



A **Tropical Birding** Set Departure tour

Costa Rica: The Introtour

4th – 14th February 2023



The tanagers were highly spoken of at the end of tour, with one person picking this cracker as their “bird of the trip”, **Golden-hooded Tanager**. This species was seen in the *Caribbean Lowlands*. (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours).

Guided by **Sam Woods**

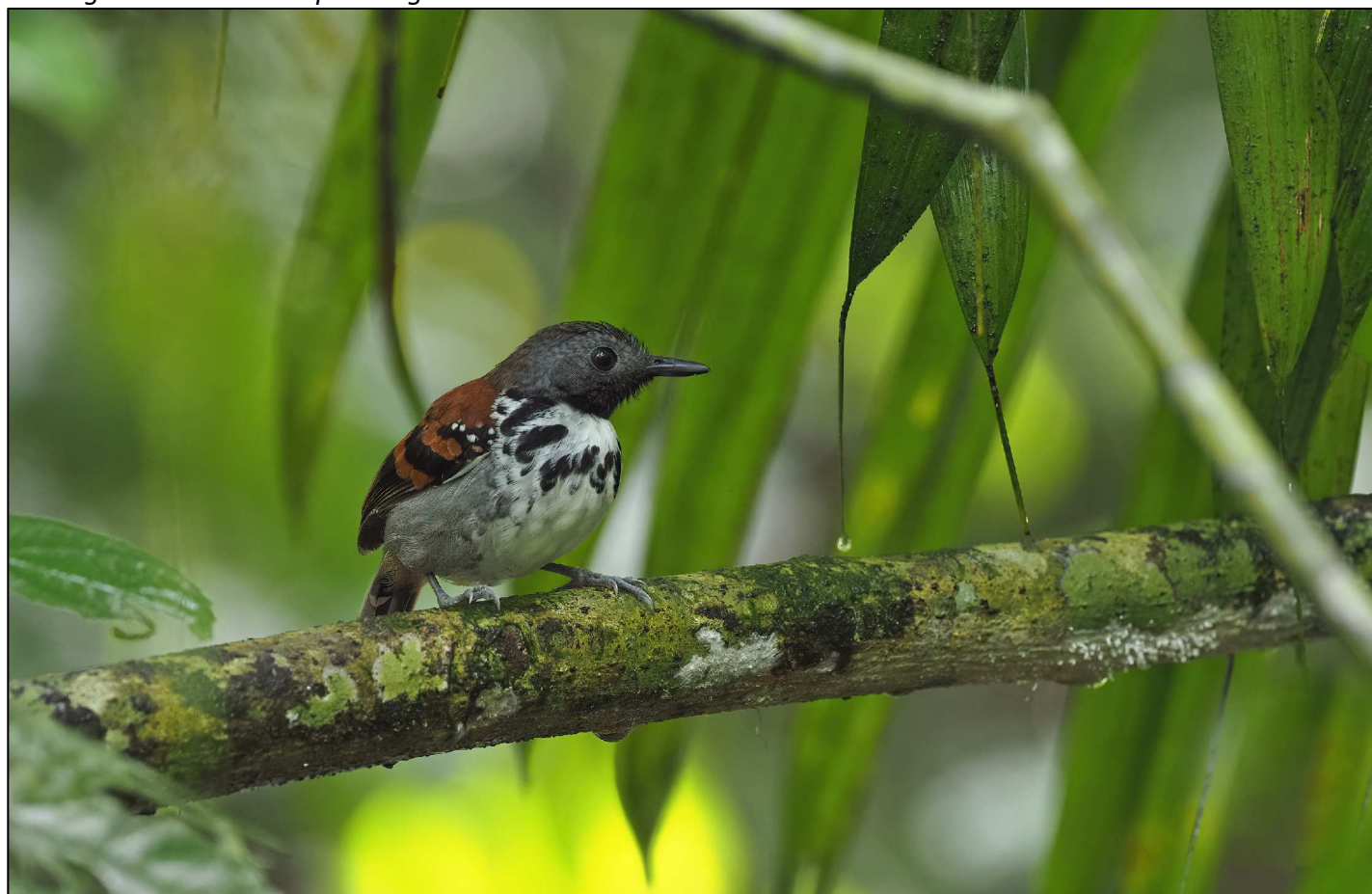
*Birds in the photos within this report are denoted in **RED**, all photos by Sam Woods.*

INTRODUCTION:

For the guide on this tour, it was fantastic to finally be back in this marvelous country, where you feel out of place *WITHOUT* a pair of binoculars around your neck! Few countries get birds and birders better than this Central American birding “Mecca”. The tour covered four major ecoregions in the country, starting with the **Caribbean Lowlands**, then moving into the **Upper Mountains** of the **Talamanca Mountain Range**, then dropping back down into the lowlands, this time in the **South Pacific** part of Costa. Then, finally, came the Lower Mountains region, around the famous cloud forest site of **Monteverde**. Highlights came thick and fast right on day one, with **Spot-breasted Oriole** and **Cinnamon Hummingbird** in our hotel garden near **San Jose** airport, before we departed north towards the **Caribbean Lowlands**, visiting **Cope** and his wonderful private reserve, where we were treated to both **Spectacled Owls** (two of them) and **Crested Owls** (two pairs) in the daytime, an unexpected immature **Bicolored Hawk**, **White-collared** and **White-ruffed Manakins**, and adorable **White Tents Bats** huddled together under their specially tailored leaf; (the bats nibble around the central stem to make a “tent” from it). In the **Caribbean foothills** nearby we were fortunate to see a **White-tipped Sicklebill** visit a bract of vermilion Heliconias. Moving to the legendary **La Selva Biological Station**, the

birding was no less rewarding, with **Great Green Macaws**, **Snowy Cotingas**, **Keel-billed Toucans**, **Purple-throated Fruitcrows**, **Spotted Antbirds** (photo next page), a surprise sighting of a **Keel-billed Motmot** as well as **Broad-billed** and **Rufous Motmots**, three species of trogon, **Rufous-winged** and **Chestnut-colored Woodpeckers**, an extremely confiding **Fasciated Antshrike**, **Rufous-tailed Jacamar**, and a single **Hoffman’s Two-toed Sloth** to show from our two days on site. We then drove to the beautiful **Savegre Valley**, cloaked in cloud forest dominated by oak trees. Unquestionably, the must-see bird in this area was the **Resplendent Quetzal**, and we ensured we got this at the first try with the earliest start of the tour (5:45am). We waited impatiently for some time, before, finally a dramatic male **Resplendent Quetzal** (photo page 4) flew in and landed on an open perch beside one of its favored avocado trees, where it remained for fully five minutes, and hundreds of photos!

Other highlights in these highlands were a confiding covey of **Spotted Wood-Quail**, **Fiery-throated Hummingbirds** (photo page 2), **Spangle-cheeked Tanagers**, **two species of silky-flycatchers**, and a last-ditch **Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl** just before our final lunch in the area. Leaving there, we added a quick stop in the **foothills of the Pacific slope**, for a bright blue male **Turquoise Cotinga**. Once back in the lowlands, this time in the **South Pacific**, we racked up **two more trogons (Baird's and Black-headed)**, another motmot, the incredibly popular **Turquoise-browed Motmot**, and enjoyed a smattering of views of **Scarlet Macaws** at their Costa Rican stronghold. Visiting a drier part around **Orotina** was superb, with a very popular **Pacific Screech-Owl** by day, and we were toyed with by a **Lesser Ground-Cuckoo** but had an easier time with some very obliging **Bare-throated Tiger-Herons** during a boat trip out of **Tarcoles**. This region also saw us get further looks at a **Great Tinamou** foraging in the same forest that yielded a **Streak-chested Antpitta** and a nesting pair of **Collared Forest-Falcons**. Finally, came the **Monteverde** area, where we avoided the crowds by visiting **Santa Elena** cloud forest, where we came across **Brown-billed Scythebill**, some spritely **Costa Rican Warblers**, and a cooperative **Silvery-fronted Tapaculo**. Finally, at another Monteverde reserve, **Curi-Cancha**, we spent some quality time with a single **Gray-throated Leaftosser** and several gorgeous **Golden-browed Chlorophonias**! In all, this was a very enjoyable tour, with a group that bonded well together and blissfully shared birds with one another, while also appreciating some of the other wildlife that came our way, including **Strawberry Poison Frog**, **Red-eyed Treefrog**, **Northern Ghost Bat**, troops of **Mantled Howlers**, and the odd giant **blue morpho butterflies** drifting passed us. Once again, Costa Rica proved its considerable mettle in providing an absorbing tour, within comfortable lodges, with tropical birds right on our doorstep throughout.



This handsome male **Spotted Antbird** was a nice surprise on our final morning in the Caribbean Lowlands *La Selva*, when we visited a primary lowland forest trail near the biological station (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).

TOP TEN Birds-of-the-tour:

- 1-Turquoise-browed Motmot** (*Tarcoles, Orotina*)
2-Golden-browed Chlorophonia (*Curi-Cancha, Monteverde*)
3=Great Green Macaw (*La Selva*)
3=Pacific Screech-Owl (*Orotina*)
5-Resplendent Quetzal (*Casa Monge, Savegre*) – photo below
6=Scarlet Macaw (*La Selva, Carara*)
6=Bare-throated Tiger-Heron (*Villa Lapas, Tarcoles*)
8-Lesser Ground-Cuckoo (*Orotina*)
9=Bicolored Hawk (*Donde Cope*)
9=Spotted Antbird (*La Selva*)



Resplendent Quetzal is one of the ultimate “must-have” birds in the World. We saw this elegant male visiting an *avocado* tree, on the edge of some cloud forest near our hotel in *Savegre* (*Sam Woods*).

TOUR SUMMARY:

A surprise raptor from our first morning: **Bicolored Hawk** (Sam Woods)

Day 1 (of birding): 5th February 2023 – Donde Cope, Nectar & Pollen Reserve, and La Selva Biological Station.

The tour kicked off with dinner the previous evening, followed by a short bout of 6am birding at the hotel on the opening birding day of the tour. This led us to picture book view of a **Spot-breasted Oriole** (photo page 6) sitting amongst the hotel's *Bougainvillea* plants, a brief encounter with a **Cinnamon Hummingbird**, and a **Cinnamon-bellied Saltator** all before breakfast. After our first round of tasty rice and beans ("gallo pinto"), we set off with our luggage for the *Caribbean lowlands*. Our first stop, which took up all of the morning was around a small private reserve run by the exceptionally talented *Cope*, a *bird guide-come artist-come photographer*! He met us on the road outside his property, with birds already in hand for us, a male of both **White-collared and White-ruffed Manakins** were found within minutes, and a **Yellow-throated Toucan** and **Crimson-collared Tanager** followed not long after!



Spot-breasted Oriole was one of the first birds of the tour; this Collared Aracari was seen at Nectar and Pollen Reserve (*Sam Woods*)





We then tucked into the action at his bustling feeders, which were attracting **Band-tailed Barbthroat** herpet, **Long-billed** and **Stripe-throated Hermits**, **Green-breasted Mango**, **Bronze-tailed Plumeleater**, and **Scaly-breasted Hummingbird**, as well as some confiding **Red-legged Honeycreepers** and **Olive-backed Euphonias**. However, with rain threatening, *Cope* lured us away from the feeders, with the prospect of daytime owls. And he delivered, finding 6 individuals for us! This included 2 pairs of **Crested Owls** and a pair of **Spectacled Owls** (*photo left*). This was not the only highlight of a muddy rainforest walk though; we also saw tiny **White Tent Bats** resting under a leaf, and bumped into a scarce raptor, in the form of an immature **Bicolored Hawk** (*photo page 5*), which impressed *Patti* especially. On returning to the feeders, we were treated to an assemblage of hummingbirds, once again, but also **Montezuma** and **Chestnut-headed Oropendolas** (*both photos page 8*), and an **Orange-chinned Parakeet** (*photo page 9*), came into his close fruit feeders too, before lunch beckoned us away. After a massive and intimidating buffet at a favoured roadside stop, we visited nearby *Nectar and Pollen Reserve*, where we were lucky to bump into a **White-tipped Sicklebill**, but also gorged on our first **Golden-hooded Tanagers** (*photo title page*) and **Black-**

cheeked Woodpeckers and lucked into a male **Tawny-capped Euphonia**. Our late afternoon destination was to be our base for the next two nights, *La Selva Biological Station*, a world-renowned tropical research station. We rapidly picked up a series of new birds right on arrival, with a flyover group of **Great Green Macaws** providing an impressive welcome, as did a male **Slaty-tailed Trogon** found by our ever attentive driver, *Luis*, a female **Snowy Cotinga**, some tame **Crested Guans**, and a few canopy-based **White-ringed Flycatchers**.

Photo Above: Two of SIX owls seen on our first morning, a pair of **Spectacled Owls** with *Cope* (*Sam Woods*)



Some highlights from "Cope's Place": Chestnut-headed & Montezuma Oropendulas (Sam Woods)



Other birds around the reception area included a low-feeding **Black-faced Grosbeak** (*photo page 27*), a **Blue Dacnis** that simply shone blue in the treetops, and our first **Black-cowled Oriole**. A *female* **Scarlet-thighed Dacnis** was another decent late addition. Once night fell, **Common Pauraque** featured on the way to dinner.



Another brilliant bird from our first morning on the Caribbean side of the country: **Orange-chinned Parakeet** (*Sam Woods*)

Day 2 (of birding): 6th February 2023 – La Selva Biological Station.

On this day we experienced both the joys and frustrations of birding in the *Caribbean lowlands*, spending the entire day at *La Selva Biological Station*. The frustration of birding this wonderful site is that it is located in the wet *Caribbean lowlands*, so although we were visiting in Costa Rica's dry season, this does not really apply to this region, which is wet, year-round. We awoke to rain trickling down, but birded a nearby dirt road all the same, where we saw a lonely **Scarlet Macaw** beating through the rain on its broad, colorful wings. It was not the only parrot along there either, with **Red-lored Parrots** featuring regularly during our first hour of birding, before breakfast. Other open country species that showed up during this early morning excursion included **Black-striped Sparrow**, plentiful **Variable Seedeaters** and a **White-throated Crane** even scuttled across the road at one point. Breakfast at *La Selva* is always an edgy affair, in a good way! Oftentimes, right during breakfast birds show up by the restaurant, forcing folks to abandon eating for gorgeous birds. And so it was the case with us too, with birds like **White-crowned Parrot** causing us to down cutlery. The rain strengthened post-breakfast, meaning our morning with a local guide there needed to depart later than the 8am planned, as we sheltered with **Crested Guans** for company, under an awning. Eventually, the rain eased, and we quickly set off. Our post rain birding was superb, with birds seemingly active after the rain had kept them at bay earlier.

We crossed the *Stone Bridge*, seeing a **Rufous-tailed Jacamar** as we did so, then birding the clearing on the far side of the *Rio Puerto Viejo*. This brought one of the sightings of the entire tour (for *Jake* for sure!), with a perched “baker’s half dozen” of **Great Green Macaws** for some time. Inside the forest, we observed a male **Great Curassow** giving its deep booming song from the canopy, and also caught up with a calling **Rufous Motmot**. A **blue morpho** (a large, spectacular, electric-blue butterfly) also floated by at least once today too.

Lunch at *La Selva* was rudely interrupted by the appearance of a male **Fasciated Antshrike** (*photo below*) right by the restaurant, spotted by a rightly excited *Kelly*! Lunch was temporarily abandoned as we enjoyed an impromptu photo shoot with this often tricky to see jungle species. A male **Shining Honeycreeper** (*photo page 11*), in the same, low bushes was no less appealing!



La Selva can provide good birds at any time, as proven by this lunchtime male **Fasciated Antshrike** by the restaurant (*Sam Woods*)

After lunch, we took a break back at our nearby rooms, although Patti, Kelly and Sam could not resist a lunchtime foray into the forest from our rooms, which produced **Rufous-winged and Chestnut-colored Woodpeckers**, and frustration with a close calling *Slaty-breasted Tinamou*.

The rest of the group caught up with all of these birds either later that day or the next morning. On meeting again at 2:30pm, we intended to go straight to the trail on the near side of the river that passes through good, mature secondary forest. However, we were quickly waylaid by the action in a large dead tree overlooking the jungle-side soccer pitch. It was really incredible. First a **Gartered Trogon** stole our attention, then a series of interesting species joined that bird in the same tree, which at times included a group of 3 **Snowy Cotingas**, which counted a spotless white adult male among them, several **White-vented Euphonias** and a number of striking **Masked Tityras**. As if that was not enough, a **Laughing Falcon** even came and landed in the same “magic” tree! Alongside us watching with jaws open, a male **Red-throated Ant-Tanager** appeared suddenly in a tree beside us. We finally set off, bumping into a local group who led us to a much-wanted **sloth**, this time of the two-toed variety. Along the same trail we also added our second motmot of the day with **Broad-billed Motmot** this time. We also had some good looks at a calling **White-breasted Wood-Wren**. Other notable mentions on this day were our first **Keel-billed Toucan**, **Black-throated Trogon**, and **Pale-billed Woodpecker**, all of which were to turn up multiple times on this tour.



The shrubs beside the reception at *La Selva* were typically distracting with birds like this male **Shining Honeycreeper** suddenly appearing in them during lunch (*Sam Woods*)

Day 3 (of birding): 7th February 2023 – *La Selva* Biological Station to the *Savegre* Hotel via *Miriam's Restaurant*.

This was to our final day at the magical *La Selva*, after which, we drove up into the highlands of *Savegre*, true “*Quetzal Country*” dominated by oak-infested cloud forest. Firstly, we followed up a report of a **Keel-billed Motmot** from the day before, which involved merely a short walk from our cabins! We found the *motmot* in company with the similar sounding **Broad-billed Motmot** for good side-by-side comparison!

The same area held a hidden, calling, *Slaty-breasted Tinamou*, **Gartered and Black-throated Trogons**, and **Rufous-winged and Chestnut-colored Woodpeckers**! Kelly also noticed a **White-whiskered Puffbird** sitting quietly nearby too. By the end of all of that, it was time to settle our rumbling stomachs and head over to the mess hall for breakfast. Our final time in La Selva involved another trip to the forest trails on the far side of the *Stone Bridge*. This provided a magnificent finale to our time in the *Caribbean lowlands*, with a pair of **Spotted Antbirds** (photo page 3), a confiding **Russet-naped Wood-Rail** (photo page 13), several calling **Strawberry Poison Frogs** located in the wet leaf litter and a noisy group of **Purple-throated Fruitcrows**, as well as a photogenic **Yellow-throated Toucan** (photo below).



This confiding **Yellow-throated Toucan** was seen at *La Selva* (Sam Woods)

After a noon-time, sit down, lunch, we undertook the long drive southeast to *Savegre*, arriving with sufficient time to drop oin on *Miriam's Restaurant*, at the top end of this cloud forest-cloaked valley. There, we were greeted by a tangerine male **Flame-colored Tanager** (next page), a deep blue male **Slaty Flowerpiercer**, a dusky **Yellow-thighed Brushfinch**, a bruising **Large-footed Finch** bouncing around on the ground, a couple of **Sooty-capped Chlorospingus**, and some conspicuous **Acorn Woodpeckers** in the surrounding Oak trees. Highland *hummingbirds* were also the unavoidable center of our attention; **Volcano, Fiery-throated and Talamanca Hummingbirds** and **Lesser Violetears** were all noted there, as were **Sooty and Mountain Thrushes**, all before the curtain fell on our day's birding, once we checked into the amazing *Savegre Hotel* in the late afternoon.



Russet-naped Wood-Rail in steamy Caribbean lowlands in the morning & Flame-colored Tanager in chilly, highland cloud forest the same day



Day 4 (of birding): 8th February 2023 – Savegre Valley and Hotel & Paraiso Quetzal.

Resplendent Quetzals are early risers, which meant we were also early to meet on this day, as this was to be our first port of call for the day. The quetzal is arguably THE must-see species in Costa Rica, and the various signs, logos and souvenir gifts that are adorned with it, quickly make you feel that you cannot leave the country without one. Therefore, we made the earliest start of the tour (5:45am), to ensure we gave it our very best shot. Some rose even earlier still, to ensure their bodies were injected with a boost of coffee before departure. Our first stop was the quetzal observation point at *Casa Monge*, just above our lodging. In spite of our early rise, we still arrived to find people there earlier still, who were quick to inform us that we had already missed a *quetzal* sighting that morning! We busied ourselves by watching a foraging **Black Guan** instead. A female **Resplendent Quetzal** (*photo page 4*) appeared shortly after to take the edge off the nerves, although we all knew we simply could not leave without a full, glorious adult male! That required a further wait, then some obscured views, before, finally, one braver male left the cover of the cloud forest and landed on an open perch next to his favoured avocado trees. Everyone present were notably excited by this sighting, (as we they should have been, and cameras quickly went into panicked overdrive.



Seven **Sulphur-winged Parakeets** were seen within oak-dominated cloud forest above the *Savegre Hotel* (Sam Woods)

However, panic was not needed. The regal male remained rooted to his perch, providing a completely unobscured view, for some time. On the way back we were stopped in our tracks by an excitable group of **Long-tailed Silky-Flycatchers** which were chasing each other around some low fruiting shrubs. We took a substantial breakfast back at the *Savegre Hotel*, then followed this by a jeep drive into the higher forest above the lodge. This trail provided us with **Lineated Foliage-Gleaner**, a covey of **Spotted Wood-Quails** located by *Kelly* and *Patti*, and our first **Tufted Flycatchers**, **Collared Redstarts**, Spot-crowned Woodcreepers, **Northern Emerald-Toucanet**, **Black-billed and Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrushes**, **Ruddy Pigeon**, and **Yellow-winged Vireos**. Best of all up there though was clearly a group of seven **Sulphur-winged Parakeets** (*photo page before*), which were watched going in and out of a nest cavity at close range...

We took a wonderful lunch at a deserted neighbouring lodge, *Suenos del Bosque*, watching hummingbirds during lunch, like **White-throated Mountain-Gem** and a confiding **Collared Redstart**. *Dave* also spotted our first **Stripe-tailed Hummingbird** perched by some scarlet blooms. After lunch, we walked a riverside trail, with little to show for it save for our first **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Brown-headed Vireo** and **Yellowish Flycatcher**.



This **Marmalade Plant** was attracting highland hummingbirds like *White-throated Mountain-Gem* at *Suenos del Bosque* (Sam Woods)

After that, we made a late afternoon visit to *Paraiso Quetzal*, by driving up towards the area around *Cerro de la Muerte*, seeing **Black-and-yellow Silky-Flycatcher**, as hoped, as well as **Hairy Woodpecker**, **Large-footed Finch**, and **Yellow-thighed Brushfinch**, while *Tom* got photos of a **Chestnut-capped Brushfinch**, which the rest of us never caught up with later!

By the time we drove back to our mountain hotel, dusk had passed suddenly (as it does in the tropics), and we found ourselves passing a regular spot for **Dusky Nightjar** just at the right time, and so made a short stop there, getting one in the spotlight as it glided low overhead.

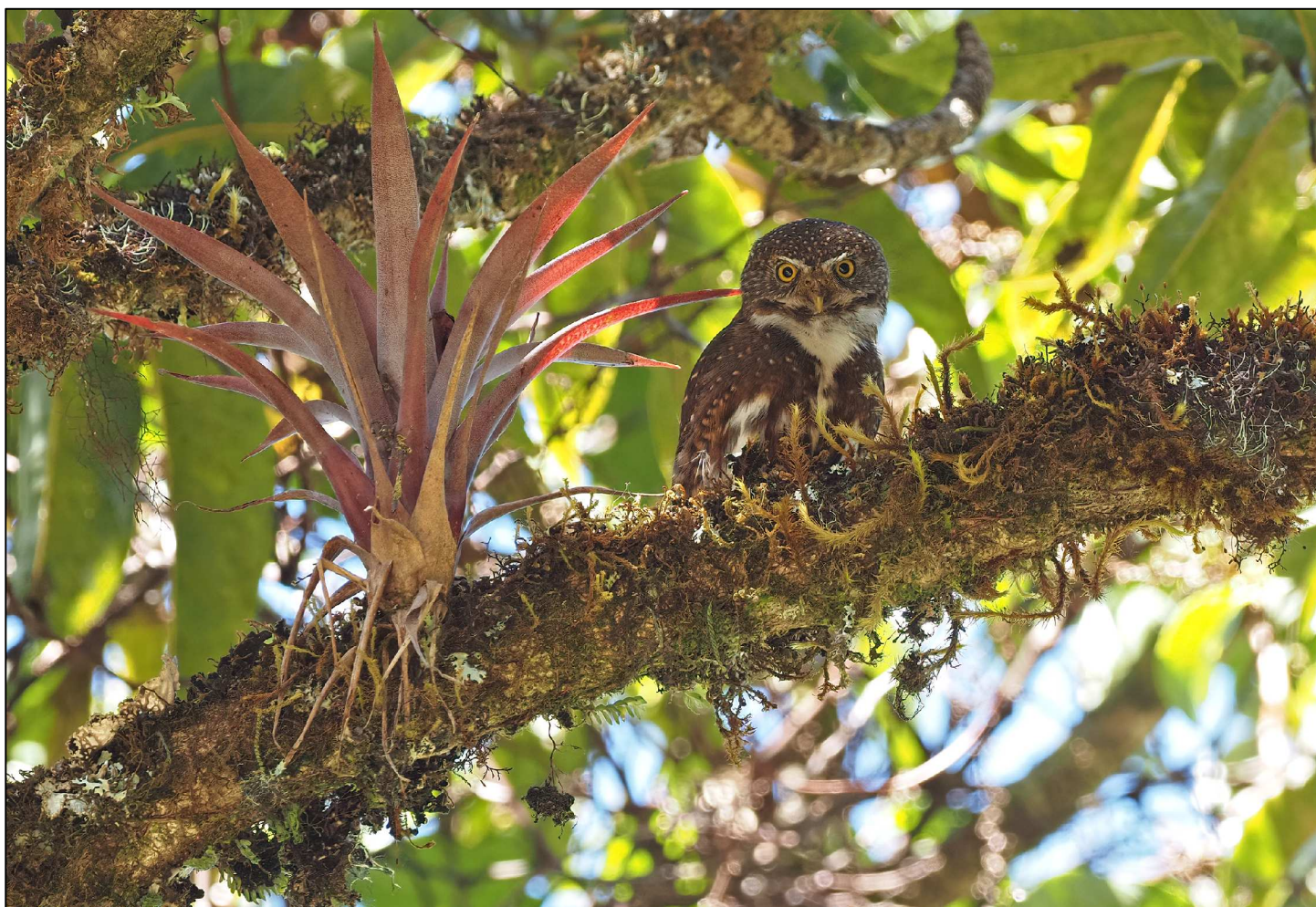


The highest living songbird in the Costa Rica, **Volcano Junco**, was seen at *Cerro de la Muerte*, meaning "Hill of Death" (Sam Woods)

Day 5 (of birding): 9th February 2023 – Savegre Valley, Cerro de la Muerte & Perez Zeledon to Carara.

Once again, we were to leave behind one region and enter a very different one by the day's end. Initially, we birded within *Neotropical Cloud Forest* within the *Savegre Valley* and around *Cerro de la Muerte*, then reached the highest point of the tour at *Cerro Buenavista*, reaching 3200m/ft, where we briefly birded in *Shrubby Paramo* for a special, high altitude, songbird, then drove rapidly into the *Pacific foothills and lowlands* by the close of the day.

The day started brightly at 6am with a short drive to the start of a waterfall trail, although we traveled well short of the waterfall, as we quickly located an exciting mixed flock, which was rapidly confirmed to hold many of our principal target species for the site. *Jake* locked on to a charming **Black-thighed Grosbeak**, which lingered for a while, and then he also followed this up by discovering a pair of handsome **Spangle-cheeked Tanagers**. **Ruddy Treerunner** plus **Blackburnian**, **Golden-winged**, **Wilson's** and **Black-throated Green Warblers** were all also noted there, but quickly took second place once a male **Flame-throated Warbler**, (amusingly named the "*Flamethrower*" by the group), showed up! A pair of **Black-faced Solitaires** also visited a fruit tree in the area. With these all in the bag, we retreated the short distance to the lodge for one final, calorie-busting, breakfast. After eating, we checked out and travelled up to *Cerro del Muerte*, birding a quiet forested road that cuts through *Los Quetzales National Park*. Following our earlier success with that species, this was not our focus, but other cloud forest species. *Luis*, our superb driver, once again got us a key species when he noticed the soft warbling of a pair of **Timberline Wrens**, which we quickly located shortly after. That was good, though better still was to come. Late in the morning, with morning soon to turn to lunchtime, a soft hooting drew our attention to a **Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl** (*photo below*), which was drawn into a bromeliad-laden tree just above us for long studies and photos! This tiny, forest, owl also drew the attention of some smaller birds like **Wilson's Warbler** and **Fiery-throated Hummingbird**, which were unhappy at its presence.



This **Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl** showed up just before lunch in the tall, verdant cloud forest within *Los Quetzales National Park* (Sam Woods)

Just before breakfast with highland hummingbirds for company, we drove up into some stunted shrubbery above the treeline, where an absurdly tame **Volcano Junco** (*photo page 16*) was quickly located. The final major stop of the day came in *Perez Zeledon* on the outskirts of the city of *San Isidro*, where we were suitably starstruck by two neon-blue male **Turquoise Cotingas**. The rest of the afternoon was spent descending into the *Pacific lowlands*, pausing for **Roadside Hawks** and two species of **caracaras** on the journey there.

Day 6 (of birding): 10th February 2023 – Hotel Villa Lapas, Carara National Park & Private Tarcoles Boat Cruise.

This day was a real scorcher, with over 100 species recorded, and many great birds from start to finish, during a full day in the hot and steamy *South Pacific lowlands*. We stated out birding the massive hotel grounds of our Carara hotel, *Villa Lapas* (named after the *Scarlet Macaw*). The day opened with a trio of **Bare-throated Tiger-Herons** in a bare tree, one of which called for some time. A fruiting fig tree on the grounds held our first **Black-headed Trogon** of the tour, while another area provided us



with both a male **Black-hooded Antshrike** and a popular, vocal **Chestnut-backed Antbird**. After breakfast, we drove to *Carara National Park*, just a 10-minute ride away. On arrival, **Philadelphia Vireo** was noted in the car park, along with **Lesser Greenlet**. Not long after that a pair of nesting **Collared Forest-Falcons** (*photo above*) were found along a paved forest trail thanks to the assistance of a generous, locally-based, guide. *Any day with any forest-falcon is a fortunate one, and we considered ourselves as such!* Not far from the falcons a small party of **Riverside Wrens** kept us entertained. As we moved deeper into the forest we heard our second new *trogon* of the morning, this time an orange-bellied male **Baird's Trogon**. In the same area a **Rufous Piha** featured too.

Jake got us all on to a **Great Tinamou** that was foraging on the forest floor, then later a **Long-tailed Woodcreeper** was a sighting for rarity than beauty! Late morning also saw us find a lekking male **Blue-throated Goldentail** that was scoped up as it sung regularly inside deep forest cover. On the way out from there, when we backtracked the same way, a little flurry of activity yielded a popular **Golden-crowned Spadebill**, a pied male **White-shouldered Tanager**, and a **Purple-crowned Fairy** feeding deep inside the forest.

After lunch back at *Villa Lapas*, we ventured into some mangroves before taking our boat trip, finding **Mangrove Vireo**, **Panama Flycatchers** and a pair of nesting **Common Black-Hawks**. A **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** there become our fifth owl of the tour. The boat ride was fantastic, as usual. We had dozens of seats all to ourselves, so that we could move around the boat with ease, as and when needed to get better views or photos. Our first foray upstream led us to a handful of **Double-striped Thick-knees**, a young **Northern Jacana**, a large flock of wild **Muscovy Ducks**, a pair of **Southern Lapwings**, a couple of **Amazon Kingfishers** and an extremely cooperative breeding plumage **Collared Plover** (*photo below*). The **Bare-throated Tiger-Herons** (*photo page 20*), we were to see that afternoon were no less cooperative and were very highly rated by *Patti*, who had them at the top of her *bird-of-the-tour* list!



A very relaxing, private, boat cruise on the *Tarcoles River* produced extreme close ups of both **Bare-throated Tiger-Heron** (*next page*) and **Collared Plover** (*above*) (Sam Woods)



After that, our boatman, *Jose*, sidled our boat up to our first, much-wanted, **Turquoise-browed Motmot**. However, we did not find a *Boat-billed Heron*, a species which had been oddly and uncharacteristically absent on recent boat tours over the previous two weeks. Through the afternoon **Scarlet Macaws** and other parrots would pass overhead, which included a few **Yellow-napped Parrots** too. A massive **Ringed Kingfisher** flew in and perched nearby at one point. Several large **American Crocodiles** had us withdrawing our limbs from the edge of the boat, and some shorebirds were noted here and there too, before we closed out the boat trip once the **Lesser Nighthawks** were on the wing overhead. We returned to the dock to finish the boat cruise and spend some time shopping in the very well stocked gift shop.

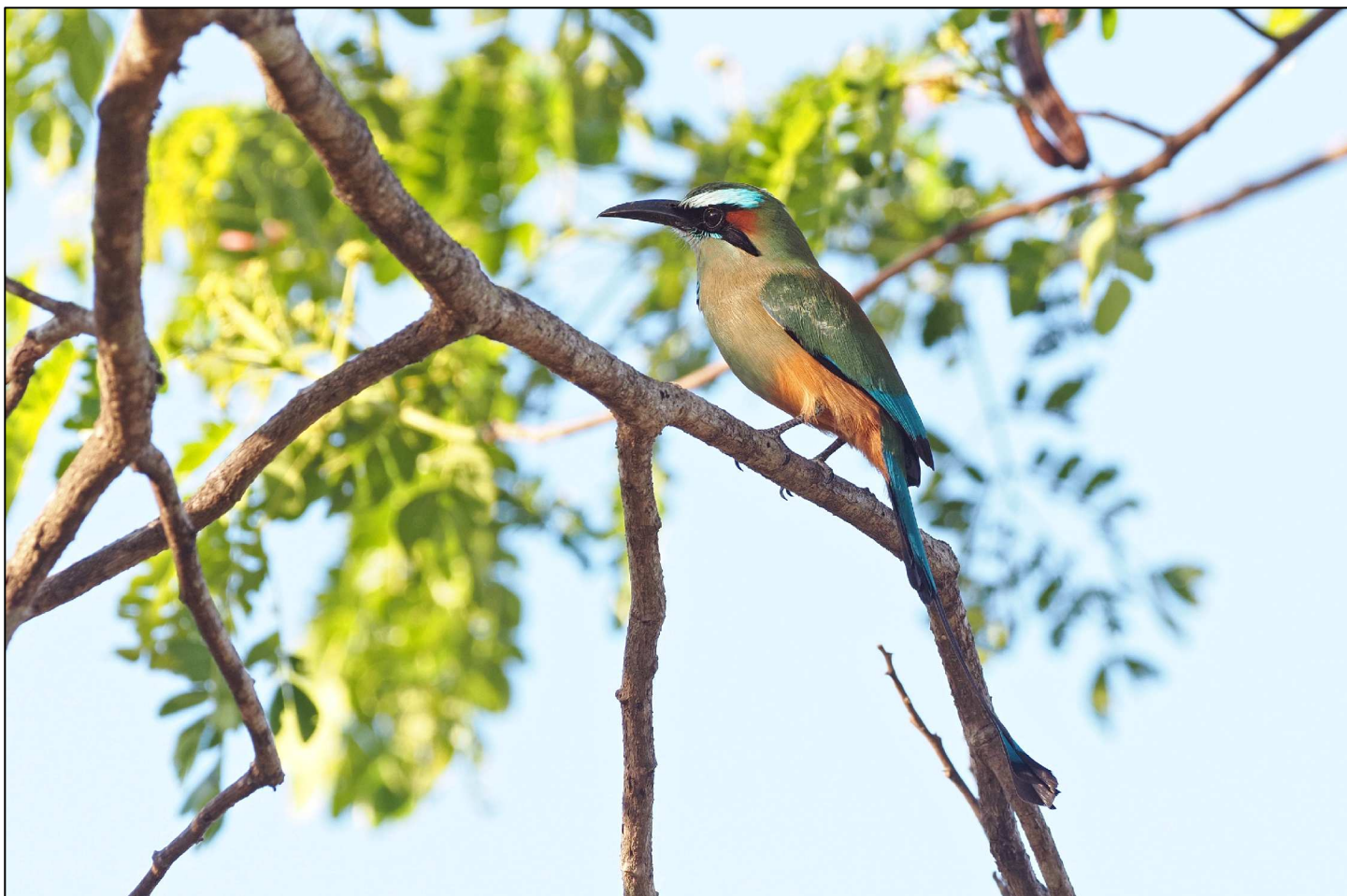


Pacific Screech-Owl at a day roost in tropical dry forest near *Orotina* (Sam Woods)

Day 7 (of birding): 11th February 2023 – Carara National Park to Monteverde via Orotina.

Once again, on this day we swapped one area for another very different one. In the morning we again birded the national park at *Carara*, then visited a much drier habitat around nearby *Orotina* after lunch, before climbing up into the mountains again, driving up to stay close to a blustery *Monteverde* for the next two nights. We started off on the doorstep of our hotel, seeing our first **Greenish Elaenia**, along with more exciting birds like **Bare-throated Tiger-Heron**, **Slaty-tailed Trogon**, and **Pale-billed Woodpecker** in our thirty minute circuit before breakfast. After breakfast we set out to do more trail work in *Carara National Park*. We returned to the “scene of the bird crime” from the day before, where we had heard, but not seen, a **Streak-chested Antpitta**. This was upgraded to seen for most of the group on this morning.

Most of the rest of the morning was spent on a different, new trail to us in the same park. Early on we watched a pair of **Barred Antshrikes** moving around a forest vine tangle. **Dot-winged Antwren** and **Plain Xenops** were also seen that morning for the first time, although we were perfectly happy with getting repeat views of **Rufous-tailed Jacamar**, **Black-hooded Antshrike**, **White-shouldered Tanager** and yet another **Pale-billed Woodpecker**. Right near the start of the trail, when we returned there in late morning, we were excited to find some army ant following bird species, including two each of **Tawny-winged Woodcreeper** and **Northern Barred Woodcreeper** and **Gray-headed Tanager**, which represented the first *antswarm* experience for most of the group. We returned to our hotel a little late for check out, due to this antswarm appearing as we were fixing to leave.



Turquoise-browed Motmot comfortably won the bird-of-the-tour competition (Sam Woods)

After lunch we drove around 30 minutes to an area of patchy dry forest and far fields. Due to a tip of from a local guide, we were able to drive right up to a roost of **Pacific Screech-Owl** (*photo page 21*), that even hooted from its nest hole in front of us in broad daylight. Our next stop yielded one of the spectacles of the entire tour. Sam decided to play a recording of a Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl to stir up some local songbirds, which worked extremely well, luring in THIRTEEN DIFFERENT SPECIES, including, **Hoffman's Woodpecker**, **Plain-capped Starthroat**, **Scaly-breasted Hummingbird**, **Rose-throated Becard**, **White-lored Gnatcatcher**, **Northern Tropical Pewee**, **Yellow and Tennessee Warblers**, **Gray-crowned Yellowthroat**, **Morelet's Seed eater**, **Stripe-headed Sparrow**, **Summer Tanager**, and **Red-legged Honeycreeper**.

Yellow-faced Grassquit also made its first tour appearance in the same area. We closed our time there with a marathon attempt at trying to see a calling **Lesser Ground-Cuckoo**, which gave some people some great looks, but a few were poorly positioned to see it, and did not get it. In the same place, we added **Common Ground-Dove** and **Harris's Hawk** to the trip list, before we headed up into the mountains and *Monteverde*. A wonderfully photogenic **Turquoise-browed Motmot** (*photo previous page*), in the area most likely led to its popularity and high placing in the bird-of-the-tour trip vote.

Day 8 (of birding): 12th February 2023 – Monteverde area (Santa Elena, Monteverde & Bajo del Tigre Reserves).



The small, family-run, lodge we use in *Monteverde* had some very tame **Lesson's Motmots** in the garden (*Sam Woods*)

We started out trying to bird the grounds of our hotel, *Cala Lodge*, although the very strong winds occurring at the time made this extremely challenging. Today was our day to experience the world famous *Neotropical cloud forest* of *Monteverde*. Rather than visiting the very crowded main reserve though, we swapped that instead for the same forest type without the crowds at nearby *Santa Elena*. This turned out to be an inspired choice with far less people and some interesting birds. We suffered a windy and rainy morning, which made the birding a little more challenging than we would have liked. However, with some effort, we added birds, most notably both a **Buffy Tuftedcheek** and a popular **Brown-billed Scythebill** that were in the same flock together. Nearby, two more **Spangle-cheeked Tanagers** were not to be scoffed at either! Another major target was present along the same trail too, with at least four different **Prong-billed Barbets**.

This forest also supplied us with our first **Slate-throated Redstart** and **Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrushes** were seen foraging along the trail in a couple of places. **Costa Rican Warblers** and **Red-faced Spinetails** were also new for us there too. By checking several areas of dense, *Chusquea* bamboo, we finally tracked down a confiding **Silvery-fronted Tapaculo**, which gave us all some good looks. Late in the morning a pair of **Slaty Antwrens** were also added to the trip list. Over lunch at *Santa Elena* we watched some extremely tame **Common Chlorospingus** hopping around us.

After lunch, we travelled to the short distance to the main *Monteverde Reserve*, by which time the crowds were much thinner than they would have been during the morning. Our first stop was an obligatory one at the *Hummingbird Gallery*. **Violet Sabrewings** and **Green-crowned Brilliants** were the dominant species there, with a smattering of **Lesser Violetears**, **Purple-throated Mountain-Gems**, **Stripe-tailed Hummingbirds**, and the odd, single **Green Hermit** and **Magenta-throated Woodstar**. The final stanza of the day's birding was within a much drier forest, in *Bajo del Tigre Reserve*. Birding there was tough, due to the continuing high winds, although we did get some nice looks at a male **Red-crowned Ant-Tanager**, and *Kim* found us our first Golden-crowned Warbler and better still, a male **Collared Trogon** (of a form that was formerly considered a separate species, named "*Orange-bellied Trogon*"). An **Olivaceous Woodcreeper** there was also the only one recorded on the tour, and we also got an upgrade to our earlier looks (in the wind) of **Chestnut-capped Warbler**.



Photo Page Before: Tame **Northern Emerald-Toucanets** battled with equally cooperative **Lesson's Motmots** for a place at the papaya-laden feeders at our lodge in *Monteverde* (Sam Woods)

Day 9 (of birding): 13th February 2023 – Monteverde area (Curi-Cancha Reserve).

For our final day's birding, we visited another reserve in the *Monteverde* area, *Curi-Cancha*, just 15 minutes from our mountain lodge. Before that though, we tried again to bird the lodge grounds during blustery conditions.

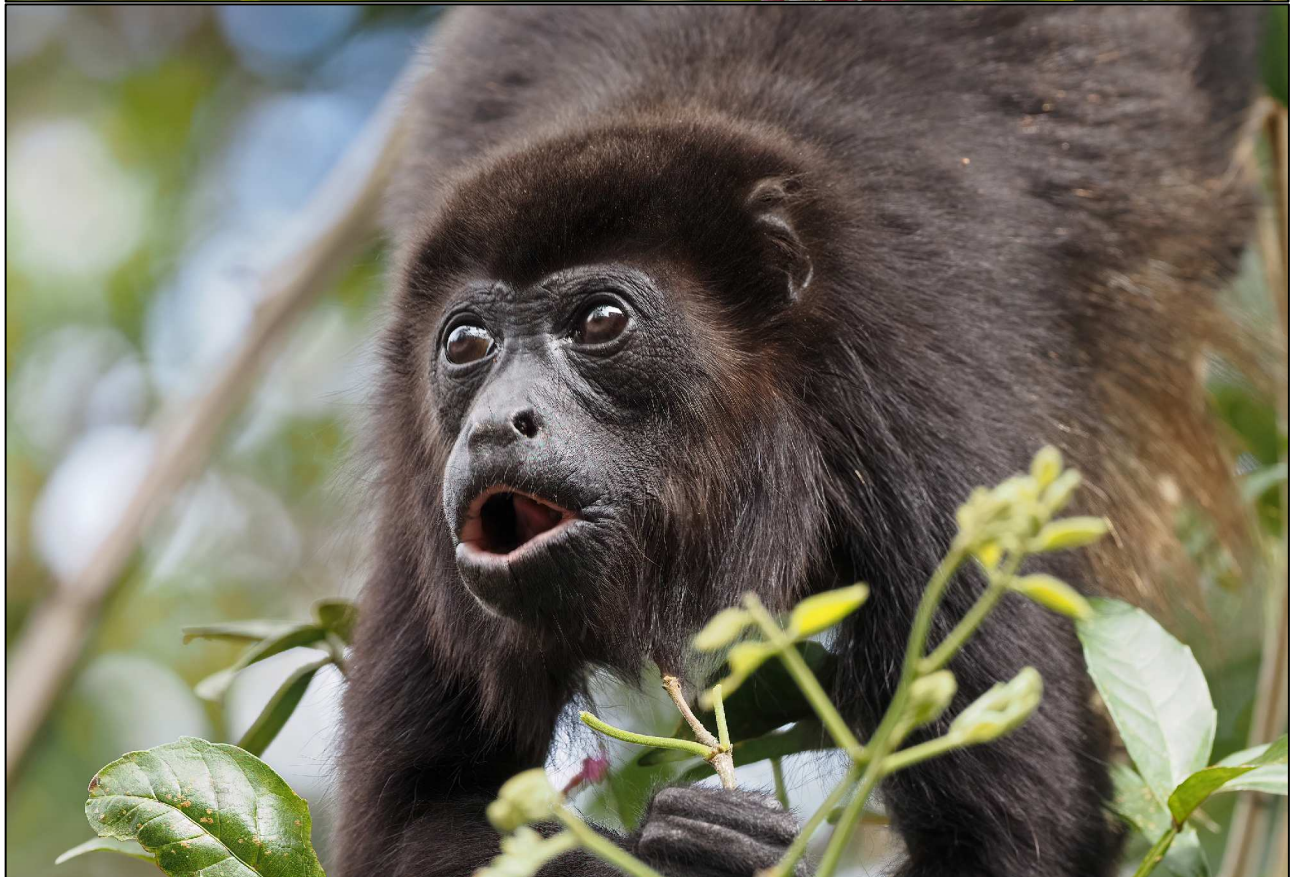
However, we had some success, with a pair of handsome **White-eared Ground-Sparrows** being highly rated by the group, and a singing **Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush**



also finally showing itself too. We also watched a pair of **Northern Emerald Toucanets** at an active nest hole. Over breakfast, while we visited a table inside, a flurry of birds visited the outside bird table, including several **Lesson's Motmots** (*photo page 23*), some nesting **Northern Emerald-Toucanets** (*photo page 24*), **toucanets**, and the odd **Brown Jay**. On arrival at *Curi-Cancha*, we quickly added a new hummingbird species visiting the sprawling verbena flowers around the parking area, and a good one at that, the endemic **Coppery-headed Emerald** (*photo next page*) that was to show up time and again that morning. We also heard and located a calling **Cabanis's Wren** nearby too. Then we worked our way deeper into the forest, eventually tracking down a wonderful **Gray-throated Leaf-tosser** (*photo above*) right where it had been indicated to be by the friendly and knowledgeable *Curi-Cancha* staff. With thar charismatic species in the bag, we made our way over to the rest area, a known hang out for a species we all wanted, but *Dave* in particular had been hoping for. On the way there we ran into several groups who'd got word of a good-looking snake in the area that morning, which was duly located, a lime green **Side-striped Palm-Pitviper** (*photo page 26*). After some time examining the various trees with patches of orange mistletoe, we finally located our quarry, some gorgeous **Golden-browed Chlorophonias**, of which we saw at least 3 males and several females. **Elegant Euphonia** was also added in the same area. These were to be the final major additions of the tour, although a stop along the long drive back to Alajuela, for our hotel for the final night, was made when a group of low hanging **Mantled Howlers** (*photo page 27*) were noticed, which initiated one more last minute photo shoot to finish off in some style!

Photos Next Page: **Coppery-headed Emerald** (TOP) is a country endemic, seen repeatedly on the final day's birding in *Curi-Cancha* in *Monteverde* & **Side-striped Palm-Pitviper** from the same location (Sam Woods)





Photos Page Before: **Black-faced Grosbeak** (*La Selva, TOP*) & **Mantled Howler** (*Monteverde area*) (*Sam Woods*)

CHECKLISTS:

BIRDS

The taxonomy of the bird list follows **Clements, James F., White, Anthony W., and Fitzpatrick, John W.** *The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World*. Cornell, 2007. *This list is up to date with changes published by Cornell in **October 2022**.*

(H) - INDICATES A SPECIES THAT WAS HEARD ONLY.

(GO) – INDICATES A SPECIES RECORDED BY THE GUIDE ONLY.

Regional specialties are highlighted in **RED**. These species are limited to the mountains of Costa Rica and neighboring Western Panama.

TINAMOUS: TINAMIDAE

Great Tinamou *Tinamus major*

Slaty-breasted Tinamou *Crypturellus boucardi* (H)

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: ANATIDAE

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

GUANS, CHACHALACAS, CURASSOWS: CRACIDAE

Gray-headed Chachalaca *Ortalis cinereiceps*

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens*

Black Guan (E) *Chamaepetes unicolor*

Great Curassow *Crax rubra*

NEW WORLD QUAIL: ODONTOPHORIDAE

Spotted Wood-Quail *Odontophorus guttatus*

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 nigrirostris*

Inca Dove *Columbina inca*

Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerine*

Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti*

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*

Gray-chested Dove *Leptotila cassini*

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*

CUCKOOS: CUCULIDAE

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia* (H)

Lesser Ground-Cuckoo *Morococcyx erythropygus*

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*

NIGHTJARS: CAPRIMULGIDAE

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis*

Short-tailed Nighthawk *Lurocalis semitorquatus*

Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*

Dusky Nightjar (E) *Antrostomus saturates*

POTOOS: NYCTIBIIDAE

Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus*

SWIFTS: APODIDAE

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*

Gray-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris*

HUMMINGBIRDS: TROCHILIDAE

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga Mellivora*

Band-tailed Barbthroat *Threnetes ruckeri*

Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy*

Long-billed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris*

Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis*

Lesser Violetear *Colibri cyanotus*

Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliodytes barroti*

Green-breasted Mango *Anthracothorax prevostii*

Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula*

Talamanca Hummingbird (E) *Eugenes spectabilis*

Plain-capped Starthroat *Heliomaster constantia*

Fiery-throated Hummingbird (E) *Panterpe insignis*

Purple-throated Mountain-gem (E) *Lampornis calolaemus*

White-throated Mountain-gem *Lampornis castaneoventris*

Magenta-throated Woodstar (E) *Calliphlox bryantae*

Volcano Hummingbird (E) *Selasphorus flammula*

Scintillant Hummingbird (E) *Selasphorus scintilla*

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird *Phaeochroa cuvierii*

Violet Sabrewing *Campylopterus hemileucurus*

Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer *Chalybura urochrysis*

Stripe-tailed Hummingbird *Eupherusa eximia*

Coppery-headed Emerald (E) *Elvira cupreiceps*

Blue-chested Hummingbird *Amazilia amabilis*

Mangrove Hummingbird (E) *Amazilia boucardi*

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl*

Cinnamon Hummingbird *Amazilia rutila*

Blue-throated Goldentail *Hylocharis eliciae*

RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS: RALLIDAE

White-throated Crake *Laterallus albigularis*

Russet-naped Wood-Rail *Aramides albiventris*

Gray-cowled Wood-Rail *Aramides albiventris*

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica*

THICK-KNEES: BURHINIDAE

Double-striped Thick-knee *Burhinus bistriatus*

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: CHARADRIIDAE

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*

Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris*

JACANAS: JACANIDAE

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa*

SANDPIPERS: SCOLOPACIDAE

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Willet *Tringa semipalmata*

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*

[GULLS, TERNS, & SKIMMERS: LARIDAE](#)

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*

[STORKS: CICONIIDAE](#)

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*

[FRIGATEBIRDS: FREGATIDAE](#)

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*

[ANHINGAS: ANHINGIDAE](#)

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*

[CORMORANTS AND SHAGS: PHALACROCORACIDAE](#)

Neotropic Cormorant *Nannopterum brasilianum*

[PELICANS: PELECANIDAE](#)

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*

[HERONS, EGRETS, BITTERNs: 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*

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

[IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: THRESKIORNITHIDAE](#)

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*

Green Ibis *Mesembrinibis cayennensis* (H)

[NEW WORLD VULTURES: CATHARTIDAE](#)

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

[OSPREY: PANDIONIDAE](#)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

[HAWKS, EAGLES, KITES: ACCIPITRIDAE](#)

Hook-billed Kite *Chondrohierax uncinatus*

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*

Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus*

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea* (GO)

Bicolored Hawk *Accipiter bicolor*

Common Black-Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus*

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris*

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Gray Hawk *Buteo plagiatus*

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*

[OWLS: STRIGIDAE](#)

Pacific Screech-Owl *Megascops cooperi*

Crested Owl *Lophotrix cristata*

Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata*

Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl (E) *Glaucidium costaricanum*

Central American Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium griseiceps* (H)

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*

Black-and-white Owl *Ciccaba nigrolineata* (H)

TROGONS: TROGONIDAE

Resplendent Quetzal *Pharomachrus mocinno*

Slaty-tailed Trogon *Trogon Massena*

Black-headed Trogon *Trogon melanocephalus*

Baird's Trogon (E) *Trogon bairdii*

Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus*

Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus*

Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris*

MOTMOTS: MOMOTIDAE

Lesson's Motmot *Momotus lessonii*

Rufous Motmot *Baryphthengus martii*

Keel-billed Motmot *Electron carinatum*

Broad-billed Motmot *Electron platyrhynchum*

KINGFISHERS: ALCEDINIDAE

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*

PUFFBIRDS: BUCCONIDAE

White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis*

JACAMARS: GALBULIDAE

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda*

TOUCANS-BARBETS: SEMNORNITHIDAE

Prong-billed Barbet (E) *Semnornis frantzii*

TOUCANS: RAMPHASTIDAE

Northern Emerald-Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus prasinus maxillaris*

Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus torquatus*

Yellow-throated Toucan *Ramphastos ambiguus swainsonii*

Keel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos sulfuratus*

WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus*

Golden-naped Woodpecker (E) *Melanerpes chrysauchen*

Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani*

Red-crowned x Hoffman's Woodpecker hybrid *Melanerpes rubricapillus x hoffmannii*

Red-crowned Woodpecker (H) *Melanerpes rubricapillus*

Hoffmann's Woodpecker (E) *Melanerpes hoffmannii*

Hairy Woodpecker *Dryobates villosus*

Rufous-winged Woodpecker (E) *Piculus simplex*

Cinnamon Woodpecker *Celeus loricatus*

Chestnut-colored Woodpecker *Celeus castaneus*

Pale-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus guatemalensis*

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE

Collared Forest-Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus*

Crested Caracara *Caracara plancus*

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans*

Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis*

NEW WORLD & AFRICAN PARROTS: PSITTACIDAE

Orange-chinned Parakeet *Brotogeris jugularis*

Brown-hooded Parrot *Pyrilia haematotis*

White-crowned Parrot *Pionus senilis*

Red-lored Parrot *Amazona autumnalis*

Yellow-naped Parrot *Amazona auropalliata*

White-fronted Parrot *Amazona albifrons*

Mealy Parrot *Amazona farinose*

Sulphur-winged Parakeet (E) *Pyrrhura hoffmanni*

Olive-throated Parakeet *Eupsittula nana*

Great Green Macaw *Ara ambiguus*

Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao*

Crimson-fronted Parakeet (E) *Psittacara finschi*

TYPICAL ANTBIRDS: THAMNOPHILIDAE

Fasciated Antshrike *Cymbilaimus lineatus*

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus*

Black-crowned (Western Slaty) Antshrike *Thamnophilus atrinucha*

Black-hooded Antshrike (E) *Thamnophilus bridgesi*

Plain Antwren *Dysithamnus mentalis* (GO)

Slaty Antwren *Myrmotherula schisticolor*

Dot-winged Antwren *Microrhopias quixensis*

Dusky Antbird *Cercomacra tyrannina*

Chestnut-backed Antbird *Poliocrania exsul*

Spotted Antbird *Hylophylax naevioides*

ANTPITTAS: GRALLARIIDAE

Streak-chested Antpitta *Hylopezus perspicillatus*

TAPACULOS: RHINOCRYPTIDAE

Silvery-fronted Tapaculo (E) *Scytalopus argentifrons*

ANTTHRUSHES: FORMICARIIDAE

Black-faced Antthrush *Formicarius analis*

OVENBIRDS & WOODCREEPERS: FURNARIIDAE

Gray-throated Leaf-tosser *Sclerurus albigularis*

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*

Long-tailed Woodcreeper *Deconychura longicauda*

Tawny-winged Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla anabatina*

Plain-brown Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla fuliginosa*

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*

Northern Barred-Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*

Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans*

Black-striped Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*

Spotted Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*

Brown-billed Scythebill *Campylorhamphus pusillus*

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*

Spot-crowned Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes affinis*

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus*

Buffy Tuftedcheek *Pseudocolaptes lawrencii*

Lineated Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla subalaris*

Spotted Barbtail (H) *Premnoplex brunnescens*

Ruddy Treerunner (E) *Margarornis rubiginosus*

Red-faced Spinetail *Cranioleuca erythroptis*

Slaty Spinetail (H) *Synallaxis brachyura*

MANAKINS: PIPRIDAE

White-ruffed Manakin *Corapipo altera*

White-collared Manakin *Manacus candei*

Red-capped Manakin *Ceratopira mentalis*

COTINGAS: COTINGIDAE

Purple-throated Fruitcrow *Querula purpurata*

Turquoise Cotinga (E) *Cotinga ridgwayi*

Rufous Piha *Lipaugus unirufus*

Snowy Cotinga (E) *Carpodectes nitidus*

TITYRAS AND ALLIES: TITYRIDAE

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*

Barred Becard *Pachyramphus versicolor*

Cinnamon Becard *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae*

SHARPBILL, ROYAL FLY., & ALLIES: OXYRUNCIDAE

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher *Terenotriccus erythrurus*

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE

Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata*

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*

Mountain Elaenia *Elaenia frantzii*

Olive-streaked Flycatcher (GO) *Mionectes olivaceus*

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleaginous*

Mistletoe (Paltry) Tyrannulet *Zimmerius parvus*

Northern Bentbill *Oncostoma cinereigulare*

Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher (H) *Poecilatriccus sylvia*

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*

Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher (H) *Todirostrum nigriceps*

Eye-ringed Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus brevirostris*

Golden-crowned Spadebill *Platyrinchus coronatus*

Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus*

Dark Pewee (E) (H) *Contopus lugubris*

Northern Tropical Pewee *Contopus bogotensis*

Acadian Flycatcher *Empidonax vireescens*

Yellowish Flycatcher *Empidonax flavescens*

Black-capped Flycatcher *Empidonax atriceps*

Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus*

Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus*

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*

Panama Flycatcher *Myiarchus panamensis*

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 albobittatus*

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus*

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus*

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*

VIREOS, SHRIKE-BABLERS & ERPORNIS: VIREONIDAE

Mangrove Vireo *Vireo pallens*

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*

Yellow-winged Vireo (E) *Vireo carmioli*

Brown-capped Vireo *Vireo leucophrys*

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*

CROWS, JAYS, AND MAGPIES: CORVIDAE

Brown Jay *Psilorhinus morio*

SWALLOWS: HIRUNDINIDAE

Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea*

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

GNATCATCHERS: POLIOPTILIDAE

White-browed Gnatcatcher *Polioptila albiloris*

White-lored Gnatcatcher *Polioptila albiloris*

WRENS: TROGLODYTIDAE

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

Ochraceous Wren (E) *Troglodytes ochraceus*

Timberline Wren (E) *Thryorchilus browni*

Rufous-naped Wren *Campylorhynchus rufinucha*

Rufous-breasted Wren (H) *Pheugopedius rutilus*

Black-throated Wren (E) *Pheugopedius atrogularis*

Rufous-and-white Wren *Thryophilus rufalbus*

Cabanis's Wren *Cantorchilus modestus*

Canebrake Wren *Cantorchilus zeledoni*

Riverside Wren (E) *Cantorchilus semibadius*

Bay Wren (H) *Cantorchilus nigricapillus*

White-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucosticte*

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys*

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: MIMIDAE

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus*

THRUSHES AND ALLIES: TURDIDAE

Black-faced Solitaire (E) *Myadestes melanops*

Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush (E) *Catharus gracilirostris*

Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus aurantiirostris*

Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus fuscater*

Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus frantzii*

Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus mexicanus*

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*

Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina*

Sooty Thrush (Robin) (E) *Turdus nigrescens*

Mountain Thrush (Robin) *Turdus plebejus*

Clay-colored Thrush (Robin) *Turdus grayi*

SILKY-FLYCATCHERS: PTILOGONATIDAE

Black-and-yellow Silky-flycatcher (E) *Phainoptila melanoxantha*

Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher (E) *Ptilogonys caudatus*

WAXBILLS AND ALLIES: ESTRILDIDAE

Tricolored Munia (GO) *Lonchura malacca*

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: PASSERIDAE

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

SISKINS AND ALLIES: FRINGILLIDAE

Yellow-crowned Euphonia (E) *Euphonia luteicapilla*

Yellow-throated Euphonia (H) *Euphonia hirundinacea*

Elegant Euphonia *Euphonia elegantissima*

Olive-backed Euphonia *Euphonia gouldi*

White-vented Euphonia *Euphonia minuta*

Tawny-capped Euphonia (E) *Euphonia anae*

Golden-browed Chlorophonia (E) *Chlorophonia callophrys*

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: PASSERELLIDAE

Sooty-capped Chlorospingus (E) *Chlorospingus pileatus*

Common Chlorospingus *Chlorospingus flavopectus*

Stripe-headed Sparrow *Peucaea ruficauda*

Black-striped Sparrow *Arremonops conirostris*

Orange-billed Sparrow *Arremon aurantirostris*

Chestnut-capped Brushfinch *Arremon brunneinucha*

Volcano Junco (E) *Junco vulcani*

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*

Large-footed Finch (E) *Pezopetes capitalis*

White-eared Ground-Sparrow *Melospiza leucotis*

Yellow-thighed Brushfinch (E) *Pselliophorus tibialis*

WRENTHRUSH: ZELEDONIIDAE

Wrenthrush (Zeledonia) (E) *Zeledonia coronata*

TROUPIALS AND ALLIES: ICTERIDAE

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*

Melodious Blackbird *Dives dives*

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*

Shiny Cowbird (GO) *Molothrus bonariensis*

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus*

Black-cowled Oriole *Icterus prothemelas*

Spot-breasted Oriole *Icterus pectoralis*

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*

Scarlet-rumped Cacique *Cacicus uropygialis*

Chestnut-headed Oropendola *Psarocolius wagleri*

Montezuma Oropendola *Psarocolius Montezuma*

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla*

Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla*

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis*

Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*
Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*
Flame-throated Warbler (E) *Oreothlypis gutturalis*
Tennessee Warbler *Oreothlypis peregrina*
Gray-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis poliocephala*
Mourning Warbler *Geothlypis Philadelphia*
American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*
Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca*
Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia*
Yellow (Mangrove) Warbler *Setophaga petechia bryanti*
Chestnut-sided Warbler *Setophaga pensylvanica*
Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens*
Chestnut-capped Warbler *Basileuterus delatirii*
Black-cheeked Warbler (E) *Basileuterus melanogenys*
Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*
Costa Rican Warbler (E) *Basileuterus melanotis*
Buff-rumped Warbler *Myiothlypis fulvicauda*
Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*
Slate-throated Redstart (Whitestart) *Myioborus miniatus*
Collared Redstart (Whitestart) (E) *Myioborus torquatus*
GROSBEAKS AND ALLIES: CARDINALIDAE
Hepatic Tanager (H) *Piranga flava*
Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*
Flame-colored Tanager *Piranga bidentata*
Red-crowned Ant-Tanager *Habia rubica*
Red-throated Ant-Tanager *Habia fuscicauda*
Black-faced Grosbeak *Caryothraustes poliogaster*
Black-thighed Grosbeak (E) *Pheucticus tibialis*
Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea*
TANAGERS AND ALLIES: THRAUPIDAE
Gray-headed Tanager *Eucometis penicillate*
White-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus luctuosus*
Crimson-collared Tanager *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*
Scarlet-rumped (Passerini's) Tanager *Ramphocelus passerinii passerinii*
Scarlet-rumped (Cherrie's) Tanager (E) *Ramphocelus passerinii costaricensis*
Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*
Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*
Golden-hooded Tanager *Tangara larvata*
Spangle-cheeked Tanager (E) *Tangara dowii*
Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola*
Silver-throated Tanager *Tangara icterocephala*
Scarlet-thighed Dacnis *Dacnis venusta*
Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana*
Shining Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes lucidus*
Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus*
Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza*
Slaty Flowerpiercer (E) *Diglossa plumbea*
Peg-billed Finch (E) (GO) *Acanthidops bairdi*

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*
Variable Seedeater (Caribbean) *Sporophila corvina corvina*
Morelet's (White-collared) Seedeater *Sporophila moreletii*
Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*
Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus*
Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus*
Cinnamon-bellied Saltator *Saltator grandis*

MAMMALS

Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth *Choloepus hoffmanni*
Northern Ghost Bat *Diclidurus albus*
Tent-making Bat *Uroderma bilobatum*
White Tent Bat *Ectophylla alba*
White-throated Capuchin Monkey *Cebus capucinus*
Mantled Howler Monkey *Alouatta palliata*
Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis*
Variegated Squirrel *Sciurus variegatoides*
Mexican (Dwarf) Hairy Porcupine *Coendou mexicanus*
Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata*
Northern (Common) Raccoon *Procyon lotor*
White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica*
Collared Peccary *Tayassu tajacu*
Red Brocket Deer *Mazama americana*

SOME OF THE OTHER WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERED

Marine Toad *Rhinella (Bufo) marina*
Red-eyed Leaf Frog (Treefrog) *Agalychnis callidryas*
Strawberry Poison Frog *Oophaga (Dendrobates) pumilio*
Striped Basilisk *Basiliscus vittatus*
Delicate Whiptail (Reticulated Ameiva) *Holcosus leptophrys*
Common Spiny-tailed Iguana (Ctenosaur) *Ctenosaura similis*
Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*
Green Spiny Lizard *Sceloporus malachiticus*
Common House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*
Banded Blunt-headed Vine Snake *Imantodes gemmistratus*
Side-striped Palm-Pitviper *Bothriechis lateralis*
Spectacled Caiman *Caiman crocodilus*
American Crocodile *Crocodylus acutus*
Common/Peleides (Blue) Morpho *Morpho peleides*
Leafcutter Ant *Atta cephalotes*