy (barring some traffic around San Jose and the occasional road closure). Costa Ricans are easy-going people, their philosophy encapsulated by their national motto ‘pura vida’ or ‘pure life’. Most importantly, the birding is largely quite easy and many of the endemic or showcase species are easily found and observed. Yes, “easy” is a good way to describe Costa Rica, except when it isn’t! This particular trip we were dogged by rain at the beginning of the trip and by exceptionally high winds at the end leaving only a couple of days unaffected by adverse weather. In some locations such conditions would kill the trip but not in Costa Rica! Despite the difficulties we still had a fantastic trip, found all the major target species including long looks at Resplendent Quetzal, Turquoise-browed Motmot, Great Curassow, Scarlet and Great Green Macaws, and Snowy Cotinga. Our overall species total was affected a bit by the weather but we still managed 335 species. Overall it was a great trip and everyone left with a smile. Pura vida!

ITINERARY

14th February    San Jose arrival/night near San Jose
15th February    Braulio Carrillo NP to La Selva/night La Selva
16th February    La Selva/night La Selva
17th February    La Selva to Savegre/night Savegre
18th February    Savegre & Cerro de la Muerte/night Savegre
19th February    Savegre to Carara/night Carara
20th February    Carara NP & Tarcoles boat cruise/night Carara
21st February    Carara to Monteverde/night near Monteverde
22nd February    Monteverde/night near Monteverde
23rd February    Monteverde to San Jose/night near San Jose
24th February    Departure from San Jose
Great Kiskadee is one of Costa Rica’s most conspicuous birds!

TOUR SUMMARY

Day ONE (OF BIRDING)

BRAULIO CARRILLO NP to LA SELVA

The group gathered before breakfast, for a little birding on the first full morning of the tour, on the grounds of our hotel near the San Jose airport. We picked up several of the common species of Costa Rica’s Central Valley such as Hoffman’s Woodpecker, (photo next page), Grayish Saltator, Blue-gray Tanager, and Rufous-naped Wren; it was the gorgeous pair of Blue-crowned Motmots that really stole the show though! After breakfast we loaded the bus that was to become our second home for the next ten days and took off for Braulio Carrillo National Park. Winding through San Jose, the skies overhead were an ominous gray, and, as we climbed out of the valley and began to descend the Caribbean slope, the rain began. By the time we arrived at Braulio it was raining steadily. It wasn’t pouring though, so with the knowledge that this location held our only shot during this tour for many of the mid-elevation Caribbean species we headed up the trail anyway. The sight of a rather wet and
bedraggled Crowned Woodnymph hiding under a broad leaf greeted us at the trailhead, and foreshadowed how the morning was going to go; for quite a while it was the only bird we saw. Walking up the slope, looking rather bedraggled ourselves, in increasing rain, it became apparent that continuing on was a fool's errand. Backtracking down the trail we finally ran into some birds when the path intersected with a small mixed flock. As is often the case at Braulio, the action was fast and frantic for a few moments, as a wave of Dusky-faced Tanagers broke over us, followed immediately by a little group of Tawny-crested Tanagers, and a female Blue-crowned Manakin also crashed the party. The flock vanished as quickly as it had arrived, leaving only a forlorn Wedge-billed Woodcreeper and a group of slightly shell-shocked birders in their wake! Since it was still pouring buckets we continued down the trail, hearing not a peep out of another bird, and decided to try the nearby El Tapir “hummingbird garden” while waiting for the rain to break. El Tapir has a nice covered porch where we proceeded to spend most of the morning, not only because the rain continued mostly unabated but also because we were seeing birds! Our main target bird was the striking Snowcap, and soon after arriving we found a female giving exceptional views. The male, however, remained elusive, shooting in for the briefest of moments before disappearing for long stretches. There were other hummingbirds to view though. Like many common species, the first encounter with Rufous-tailed Hummingbird was fun, but more range-restricted hummingbirds, Bronze-tailed Plumeleteers and Violet-headed Hummingbirds were also present. Every half-hour or so, an enormous flock of 80-100 Silver-throated Tanagers would pass through the clearing like a small cloud of yellow shapes! Surprisingly few other tanagers were with these, though eventually a couple of glowing Emerald Tanagers were also seen in their company. Slowly though, we added to our tanager diversity. First a small flock of White-lined Tanagers appeared. Then our first looks ame of the common, but eye-popping, Passerini’s and Golden-hooded Tanagers. The crimson rumps of the male Passerini’s seemed to glow fluorescently! A single male Black-and-Yellow Tanager was a truly welcome addition both for its striking colors and the fact that it is found only on the mid-elevation Caribbean slope and we would have no other chance to see it. Several Green Honeycreepers added to this colorful parade. Not all species were colorful though. Amid the numerous Clay-colored Thrushes were a few Pale-vented Thrushes, a contender for the prestigious ‘Dingy-Brown-Bird-of-the-Trip’ award, but nonetheless a species we wouldn’t see elsewhere. Dull but charming, a few Buff-rumped Warblers seemed to enjoy the rain, bobbing and flashing their pale rumps amid the growing puddles. A few euphonias occasionally joined the tanager flocks; Tawny-capped and Olive-
backed Euphonias were both seen well, while a White-vented Euphonia almost snuck by with a flock of Silver-throated Tanagers on the distant treeline. Even after all these colorful birds, the rusty plumage and black head of a Bay Wren received appreciative exclamations. Parrots were not left out of the fun either; a pair of Mealy Parrots alighted in a tree right in front of us to be viewed in the scope. We had planned to go back to Braulio but the rain never stopped and the porch and El Tapir was so good that soon it was time to grab lunch and continue to the legendary La Selva Biological Station.

Arriving at La Selva, the clearing around the main buildings was quite active, as it almost always is, in spite of the rain continuing to fall. Most notably, several Gray-headed Chacalacas were perched up in a tree along edge of the clearing, and Gray-rumped Swifts were flying low over the clearing due to the low cloud cover. A Long-billed Hermit fed on the heliconia flowers along the road. A Rufous-winged Woodpecker hitched its way up a trunk nearby. All this was going on, while we were attempting to check in! Eventually, we got our room keys and managed to get to our rooms. After a day in the rain, most, understandably, wanted to take it easy for the rest of the afternoon, although several of us headed down the road, and soon the rain slackened and birds began to appear. We had Social, Gray-capped, and White-ringed Flycatchers all closeby for quality comparisons of these similar species; small flocks of Orange-chinned Parakeets shot overhead. Somber, black-clad Groove-billed Anis and Melodious Blackbirds also perched in front of us. Then three Great Green Macaws flew directly over us! Excellent! A Tropical Pewee posed right in front of us, casually catching flies from the top of a fence. Back in the clearing we ended the day with Collared Aracaris (photo above, by tour participant Lenny Corin), and Black-mandibled Toucans. Heading back to our rooms after dinner a shape crawling on the telephone pole proved to be a Gray Four-eyed Opossum, a rarely seen critter! This scarce mammal was a nice conclusion to our first day in Costa Rica.
Day TWO

LA SELVA

On our full day at La Selva we began birding before breakfast in the parking lot beside our lodging. Moths had been attracted to a streetlight overnight and many birds were coming in to pick them off. A small flock of Red-throated Ant-Tanagers led the charge (photo below), but a Yellow-margined Flycatcher, and several Boat-billed Flycatchers were also taking advantage. A Streak-headed Woodcreeper flitted in and out, grabbing the largest moths it could manage. Even a Swainson’s Thrush came in for the bounty. A short walk produced Blue-black Grassquits and the all-black Caribbean form of Variable Seedeater, as well as Black-cowled Oriole and Ruddy Ground-Dove. Perched high atop a dead tree, a Keel-billed Toucan proudly displayed its colorful bill. All this before breakfast!

During breakfast a White-collared Manakin was buzzing around the breakfast area but many of our group were too entranced with the local cuisine to notice! After breakfast, we were given a tour of the property by a local guide, Joe. Right at the bridge we encountered Rufous-tailed Jacamar and several Green Ibis, as a number of Green Iguanas, all lounging over large tree limbs, eyed us. A Blue-chested Hummingbird in the area, coming to flowers turned out to be the only one of the trip. A nice male Black-throated Trogon allowed us long views in the scope and a nearby group of Crested Guans performed in the scope too. It was still raining, but that didn’t keep Joe from finding a roosting Vermiculated Screech-Owl or calling in a Black-faced Antthrush once we entered the forest. Farther on, we saw Chestnut-backed Antbird and White-breasted Wood-Wren. The diminutive Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant gave us as much of a view as this tiny treetop dweller ever does, and great looks at Stripe-breasted Wren came next. Leaving the forest, we saw a few mammals before lunch, Hoffman’s Two-toed Sloth and Mantled Howler monkey. After lunch, we tracked down the striking White-collared Manakin for those who had missed it earlier. A fruiting tree behind the dining hall was teeming with birds and, over time, we saw Collared Aracari, Short-billed Pigeon, Olive-backed Euphonia, and Blue-gray, Palm, and Plain-colored Tanagers! Not a bad haul! It was raining harder again, so while most of the group sheltered from the rain I sallied forth and found one of the best birds in Costa Rica, a ghostly Snowy
Cotinga! By the time the group had got there though, it had disappeared. The group sheltered under the soccer net while I unsuccessfully continued to search for the cotinga. We crossed the bridge to check another spot for the cotinga. No cotinga, but we did locate a large pile of Collared Peccaries! The peccaries were sleeping in a cozy, dry heap under the eaves of one of the buildings. The moment you stand, dripping and tired, evaluating your life choices spurred by a flash of envy for a pile of peccaries is not particularly pleasant! Crossing back over the bridge though the ethereal form of the Snowy Cotinga had rematerialized and, despite the rain, everything was ok! Everyone got great views in the scope of this beautiful species; then added Blue Dacnis in the same tree as a bonus! A tip from another guide drew us back to the other side of the bridge were we had an incredible encounter with a male Great Curassow. Trotting across the lawn in front of us, barely even paying us any heed. We managed to obtain good scope views of Rufous Motmot too; the largest of Costa Rica’s motmots and one of the most impressive.

Back, across the bridge, in the main clearing, Brown-hooded and White-crowned Parrots were perched up offering killer scope views, and our first Chestnut-headed Oropendolas were found amid the more numerous Montezuma’s Oropendolas (photo page 8, participant Lenny Corin). Walking down the entrance road, as the rain finally slowed to a light drizzle, we located a Long-tailed Tyrant, and then a Cocoa Woodcreeper. We finished the day with an attractive Cinnamon Becard and went to dinner. Following diner we were able to see a male Common Pauraque along the entrance road for the final bird, of a bird-filled day.

Day THREE
LA SELVA to SAVEGRE

Finally, a day dawned with perfect weather, and we saw the SUN! Another pre-breakfast walk netted us many of the species we had seen yesterday, but with the sun out Mangrove Swallows were up catching insects giving us our first good views of the species. We found a group of Groove-billed Anis hiding in a tall patch of grass too. A Black-striped Sparrow hopped into view and gave us a great look. Then, Don, our MVS (Most Valuable Spotter) for the trip, spotted a Laughing Falcon. It lived up to its name and gave us the full rendition of its noisy vocalization. While loading the bus part of the group spotted several Masked Tityras teed up in the trees behind our lodging.
After breakfast, we walked a new trail and quickly found a Fasciated Antshrike that gave brief, but good views. Farther along we came across several White-winged Becards, one male in particular showed off his sharp plumage for the whole group. Our next find was a bit of a surprise, a small group of Black-crowned Tityras, a widespread but typically scarce species. This group was also quite confiding and everyone enjoyed great views. Walking back to the headquarters some of the group saw a Plumbeous Kite that seemed to be playing hide-and-seek, soaring out from behind trees briefly and disappearing several times.

We couldn’t leave La Selva until the whole group had seen Great Green Macaw, so just before lunch we headed out to search. It was mid-morning and after several days of rain the soaring birds were ready to be up in the air! An absolutely massive kettle of Black and Turkey Vultures contained several Short-tailed Hawks. Next a gray-morph male Hook-billed Kite flew right over us! Before the kite had disappeared a Gray Hawk broke out of the near treeline and gave perfect views! The birds of prey weren’t finished though, a pair of Bat Falcons began circling all around the clearing and we watched them catching dragonflies and perched in the scope. All was forgotten though when the hoarse squawking of a macaw was heard from a distant tree. Walking closer we were able to get into position for unobstructed scope views of a stunning Great Green Macaw! At full zoom even the striated red lines on the white cheek could be seen clearly! Success! Lunch at La Selva followed and then we were on the road to the mountains and the Sevagre Valley for the next part of our adventure.

For the most part, the drive to Sevegre was typically uneventful. Several times, however, our journey was punctuated by the appearance of small groups of migrating Swallow-tailed Kites! This graceful raptor captivated all, though our views were brief.

As we began to descend into the Savegre Valley, Sooty Thrushes were suddenly everywhere. We stopped to get a good look at this attractive relative of our American Robin and were pleasantly surprised to also find several of one of the valley’s most attractive residents, a couple of Flame-throated Warblers performing at eyelevel. Before we could get back on the bus, we noticed a tiny Scintillant Hummingbird coming into some flowers, followed by a Black-capped Flycatcher snatching insects. We were still attempting to get on the bus when another warbler caught our eyes; this time, a nice Townsend’s Warbler. This great fifteen-minute taste of Savegre whetted our appetite perfectly for the following day...
Day FOUR

SAVEGRE & CERRO DE LA MUERTE

We awoke to a typically chilly morning and, for the first time, were able to fully appreciate the gorgeous flower gardens of our new location, Hotel Suria, when we met for our pre-breakfast birding. Hummingbirds buzzed among the flowers; brilliant Green Violetears, (photo below, tour participant Carla Corin), huge Magnificent Hummingbirds, and a few bee-like Scintillant Hummingbirds buzzing in and out as well. Screeching Sulphur-winged Parakeets whipped over showing their yellow wing patches in the morning sun too, while Blue-and-white Swallows hawked insects overhead. Several species of thrushes hopped about the grounds, a couple of Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrushes gave perfect views, but were dwarfed by the larger Clay-colored and Mountain Thrushes nearby. Several elegant Long-tailed Silky-flycatchers perched in the open for scope views also, and a male Slaty Flowerpiercer clambered through the flowerbeds. And, all of this was before breakfast!

After breakfast, we took the bus up the road, stopping to see a Hairy Woodpecker of the colorful Central American subspecies. Our next stop was very productive; we picked up a Spot-crowned Woodcreeper, the first of many Yellowish Flycatchers, and followed this with a Philadelphia Vireo. Then “MVS Don” spotted a bird that turned out to be a Large-footed Finch, a regional endemic. With a tip from another guide, we also got great looks at the scarce Streak-breasted Treehunter nearby as well.

Back down in the lower valley, we found a mixed flock that contained our first Yellow-faced Grassquits and several Sooty-capped Chlorospingus. The real highlights, though, were a pair of Yellow-bellied Siskins.
and at least one stunning **Spangle-cheeked Tanager**. We stopped to check for **American Dipper** on a bridge over the rushing mountain stream that cuts through the middle of the valley but instead Derek spotted a little **Torrent Tyrannulet**. The feeders at nearby Hotel Savegre added several nice males of the gray-tailed form of **White-throated Mountain-Gem**, and a female **Volcano Hummingbird**. An **Osprey** soaring high over the cloudforest-covered valley seemed slightly out-of-place, but was also a nice reminder of home. Walking down the fishpond road, Derek once again displayed his spotting skills by picking out a pair of **American Dippers**. A little farther on, a **Black-thighed Grosbeak** popped up, but disappeared before anyone else saw it, Carla, though, kept watching for it and was able to refind it so all could enjoy this scarce species just a short time later. We were all entertained on the walk back to the bus by the antics of several hyperactive **Ruddy Treerunners**.

After lunch, we headed up to the mountain peak of **Cerro de la Muerte** for a few high altitude species. A stop along the way netted **Tufted Flycatcher** for our growing trip list. Cerro de la Muerte itself was initially quiet, but eventually we teased out a pair of **Peg-billed Finches**. This drab, but highly specialized, finch can be very difficult to find, so we were happy to get the hardest mountain target out of the way first. Lots of **Volcano Hummingbirds** buzzed about, including a few male flashing their unique purplish-blue throats. A little up the road we located a few **Volcano Juncos**, though they tried to play hide-and-seek for a bit. Lastly, we located the tiny, but vigorously vocal **Timberline Wren**. With these specialties in hand we had time for just one more stop before dark. **Paraiso Quetzal Lodge** is famous for **Fiery-throated Hummingbirds**, and they did not did not disappoint, (photo above by tour participant Carla Corin). Even among this gaudy family, the iridescent rainbow-colored gorgets of Fiery-throated Hummingbirds impress and they were on full display this afternoon. While most people were enjoying the hummingbirds and some hot coffee, I was poking around the front of the lodge to find something different. Suddenly, a large bird with a long trailing tail whipped over my head and landed in full view: **Resplendent Quetzal**! I yelled “QUETZAL!” quite loudly and the hotel emptied! Not only did our entire group come running, but everyone else that was within earshot as well! We followed it for 15 minutes, viewing it in the scope as it flitted about, its long tail fluttering spectacularly with every movement. It was a truly memorable experience with a phenomenal bird. On my first trip to Costa Rica I wondered if this species would be able to live up to the hype that surrounds it. I’ve since found that every single encounter with this beautiful bird is pure excitement. Expectations met and exceeded! Once the quetzal left us, we picked up a
Yellow-thighed Finch before loading the bus to head back to our hotel, big smiles on every face. We had timed the drive back correctly and it was just getting dark as we arrived at our Dusky Nightjar spot, en route. While we heard numerous individuals clearly, they would not come out for us. Even so it was a very happy group that sat down to dinner that night.

Day FIVE

SAVEGRE to CARARA

Once again, birding the grounds of Hotel Suria before breakfast we enjoyed Flame-colored Tanagers, Band-tailed Pigeon, and a clown-faced Acorn Woodpecker all in one spot. Wandering farther, we picked up Ruddy Pigeon, Yellow-winged Vireo, and Mountain Elaenia. Back at the fish hatchery road, after breakfast, the group located a small flock of Collared (Redstart) Whitestarts, flashing their namesake white tail. At the bridge someone asked, “What’s that?” and I looked to see a Black Guan, a $@#% BLACK GUAN, attempting to cross the stream! We all watched this stunning bird in the scope as it hopped across the stream on rocks and downed trees, then crossed back, and scrambled back into its normal forest habitat! I was in a state of shock and exhilaration to get such unexpected and excellent views of this marquee species! We saw few other birds on the trail but it was ok, we had already been lucky! We then drove up and out of the Sevagre Valley to the La Providencia Road. Birding along the road was windy and fairly quiet, but gradually we picked up a few key species. First a pair of Buffy Tuftedcheeks came in and performed. Then one of Costa Rica’s most unique and characteristic species, the skulking Wrenthrush, began singing very close to the road. Despite their reputation for elusiveness, with some effort, we managed to get everybody looks at this charming little taxonomic conundrum, (arguments still rage as to what family this oddity belongs to)! Several small flocks of birds were encountered farther along the road, and while we added nothing new, nice views of Flame-throated Warblers are always great. We headed to lunch, followed by a descent into the Pacific lowlands in the afternoon, as we drove towards Carara.

We, once again, saw Swallow-tailed Kites on our drive through the mountains. Once we got into the lowlands a White-tailed Kite hovering over a field along the road added a second species of kite to our drive. A few
Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were spotted by a sharp-eyed few as we whipped past. Then, we all piled off the bus to view a soaring King Vulture. Excitement peaked though, when a Scarlet Macaw passed in front of us but landed out of sight, leaving all longing for a better view.

Arriving at Hotel Villa Lapas in the midafternoon, we checked into our rooms and then went out to explore the grounds. White-tipped Doves trotted about the grass in the open; and a Streaked Flycatcher fluttered through the trees above; and a few colorful male Red-legged Honeycreepers put on a show. The real stars though were the Fiery-billed Aricaris that were coming in regularly to a fruiting tree, and the Scarlet Macaws that were flying by, just above the the treetops, their raucous calls echoing throughout the grounds. A Plain-capped Starthroat became our last new bird of the day.

Day SIX

CARARA NP and TARCOLES RIVER CRUISE

Birding Hotel Villa Lapas before breakfast, we initially saw numerous Northern Waterthrushes; so when the Louisiana Waterthrush popped up in front of us, a species that more typically winters in the highlands of Costa Rica, we were prepared to ID it. Much more eye-catching though, were the flocks of Scarlet Macaws that hurried overhead. One pair even landed in a tree right above us for stunning views of this iconic symbol of the tropical lowlands. We also watched an Ochre-bellied Flycatcher building a nest on the property. A Blackbellied Wren skulking in a dense thicket gave only the briefest views. We finished off the pre-breakfast birding with several Painted Buntings, including several gorgeous males, a fantastic bird to see no matter where you are!
After breakfast, we loaded up and drove to nearby Carara National Park. We started on the famous “River Trail”, which boasts one of the most diverse bird lists of any location in Costa Rica. Almost immediately we came upon an army ant swarm! A number of Gray-headed Tanagers jumped about on limbs right above the ants. Three or four dark shapes running around on the ground like small chickens proved to be Black-faced Ant-thrushes, usually a very shy bird! Both Bicolored and Chestnut-backed Antbirds popped in and out of sight as they chased insects flushed by the advancing ants. A Tawny-winged Woodcreeper came in and landed at eye-level and soon several were clinging to branches right above the swarm. A much larger woodcreeper, the enormous Northern Barred Woodcreeper, was next to join the party. A female Red-capped Manakin also came in to enjoy the insect bounty flushed by the ant horde. An Orange-billed Sparrow popped up in the open for a moment. It was bird bedlam of the best sort! After enjoying the show for a while we continued down the trail, gradually piling up new species. We had good views of multiple Dusky Antbirds and Black-hooded Antshrikes. It was a good day for hermit hummingbirds; over the course of the morning we observed Long-tailed, Bronzy, and Stripe-throated Hermits; all three giving excellent views. A more colorful hummingbird, a Purple-crowned Fairy was also obliging. Several Streak-headed Woodcreepers posed for us as they hitched up large tree trunks. A little mixed flock gave us both the beautiful Bay-headed Tanager and great views of both sexes of the charismatic Dot-winged Antwren. Several Plain Xenops clambered around the mid-story, popping in and out of view. Nearby we heard the odd display of Orange-collared Manakins and, after a few tense minutes, were able to obtain amazing looks of this absolutely stunning species! A bit farther down the trail we had one of the best impressive experiences of the
entire trip when an entire troop of White-headed Capuchins came leaping through the trees! Monkeys were jumping from tree to tree, pushing each other, stopping to look at us, or groom one another! Some of these were at eyelevel, less than ten feet away. At the tail end troop came several half-grown youngsters, clearly less experienced and less confident than the adults, but more than willing to take a few moments to gawk at the funny earth-bound apes with binoculars! It was truly a tropical experience. Walking out, we added the odd Northern Bentbill and brief views of Gray-chested Dove to cap a diverse morning of birds and memorable experiences.

A quick stop at the park’s main trail system netted us stunning views of an Orange-billed Sparrow that sat in the open for as long as we wanted to look. We also picked up the attractive Rufous-breasted Wren, and brief views of Rufous-and-White Wren before heading back to the bus. In the parking lot a King Vulture soared over dwarfing the Black Vultures it flew with.

With a little time left before lunch, we made a quick detour to a nearby beach, on the way picking up Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Wood Stork, and heard a distant Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl. At the beach, Magnificent Frigatebirds swirled right above us. Many Laughing Gulls lined the shore joined by a few shorebirds. We added Black-bellied Plover, Willet, Ruddy Turnstone, and Whimbrel to the trip list in short order. A group of Neotropic Cormorants sat farther down the beach and a few Royal Terns winged past. After this productive stop for our trip list we headed to lunch.

The boat trip on the Rio Tarcoles is always one of the main highlights on this tour and for good reason. The number of birds seen in a short time is unmatched! We headed to the boat ramp after lunch, met our captain, loaded onto our boat, and were off! Familiar wading birds from the US were everywhere; Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Little Blue Herons, (photo page before, by tour participant Lenny Corin), and Snowy Egrets, all in perfect light. Soon we also added Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and Tricolored Heron as well. Both Yellow-headed and Crested Caracaras were seen well numerous times throughout the boat ride. Overhead Gray-breasted Martins circled and snatched insects. Several new shorebirds came next, the familiar Killdeer and Spotted Sandpiper as well as the exotic Northern Jacana. A Costa Rican Swift made several passes around the boat, showing off its gray rump. Parrots were not to be ignored as several small groups of Scarlet
Macaws winged by in great light. A few Olive-throated Parakeets flew over as well, nearly disguised by the more numerous groups of Orange-chinned Parakeets. New for the trip were several White-fronted Parrots poised atop a dead tree. The first of several Common (Mangrove) Black-Hawks regarded our boat regally. From black to a collage of color, our boat driver next took us right up to an eye-popping Turquoise-browed Motmot, the undisputed king of the motmots (photo, page before, Lenny Corin). The boat driver once again showed his knowledge of the local birds by bringing us to a sleepy Boat-billed Heron amid a night-heron roost. While the namesake bill is quite impressive, it is the enormous, inky-black eye that makes this an enchanting species! A brief cruise farther along the river brought us to an open sandbar covered with Southern Lapwings. This large, showy plover has been expanding its range northward for several decades, becoming less ‘southern’ all the time, and has since become quite numerous in Costa Rica. The proof was right in front of us with thirty of them strutting around like they had always been there. A large American Crocodile right off our bow served as a reminder of the local saying, “You can swim in the river, but only once!” Working our way back to the river mouth, and mangrove forest, we had both Amazon and Ringed Kingfishers flash past us. Near the river mouth Magnificent Frigatebirds and Brown Pelicans circled and a Whimbrel stood amid a flock of Spotted Sandpipers on a gnarled mangrove root. As we turned toward the entrance to the channel that cuts through a mature mangrove forest a pair of Muscovy Ducks flew past. The excitement of seeing them in the wild is hard to explain to those familiar with Muscovies that beg for bread at city parks, but wild Muscovy Ducks carry an aura that their domesticated kin lost long ago. In the narrow channel lined with towering mangroves Mangrove Swallows flitted all around the boat. Soon we had also pulled several of the attractive, fully red-headed male “Mangrove” Yellow Warblers into view. A flock of perched Roseate Spoonbills added a bit of pink to the scene. A Green Heron, poised to strike, suspended itself deftly right above the water by gripping mangrove roots with its oversized yellow feet. Several sightings of Plumbeous Kite were welcome.
since our views at La Selva had been quite brief. A flycatcher hawking insects at eye-level proven to be a familiar species from home, an **Acadian Flycatcher**. Overall it was pretty quiet except for the distant clamor of macaws and parrots. Heading back though, parrots were beginning to fly to roost, crossing the channel above us. Both **Red-lored and Mealy Parrots** were seen, but then a third species of parrot, several **Yellow-naped Parrots** with their surprisingly human-like calls, joined the parrot parade! This species is more regular slightly farther north in the drier forests but we we were happy to pick it up here.

Driving back to Villa Lapas at dusk, we stopped to view a swarm of **Lesser Nighthawks** that were hawking insects high overhead and soon they were joined by several bats. Not satisfied with our haul of night birds, after dinner several of us headed out to try our luck at owling. We managed to locate a **Black-and-White Owl** that called back to us from a covered perch. As we maneuvered to get a look at the bird it took off, flew right over us, and disappeared.

**Day SEVEN**

**CARARA NP to MONTEVERDE**

**Riverside Wren** was the target for the pre-breakfast birding our last morning at Hotel Villa Lapas. Some delicate maneuvering was necessary to get the group down to the edge of the stream behind the lodge but we managed it. Once there, we were rewarded with a cooperative pair of **Riverside Wrens** hopping through the brush on the other side of the stream. A **Scaly-breasted Hummingbird** hawking gnats over the stream was an added bonus. The huge red shapes of **Scarlet Macaws** flying over were a matter of course at this point, so nothing to get excited over!

Our second morning birding in **Carara National Park**, this time on the well-manicured main trail system, was quite different from yesterday’s jaunt down the **River Trail**. The day before we had birds everywhere, but this day was hotter, and so things were still, but, with work, we ferreted out several incredible birds. Our main target for the morning was **Baird’s Trogon**, a species with far less notoriety than its cousin, **Resplendent Quetzal**, but almost as beautiful. Things began humbly with a **Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher** that appeared while some of the group was admiring some of the trees, soaring forest giants supported by buttressed roots. Farther down the trail, a brief glimpse of a trogon necessitated a short chase before getting it in the scope and realizing that is was a **Slaty-**
tailed Trogon, not a Baird’s, but still a stunningly beautiful bird. Farther and farther down the trail we went, trying various locations for Baird’s Trogon to no avail. Turning back though our luck changed. We had heard the tremulous whistle of Little Tinamou several times during the morning, but suddenly there was one close to the trail. Another guide came around a corner and told us she had just seen the tinamou. We headed to where she had seen it only to hear excited exclamations back down the trail from where we had come. We backtracked and there it was, walking unconcernedly along the forest floor, a Little Tinamou almost on top of us, (photo page before)! We watched the bird as it foraged in the leaf-litter for ten minutes, walking as close to us as 10-12 feet, doing its best to shatter its reputation as a shy and secretive species! Elated we continued back towards the parking area when suddenly the call of a Baird’s Trogon floated from down the trail ahead of us! Stalking closer we eventually got into the perfect position and got a scope on a calling male Baird’s Trogon! Absolutely beautiful and worth every drop of effort! Everyone took second and then third looks in the scope before he decided he was tired of us and took off. The perfect way to cap our visit to Carara National Park.

After a final lunch at Hotel Villa Lapas, we decided to try a nearby takeout for American Pygmy Kingfisher before the drive to Monteverde. The little mangrove choked channel didn’t look very impressive, but when pygmy kingfisher tape was played a tiny streak of green and rufous came tearing out of the mangroves, circled quickly in front of us, and dove back into the depths of the mangroves: American Pygmy Kingfisher! While the view was brief it made up for it with dramatic effect. Just as we loaded the bus to leave, Carla spotted a gorgeous male Streak-backed Oriole perched at eye-level. A great last
moment bonus before the long drive back into the mountains.

We arrived at the picturesque Cala Lodge, our base for our Monteverde excursion, to find the picture marred by howling wind and whipping branches! Given the conditions and the fact that we had already had an eventful day we took the rest of the afternoon off and rested for Monteverde the next day.

Day EIGHT

MONTEVERDE

The wind blew strongly all night, rattling windows and doors, and the morning dawned just as windy. A pre-breakfast excursion was largely unproductive, but things picked up when the lodge’s fruit platform was stocked with watermelon slices. Soon a stunning Blue-crowned Motmot was competing with a troop of Brown Jays to see which could gobble the most watermelon in the shortest amount of time. A few brave Clay-colored Thrushes, and even a Swainson’s Thrush, darted in to grab some of the scraps off of the larger birds.

After breakfast we were on our way to the famed Monteverde Biological Reserve stopping only to view our first Emerald Toucanets of the trip. The forests of Monteverde are one of the best examples of cloudforest found anywhere in the world. Huge trees reach for the sky positively laden with epiphytic plants and damp moss, watered by the cloud layer that often envelops the mountain. It is well worth a visit just to view the forest, but the birds create an irresistible draw for birders.

A small feeding flock greeted us immediately after entering the Monteverde trail system. Flashy Slate-throated Whitestarts overshadowed drab Three-striped Warblers, but the real star was a Spotted Barbtail, an odd little furnariid that behaves much like a woodcreeper. Farther down the path, we had just started looking at another small mixed flock when
the arrival of a male **Resplendent Quetzal** instantly commanded every ounce of focus from the entire group. The quetzal kept us under its spell for quite a while as it showed off from every angle. Eventually, though we continued and came across a **Spotted Woodcreeper** that also put on a good show, but somehow lacked the aura of the quetzal. Changing trails to stay away from the howling wind on the backside of the mountain turn out to be the perfect decision when a pair of **Azure-hooded Jays** popped up at eyelevel! My excitement over this very lucky occurrence kept me from being able to clearly describe where the birds were for several moments, but the jays were in no hurry and everyone got excellent views! We watched as one of the jays found a large caterpillar and preceded to scrape and batter it against a branch for quite some time. They disappeared silently and we continued down the trail to find a much noisier local specialty. A fawn-colored **Prong-billed Barbet** flew in above us; its loud tooting call seemed to make the forest echo. The harmonic whistles of a **Black-faced Solitaire** reached our ears well before the bird popped into sight. Once seen though it was hard to decide what was more impressive, the haunting song or the dark bird with the striking orange bill. Our final bird on the trail system was a pair of **Ochraceous Wrens**. Unassuming little birds that look like reddish **Winter Wrens** and even have a powerful, jangling song a bit like a **Winter Wren**, but live high above the forest floor, at home in the epiphytes and mosses that drape the boughs of mighty trees.

We combined lunch with hummingbird watching at the hummingbird gallery, enjoying swarms of the tiny, and some not so tiny, flying jewels. Flashy and powerful **Violet Saberwings** dominated the action, driving away their smaller cousins. As soon as a saberwing left the feeder, though, it would be inundated with gorgeous **Purple-throated Mountain-Gems**, glowing **Green-crowned Brilliants**, (photo page 17) and chattering **Green Violetears**. A handful of bee-like **Magenta-throated Woodstars** darted to open feeding stations and sipped
daintily. Striped-tailed Hummingbirds dashed in and out and tiny Coppery-headed Emeralds snatched a turn at any open feeder until forced out by one of the larger species. There were so many birds it was not unusual to feel the touch of tiny wings as hummingbirds buzzed in and out, heedless of human roadblocks.

After Monteverde, we proceeded to the drier forest of Bosque del Tigre, a short ways down the mountain. As we were walking in, we found our first Ovenbird of the trip. The trails here were more exposed to the wind than those of Monteverde and the wind combined with the sun high overhead made the birding a bit slow. Gradually though we did pick up Olivaceous Woodcreeper, Olive-striped Flycatcher, and Golden-crowned Warbler, all new for the trip. We had a fantastic experience with a Squirrel Cuckoo that gave everyone beautiful views as it clambered through the trees at eye level. While enjoying the cuckoo we heard the distinctive call of Long-tailed Manakin, our primary target at Bosque Del Tigre. Usually an easy bird to see, this individual was occupying a particularly windy stretch of the trail and was quite difficult to pin down. Eventually about half the group got views of the bird before it disappeared. Even though we were glad we had seen the bird, leaving Bosque Del Tigre was a bit bittersweet as our views would have been better on a calmer day.

Day NINE

MONTEVERDE to SAN JOSE

Our final full day in Costa Rica, we began birding before breakfast with the wind still whipping through the trees. We did, however, find a small group of beautiful White-eared Ground-Sparrows in the garden of Cala Lodge, (photo page 19). Walking up the road, we enjoyed good views of a number of Yellow-faced Grassquits. We were viewing an Emerald Toucanet, (photo left, by tour participant Lenny Corin), when Derek spotted what we were really looking for, a White-throated Magpie-Jay! We had missed this striking jay in the lowlands and we were fortunate that a single bird had been recently taken up residence at a much higher altitude than is typical of this species. We somewhat regretfully packed up and left cozy Cala Lodge and headed to nearby Curi Cancha Reserve. The wind still made the birding difficult but we hit it big at the hummingbird gallery! Here hummingbirds buzzed in and out, although all the same species we had seen yesterday at Monteverde. Our attention, however, was mostly placed on several large clumps of mistletoe. Here, Golden-browed Chorophonias, jarring bright green and yellow, and well-named Elegant Euphonias, the males with orange breasts and sky blue caps, played hide-and-seek with us. Eventually, everyone enjoyed fantastic views of these two charming species. A Plain Wren in the same area seemed particularly plain in comparison with these two stunners, but was still a new species for us. We waited at a small watering hole to see if anything new would show
up. We were rewarded with even better views of **White-eared Ground-Sparrow** than earlier in the morning and were also graced with a small flock of **White-naped Brush-Finches**. Farther down the trail a skulking **Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush** popped up momentarily before fading back into the forest. Another skulker, a **Chestnut-caped Brush-Finch** became our next new species though not everyone saw it. We were fortunate that we found another one farther down the trail that was more cooperative.

We made another brief stop at the Monteverde Hummingbird Gallery for another hummingbird-saturated lunch before starting the drive back to San Jose. We carefully watched for new species on the drive and were fortunate to see a **Zone-tailed Hawk** cruise along the bus showing the white-banded tail clearly.

Arriving back at out airport hotel in the late afternoon we checked in and relaxed a bit before large flocks of parakeets began flying over. Mostly attractive **Crimson-fronted Parakeets** with red on the underwing flashing, a new bird for the trip, along with a smaller numbers of **Orange-fronted Parakeets** mixed in.

**Day TEN**

**DEPARTURE from SAN JOSE**

This was the day everyone was flying home, but most of us had time before our flights so we walked down to a tree-lined ditch in the morning for our last taste of Costa Rican birds. Most of the species were ones we had seen many times over the past few days, **Blue-gray Tanagers**, great looks at **Rufous-naped Wren**, screeching **Crimson-fronted Parakeets**, and several **Yellow Warblers**. However a bounding, raucous call from a ditch caught our attention: **Gray-necked Wood-Rail**! Everyone got in position and a bit of tape brought the bird charging out into the open momentarily, then dashed back into cover. An unexpected and most welcome finale bird!

**BIRD LIST**

**TINAMOUS: TINAMIDAE**
- Great Tinamou  
  *Tinamus major* H
- Little Tinamou  
  *Crypturellus soui*
- Slaty-breasted Tinamou  
  *Crypturellus boucardi* H

**WATERFOWL: ANATIDAE**
- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck  
  *Dendrocygna autumnalis*
- Muscovy Duck  
  *Cairina moschata*
- Blue-winged Teal  
  *Anas discors*

**GUANS, CHACHALACAS, AND CURRASSOWS: CRACIDAE**
- Gray-headed Chachalaca  
  *Ortalis cinereiceps*
- Crested Guan  
  *Penelope purpurascens*
- Black Guan  
  *Chamaepetes unicolor*
- Great Curassow  
  *Crax rubra*

**STORKS: CICONIIDAE**
- Wood Stork  
  *Mycteria americana*
FRIGATEBIRDS: FREGATIDAE
Magnificent Frigatebird
Fregata magnificens

CORMORANTS: PHALACROCORACIDAE
Neotropic Cormorant
Phalacrocorax brasilianus

ANHINGAS: ANHINIDAE
Anhinga
Anhinga anhinga

PELICANS: PELECANIDAE
Brown Pelican
Pelecanus occidentalis

Herons and Egrets: ARDEIDAE
Bare-throated Tiger-Heron
Tigrisoma mexicanum
Great Blue Heron
Ardea herodias
Great Egret
Ardea alba
Snowy Egret
Egretta thula
Little Blue Heron
Egretta caerulea
Tricolored Heron
Egretta tricolor
Cattle Egret
Bubulcus ibis
Green Heron
Butorides virescens
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Nyctanassa violacea
Boat-billed Heron
Cochlearius cochlearius

IBISES AND SPOONBILLS: THRESKIORNITHIDAE
White Ibis
Eudocimus albus
Green Ibis
Mesembrinibis cayennensis
Roseate Spoonbill
Platalea ajaja

NEW WORLD VULTURES: CATHARTIDAE
Black Vulture
Coragyps atratus
Turkey Vulture
Cathartes aura
King Vulture
Sarcoramphus papa

OSPREY: PANDIONIDAE
Osprey
Pandion haliaetus

HAWKS, EAGLES, AND KITES: ACCIPITRIDAE
White-tailed Kite
Elanus leucurus
Swallow-tailed Kite
Elanoides forficatus
Plumbeous Kite
Ictinia plumbea
Common Black Hawk (Mangrove)
Buteogallus anthracinus subtilis
Roadside Hawk
Rupornis magnirostris
Broad-winged Hawk
Buteo platypterus
Gray Hawk
Buteo plagiatus
Short-tailed Hawk
Buteo brachyurus
Swainson's Hawk
Buteo swainsoni
Zone-tailed Hawk
Buteo albonotatus
Red-tailed Hawk
Buteo jamaicensis
RAILS, GALLINULES, AND COOTS: RALLIDAE
- Gray-necked Wood-Rail
  - Aramides cajaneus
- Purple Gallinule
  - Porphyrio martinicus

STILTS AND AVOCETS: RECURVIROSTRIDAE
- Black-necked Stilt
  - Himantopus mexicanus

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: CHARADRIIDAE
- Black-bellied Plover
  - Pluvialis squatarola
- Killdeer
  - Charadrius vociferus

JACANAS: JACANIDAE
- Northern Jacana
  - Jacana spinosa

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: SCOLOPACIDAE
- Spotted Sandpiper
  - Actitis macularius
- Willet
  - Tringa semipalmata
- Whimbrel
  - Numenius phaeopus
- Ruddy Turnstone
  - Arenaria interpres

GULLS, TERNs, AND SKIMMERS: LARIDAE
- Laughing Gull
  - Leucophaeus atricilla
- Royal Tern
  - Thalasseus maximus

PIGEONS AND DOVES: COLUMBIDAE
- Rock Pigeon
  - Columba livia
- Pale-vented Pigeon
  - Patagioenas cayennensis
- Red-billed Pigeon
  - Patagioenas flavirostris
- Band-tailed Pigeon
  - Patagioenas fasciata
- Ruddy Pigeon
  - Patagioenas subvinacea
- Short-billed Pigeon
  - Patagioenas nigrotris
- Inca Dove
  - Columbina inca
- Ruddy Ground-Dove
  - Columbina talpacoti
- Blue Ground-Dove
  - Claravis pretiosa H
- White-tipped Dove
  - Leptotila verreauxi
- Gray-chested Dove
  - Leptotila cassini
- White-winged Dove
  - Zenaida asiatica

CUCKOOS: CUCULIDAE
- Squirrel Cuckoo
  - Piaya cayana
- Groove-billed Ani
  - Crotophaga sulcirostris

OWLS: STRIGIDAE
- Vermiculated Screech-Owl
  - Mergus conspicuus
- Black-and-white Owl
  - Ciccaba nigrolineata

NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES: CAPRIMULGIDAE
- Lesser Nighthawk
  - Chordeiles acutipennis
- Short-tailed Nighthawk
  - Lurocalis semitorquatus L
- Common Pauraque
  - Nyctidromus albicollis
- Dusky Nightjar
  - Antrostomus saturates H
### SWIFTS: APODIDAE
- White-collared Swift: *Streptoprocne zonaris*
- Costa Rican Swift: *Chaetura fumosa*
- Gray-rumped Swift: *Chaetura cinereiventris*

### HUMMINGBIRDS: TROCHILIDAE
- Bronzy Hermit: *Glaucis aeneus*
- Green Hermit: *Phaethornis guy L*
- Long-billed Hermit: *Phaethornis longirostris*
- Stripe-throated Hermit: *Phaethornis striigularis*
- Green Violetear: *Colibri thalassinus*
- Purple-crowned Fairy: *Heliothryx barroti*
- Green-crowned Brilliant: *Heliodoxa jacula*
- Magnificent Hummingbird: *Eugenes fulgens*
- Plain-capped Starthroat: *Heliothryx constani*
- Fiery-throated Hummingbird: *Pantherpe insignis*
- Purple-throated Mountain-gem: *Lampornis calolaemus*
- White-throated Mountain-gem: *Lampornis castaneoventris*
- Magenta-throated Woodstar: *Calliphlox bryantae*
- Volcano Hummingbird: *Selasphorus flammula*
- Scintillant Hummingbird: *Selasphorus scintilla*
- Violet-headed Hummingbird: *Klais guimeti*
- Scaly-breasted Hummingbird: *Phaeochroa cuvieri*
- Violet Sabrewing: *Campylopterus hemileucurus*
- Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer: *Chalybura urochrysia*
- Crowned Woodnymph: *Thalurania colombica*
- Stripe-tailed Hummingbird: *Eupherusa eximia*
- Coppery-headed Emerald: *Elvira cupreiceps*
- Snowcap: *Microchera albocoronata*
- Blue-chested Hummingbird: *Amazilia amabilis*
- Steely-vented Hummingbird: *Amazilia saucerrottei*
- Rufous-tailed Hummingbird: *Amazilia tzacatl*

### TROGONS: TROGONIDAE
- Resplendent Quetzal: *Pharomachrus mocinno*
- Slaty-tailed Trogon: *Trogon massena*
- Baird’s Trogon: *Trogon bairdii*
- Gartered Trogon: *Trogon caligatus*
- Black-throated Trogon: *Trogon rufus*
- Collared Trogon: *Trogon collaris H*

### MOTMOTS: MOMOTIDAE
- Blue-crowned Motmot: *Momotus coeruliceps*
- Rufous Motmot: *Baryphthengus martii*
- Turquoise-browed Motmot: *Eumomota superciliosa*

### KINGFISHERS: ALCEDINIDAE
- Ringed Kingfisher: *Megaceryle torquata*
- Belted Kingfisher: *Megaceryle alcyon*
- Amazon Kingfisher: *Chloroceryle amazona*
<table>
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<th><strong>American Pygmy Kingfisher</strong></th>
<th>Chloroceryle aenea</th>
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<td><strong>JACAMARS: GALBULIAE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rufous-tailed Jacamar</td>
<td>Galbula ruficauda</td>
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<td><strong>TOUCAN-BARBETS: SEMNORNITHIDAE</strong></td>
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<td>Prong-billed Barbet</td>
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<td><strong>TOUCANS: RAMPHASTIDAE</strong></td>
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<td>Emerald Toucanet</td>
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<td>Silvery-fronted Tapaculo</td>
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<td>Black-faced Antthrush</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spotted Barbtail</td>
<td>Premnoplex brunnescens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruddy Treerunner</td>
<td>Margarornis rubiginosus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet</td>
<td>Ornithion semiflavum L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Elaenia</td>
<td>Elaenia frantzii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torrent Tyrannulet</td>
<td>Serpophaga cinerea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive-striped Flycatcher</td>
<td>Mionectes olivaceus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ochre-bellied Flycatcher</td>
<td>Mionectes oleagineus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paltry Tyrannulet</td>
<td>Zimmerius vilissimus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant</td>
<td>Myiornis atricapillus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Bentbill</td>
<td>Oncostoma cinereigulare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Tody-Flycatcher</td>
<td>Todirostrum cinereum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-margined Flycatcher</td>
<td>Tolmomyias assimilis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Flycatcher</td>
<td>Onychorhynchus coronatus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher</td>
<td>Terenotriccus erythrurus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher</td>
<td>Myiobius sulphureipygius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tufted Flycatcher</td>
<td>Mitrephanes phaeocercus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tropical Pewee</td>
<td>Contopus cinereus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</td>
<td>Empidonax flaviventris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acadian Flycatcher</td>
<td>Empidonax virescens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellowish Flycatcher</td>
<td>Empidonax flavescens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-capped Flycatcher</td>
<td>Empidonax atriceps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-tailed Tyrant</td>
<td>Colonia colonus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bright-rumped Attila</td>
<td>Attila spadiceus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dusky-capped Flycatcher  Myiarchus tuberculifer
Great Crested Flycatcher  Myiarchus crinitus
Great Kiskadee  Pitangus sulphuratus
Boat-billed Flycatcher  Megarynchus pitangua
Social Flycatcher  Myiozetetes similis
Gray-capped Flycatcher  Myiozetetes granadensis
White-ringed Flycatcher  Conopias albovittatus
Streaked Flycatcher  Myiodynastes maculatus
Tropical Kingbird  Tyrannus melancholicus
Scissortailed Flycatcher  Tyrannus forficatus

COTINGAS: COTINGIDAE
Snowy Cotinga  Carpodectes nitidus

MANAKINS: PIPRIDAE
Long-tailed Manakin  Chiroxiphia linearis
White-ruffed Manakin  Corapipo altera
White-collared Manakin  Manacus candei
Orange-collared Manakin  Manacus aurantiacus
Red-capped Manakin  Ceratopipra mentalis

TITYRAS AND ALLIES: TITYRIDAE
Black-crowned Tityra  Tityra inquisitor
Masked Tityra  Tityra semifasciata
Cinnamon Becard  Pachyramphus cinnamomeus
White-winged Becard  Pachyramphus polychropterus

VIREOS: VIREONIDAE
Yellow-throated Vireo  Vireo flavifrons
Yellow-winged Vireo  Vireo carmioli
Philadelphia Vireo  Vireo philadelphicus
Lesser Greenlet  Hylophilus decurtatus
Rufous-browed Peppershrike  Cyclarhis gujanensis

CROWS, JAYS, AND MAGPIES: CORVIDAE
Azure-hooded Jay  Cyanolyca cucullata
White-throated Magpie-Jay  Calocitta formosa
Brown Jay  Psilorhinus morio

SWALLOWS: HIRUNDINIDAE
Blue-and-white Swallow  Pygochelidon cyanoleuca
Northern Rough-winged Swallow  Stelgidopteryx serripennis
Southern Rough-winged Swallow  Stelgidopteryx ruficollis
Gray-breasted Martin  Progne chalybea
Mangrove Swallow  Tachycineta albilinea
Barn Swallow  Hirundo rustica

WRENS: TROGLODYTIDAE
House Wren  Troglodytes aedon
Ochraceous Wren  Troglodytes ochraceus
Timberline Wren  Thryorchilus browni
Rufous-naped Wren  
Black-bellied Wren  
Rufous-breasted Wren  
Rufous-and-white Wren  
Stripe-breasted Wren  
Plain Wren  
Riverside Wren  
Bay Wren  
White-breasted Wood-Wren  
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren  
Song Wren

**GNATCATCHERS: POLIOPTILIDAE**
- Tropical Gnatcatcher  

**DIPPERS: CINCLIDAE**
- American Dipper

**THRUSHES AND ALLIES: TURDIDAE**
- Black-faced Solitaire  
- Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush  
- Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush  
- Swainson's Thrush  
- Wood Thrush  
- Sooty Thrush  
- Mountain Thrush  
- Pale-vented Thrush  
- Clay-colored Thrush  

**MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: MIMIDAE**
- Tropical Mockingbird

**SILKY-FLYCATCHERS: PTILOGONATIDAE**
- Black-and-yellow Silky-flycatcher  
- Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher

**NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE**
- Ovenbird  
- Louisiana Waterthrush  
- Northern Waterthrush  
- Black-and-white Warbler  
- Prothonotary Warbler  
- Flame-throated Warbler  
- Tennessee Warbler  
- Kentucky Warbler  
- Hooded Warbler  
- Yellow Warbler (Northern)  
- Yellow Warbler (Mangrove)  
- Chestnut-sided Warbler  
- Townsend's Warbler  
- Black-throated Green Warbler
Rufous-capped Warbler  Basileuterus rufifrons
Golden-crowned Warbler  Basileuterus culicivorus
Three-striped Warbler  Basileuterus tristriatus
Buff-rumped Warbler  Myiothlypis fulvicauda
Wilson's Warbler  Cardellina pusilla
Slate-throated Redstart  Myioborus miniatus
Collared Redstart  Myioborus torquatus
Wrenthrush  Zeledonia coronata

TANAGERS AND ALLIES: THRAUPIDAE
Gray-headed Tanager  Eucometis penicillata
White-shouldered Tanager  Tachyphonus luctuosus
Tawny-crested Tanager  Tachyphonus delatirii
White-lined Tanager  Tachyphonus rufus
Passerini's Tanager  Ramphocelus passerinii
Cherrie's Tanager  Ramphocelus costaricensis L
Blue-gray Tanager  Thraupis episcopus
Palm Tanager  Thraupis palmarum
Spangle-cheeked Tanager  Tangara dowii
Plain-colored Tanager  Tangara inornata
Bay-headed Tanager  Tangara gyrola
Emerald Tanager  Tangara florida
Silver-throated Tanager  Tangara icterocephala
Blue Dacnis  Dacnis cayana
Red-legged Honeycreeper  Cyanerpes cyaneus
Green Honeycreeper  Chlorophanes spiza
Slaty Flowerpiercer  Diglossa plumbea
Peg-billed Finch  Acanthidops bairdi
Blue-black Grassquit  Volatinia jacarina
Variable Seedeater  Sporophila corvina
Bananaquit  Coereba flaveola
Yellow-faced Grassquit  Tiaris olivaceus
Dusky-faced Tanager  Mitrospingus cassini
Buff-throated Saltator  Saltator maximus
Grayish Saltator  Saltator coerulescens

BUNTINGS AND NEW WORLD SPARROWS: EMBERIZIDAE
Yellow-thighed Finch  Pselliophorus tibialis
Large-footed Finch  Pezopetes capitalis
Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch  Arremon brunneinucha
Orange-billed Sparrow  Arremon aurantirostris
Black-striped Sparrow  Arremonops conirostris
White-naped Brush-Finch  Atlapetes albinucha
White-eared Ground-Sparrow  Melozone leucotis
Rufous-collared Sparrow  Zonotrichia capensis
Volcano Junco  Junco vulcani
Common Chlorospingus  Chlorospingus flavopectus
Sooty-capped Chlorospingus  Chlorospingus pileatus
CARDINALS AND ALLIES: CARDINALIDAE
Summer Tanager  
Piranga rubra
Flame-colored Tanager  
Piranga bidentata
Red-throated Ant-Tanager  
Habia fuscicauda
Black-thighed Grosbeak  
Pheucticus tibialis
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Pheucticus ludovicianus
Blue-black Grosbeak  
Cyanocompsa cyanoides
Painted Bunting  
Passerina ciris

TROUPIALS AND ALLIES: ICTERIDAE
Red-winged Blackbird  
Agelaius phoeniceus
Melodious Blackbird  
Dives dives
Great-tailed Grackle  
Quiscalus mexicanus
Black-cowled Oriole  
Icterus prosthemelas
Baltimore Oriole  
Icterus galbula
Chestnut-headed Oropendola  
Psarocolius wagleri
Montezuma Oropendola  
Psarocolius Montezuma

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS, AND ALLIES: FRINGILLIDAE
Yellow-crowned Euphonia  
Euphonia luteicapilla
Elegant Euphonia  
Euphonia elegantissima
Olive-backed Euphonia  
Euphonia gouldi
White-vented Euphonia  
Euphonia minuta
Tawny-capped Euphonia  
Euphonia anaeae
Golden-browed Chlorophonia  
Chlorophonia callophrys
Lesser Goldfinch  
Spinus psaltria
Yellow-bellied Siskin  
Spinus xanthogastrus

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: PASSERIDAE
House Sparrow  
Passer domesticus