



A **Tropical Birding** Set Departure tour

## Costa Rica: The Introtour

**15<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023**



**8 different owls** were seen on our first morning, **THREE Spectacled Owls**, **FOUR Crested Owls** and a **SINGLE Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl!**  
(*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 unless otherwise indicated.*

**INTRODUCTION:**

This excellent tour was like a showcase of the very best in Costa Rican birding, visiting many of the main regions of the country, including the Caribbean Lowlands, the Pacific Lowlands and two different mountain areas, including the world-famous cloud forests of Monteverde. We spent two nights in each of these, staying in excellent locations with tremendous birding right on the grounds in all of them. We started out in the Central Valley, staying in Alajuela, close to San Jose's international airport, where **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** and **Spot-breasted Oriole** were seen in the garden during our first morning. Next on the same morning came "Donde Cope" on the Caribbean side of the mountains to the north of there, where we saw a further seven individual owls of two species, (**Crested Owl** and **Spectacled Owl**). Then we moved into the Caribbean Lowlands for two nights at the legendary La Selva Biological Station, via a **Fasciated Tiger-Heron** on the way there (photo below). At La Selva, highlights were many, from **Strawberry Poison Frog** and **two-toed sloth** to **two species of motmot and macaw** (including the endangered **Great Green Macaw**), **three species of trogon and toucan** (including **Keel-billed Toucan**), **Snowy Cotinga**, an extremely confiding **Great Curassow**, and a boisterous party of **Purple-throated Fruitcrows**.



**Fasciated Tiger-heron** was found on the drive to La Selva, during the first afternoon in the Caribbean Lowlands (Sam Woods).

The next area was in sharp contrast to the sweaty Caribbean Lowlands, as we moved into the Upper Mountains Region in Savegre. The standout bird there was, of course, the unforgettable **Resplendent Quetzal** but there was plenty more besides, including **Collared Redstart**, **Flame-throated Warbler**, **two species of silky-flycatcher**, two groups of **Spotted Wood-Quail**, **Spangle-cheeked Tanagers**, and **Volcano Junco** at the highest point of the tour at Cerro del la Muerte (3200m/10,500ft), meaning "Hill of Death". There was also a nice assortment of hummingbirds, with **Talamanca**, **Fiery-throated** and **Volcano Hummingbirds**. After that, we returned to the humid lowlands, although this time on the Pacific side, around Carara National Park (sneaking in a male **Turquoise Cotinga** on the way there). Two visits to Carara and birding our wonderful nearby hotel yielded a lengthy birdlist, including **Scarlet Macaws**, **Orange-collared** and **Velvety Manakins**, **Baird's** and **Black-headed Trogons**, a nesting **Collared Forest-Falcon** and a total surprise in the form of a confiding **Marbled Wood-Quail**. However, arguably the most fun in this area was had on the boat trip along the Tarcoles River, where three species of kingfisher, the spectacular **Turquoise-browed Motmot**, **Boat-billed Heron**, and **Roseate Spoonbill** all featured along with the often-tricky **Mangrove Hummingbird**, a Costa Rican endemic. After that we spent a few hours in the dry country around Orotina for a taste of North Pacific birds, where two different **Pacific Screech-Owls**, **Striped** and **Lesser Ground Cuckoos** and a male Long-tailed Manakin all featured. Finally, came the Monteverde area with its network of wonderful reserves. We visited three of these, seeing a good selection of hummingbirds, including **Violet Sabrewing**, **Purple-throated Mountain-Gem** and **Coppery-headed Emerald**, the latter another country endemic. Also there, were **Collared Trogon**, the highly rated **White-eared Ground-Sparrow**, some extraordinarily tame **Lesson's Motmots** and **Northern Emerald-Toucanets** at our mountain lodge and our final **Resplendent Quetzal** to end the tour on the highest of high notes! Guide and clients alike, both felt they would like to return to Costa Rica soon at the close of the tour!

#### TOP TEN Birds-of-the-tour:

<b>1-Resplendent Quetzal</b>	<i>(Savegre, Monteverde)</i>
<b>2-Turquoise-browed Motmot</b>	<i>(Tarcoles, Orotina)</i>
<b>3-Golden-browed Chlorophonia</b>	<i>(Paraiso Quetzal, Monteverde)</i>
<b>4-Keel-billed Toucan</b>	<i>(La Selva)</i>
<b>5-Orange-collared Manakin</b>	<i>(Carara NP)</i>
<b>6-Spectacled Owl</b>	<i>(Donde Cope)</i>
<b>7-Crested Owl</b>	<i>(Donde Cope)</i>
<b>8-Violet Sabrewing</b>	<i>(Monteverde)</i>
<b>9=Fasciated Tiger-Heron - displaying</b>	<i>(Rio San Jose, Sarapiquí)</i>
<b>9=Charming Hummingbird - nesting</b>	<i>(Carara NP)</i>

**TOUR SUMMARY:**

Two **Russet-naped Wood-Rails** were foraging at the edge of a small pool during our first morning at *Donde Cope* (Sam Woods)

**Day 1 (of birding): 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Donde Cope & La Selva Biological Station.**

After this small group (only four people) met the evening before, on this day we undertook our first birding activity. One of the joys of this tour is that there are birds to see at each of the wonderful accommodations. Therefore, we started our birding on the doorstep of our hotel in *Alajuela*, where birds like **Spot-breasted Oriole**, **Crimson-fronted Parakeet**, **Hoffman's Woodpecker**, **Rufous-naped Wren**, **Red-billed Pigeon** and a **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** all featured during thirty minutes of pre-breakfast birding. After this brief period of birding in Costa Rica's *Central Valley*, we packed up and left for the *Caribbean* side of Costa Rica, to the north of where we had stayed close to *San Jose's* international airport. It took a few hours to get there, although once we arrived at *Donde Cope*, we immediately started seeing some good birds. A small pond held a **Snowy Egret** and a pair of **Russet-naped Wood-Rails** (photo above), and the only **Crimson-collared Tanager** of the tour threatened to come into the feeders but just stopped short of doing so. *Cope* guide us around his property and some nearby forest for several excellent hours to kickstart our tour in some style. Within the forest, we noted a dusky-gray male **Black-crowned Antshrike**, and *Cope* walked us up to **SEVEN different owls!** This comprised of a pair of **Spectacled Owls** (photo page 1), another single of the same species, and two different pairs of **Crested Owls** (photo page 6) roosting within a short walk of each other!

No less impressive were a small huddle of **White Tent Bats** hiding underneath a large leaf that *Cope* located with seemingly little effort. At the hummingbird feeders, **Long-billed and Stripe-throated Hermits**, **Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer**, **White-necked Jacobin**, **Scaly-breasted Hummingbird** and **Green-breasted Mango** all visited, in spite of the best efforts of an aggressive local **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** (*photo below*) to keep all other comers away. In between bouts of watching the feeders, our keen-eyed local driver called us out for two different bright white raptors, with first a soaring brace of **King Vultures**, and then a lone **White Hawk**. Other feeder birds included **Pale-vented Pigeon**, **Red-winged Blackbird**, **Red-legged Honeycreeper** and **Scarlet-rumped, Palm and Blue-gray Tanagers**. Other notable species that morning included **Northern Barred Woodcreeper** and a pair of handsome, unusually confiding, **Bay Wrens**. After a busy three hours on site, and seven owls later, lunchtime rolled around.

After lunch, we drove towards our base for the next two nights, *La Selva Biological Station*, an area of *Tropical Lowland Rainforest* situated within the *Caribbean Lowlands*. Before we arrived there, we made a strategic stop, driving alongside the *Rio San Jose* until we found what we were looking for, a **Fasciated Heron** standing sentry beside this rushing river (*photo page 2*).



This devilish **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** tried to chase all of the other visiting hummingbirds away from the feeders at *Donde Cope*, where SEVEN different species were in attendance (*Sam Woods*)



Two pairs of **Crested Owls** were seen within walking distance of each other on our first morning at *Donde Cope (Sam Woods)*.

Our final birding for the day was around *La Selva Biological Station*, which yielded plentiful marquee sightings. Not least several groups of macaws. We managed to get perched views of both the endangered **Great Green Macaw** and the spectacular **Scarlet Macaws**, which were to be seen again during our time in the *Pacific Lowlands* later on the tour. Other additions that afternoon, included the fruit loops bird, **Keel-billed Toucan**, **Scarlet-rumped Cacique**, a nesting **Slaty Spinetail**, **White-ringed Flycatcher**, **Black-cowled Oriole**, **Cinnamon-bellied Saltator**, **Golden-hooded Tanager**, **Scarlet-thighed and Blue Dacnis**, and two species of **Oropendola** (**Montezuma and Chestnut-headed**). We checked in to the rooms in the late afternoon, then made our way to dinner via a **Common Pauraque** in the early evening to bring us our final bird of a busy opening day.

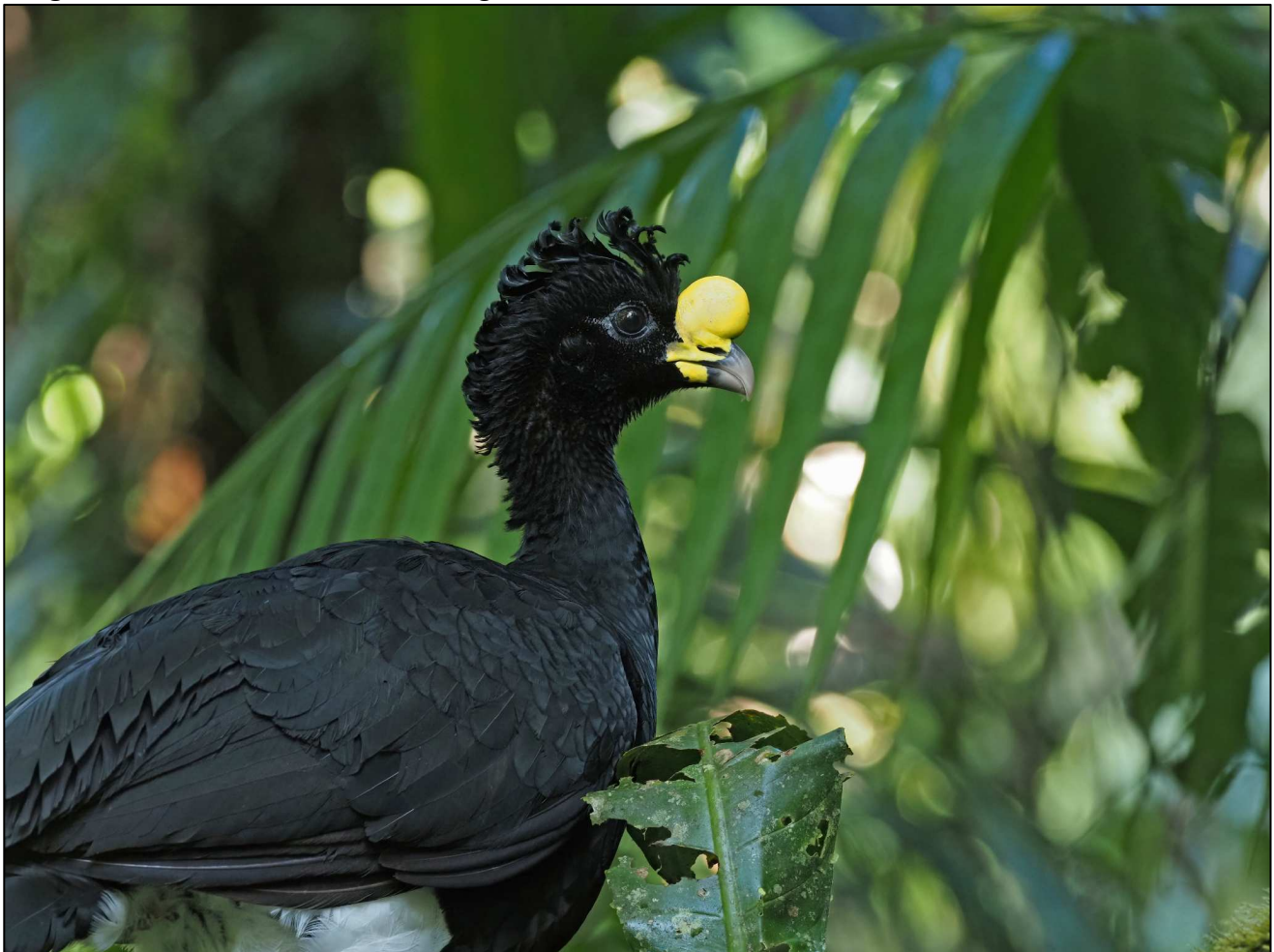
### Day 2 (of birding): 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – La Selva Biological Station.



The shrubbery around the dining room at *La Selva* is always busy with bird activity and this tour was no different, we saw this **Black-faced Grosbeak** there, and other birds like **Scarlet-rumped Tanager** also featured there (*Sam Woods*).

This tour was timed for the driest time of year in Costa Rica. However, the *Caribbean Lowlands* do not have a distinct dry season, and so we were expecting some rain there all the same. This proved to be the case on our full day there when rain came and went on and off all day long. In spite of this, we racked up a decent list of birds, as *La Selva* is an incredibly diverse area, with plentiful birds on offer.

The early morning featured a walk from our cabins to the nearby forest edge, where **Broad-billed Motmot**, **Gartered Trogon** and **Chestnut-colored Woodpecker** were the main highlights to take away. Moving to the dining room for breakfast, after this, we quickly picked up a female **Snowy Cotinga** sitting conspicuously in some leafless branches beside there. We took a tour with a talented, experienced local guide, *Joel*, after breakfast, where we needed to shelter from the rain on a regular basis. However, while taking cover we noted a troop of noisy, perched **Mealy Parrots** at one spot, and **Olive-backed Euphonias** and **Silver-throated Tanagers** at another. After one such rainy spell, a **Gray-headed Kite** was seen in an open treetop. However, some short walks were possible, between the heavier bouts of rain. These turned up a roosting **Middle American Screech-Owl**, a foraging **Great Tinamou**, and a **White-whiskered Puffbird**. This day featured no less than *three trogon species* (**Gartered**, **Black-throated** and **Slaty-tailed Trogons**), *two motmots* (**Broad-billed** and **Rufous Motmots**), and *three species of toucan* (**Collared Aracari**, and **Keel-billed** and **Yellow-throated Toucans**). During the morning, a pair of **Green Ibis** were seen uncharacteristically perched in the open, in a canopy beside the *Rio Puerto Viejo*, a river that also produced our first **Green Kingfisher** and **Bare-throated Tiger-Heron**. Our afternoon opened with two new raptors, first a **Gray Hawk**, then a magnificent **Laughing Falcon** on the hunt. Squalls of rain had us sheltering at times again, although one of these allowed us to see some perched **Brown-hooded Parrots** around the clearing where the sites research labs are located. Other noteworthy birds recorded on this busy day were **White-collared Manakin**, **Black-throated Wren** and **Masked Tityra**, and **Strawberry Poison Frog** also featured. The day closed with us looking for nightbirds around our accommodations, when a calling **Short-tailed Nighthawk** made a low, overhead flight.





We had truly unbeatable looks of a male **Great Curassow** that circled us at very close range, along a rainforest trail in *La Selva*. This species is extremely hard to see in many other countries in its range, where it is poorly protected, and widely hunted. (Sam Woods).

### Day 3 (of birding): 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – La Selva Biological Station to the Savegre Hotel.

Following a two-night stay in *La Selva*, we needed to move onwards and upwards on this day as we drove into the cloud forest-cloaked highlands. However, first we spent the entire morning on the grounds of *La Selva*, picking up some excellent new additions. First thing in the morning we added two other handsome *woodpeckers* near our cabins, with **Rufous-winged and Cinnamon Woodpeckers**. **Bright-rumped Attila** was new before breakfast too, as was **Pale-vented Thrush** when we also got repeats of **Slaty-tailed and Gartered Trogons**. It was another bumper crop of birds that morning with TWO species of *motmot* and THREE species of *toucan*. However, the headline bird was an exceptionally obliging male **Great Curassow** (photo page 8), which walked all around us, giving us every possible angle, and allowing extraordinary close-ups. Further along the same trail, which cuts through primary rainforest, we got our other major highlight, a vocal flock of **Purple-throated Fruitcrows**, with the males' purple-red throat shackles at full mast. Other last stanza highlights from *La Selva* included another **Great Tinamou**, **Striped-breasted and White-breasted Wood- Wrens**, a **Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth** skilfully found by *Patti*, **Red-capped Manakin**, **Rufous Mourner** and **Plain Xenops**. After lunch, much of the remainder of the day involved the long drive southeast to *San Gerardo de Dota* in the *Savegre Valley*. A short stop in cloud forest did bring us some highland birds, like **Volcano Hummingbird** and **Black-capped Flycatcher** before we wrapped up the day with a late afternoon arrival at the wonderful *Suenos del Bosque Lodge* ("Forest Dreams Lodge"), within the heart of "Quetzal Country".



Photo Page Before: **Black-and-yellow Silky-Flycatchers** were tame in the highlands at *Paraiso Quetzal Lodge* (Sam Woods)

Day 4 (of birding): 19<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Savegre Valley, Paraiso Quetzal Lodge & Cerro del la Muerte.



**Talamanca Hummingbirds** were very photogenic at *Paraiso Quetzal Lodge* (Sam Woods)

This was a busy, landmark day, as we packed in as many birds as possible by visiting multiple sites at different elevations in the highlands. We birded Oak-dominated *Cloud Forest* in the *Savegre Valley* and *Cerro de la Muerte*, and also visited *Shrubby Paramo*, above the treeline, at *Cerro Buenavista*, the highest point of the tour at some 3200m/10,500ft. It was a heady day, as we added THIRTY TWO new species during our first foray into the highlands. The area covered was in the most southerly of the three cordilleras in Costa Rica in the *Talamanca Mountains*, which spread into extreme *Western Panama*, and are home to many bird species that are confined to this mountain range. The first major addition of the day was one that we simply had to see, **Resplendent Quetzal**. As these are known to be most active around dawn, we visited an area of wild *avocado* trees just after first light in order to try and see this must-see species.

It was an extremely windy morning, which meant we did see a couple of them, but by no means got satisfactory looks and so vowed to return there the following dawn to rectify this, when we hoped the wind might have died down from the extraordinary levels encountered on this first highlands day. The **Long-tailed Silky-Flycatchers** in the same area were more cooperative and were also added before breakfast. The wind hampered our morning's birding, and we ended up doing better in the afternoon than morning. We visited *Paraiso Quetzal Lodge*, a higher elevation reserve, where we took lunch in between admiring the siege of hummingbirds at their frantic feeders. The most abundant species seemed to be the jaw-dropping **Fiery-throated Hummingbird**, although smaller numbers of **Volcano** and **Talamanca Hummingbirds** (*photo page before*), and **Lesser Violetears** were also present. The other feeders on the site lured in **Rufous-collared Sparrows**, **Large-footed Finches** and **Yellow-thighed Brushfinches**. An afternoon walk on an undulating forest trail cutting through the bromeliad-laden Cloud Forest yielded several showy **Black-and-yellow Silky-Flycatchers** (*photo page 9*), a pair of **Buffy Tuftedcheeks**, a **Spot-crowned Woodcreeper**, **Hairy Woodpecker**, and **Black-cheeked Warbler**. A stop at the highest site of the tour, *Cerro Buenavista* at a lofty 3200m/10,500f, was needed to pick up a **Volcano Junco**, which required a bit of a hike to find in extremely windy conditions. In the late afternoon we visited some feeders at a local café in the *Savegre Valley*, where **Sooty** and **Mountain Thrushes**, **Flame-colored Tanagers**, and **Acorn Woodpeckers** (*photo below*) were the most conspicuous birds present.



Photo Previous Page: The Oak-dominated Cloud Forest in the *Savegre Valley* is home to a healthy population of **Acorn Woodpeckers**

Day 5 (of birding): 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – *Savegre Valley* & *Perez Zeledon* to *Carara*.



Two different coveys of **Spotted Wood-Quail** were seen on our final morning in *Savegre*, including this one at our wonderful lodge, *Suenos del Bosque* (*Sam Woods*)

We spent the morning in the *Savegre Valley*, chasing yet more highland species, before we packed up and drove south into the *Pacific Lowlands*, making a stop in the *foothills* en-route. We started the day where we had the day before, at a “*Quetzal Viewpoint*” above our mountain lodge, with an expectant group of people all seeking one thing: decent views of a **Resplendent Quetzal**. This morning was more typical, with lower winds than the exceptional ones that we experienced the day before, and this resulted in a more typical result, great, long looks at a male quetzal to the delight of all. After breakfast, we explored the grounds of our hotel, where we found some **White-throated Mountain-Gems** plundering the gaudy orange flowers of the local marmalade plant. Better still came a little later, when *Sam* located a foraging covey of **Spotted Wood-Quail** (*photo above*), which eventually put on a good show to all, once we were all regathered after checking out of the lodge. Then we visited the start of a trail that leads to a local waterfall.

We did not have the time to go all the way to that water feature, but we did not need too for some birds we were after. We found a **Chestnut-capped Brushfinch** feeding on the leaf litter, found two **Vireos** in the form of **Brown-capped** and the endemic **Yellow-winged**. A good assortment of warblers were also encountered, including **Slate-throated** and **Collared Redstarts** (*photo below*), and **Wilson's**, **Black-throated Green**, **Golden-winged**, **Black-and-white**, and **Blackburnian Warblers** and a blockbuster **Flame-throated Warbler** singing at eye level. **Spot-crowned Woodcreeper** and **Ruddy Treerunner** also turned up there again too, while **Gray-breasted Wood-Wren** proved showier than usual there also. Our final stop in the *Savegre Valley* was at *Miriam's Restaurant*, where we took lunch with highland birds for company like **Talamanca Hummingbird**, **Flame-colored Tanager**, **Acorn Woodpecker**, and **Sooty Thrush**.



An hour or so walking along a trail in the *Savegre Valley* led to a series of warbler sightings, including this **Collared Redstart**, plus **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Golden-winged Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, **Wilson's Warbler**, **Slate-throated Redstart**, and blistering **Flame-throated Warbler** in full song! (Sam Woods)

After lunch we journeyed on, making a side journey into the Pacific foothills around *Perez Zeledon*, where it took all of fifteen minutes before *Bob* located our quarry, an electric-blue male **Turquoise Cotinga**, which remained in position so that we could all ogle him in the spotting scope. Our only record of **Black-crowned Tityra** also came from the same suburban neighbourhood. Not far from there, a short stop at a sewage treatment plant led to sightings of breeding **Least Grebes**, **Green Herons**, **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks**, and a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**. Continuing on to the lowlands of the *South Pacific*, we spent much of the afternoon driving there, pausing only briefly to look at **Roadside Hawk** and **Yellow-headed Caracara** on the journey.

**Day 6 (of birding): 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023 – Hotel Villa Lapas, Carara National Park & Private Tarcoles Boat Cruise.**



Seeing a **Marbled Wood-Quail** in *Carara National Park* came as a total shock, being a first for the tour (*Sam Woods*)

This day was arguably the best of the entire tour, with nearly 100 species recorded by combining time on jungle trails inside *Carara National Park* with a private afternoon boat cruise on the *Rio Tarcoles*, and some productive time around our lodging too sandwiched around these. The day's birding started at 6am, with a brief period of pre-breakfast birding around our sprawling hotel grounds.

This produced males of both **Black-headed Trogon** and **Black-hooded Antshrike**. Our walk inside the national park started brightly with a small party of **Riverside Wrens** and a statuesque **Collared Forest-Falcon** perched near its nest. Things then slowed down for a while, as they often do in tropical forests, though we eked out some great birds from the morning. This included a brace of new hummingbirds with a **Blue-throated Goldentail** and a nesting **Charming Hummingbird** found by *Patti*, which charmed us all. Some flock activity here and there led us to find **Russet Antshrike**, **Bay-headed** and **White-shouldered Tanagers**. The scarce Long-tailed Woodcreeper was also found too, although the scarcest bird seen that morning was a marvellous **Marbled Wood-Quail** (*photo previous page*) that *Patti* stumbled into, and which remained in view of some time! *Totally* unexpected. We tried very hard to locate an orange-breasted male **Baird's Trogon**, finally finding one just before lunchtime as we were heading out along the same trail. Several **Spinytail Iguanas** also featured inside the park. During lunch at our resort we were treated to a pair of **Fiery-billed Aracaris** turning up right beside the restaurant, before we took a short break before our afternoon boat ride.

We drove the short distance (15-minute drive) to *Tarcoles* to take a 3-hour boat ride along the river of the same name. Before we got on the boat though. A marquee bird was pointed out by our excellent boatman, *Juan Carlos*, who gestured towards a spectacular bird beside the dock: **Turquoise-browed Motmot** (*photo next page*). Once on board we were soon seeing the first of a dozen or so **Common Black Hawks** (*photo below*) that were seen along the main river and along a tributary into the mangroves. Other raptors that were observed during this awesome experience were **Plumbeous Kite**, **Collared Forest-Falcon**, and **Crested and Yellow-headed Caracaras**.





**Photo This Page:** Turquoise-browed Motmot beside the dock at Tarcoles provided a marvellous opening to our boat trip.  
**Photo Previous Page:** Common Black Hawk in the mangroves during our private boat cruise (Sam Woods)



Not far from the dock we saw a pair of cryptic **Double-striped Thick-knees** sitting on the riverbank. During the trip we racked up an incredible **TEN SPECIES OF HERONS**, including **Bare-throated Tiger-Heron**, **Little Blue Heron**, **Tricolored Heron**, **Yellow-crowned** and **Black-crowned Night-Herons**, an unexpected **Reddish Egret**, and a hard-to-find **Boat-billed Heron** that took two attempts to find, roosting in an area of dense mangrove growth, which *Ricardo* expertly found. We spent quite a bit of time along a channel that cuts through the mangroves, which are mature and wonderfully tall in this area. This brought us a series of specialties of this habitat, like a **Mangrove Hummingbird** seen feeding on some ivory *tea mangrove* flowers, a few red-hooded male "**Mangrove**" **Yellow Warblers**, an initially difficult to pin down **Mangrove Vireo**, and a few **Prothonotary Warblers** that call this habitat their wintering home. A **Rufous-browed Peppershrike**, a very popular pair of **Lineated Woodpeckers**, and a handful of **Roseate Spoonbills** were also seen within these towering mangroves. *Parrots* were also a feature of this cruise, as **Scarlet Macaws** regularly crossed the skies and river as they went to roost in the mangroves, while several **Yellow-naped Parrots** were seen feeding while draped in the gorgeous late afternoon sun. Around a hundred **Magnificent Frigatebirds** graced the skies during the trip, and, late on, a few small groups of wild **Muscovy Ducks** were seen too. The finale was provided by a large group of hawking **Lesser Nighthawks** as the skies darkened slightly, which was found to involve a minimum 70 different birds! After dinner in the evening, after we took advantage of our unlimited alcohol hotel bracelets, we spotted a few frogs outside the dining room, including **Red-eyed Treefrog** and **Hourglass Treefrog** to wrap up a magnificent day.



Photo Previous Page: **Stripe-headed Sparrow** in dry country near *Orotina* (Sam Woods)

Photo Below: Our second **Pacific Screech-Owl** near *Orotina* (Sam Woods)

Day 7 (of birding): 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 – Carara National Park to Monteverde via Orotina.



This day was only marginally less productive than the one before! We started out with an extended walk in our massive hotel grounds, continued with another trip into *Carara National Park* but this time visiting a very different trail into secondary forest, and then finished with a trip into drier country near *Orotina*. After that we drove on to *Monteverde*, arriving in the evening. Our walk within the grounds of the *Hotel Villa Lapas* was amazing. We started out with a **Buff-rumped Warbler** singing from an exposed perch, then a cerulean-capped male **Velvety Manakin** (a recent split from *Blue-crowned Manakin*). Not long after a group of four **Pale-billed Woodpeckers** appeared inside a large forest tree across the other side of the river, an area that also brought us a second new *woodpecker*, in the form of a black-masked **Golden-naped Woodpecker**. Moving deeper into the forest we were frustrated by a calling *Chiriqui Foliage-Gleaner* that would not reveal itself, although the same could not be said of a **Rufous-tailed Jacamar** that lingered in our spotting scope for some time. Several **Gray-chested Doves** were seen languidly walling along the forest trail too. The final major sighting there was a **Black-faced Antthrush** with its characteristic, chicken-like gait.

The hotel is named “*Lapas*”, which means *macaw*, and so suitably, we also had some flyover **Scarlet Macaws** too, before breakfast and a departure for the nearby *Carara National Park*. On this occasion we birded the famed “*Laguna Meandrica Trail*”, which passed through very birdy secondary forest. Not long after we entered the trail, we located a pair of calling **Barred Antshrikes** climbing a forest vine tangle. **Rufous-breasted Wren** followed soon after, as did **Dot-winged Antwren**. This rich spell also featured sightings of two diminutive species close to each other, in the form of the odd **Northern Bentbill** and secretive **Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher**. Two new woodcreepers were found along the trail too, with the smallest of them all, **Wedge-billed Woodcreeper**, and the uniform-colored **Tawny-winged Woodcreeper**. Other notable mentions for the morning go to a troop of **White-throated Capuchin Monkeys**, more **Black-hooded Antshrikes** and **Dusky Antbirds**, and a late show from a **Rufous Piha**. However, the standout bird came late morning, when we visited an active lek site of the **Orange-collared Manakin**, where a pair of gaudy males were seen perched alongside each other, where they remained for fully ten minutes or more!



A family of **Double-striped Thick-knees** were seen in some dry country farmland near *Orotina* (*Sam Woods*)

We returned to the *Hotel Villa Lapas* for another substantial buffet spread, before departing for nearby *Orotina*, where we spent much of the afternoon with local guide *Alvaro* on his home turf. Before we reached there though we stopped at a bridge in *Tarcoles* to look down on a gathering of **American Crocodiles** below (*photo below*). We started off brightly as we watched a singing **Striped Cuckoo** after a walk through a grove of mango trees. Our first overtures to get **Long-tailed Manakin** fell on deaf ears, but we got a male at the second attempt, which helpfully remained in place long enough for us to train the 'scope on it for extreme close ups! Next was the first of two different **Pacific Screech-Owls** (*photo page 18*) seen peeking out from their nesting cavities. The same area also brought us our only **Rose-throated Becard** and **Yellow-olive Flycatcher** of the tour. Next up was an impressive showing from some **Stripe-headed Sparrows** (*photo page 17*), in an area that also held **Harris's Hawk**, **Blue Grosbeak** and **Dickcissel**. Our last major stop in the area was for the much-wanted **Lesser Ground-Cuckoo**. It took its merry time to come in, but finally we managed to get prolonged 'scope views when its impressive blue "eye makeup" could be seen! Other new additions that afternoon included **American Kestrel**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **Orange-fronted Parakeet** that blasted past us, and **Eastern Meadowlark**. A late spell of additions featured first a **Streak-backed Oriole**, followed by some **White-fronted Parrots** frolicking around *Alvaro's* house shortly before departure! We also saw plenty more **Turquoise-browed Motmots**, and a family of **Double-striped Thick-knees** (*photo page before*), which included a *chick* that went flat to the ground as we passed close by in the bus. This area held a lot of new birds for us, providing us a quick sample of birds typical of the dry *North Pacific* region of Costa Rica, which otherwise did not feature on this trip. We only spent a few hours there, although we added an amazing EIGHTEEN new bird species in the process! We arrived at *Monteverde* in the evening and ate in a wonderful local restaurant close to our small, family-run mountain lodge.

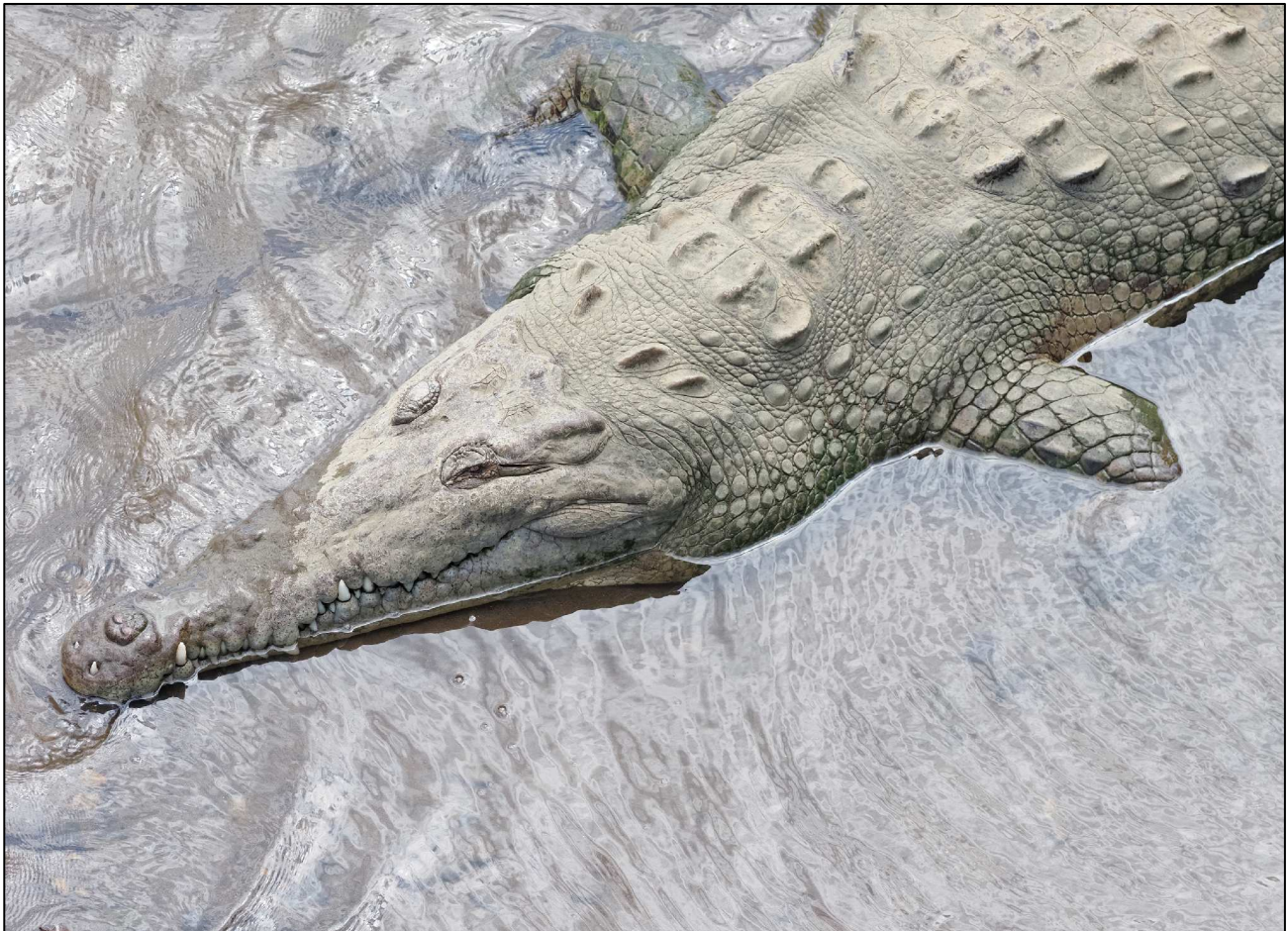
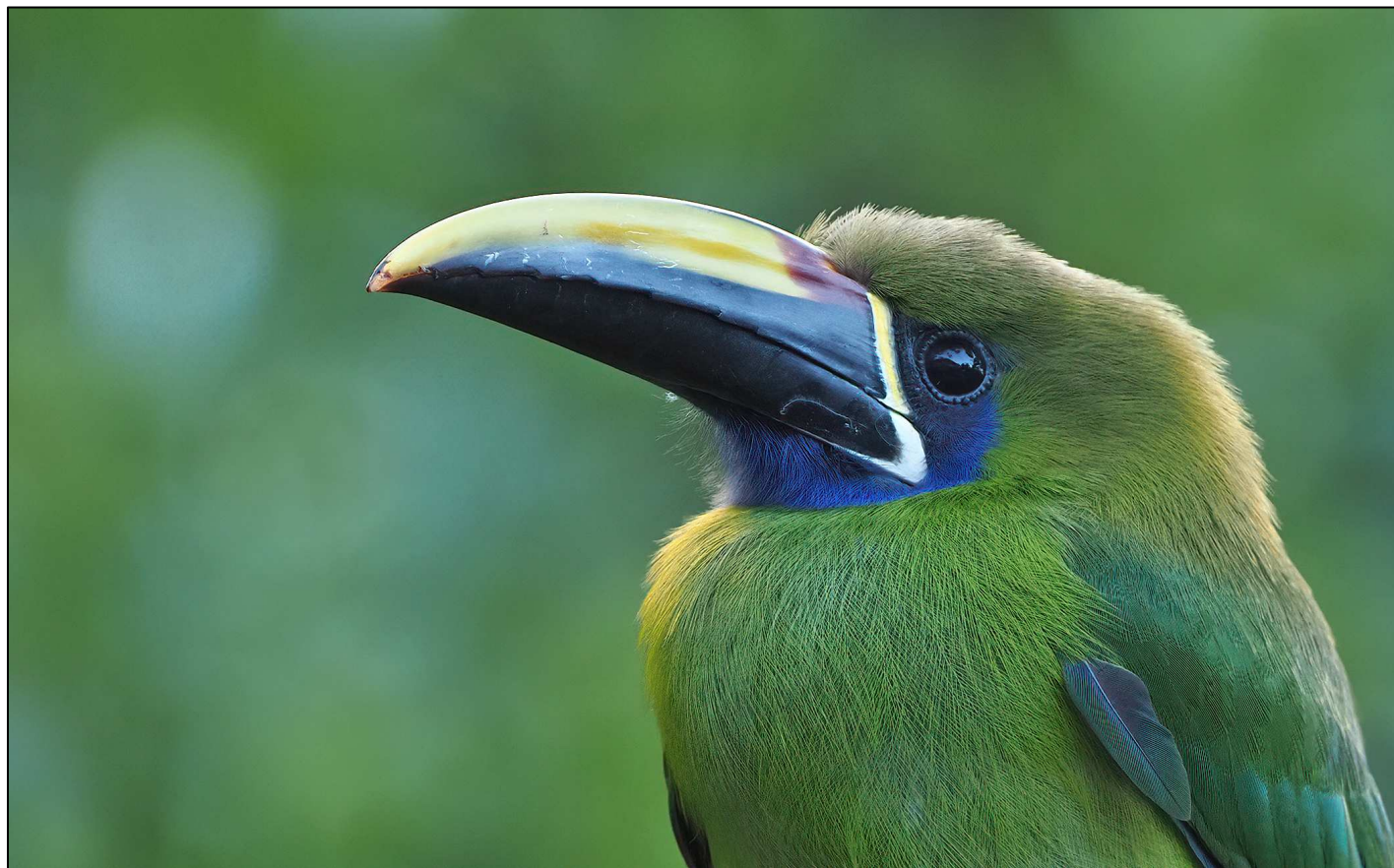


Photo Previous Page: A “float” of **American Crocodiles** was seen from a famous bridge for this in *Tarcoles* (Sam Woods)

Day 8 (of birding): 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 – Monteverde (Cala Lodge, Santa Elena, Monteverde & Ecological Sanctuary)



Cala Lodge in Monteverde hosted a pair of confiding **Northern Emerald-Toucanets** (Sam Woods)

Sam had visited a very windy *Monteverde* just a few weeks before, and so was relieved to see it relatively wind free when we took a short tour around the garden of Cala Lodge at 6am, prior to our 6:30am breakfast. This resulted in us finding several of the new species we were seeking, like **Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush**, **White-throated Thrush**, **Chestnut-capped Warbler**, **Rufous-and-white Wren**, and a pair of **White-eared Sparrows**, which caught Rich completely off-guard, as he was expecting a drab bird, and not this striking highland species. The lodge side feeders were productive during breakfast, hosting a pair of **Northern Emerald-Toucanets** (photo above) and a trio of **Lesson's Motmots**, all at point blank range. After breakfast we loaded up and drove 30 minutes up to *Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve*, a little higher than the lodge, and within a much wetter environment. The day was quite calm, and sunny for long periods, which allowed us to amass an impressive list of birds; some **28 new bird species** featured during this day alone. As we walked the cloud forest trails we encountered first a **Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush**, then a **Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush** hopping on the trails. Some spritely **Costa Rican Warblers** were also found by the trailhead.

Not long up the trail we also found our only **Tufted Flycatcher** and **Barred Becard** of the tour and a tame **Black Guan** perched right beside the trail. It did not take too long for us to find one of our most wanted birds of the morning, with a duetting pair of **Prong-billed Barbets** heard, one of which broke canopy over several times to give us views. We also had an experience with a **Silvery-fronted Tapaculo**, initially ghosting in and out with most of us barely getting a glimpse. However, with further effort, the same bird gave uncharacteristically good views for a *tapaculo*. Further on, we ran into a mixed feeding flock with **Red-faced Spinetail** and then a **Spotted Woodcreeper** among the attendees, most of which disappeared before we could get a look at them. Continuing on, we descended a trail where, during a particularly quiet spell, *Bob* noticed a large yellow bird perched overhead, which turned out to be the scarce **Golden-bellied Flycatcher**. Further on a **Black-faced Solitaire**



showed to all and an **Eye-ringed Flatbill** showed up too. We closed out the morning viewing a sleeping, emerald-green, **Side-striped Pitviper** following a tip-off from other visiting groups.

After a lunch in this quiet cloud forest reserve, we swapped it for a busier one, the main reserve at *Monteverde* of worldwide fame. Our main reason for going there was to witness the *Hummingbird Gallery*, which offered up no less than six new hummingbird species. The most abundant

ones there were **Green-crowned Brilliants**, with **Violet Sabrewings** less numerous but almost as conspicuous, by virtue of their large size and striking coloration. Other newbies there were **Purple-throated Mountain-Gem** (*photo above*), **Magenta-throated Woodstar**, **Stripe-tailed Hummingbird**, and, after a wait, a single **Green Hermit**. More **Lesser Violetears** were seen there too. Our afternoon visit to the *Ecological Sanctuary*, near our mountain lodge, was quite quiet, only revealing **Ovenbird**, **Golden-crowned Warbler** and **Olivaceous Woodcreeper** as new additions. On the way back to the lodge for an early finish, we made a short stop when a few **Gray-headed Chachalacas** crossed the road in front of us and were our only records of the tour. Back at the lodge, we made a quick check of the purple *Verbena* flowers, where *Rich* spotted what we were after, a **Blue-vented Hummingbird**. We again dined in a wonderful local restaurant in the town of *Santa Elena*, which has become something of an institution among *Tropical Birding* tours over the years!

Day 9 (of birding): 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Monteverde (Cala Lodge & Curi-Cancha)

**Brown Jays**, **Northern Emerald-Toucanets**, **Clay-colored Thrush** and **Lesson's Motmots** all visited the fruit feeders at *Cala Lodge in Monteverde (Sam Woods)*

We opened our final day's birding with some more birding around our small mountain lodge, finding a male **Collared Trogon** early on, but not much after that in windy conditions. However, the feeders were as good as ever with a procession of the "usual suspects". First on the table was a pair of **Northern Emerald-Toucanets**, which narrowly beat several **Lesson's Motmots** to the feast of *papaya* (photo page 26). Then, Costa Rica's national bird, the drab **Clay-colored Thrush** dropped in too, before being kicked out by some visiting **Brown Jays** (photo above). Following a good breakfast spread alongside this avian action, we loaded up our bags and headed off for our final montane birding of the tour, with a visit to nearby *Curi-Cancha Reserve*. This has become a favoured hang out for local guides, who dislike the crowds of the main reserve. It also offers some birds that are arguably easier at *Curi-Cancha* too. After checking in, with a decent gathering of birders present, we surveyed the floral displays around the visitor center, where hummingbirds were buzzing around the violet *Verbena* flowers (a.k.a. "Porterweed"). Among them was a country endemic, **Coppery-headed Emerald**, which was new to us.

Near the parking lot, we heard the distinctive high-pitched warble of a **Cabanis's Wren**, and so went in successful pursuit of that shortly after. The weather had deteriorated from that which we had experienced the day before. The winds had picked up and squalls of light showers swept through, throughout the morning! However, the showers were light and interspersed with sunny periods and so we managed to spend the entire morning out on the trails and rest areas of *Curi-Cancha* without getting overly soaked! Sam was keen to find a *Gray-throated Leaf-tosser*, as he was yet to miss this species in many visits to the reserve. On the way there we stopped in on the rest area to check for any action there, and were treated to a singing male **Yellow-faced Grassquit** (*photo below*) singing in the rain...



A male **Yellow-faced Grassquit** was seen in a clearing within *Monteverde's Curi-Cancha Reserve* (Sam Woods)

On trying some spots, including where he had seen it recently, he was dismayed to find no sign of the *leaf-tosser* in the adverse conditions, and he feared this might be his first *dip* on it (*dip*=miss). We busied ourselves with other avian activities, finding a **Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush** foraging on the dark forest floor under a fallen log and a flock had us scrutinizing its contents, which held a **Lineated Foliage-Gleaner**, **Streak-breasted Treehunter** and a dusky male **Slaty Antwren**. A clearing hosted a small party of **Crested Guans** foraging on the ground, and then, we hit the jackpot, when a **Gray-throated Leaf-tosser** answered our calls, and was tracked down to a fallen log where it boisterously replied to its call with the vigour that only a leaf-tosser possesses!



While daubed in drab colours of grays and browns, this bird's appeal is its shape, it is a rotund bird with a potbelly and short tail and has a great name to boot! We also upgraded our views of **Slate-throated Redstart** (*photo below*) in the reserve with several spriteliness birds foraging at very low levels around us.



This **Slate-throated Redstart** gave an excellent showing at *Monteverde's Curi-Cancha Reserve* in between watching some **Golden-browed Chlorophonias** in the clearing there (*Sam Woods*)

We spent much of our remaining time in the morning around the "Rest Area"/clearing, in pursuit of some other species. Notably, this is the best local spot for *chlorophonias* and *euphonias*, as several trees have parasitic *mistletoe* covering their upper branches, which they love to forage inside. Sure enough, following a long wait, we got some cracking looks at a pulchritudinous male **Golden-browed Chlorophonia** as it sang from one such clump of mistletoe. *Bob* and *Patti* also located a pair of gorgeous **Elegant Euphonias** in another batch. The same rest area also hosted the first **Yellowish Flycatcher** to be seen by all of the group, and the most confiding **Mistletoe Tyrannulet** of the tour. Meanwhile, the flowers alongside regularly attracted **Purple-throated Mountain-Gems** and **Lesser Violetears**. As lunchtime rapidly approached, we headed back towards the bus, but were waylaid with the news that a large, wild, *avocado* tree was hosting a male **Resplendent Quetzal**, which we enjoyed shortly after and was a wonderful and fitting way to end the birding on the tour.

We took lunch below *Monteverde* on the journey back towards *San Jose* and our hotel in nearby *Alajuela*. The afternoon was largely taken up with the drive back to civilisation, when we checked back into our starting hotel again at around 5:15pm, with plenty of time to reorganise and repack before our final, farewell dinner. During dinner the highs and lows of the trip were discussed, and a *Top Ten Birds of the Tour* were revealed, which was tough work, considering we had recorded some 370+ bird species, with a heady assortment of spectacular species among them (see page three for the results of this). It was somehow fitting then that the bird of the trip was also one of the species seen on the trip, the indomitable **Resplendent Quetzal!**



*Cala Lodge in Monteverde* was home to some very obliging **Lesson's Motmots** (*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*

**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**

Marbled Wood-Quail *Odontophorus gujanensis*

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* (GO)

Short-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas nigrirostris*

Inca Dove *Columbina inca*

Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerine*

Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti*

Blue Ground-Dove *Claravis pretiosa*

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*

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*

POTOOS: NYCTIBIIDAE

Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus* (H)

SWIFTS: APODIDAE

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*

Gray-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris*

HUMMINGBIRDS: TROCHILIDAE

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga Mellivora*

Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy*

Long-billed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris*

Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis*

Lesser Violetear *Colibri cyanotus*

Green-breasted Mango *Anthracothorax prevostii*

Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula*

Talamanca Hummingbird (E) *Eugenes spectabilis*

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 urochrysia*

Stripe-tailed Hummingbird *Eupherusa eximia*

Coppery-headed Emerald (E) *Elvira cupreiceps*

Blue-chested Hummingbird *Amazilia amabilis*

Charming Hummingbird *Polyerata decora* (E)

Mangrove Hummingbird (E) *Amazilia boucardi*

Blue-vented Hummingbird *Saucerottia hoffmanni*

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl*

Cinnamon Hummingbird *Amazilia rutila*

Blue-throated Goldentail *Hylocharis eliciae*

RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS: RALLIDAE

White-throated Crake *Laterallus albigularis* (H)

Russet-naped Wood-Rail *Aramides albiventris*

THICK-KNEES: BURHINIDAE

Double-striped Thick-knee *Burhinus bistriatus*

STILTS & AVOCETS: RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: CHARADRIIDAE

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* (H)

SANDPIPERS: SCOLOPACIDAE

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Willet *Tringa semipalmata*

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

GULLS, TERNS, & SKIMMERS: LARIDAE

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla*

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*

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

Fasciated Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum*

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*

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius*

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: THRESKIORNITHIDAE

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*

Green Ibis *Mesembrinibis cayennensis* (H)

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, KITES: ACCIPITRIDAE

Gray-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis*

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea*

Common Black-Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus*

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris*

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

White Hawk *Pseudastur albicollis*

Gray Hawk *Buteo plagiatus*

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*

OWLS: STRIGIDAE

Pacific Screech-Owl *Megascops cooperi*

Middle American Screech-Owl *Megascops guatemalae*

Crested Owl *Lophotrix cristata*

Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata*

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

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*

Mottled Owl *Strix virgata* (H)

#### TROGONS: TROGONIDAE

Resplendent Quetzal *Pharomachrus mocinno*

Slaty-tailed Trogon *Trogon Massena*

Black-headed Trogon *Trogon melanocephalus*

**Baird's Trogon** *Trogon bairdii* (E)

Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus*

Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus*

Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris*

#### MOTMOTS: MOMOTIDAE

Lesson's Motmot *Momotus lessonii*

Rufous Motmot *Baryphthengus martii*

Broad-billed Motmot *Electron platyrhynchum*

Turquoise-browed Motmot *Eumomota superciliosa*

#### KINGFISHERS: ALCEDINIDAE

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*

#### PUFFBIRDS: BUCCONIDAE

White-necked Puffbird *Notharchus hyperrhynchus* (H)

White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis*

#### JACAMARS: GALBULIDAE

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda*

#### TOUCANS-BARBETS: SEMNORNITHIDAE

**Prong-billed Barbet** *Semnornis frantzii* (E)

#### TOUCANS: RAMPHASTIDAE

Northern Emerald-Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus prasinus maxillaris*

Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus torquatus*

**Fiery-billed Aracari** *Pteroglossus frantzii* (E)

Yellow-throated Toucan *Ramphastos ambiguus swainsonii*

Keel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos sulfuratus*

#### WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus*

**Golden-naped Woodpecker** *Melanerpes chrysauchen* (E)

Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani*

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

**Hoffmann's Woodpecker** *Melanerpes hoffmannii* (E)

Hairy Woodpecker *Dryobates villosus*

**Rufous-winged Woodpecker** (E) *Piculus simplex*

Cinnamon Woodpecker *Celeus loricatus*

Chestnut-colored Woodpecker *Celeus castaneus*

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*

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*

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

**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** *Pyrrhura hoffmanni* (E)

Olive-throated Parakeet *Eupsittula nana*

Orange-fronted Parakeet *Eupsittula canicularis*

Great Green Macaw *Ara ambiguous*

Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao*

**Crimson-fronted Parakeet** *Psittacara finschi* (E)

**TYPICAL ANTIBIRDS: THAMNOPHILIDAE**

Fasciated Antshrike *Cymbilaimus lineatus* (H)

Great Antshrike *Taraba major* (H)

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus*

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

**Black-hooded Antshrike** *Thamnophilus bridgesi* (E)

Russet Antshrike *Thamnistes anabatinus*

Slaty Antwren *Myrmotherula schisticolor*

Dot-winged Antwren *Microrhopias quixensis*

Dusky Antbird *Cercomacra tyrannina*

Chestnut-backed Antbird *Poliocrania exsul*

**TAPACULOS: RHINOCRYPTIDAE**

**Silvery-fronted Tapaculo** *Scytalopus argentifrons* (E)

**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*

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*

Northern Barred-Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*

Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans*

Spotted Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*

Spot-crowned Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes affinis*

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus*

Buffy Tuftedcheek *Pseudocolaptes lawrencii*  
Lineated Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla subalaris*  
Chiriqui Foliage-Gleaner *Automolus exsertus* (H)  
**Streak-breasted Treehunter** *Thripadectes rufobrunneus* (E)  
Spotted Barbtail *Premnoplex brunnescens* (H)  
**Ruddy Treerunner** *Margarornis rubiginosus* (E)  
Red-faced Spinetail *Cranioleuca erythroptis*  
Slaty Spinetail *Synallaxis brachyura*  
**MANAKINS: PIPRIDAE**  
Long-tailed Manakin *Chiroxiphia linearis*  
Velvety Manakin *Lepidothrix velutina*  
White-collared Manakin *Manacus candei*  
**Orange-collared Manakin** *Manacus aurantiacus* (E)  
Red-capped Manakin *Ceratopira mentalis*  
**COTINGAS: COTINGIDAE**  
Purple-throated Fruitcrow *Querula purpurata*  
**Turquoise Cotinga** *Cotinga ridgwayi* (E)  
Rufous Piha *Lipaugus unirufus*  
**Snowy Cotinga** *Carpodectes nitidus* (E)  
**TITYRAS AND ALLIES: TITYRIDAE**  
Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor*  
Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*  
Barred Becard *Pachyramphus versicolor*  
Cinnamon Becard *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*  
Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae*  
**SHARPBILL, ROYAL FLY., & ALLIES: OXYRUNCIDAE**  
Royal Flycatcher *Onychorhynchus coronatus* (H)  
Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher *Myiobius sulphureipygius* (GO)  
**TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE**  
Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata*  
Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*  
Mountain Elaenia *Elaenia frantzii*  
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleaginous*  
Mistletoe (Paltry) Tyrannulet *Zimmerius parvus*  
Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant *Myiornis atricapillus* (H)  
Northern Bentbill *Oncostoma cinereigulare*  
Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilatriccus sylvia*  
Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*  
Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum nigriceps* (H)  
Eye-ringed Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus brevirostris*  
White-throated Spadebill *Platyrinchus mystaceus* (GO)  
Golden-crowned Spadebill *Platyrinchus coronatus* (H)  
Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus*  
Northern Tropical Pewee *Contopus bogotensis*  
Acadian Flycatcher *Empidonax virescens*  
Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus*  
Yellowish Flycatcher *Empidonax flavescens*  
Black-capped Flycatcher *Empidonax atriceps*



Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus*  
Rufous Mourner *Rhytipterna holerythra*  
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 albobittatus*  
Golden-bellied Flycatcher *Myiodynastes hemichrysus*  
Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus*  
Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus*  
Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*  
Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana*

#### VIREOS, SHRIKE-BABBLERS & ERPORNIS: VIREONIDAE

Mangrove Vireo *Vireo pallens*  
Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* (GO)  
Yellow-winged Vireo *Vireo carmioli* (E)  
Brown-capped Vireo *Vireo leucophrys*  
Yellow-green Vireo *Vireo flavoviridis*  
Lesser Greenlet *Pachysylvia decurtata*  
Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*

#### CROWS, JAYS, AND MAGPIES: CORVIDAE

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*

#### GNATCATCHERS: POLIOPTILIDAE

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus*

#### WRENS: TROGLODYTIDAE

Scaly-breasted Wren *Microcerculus marginatus* (H)  
House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*  
Ochraceous Wren *Troglodytes ochraceus* (E)  
Rufous-naped Wren *Campylorhynchus rufinucha*  
Black-bellied Wren *Pheugopedius fasciatoventris*  
Rufous-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius rutilus*  
Black-throated Wren *Pheugopedius atrogularis* (E)  
Rufous-and-white Wren *Thryophilus rufalbus*  
Stripe-breasted Wren *Cantorchilus thoracicus* (E)  
Cabanis's Wren *Cantorchilus modestus*  
Riverside Wren *Cantorchilus semibadius* (E)  
Bay Wren *Cantorchilus nigricapillus*  
White-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucosticta*  
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys*

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: MIMIDAE

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus*

THRUSHES AND ALLIES: TURDIDAE

Black-faced Solitaire *Myadestes melanops* (E)

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

Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus aurantiirostris*

Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus fuscater*

Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus frantzii*

Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus mexicanus*

Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina*

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

Mountain Thrush (Robin) *Turdus plebejus*

Pale-vented Thrush *Turdus obsoletus*

Clay-colored Thrush (Robin) *Turdus grayi*

White-throated Thrush *Turdus assimilis*

SILKY-FLYCATCHERS: PTILOGONATIDAE

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

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

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: PASSERIDAE

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

SISKINS AND ALLIES: FRINGILLIDAE

Yellow-crowned Euphonia *Euphonia luteicapilla* (E)

Elegant Euphonia *Euphonia elegantissima*

Olive-backed Euphonia *Euphonia gouldi*

White-vented Euphonia *Euphonia minuta*

Golden-browed Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia callophrys* (E)

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: PASSERELLIDAE

Sooty-capped Chlorospingus *Chlorospingus pileatus* (E)

Common Chlorospingus *Chlorospingus flavopectus*

Stripe-headed Sparrow *Peucaea ruficauda*

Orange-billed Sparrow *Arremon aurantiirostris*

Chestnut-capped Brushfinch *Arremon brunneinucha*

Sooty-faced Finch *Arremon crassirostris* (E)(H)

Volcano Junco *Junco vulcani* (E)

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*

Large-footed Finch *Pezopetes capitalis* (E)

White-eared Ground-Sparrow *Melospiza leucotis*

Yellow-thighed Brushfinch *Pselliophorus tibialis* (E)

TROUPIALS AND ALLIES: ICTERIDAE

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna*

Melodious Blackbird *Dives dives*

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus*

Black-cowled Oriole *Icterus prothemelas*

Streak-backed Oriole *Icterus pustulatus*

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*  
Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*  
Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*  
Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*  
**Flame-throated Warbler** *Oreothlypis gutturalis* (E)  
Tennessee Warbler *Oreothlypis peregrina*  
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** *Basileuterus melanogenys* (E)  
Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*  
**Costa Rican Warbler** *Basileuterus melanotis* (E)  
Buff-rumped Warbler *Myiothlypis fulvicauda*  
Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*  
Slate-throated Redstart (Whitestart) *Myioborus miniatus*  
**Collared Redstart (Whitestart)** *Myioborus torquatus* (E)

#### GROSBEAKS AND ALLIES: CARDINALIDAE

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*  
Flame-colored Tanager *Piranga bidentata*  
Red-throated Ant-Tanager *Habia fuscicauda*  
Black-faced Grosbeak *Caryothraustes poliogaster*  
Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanoloxia cyanooides*  
Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea*  
Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*

#### TANAGERS AND ALLIES: THRAUPIDAE

Gray-headed Tanager *Eucometis penicillate* (GO)  
White-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus luctuosus*  
White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus*  
Crimson-collared Tanager *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*  
Scarlet-rumped (Passerini's) Tanager *Ramphocelus passerinii passerinii*  
**Scarlet-rumped (Cherrie's) Tanager** *Ramphocelus passerinii costaricensis* (E)  
Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*  
Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*  
Golden-hooded Tanager *Tangara larvata*  
**Spangle-cheeked Tanager** *Tangara dowii* (E)  
**Plain-colored Tanager** *Tangara inornata* (E)  
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*  
Slaty Flowerpiercer *Diglossa plumbea* (E)  
Peg-billed Finch *Acanthidops bairdi* (E)  
Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*  
Thick-billed Seed-Finch *Sporophila funerea*  
Variable Seedeater (Caribbean) *Sporophila corvina corvina*  
Variable Seedeater (Pacific) *Sporophila corvina hoffmanni*  
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*  
White Tent Bat *Ectophylla alba*  
White-throated Capuchin Monkey *Cebus capucinus*  
Mantled Howler Monkey *Alouatta palliata*  
Central American (Geoffroy's) Spider Monkey *Ateles geoffroyi*  
Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis*  
Variegated Squirrel *Sciurus variegatoides*  
Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata*  
White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica*  
Collared Peccary *Tayassu tajacu*  
White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*

## SOME OF THE OTHER WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERED

Marine Toad *Rhinella (Bufo) marina*  
Red-eyed Leaf Frog (Treefrog) *Agalychnis callidryas*  
Strawberry Poison Frog *Oophaga (Dendrobates) pumilio*  
Green-and-black Poison Frog *Dendrobates auratus* (GO)  
Hourglass Treefrog *Dendropsophus ebraccatus*  
Black River Turtle *Rhinoclemmys annulata*  
Delicate Whiptail (Reticulated Ameiva) *Holcosus leptophrys*  
Common Spiny-tailed Iguana (Ctenosaur) *Ctenosaura similis*  
Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*  
Common House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*  
Side-striped Palm-Pitviper *Bothriechis lateralis*  
Spectacled Caiman *Caiman crocodilus*  
American Crocodile *Crocodylus acutus*  
Common/Peleides (Blue) Morpho *Morpho peleides*  
Leafcutter Ant *Atta cephalotes*  
Tarantula Hawk (Wasp) *Hemipepsis* sp.