

# **WINGSPAN BIRD TOURS**

## **IN**

# **COSTA RICA**



## **TRIP REPORT**

**FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup> – MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup> 2018**

**LEADERS: BOB BUCKLER & JOHAN FERNANDEZ**

**PARTICIPANTS: PAUL PARKER & CLAIRE STRACHAN, TONY GRADY, GARY & ROSEMARY AITKEN, TED LYONS, RAY MARSH, SHAHAR ZITRONBLAT, PETE & LORRAINE SAUNDERS AND PETER LEUTCHFORD**

**SUMMARY & REPORT WRITTEN BY BOB BUCKLER**

**It was a cracking 7<sup>th</sup> WINGSPAN Tour of this magical place, we were very lucky with the weather with rain during the first few days and mostly sunshine after that. The group gelled well and were very productive when out in the field. Our list totalled 463 species with another 5 heard not seen, a fantastic achievement. All of the most wanted species were seen except for the Lesser-ground Cuckoo, read on and enjoy our great adventure.**

**DAY 1 – FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup> 2018**

**SAN JOSE MORNING WALK THEN TRANSFER TO BOUGAINVILLEA HOTEL**

The group all arrived last night or late afternoon yesterday but by the time we had collected our luggage and waited for the shuttle bus it was dark with no time for birding. Half the group went out for dinner and the rest went straight to bed after such a long day.

At 6:30am this morning we all met in the foyer of the hotel and went for our first birding session, it was bright and sunny, but windy and a temperature in the lower 20's. We started listing in the car park with several common species such as Rufous-collared Sparrow, Clay-colored Thrush, Great-tailed Grackle, White-winged Dove, Red-billed Pigeon, Tropical Kingbird and Great Kiskadee.



Walking in the grounds of the hotel next door we added a few more species, Blue-gray Tanager, Hoffman's Woodpecker, Tennessee Warbler, Yellow Warbler and a Rufous-tailed Hummingbird. A Turkey Vulture drifted over as did a Great White Egret and a Great Blue Heron, we then found a couple of the tiny Inca Doves on the lawn and a group of about 15 Crimson-fronted Parakeets flew over. We listened to the melodic song of the Rufous-naped Wren before we actually found a pair, we then moved on.

It got more interesting as we approached some waste-land near a tree-lined stream, first we found a Yellow-headed Caracara, then a pair of Blue-crowned Motmots, a Squirrel Cuckoo appeared followed by a Buff-throated Saltator. A Black Phoebe messed about on the rocks in the stream where a 'Jesus Christ' Lizard (*Basilliscus basilliscus*) sat out in the sun.

More of the same warblers appeared and we had better views of the Hoffman's Woodpecker before we found a Masked Tityra and a Yellow-throated Vireo. We had now been out for two hours, we had to go back to the hotel for breakfast, so off we went.

At 10am we all re-assembled to board the bus for our transfer to the Bougainvillea Hotel to start the 'Official' part of the trip. Johan our guide turned up at the hotel in good time to meet us and so did Rommel our driver with his bus.

Our first destination was in the foothills of the Poas Mountain, which incidentally is an active volcano and erupted last November. We stopped in the 'Fresa' region where the most delicious strawberries are grown, at one of the roadside restaurants there is a 'jardin de colibries' – a hummingbird garden which is maintained by the restaurant owners. There are usually six or seven target hummingbirds to look for and we found them all. The Magenta-throated Woodstar was first on the list quickly followed by Lesser Violetear, Talamanca (formerly Magnificent) Hummingbird, Green-crowned Brilliant, Purple-throated Mountain-gem, Stripe-tailed Hummingbird (seen by just a few) and the magnificent Violet Sabrewing. Wow, what a great 'hummer-watch' to start to the trip with.

We also found Flame-coloured Tanager, Buff-throated Saltator, Baltimore Oriole and a very surprising species sat in the top of a tree - Eastern Meadowlark (shown below)!



Most of us then sampled a delicious strawberry milk-shake and we all ate a light lunch. From there we drove along a circular route up through the foothills and back down to San Jose. We made several roadside stops to look at perched birds or raptors, a few new species were added: Broad-winged Hawk, Gray Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, White-tailed Kite as well as Collared Redstart, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Blue-and-White Swallow and Crested Caracara.

Our arrival at the Bougainvillea Hotel was around 3:30pm which gave us enough time to check-in, have a quick cuppa and then a walk in the fabulous gardens. It was quite windy with scattered cloud which seemed to be increasing. A few more very nice sightings were made, the lovely Rufous-capped Warbler, a Philadelphia Vireo, Steely-vented Hummingbird and amongst other sightings we found a great species for the trip. During the past few years the Hotel has lost its reputation for producing Ground-Sparrows, because none have been seen there for 3-4 years, to me they were a rather mythical species. But now the myth is dispelled, we found a White-eared Ground Sparrow, a fantastic sighting, although some of the group failed to see it.

That concluded our birding for the first day of this magical tour.

## **DAY 2 – SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**

### **TRANSFER FROM BOUGAINVILLEA TO LA SELVA WITH STOPS AT BRAULIO CARILLO NATIONAL PARK AND AREAS AROUND GUAPILES**



We met at 6am for a pre-breakfast stroll around the beautiful gardens of the Hotel, it was a bright morning but windy with dark clouds looming ominously over the mountains. Many of the species that we saw yesterday were seen again this morning, but we also saw several additional species. Lineated Woodpecker showed very well as did a Squirrel Cuckoo, Philadelphia Vireo and the Brown Jay was seen several times.

By the time we had eaten breakfast, packed up the bus and set off it began to rain, lightly at first but as we drove into the mountains it became more persistent. At Braulio Carrillo National Park, our first birding site, we had a brief respite from the drizzling rain until we went along the forested trail.

Birds were few and far between and it was very dull in the forest, we managed to see only about 5 species during the first hour! White-breasted Wood-Wren, Bananaquit, Spotted and Wedge-billed Woodcreepers and Tawny-crested Tanager.

The rain increased, we all scrambled into our waterproof jackets, capes and trousers and the birds disappeared. We completed the 2km circuit without seeing another bird.



The second trail we walked was across the busy Pan-American Highway, it was noisy, wet and not very pleasant, it was nice to get back into the shelter of the forest. The track ran downhill for a while and we started seeing birds again. A feeding flock held some tanagers and our second sighting of a Spotted Woodcreeper. We also saw Chestnut-sided Warbler, Red-throated Ant-Tanager, White-shouldered Tanager, all very nice to see as was Bay-headed Tanager and more of the Tawny-crested Tanager.

It wasn't until we finished the walk that we bumped into a very nice mixed flock feeding along the roadside trees. We quickly found a number of very interesting species including; Russet Antshrike, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-and-Black Tanager, White-throated Shrike-Tanager, Tropical Parula, Emerald Tanager and another Yellow Warbler.

It was nice to get back onboard the bus and to escape from the rain, phew! Finally we had seen some decent birds but the weather conditions were very poor. Our next stop was just ten minutes along the road.

A disused roadside butterfly farm had a large array of flowers and over the past few years it has been the site where one of the most sought-after hummingbirds has been frequenting. The Snowcap, is a little jewel and we hoped to see it next. The butterfly farm is on private land, so we had to pay our way into it, the rain eased off, but it still tried to ruin our morning. After 20 minutes of watching Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds chasing off any other species that dared feed in the garden, a Snowcap arrived on the scene. Well the group went bananas but no sooner has the jewel arrived a Rufous-tailed drove it off.

However, over the next 30 minutes the bird returned several times and even perched nicely for us, both the male and female eventually turned up, wow what a stunner. Other hummers seen were the Stripe-tailed Hermit and the Violet-headed Hummingbird.

Lunch was taken in large roadside restaurant some 20 minutes down the road, it continued to rain throughout our stay there. At 2:30pm we drove off towards Guapiles and turned off on a side road to a place where WINGSPAN

TOURS have made regular stops over the last few years. It is a private garden run by a local artist and nature lover, called Copé. He has built a hide in his garden and put up many feeders.

Before we even got into Copé's garden we watched several excellent and colourful species in the surrounding gardens and scrub. The beautiful Passerini's Tanager went down well with the group, as did Common Tody-Flycatcher, Variable Seedeater, Social Flycatcher and Montezuma Oropendola.

The hide was just sensational, the group were simply mesmerised by the close proximity of a several species, the diversity of colour and the constant movement in front of their eyes. It was an amazing experience for all of us. At one stage there were 9 Palm Tanagers eating Bananas whilst both Montezuma and Chestnut-headed Oropendolas squabbled over perches, then four Collared Aracaris moved in whilst both Red-legged and Green Honeycreepers dropped onto the bird tables. All this went on in the back ground of some very busy 'hummer' feeders.



White-necked Jacobins, competed with Long-billed Hermit, Crowned Woodnymph and Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer for the positions on the feeders. All the time this was going on an injured Yellow-throated Toucan sat forlornly on a perch and watched the proceedings with nonchalant fascination.

Other birds on show included the re-named Russet-naped Wood-Rail, Pale-vented Pigeons, a Tawny-capped Euphonia and several Clay-colored Thrushes.

After that excitement it was very hard to prise the group away, but we enticed them with the promise of seeing a couple of roosting owls. Within ½ an hour we were watching, first, a pair of Crested Owls and then a single Spectacled Owl, superb birds. Also seen along the tracks were a group of Toucans, both species were present, Yellow-throated and the most beautiful Keeled-billed, simply stunning.

A Buff-rumped Warbler was nice to see and the gorgeous looking White-collared Manakin completely outshone the Olive-throated Parakeet. Copé also showed us some roosting Honduran White Bats, we also saw Mantled Howler-Monkey and Central American Spider-Monkey.

We were exhausted, wet and getting hungry so we boarded the bus for the last time and set off for the Lodge at La Selva. It was dark when we arrived, we quickly dropped off our belongings into our rooms and drove up to the main headquarters where we ate dinner. A Common Pauraque was seen by torch-light along the track just before dinner.

Our bird-log revealed that we had seen over 90 species, amazing considering the awful weather conditions.

### **DAY 3 – SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**

#### **LA SELVA ALL DAY**

Our day began at 6am when we met in the car park just outside our rooms, Johan joined us and led us onto to a concrete path into the grounds of La Selva Biological Station. A few birds in the gardens outside our rooms included Social Flycatcher, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Passerini's Tanager, Common Tody-Flycatcher and a few common species.

Johan soon found us quite a list of species, all new for us and some of them were excellent finds. A Great Tinamou strolled along the path ahead of us and at some point, a little later, so did Green Ibis and Grey-chested Dove. Within a few hundred meters we found Black-headed Trogon, Rufous Motmot, Rufous-tailed Jacamar and a Black-throated Wren.



The path took us through pristine rain-forest, it was dull unless we came into the occasional open area where trees had fallen. We continued to find a number of new species, Semiplumbeous Hawk sat lovely in the morning sunshine, our second Wren appeared when we found White-breasted Wood-Wren. A Snowy Cotinga had the group buzzing whilst Orange-throated Sparrow and Red-throated Ant-Tanager rounded off our early walk.

The walk ended at the visitor's centre where we arrived just in time for breakfast which was much appreciated. The main walk of the day took us much deeper into the forest, we crossed the Sarapiquí River using a foot-bridge before passing the main 'study' compound of the Biological Station. All the time we were finding new and exciting wildlife to look at.

The Collared Pecary seemed almost tame whilst Mantled Howler Monkeys called from the distant trees. We saw Black River-Turtles, Common Basilisk Lizard and the huge Green Iguana. Later we encountered the poisonous Eyelash Pit-Viper, luckily it was only a very small one.

Back onto the bird life we found two more Trogon species, also the smaller Broad-billed Motmot, the tiny Black-headed Tody-flycatcher, a fabulous Chestnut-colored Woodpecker, a Rufous-winged Woodpecker, Plain Xenops and both Cocoa and Streak-headed Woodcreepers.



More goodies came along during the latter part of our walk when first we saw White-faced Nunbird, then Slaty-breasted Tinamou and later a Purple-throated Fruitcrow, wow a trio of real gems there!



By now it was late morning and it was getting very warm and humid, we made it back to the visitor's centre for lunch at around 12:30. We took a long lunch and reconvened at 2pm.

The afternoon walk was more sedate with far less bird activity, we had to work harder to find our target birds. Eventually they came, Band-backed Wren was heard by all of us but only seen properly by one person. However, we all saw Bay-breasted Warbler, Tropical Gnatcatcher, Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant, Long-tailed Tyrant and many more. So many birds kept coming that it very hard to keep up.

The last part of our day was spent looking over open meadows where huge trees provide a roost site for the massive Great Green Macaw. We only saw one but we had good scope views of it and enjoyed a lot of other species whilst looking for the Macaw. Mourning Warbler and Olive-crowned Yellowthroat were nice finds, so were two Bat Falcons, also Red-lored, Mealy and White-fronted Parrots.

It was almost dark when we got back to our rooms and after a quick shower and a change of clothes we went to dinner. Our bird-log was called after dinner, we had seen an amazing 109 species today, I'm not surprised because we covered a lot of ground in a biodiversity-rich forest.

#### **DAY 4 - MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**

##### **TRANSFER FROM LA SELVA TO ARENAL OBSERVATORY LODGE WITH STOPS AT VIRGEN VALLEY FALLS**

Today was a complete contrast to yesterday we had bright sunshine all day, but it was hot and humid at times which took its toll on us and our bird sightings. Hot weather never produces many species of birds, they don't like it in the sun. As a result, we found our morning walks tiring and less productive than yesterday.

It was another 6am start, we set out on foot from our cabins noting Collared Aracari and Montezuma Oropendola as we began the walk. We soon got into the thick of it as we bumped into a number of birds close by, a Bright-rumped Attila was new for us but most of the other species had been seen before.

Lesser Greenlet, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Chestnut-collared Woodpecker and a Short-billed Pigeon had all been seen previously but showed much better today. A Melodious Blackbird was our first sighting of this species and yet another Long-tailed Tyrant and another Summer Tanager also showed well.



We ate breakfast back at the visitor's centre restaurant before commencing our walk on the trails. It got quite hot and the forest was very quiet compared to yesterday. Over the next two hours we listed many of the same species as we did yesterday with the additions of Pale-billed Woodpecker, Rufous-backed Antbird and Stripe-throated Hermit.

One trail took us down to a couple of streams where we searched for the elusive Sunbittern, at one place a large number of vultures had gathered in the trees above a clearing. We soon found out why, when the stench of a dead animal hit us! The smell was bearable, but it did give us the opportunity to see the vultures at close quarters. Both Turkey and Black Vultures were joined by the King Vulture which looks very strange with its colourful face markings and odd looking nasal appendages.

We took lunch early before returning to our rooms to pack and load up the bus for our journey to Arenal, we made a detour to visit a site in the Virgen Valley where a roadside restaurant has a wonderful array of feeders and has been attracting a number of excellent species.

It was a fantastic experience, we stood on a wooden platform which overlooks a lush green steep-sided valley, a waterfall cascaded down the opposite valley wall about a kilometer away. The feeders were alive with an array of the most colourful tanagers and barbets you could imagine, the group were thrilled to bits.

We watched many species at close quarters, the highlights included: the near-endemic PRONG-BILLED BARBET, the endemic COPPERY-HEADED EMERALD, also the Red-headed Barbet (both male and female which look totally different from one another), the Emerald Toucanet and Common Chlorospingus.



The afternoon went downhill from there! We drove a short distance to a track that led us down towards the bottom of the valley, it was a little windy and quiet. We saw flocks of Collared Swifts high above and a Barred Hawk circled over us. A small flock of warblers flitted about in the trees high up on a bank, we noted Golden-winged, Blackburnian and Chestnut-sided Warblers and also a Slate-throated Redstart but not much else.

It was now 4pm and we had a two-hour drive still to complete so we set off promptly. A road accident held us up for an hour on the outskirts of a town, so we arrived at Arenal in the dark at 7pm. A Black-and-White Owl sat out on a power line to greet us near the entrance to the lodge, how nice!

Despite our long travel time we still recorded over 100 species, our total is well over 200 after 4 days.

#### **DAY 5 - TUESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**

##### **ALL DAY AT ARENAL OBSERVATORY LODGE FOREST TRAILS**

From our bedroom window it looked like being a nice bright morning with a mild temperature and that is exactly how it turned out. We met at 6am on the huge viewing platform attached to the restaurant where we could look over the gardens and bird tables. There was no sign of Mount Arenal as it was completely engulfed in clouds.

The feeders were stacked with bananas and melons and very soon they were covered in Montezuma Oropendulas, Brown Jays and the much larger Crested Guans. A host of Coatis were assembled below the feeders waiting for scraps to be dropped by the birds.

Our walk took us through the lovely gardens where we met our first Black-crested Coquette, along with a Violet-headed Hummingbird and a Purple-crowned Fairy. There was great excitement when a Three-wattled Bellbird sighting was reported by another group just 100 meters from where we were standing. But despite rushing over we failed to see the bird, oh well, maybe later in the trip.

We did notch a few species in the area with sightings of a Blue Dacnis, a Pale-billed Woodpecker, Collared Aracari, Keeled-billed Toucan, Black-striped Sparrow and our second White-throated Thrush.



Our return walk also produced some nice views of a number of species, we found Tropical Pewee, Golden-Olive Woodpecker, Scaly-breasted Hummingbird and one lucky group member saw a Yellow-eared Toucanet. It was from a suspension bridge that a Bare-necked Umbrella was spotted by Shahar, one of the group, most of us were ahead of him and had entered the restaurant for breakfast. We all came rushing out to see the bird which promptly flew off to different perches giving us all a bit of a run around before it disappeared for good.



After breakfast we took the Waterfall Trail and spent most of the morning walking through some lovely forest, the road leading to the track was lined with Rainbow Eucalyptus which have the most colourful bark I have ever seen on a tree.

At the beginning of the track we stopped for a second look for the Bellbird where a number of other people had gathered. Suddenly the loud bell-like call rang out and we quickly located the bird, the THREE WATTLED BELLBIRD, a male sat right above us in full view, amazing.

For the next three hours we walked the trails, it was quite windy but sunny and dry, it was hard work trying to find anything. I think we listed about 10 species three or four were additions to our list: Dull-mantled and Spotted Anrbirds, Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant, Golden-crowned Warbler, Grey-breasted Wood-Wren and a Piratic Flycatcher.



After a long lunch break we resumed our walk at 2pm, this time we walked down the hill away from the lodge, the sky had clouded over and very light rain came down in short bursts. Birds were few and far between no new birds were added during our two-hour walk. Back at the lodge we watched the feeders for a while, all the large birds had gone so we enjoyed great views of a number of tanagers, honeycreepers and Dacnis. We added Yellow-throated Euphonia and had superb views of Emerald Tanager, Red-legged and Scarlet-thighed Dacnis.

After dinner we took a short drive down the approach road to look at the Black-and-White Owl as some of the group didn't see it well the first night.

## **DAY 6 – WEDNESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**

### **ARENAL TRAILS – ARENAL VOLCANO LAKE**

We had a great start to the day during our early morning walk at 5:45am. It was quite windy with dense cloud and a few rain-drops were in the air. We walked down towards the gatehouse some 800 meters from the lodge, it was a steep declining road and we had set out a little early so that we would arrive at the birding site just as it got light.

The street lights went out just as we arrived and our target bird was feeding on moths that were attracted to the lights. At least two HEPATIC TANAGERS were dashing around on the tarmac chasing moths. This was our target, a great sighting of a much sort-after species. Other birds seen with them included Carmiol Tanager, a Wood Thrush, a Buff-rumped Warbler and Johan called out a Rufous-winged Tanager but none of the group saw it.

After breakfast we boarded the bus for our drive to the Volcano Lake some 10km away, we stopped a few times on the way down the main track. It was very quiet but we slowly built a list of species. The first stop was on a bridge over a small river where we logged Fasciated Heron, Black Phoebe, Northern Waterthrush, Amazon Kingfisher, Grey-capped Flycatcher and a number of Southern Rough-winged Swallows.



The next stop produced our first Black-headed Saltator and a few common species, we slowly worked our way along a peninsular until we reached a dam at the end of the Arenal Lake. This was a hot spot for the Great Potoo, however because of the heavy winds and the rain showers the bird was not in its usual place, we did find a Three-toed Sloth and a Tree Swallow.

Next we drove into La Fortuna the nearest town, stopping a couple of times to look at hawks and a superb Laughing Falcon. On the outskirts of the town we turned onto to a private site that had a couple of ponds and some good birding habitat as well as a restaurant. We quickly found Green Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron and the enigmatic Boat-billed Heron.

A Russet-naped Wood-Rail made a brief appearance and we also saw our first Spectacled Caiman. We then had lunch at the restaurant before boarding the bus and driving back towards the lodge. A second attempt at seeing the Great Potoo was also disappointing but we saw our first Thick-billed Seed-Finch in with a flock of Blue-black Grassquits and Variable Seedeaters.

We got back to our lodge at 3pm and decided to go back out again at 4pm for a short walk into the forest. We added one new bird to our list the Black-capped Nightingale-Thrush which was a terrific find and it showed well.

Tomorrow we are leaving the wet conditions behind, hooray! And heading off to the North Pacific Coastline at Nicoya Bay. We have now seen over 250 species and we look forward to another 200 or so during the next week.

## **DAY 7 – THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**

### **ARENAL FINAL WALK – TRANSFER TO LA ENSENDA LODGE WITH A COUPLE OF STOPS ALONG THE WAY.**

The rain had the last laugh on us today! We met for our final walk at Arenal Lodge at 6am, it was windy and low dark, clouds lay just above us. We ventured into the gardens to look for more 'hummers' to add to our list but we had to make do with Black-crested Coquette, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Green Thorntail, White-necked Jacobin and the ubiquitous Rufous-tailed Hummingbird. We found our first Black-faced Solitaire and we added Three-wattled Bellbird for the third day on the trot. Then the rain came down, in steps, first lightly then it poured down. During a brief respite we found a feeding flock when some of the group saw Rufous-winged Tanager and we all saw a Rufous Mourner. The rainfall finally defeated us and we went back for breakfast at 7:30am.



By 8:45am we were on the road and heading for the Pacific coast but first we made another attempt to see the Great Potoo without success. As we approached the first bridge over a local river a group member shouted "stop" because he had just seen a SUNBITTERN. We all dashed out of the bus and sure enough there it was just below the bridge, fantastic! One of the most wanted birds of the tour, it really performed well, making short flights and giving us a great display of its 'sun' wings.

A buzz continued on the bus for quite a while after that, we made a couple more stops on the Peninsular Track where Johan got us all onto a Bare-headed Antbird and a couple more good species.



We headed away from the area around 10:30am and arrived at the town of Cañas at lunchtime, so we ate lunch at a local restaurant. It was around 2pm that we arrived on the approach track to La Ensenada Lodge, it was hot and sunny with a nice strong breeze. We parked up a couple of times along the way and we stopped for roadside birds.



At least 15 new species were seen during this section of the journey, one particular stop near a 'dry' forest produced: Northern Beardless Tyrannulet, Northern Scrub Flycatcher, Scrub Euphonia and White-lored Gnatcatcher. We also found Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Ruddy and Common Ground Dove, Three-striped Thick-knee and Orange-fronted Parakeet.

At the Lodge we spent some time settling in before we got out into the field. It was still very warm considering the time of day. Our walk around the magnificent ground was most enjoyable, we took in the superb view that all our rooms had over the vast Nicoya Bay.



Birds came thick and fast, Streak-backed Oriole, White-throated Magpie-Jay, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Crested Caracara, Lineated Woodpecker, Eastern Meadowlark and many more.

We ended up on the slopes looking down to the jetty which extends a good way into the bay. This is usually a great place to watch roosting gulls and terns but today a group of youngsters were using the jetty as a diving platform and they caused a lot of noise and disturbance. Eventually the kids left and things settled down, Spotted Sandpipers turned up in good numbers, at least 50 landed on the jetty.

Unfortunately, no gulls or terns arrived but we did see a good variety of species fly past us, Magnificent Frigatebird, Brown Pelican, Laughing Gull, Royal Tern, Neotropical Cormorant, Willet, Whimbrel and a lot of small waders that were too far out to identify.

The sunset was amazing as we made our way up the slope to the lodge. Dinner was taken at 7pm the bird-log now stands at 286.

## **DAY 8 - FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23<sup>RD</sup> 2018**

### **ENSENADA LODGE AND SALT PANS**

What a lovely contrast to yesterday, we got up to brilliant weather, a clear sky, a beautiful sunrise and a lovely temperature. A quick scan of the birds roosting on the jetty produced Royal and Sandwich Terns, Laughing Gull, Ruddy Turnstone, Whimbrel and Spotted Sandpiper. Greater Frigatebirds and groups of Brown Pelicans drifted past.

Our early morning walk took us into the rolling pastures (which, at the time were completely dried out) and up to some dry woodland. We stopped to watch our first Spot-breasted Oriole, a Green-breasted Mango, Ruby-throated Hummingbird and a lovely Black-headed Trogon. The Turquoise-browed Motmot seemed to be very common whilst the Double-striped Thick-knee and the Eastern Meadowlarks were found, where they are supposed to be, in the meadows.

Further along the track we met with a couple of warbler species and a Yellow-throated Vireo as well as the Brown-headed and Olive-Green Flycatchers. The Yellow-fronted Parakeets dashed about frequently whilst Streak-backed and Spot-breasted Orioles were everywhere. On the return walk to the lodge we found Black-striped Sparrows, Gartered Trogon and a few other species.

By 8:30 we had all taken breakfast and were on the bus for the short trip down to the private salt-pans, we stopped along the way to look for the Lesser Ground Cuckoo. We found Grey-headed Yellowthroat, a flock of Orchard Orioles and a couple of Roseate Spoonbills flew over before we heard the cuckoo calling. Despite 13 pairs of eyes and about 30 minutes of our time we failed to see the cuckoo.



So, onto the salt pans, we timed it perfectly so that the maximum number of birds would be there during this high tide period. It took quite a while to get everyone to see all the different species, in fact we were there over an hour just looking at waders, herons and egrets. We sorted out the Western from the Semipalmated and the Least Sandpipers. We pointed out the difference between the Semipalmated Plover and the Wilson's and Collared Plovers.

Other waders seen include Whimbrel, Black-necked Stilts, Willet, Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper and a number of herons included Grey Blue, Little Blue (mainly white morphs), Tricoloured and Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Also, Roseate Spoonbills, Wood Stork and White Ibis. A Zone-tailed Hawk drifted over during our stay at the pans.



We had a great time walking through a section of mangroves, finding a nice selection of species there. Yellow-bellied Eleania, Mangrove Vireo, Mangrove Warbler, Barred Antshrike, Scaly-breasted Hummingbird, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Philadelphia Vireo, Cinnamon Becard and Brown-crested Flycatcher.

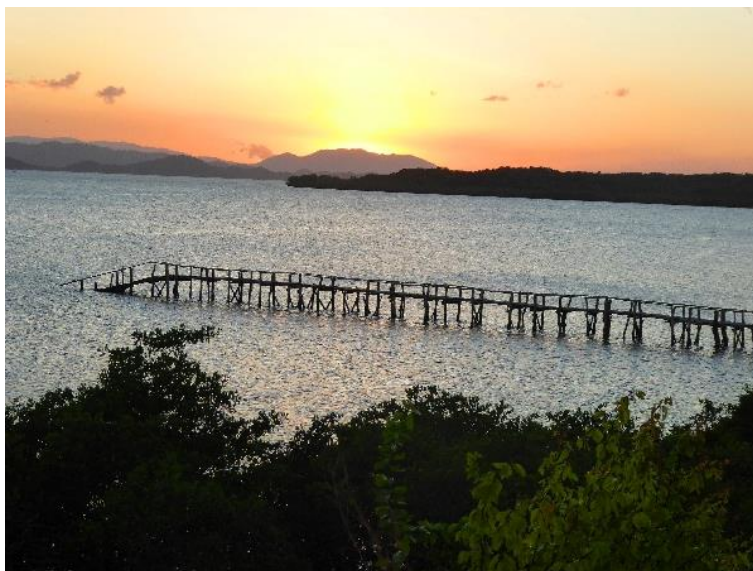
The track led us to a secluded lagoon which was covered in birds, an Osprey circled over us as we approached the water's edge. We didn't venture too close as a number of Caiman and/or Crocodiles drift around the edge like floating logs.

A number of new birds were added to our list, Northern Jacana, Purple Gallinule, Blue-winged Teal, Belted Kingfisher and a Black-crowned Night Heron. From the lagoon we walked back to the bus and drove back to the lodge for lunch.

During our long lunch some of the group walked down to the beach and came back with tales of excellent bird sightings, so, after lunch the rest of us trolled down there and we too found some goodies.

The Surfbird was our best sighting we saw six of them together with Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone and lots of Whimbrel. We saw a distant Marbled Godwit, a Green Heron and we searched for the Reddish Egret that had been reported earlier but we could not find it.

We all met up again at 3:30pm and after a short bus ride we walked a track that led us to another lagoon. We saw many of the species that we listed this morning, Black-headed Trogon, Turquoise-browed Motmot and many of the warblers. A couple of hours were spent searching the fields and hedgerows and dry-forest copse but we failed to find a Lesser Ground-Cuckoo.



The jetty at the lodge was again deserted, just a few Spotted Sandpipers came to roost. At 6:30pm just before dinner we took a walk in the dark along the main entrance track. Within minutes we heard a Pacific Screech-Owl and Johan soon had his torch on the area so that we all could see it.

The bird-log now totalled 320 species.

#### **DAY 9 - SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**

##### **TRANSFER FROM ENSENADA LODGE (NORTH PACIFIC COAST) TO CERROS LODGE (CENTRAL PACIFIC COAST) WITH STOPS AT CHOMES SHRIMP FARM AND CALDERA PORT**

Howler Monkeys were growling at 5am when we got up, a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl gave its monotonous peeping and the House Gecko was 'tut' tut' 'tutting', a Rufous-naped Wren broke out into its beautiful, melodic chant, spoilt only by the harsh cry of the White-throated Magpie-Jay, all this welcomed us to a new day in Costa Rica.

It was another cloudless morning, with a lovely temperature and no wind. After a quick coffee we boarded the bus and headed out down the main track. We stopped at a site where we had heard the Lesser Ground Cuckoo call yesterday. The trees and hedgerows around a grass meadow were full of birds, mainly warblers and Orioles but we did see White-collared Puffbird, Squirrel Cuckoo, White-fronted Parrot and a Common Black-Hawk.

Prothonotary Warbler was a big hit with group and an American Redstart went down well to those that got onto it before it flitted out of sight. But the cuckoo failed to materialise, so we went away empty handed once again.

Back at the bus we watched a feeding flock turn into a 'mob' when a pair of Pygmy Ferruginous Owls appeared. We watched Tennessee, Yellow and Chestnut-sided warblers, orioles and gnatcatchers gather in the tree tops near the owl and start to harass the innocent little beast.

By 8:30am we were on the road heading down the track towards the main Pan-American Highway, we headed south for a short distance before turning west onto another track heading towards Chomes. We stopped along this track a number of times to look at a variety of species which included: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Gray Hawk, Blue Grosbeak, Scrub Euphonia, Plain-capped Starthroat, Collared Seedeater and Tricoloured Munia.



Chomes Shrimp Farm was as good as ever except that most of the 'pools' had been drained recently so fewer duck species were present. However, the wader numbers were impressive with good flocks of Western, Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers, as well as smaller flocks of Short-billed Dowitchers, Willets, Whimbrels and Black-necked Stilts.



Even more impressive was the number of Black Skimmers, over 50 were roosting during this high tide period along with a good number of Royal and Gull-billed Terns and a single Caspian Tern. Herons and egrets, ibis and spoonbills and our first Ringed Kingfisher made up the remainder of our sightings at the shrimp farm.

Before we left the area we walked to the beach and scanned the exposed mud as it became visible with the receding tide. We added a few species for the day list and a couple for the trip list, the most important was the Reddish Egret, it was a little distant but perfectly identifiable in the scope. Marbled Godwit was new for most of the group too.

From Chomes we made our way further south, stopping at Caldera Port to scan a roosting gull flock, unfortunately the birds were roosting much further away than they normally do so it was impossible to identify or distinguish a probable Franklin's Gull from a Laughing Gull, so we left disappointed.



We had lunch at a roadside restaurant before continuing our journey southward. Another diversion found us on yet another dirt-track leading westward from the main road, Johan knew of another site for elusive Lesser Ground Cuckoo. We tried hard to find one, we heard the call but only Johan and one other had very brief views of a shape, so it wasn't recorded as a sighting.

We had much better luck with Long-tailed Manakin, this bird showed after a couple of attempts to see it, in fact we saw a couple of them, a female and an immature male that didn't have the extended tail feathers, nevertheless it

was a great bird to have on the list. During our attempts to find both the cuckoo and the manakin we found: Nutting's Flycatcher, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher, Olive Sparrow and a good number of species already recorded on the trip.

It was around 5pm when arrived at Cerro Lodge there was a magnificent sunset which we observed from the raised decking of the lodge's restaurant. About 30 Lesser Nighthawks filled the sky as the sun went down, a great species to finish off another wonderful day in this birding paradise.

#### **DAY 10 - SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**

##### **CERRO LODGE – CARARA NATIONAL PARK – THE BRIDGE OVER THE TARCOLES RIVER**

It was a beautiful morning with a very colourful sunrise, a Pygmy Owl brought me from my slumber followed by a Turquoise Motmot and then a group of Howler Monkeys, thanks guys!



We spent a little time on the verandah of the restaurant watching Scarlet Macaws flying from their roost along with Montezuma Oropendolas and Crested Caracara. Our walk commenced at 5:45, we left the grounds and walked along the main track outside the lodge. It wasn't long before we were watching a nice selection of species.

White-fronted Parrots, Yellow-naped Parrots, Yellow-olive Flycatcher, Rose-throated Becard, Black-headed Trogon and plenty more came out to see us. The one and only new bird was the Greenish Eleania, we also heard our first Striped Cuckoo but it failed to show.

After breakfast we set off for our morning visit to Carara National Park, by taking the main track from the lodge to the highway we stopped twice, and on each occasion, we added a super bird to our list. The first was a Painted Bunting, in fact there were four of them, three females and one very colourful male, unfortunately the male flew off before we could focus our cameras.

The second bird was equally as prestigious, it was a Yellow-billed Cotinga, again we had to be satisfied with the less colourful female, nevertheless it was a great find.

Carara Rain Forest National Park is unique in Costa Rica, it forms the link between the dry north and the wet south where both types of forest can be found, offering a unique habitat and plenty of bird life. The trails are flat and wide, sometimes muddy but often dry at this time of the year. We walked the 'River' Trail for three or four hours this morning. Our bird list wasn't the longest, but the quality was there. Birds which stand out in my memory are: Royal Flycatcher (I have never seen it with its claret and blue crest erected), Orange-collared Manakin, Eye-ringed Flatbill, Black-headed Antbird, White-whiskered Puffbird, Barred Antshrike, Chestnut-backed Antbird and Northern Bentbill.

We left the forest at 11:30 and drove back to the bridge over the Tarcoles River where we spent some time looking down at the huge American Crocodiles that gather there. We then took lunch at a roadside restaurant before returning to the hotel for a short break.

The afternoon session was again in the Carara National Park but on a different track, again we added some great birds to the list. The most impressive was the Streak-chested Antpitta that Johan our guide called in, it was superb.

We went on to a small stream where we sat for an hour and watched a series of birds come down to bathe. It was enchanting, we all kept perfectly still and quiet whilst Red-capped and Blue-crowned Manakins visited the stream. A Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher did the same and we had close views of an Agouti which fed along the stream banks.

Our day in the forest resulted in 26 new species being added to the list bringing our total to 366. We are travelling further south tomorrow after we have taken our much-anticipated river cruise.



#### **DAY 11 - MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**

##### **TRANSFER FROM CERRO LODGE (TARCOLES) TO TALARI LODGE (NEAR SAN ISIDRO) WITH A RIVER CRUISE ON THE TARCOLES RIVER AND STOPS AT THE PALM PLANTATION MER PLAYA DEL REY.**

We were up bright and early in readiness for our transfer and our river cruise, we loaded up the bus before breakfast which was taken at 6am. It was 7am by the time we arrived at the river to board our private tour. As we had already seen all of the birds available upriver we concentrated our efforts in the mangrove forest near the beach.

The weather was just perfect, bright sunshine with a cooling breeze and a ripple of waves on the water. We quickly racked up a sizeable list of herons, egrets, waders and others such as Neotropical Cormorant, Brown Pelican, Magnificent Frigatebird and a couple of Ospreys.



In the mangroves we saw Boat-billed Herons, black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night Herons. We drifted along a wide channel in complete silence, every sound from the mangroves could be heard clearly. Johan and the boat Captain soon found a few passerine species, starting with the Pygmy Kingfisher, what a colourful little gem living in roots and muddy banks of the mangrove swamp.



Ringed, Amazon and Green Kingfishers were also noted along with Mangrove Vireo, Panama Warbler and a hard to find Rufous-browed Peppershrike. Then someone shouted out 'crake' and to our right a Rufous-necked Wood-Rail, strolled along an open patch of mud. What a great find, this bird is rarely seen by even the most dedicated Costa Rican birders. It showed extremely well for a short time before running off into the scrub, an instant bird of the day!



After the river cruise we drove a short distance to another area of mangroves and a sandy beach where we searched again for the Mangrove Hummingbird without success. On the shore we added Sanderling to our wader list and we also watched Ruddy Turnstone, Western Sandpiper, Semipalmated Plover and another Ringed Kingfisher.

For the rest of the morning we intended to drive south to Quepos but unluckily for us a strike by local fishermen meant a blockade on the main road stoppe3d all traffic, the wait plus a diversion cost us 2 hours. Our diversion route took us through miles of Palm Oil tree plantations and across some dodgy fords and bridges, it was quite an adventure.



The delay meant that we had to miss out a sea-watch at Quepos and we had a late lunch. After lunch we visited a wetlands area south of Quepos called Playa del Rey where hoped for ducks and waders. Unfortunately, the wetlands were almost dried up with few species present. We did see Southern Lapwing, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Black-necked Stilt, Purple Gallinule and a good selection of herons and egrets.

A number of new birds for our list were found in the grassy fields and tree-lined tracks, Yellow-headed Euphonia, Plain-breasted Ground-Dove, Cherrie's Tanager and Peregrine Falcon were all new, we also had great views of a White-tailed Kite as it hunted over the fields (we call a very similar species Black-winged Kite in Europe).

Another new bird was added as we stopped at a gas station for fuel and an ice-cream when a flock of Costa Rican Swifts flew over us. But that was the last bit of birding of the day as it took nearly 2 hours to get to our next lodge, we hit San Isidro at 'rush hour' and spent a very slow hour getting across the town. It was dark when we arrived at Talari Lodge.

Dinner was delayed a little as we sorted out our rooms, two other groups arrived at the same time there was a little chaos at check-in. A Tropical Screech Owl was heard at dinner and a Four-eyed Possum paid us a visit. We went out

afterwards to look for the owl which showed very well in torch-light, it is always nice to finish the day with a good sighting.

## **DAY 12 – TUESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**

### **TRANSFER FROM TALARI LODGE TO TROGON LODGE WITH BRIDING IN THE GROUNDS AT TALARI AND SEVERAL STOPS ALONG THE WAY.**

Our day began with coffee in the restaurant at 5:45 and then we walked around the grounds which are extensive and also have a panoramic view of the local Rio General. It was a bright sunny morning with a perfect warm temperature. Over the next hour we had some great birding the gardens were alive with birds, the dawn chorus was amazing to hear.



An Olivaceous Piculet was one of our first new birds, one of the smallest woodpeckers in the world. Next, we watched a few flycatchers with Social, Grey-capped and Streaked all showing well. A Rufous-chested Wren was a good find before we arrive at the river viewing point. Several species of birds were added to our list, but the most appreciated find was that of two River Otters, they performed well.

To finish off the walk we set off towards the restaurant area and found two more additions to our list when first an Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush appeared then a Grey-headed Tanager.

After breakfast we pack our bags and put everything on the bus and made our departure around 8am. We set off into the nearby countryside to look for a number of target species. It took most of the morning but we found nearly all of them during a series of short walks and stationary birding stops. The Fiery-billed Aracari was seen perched by those in the front of the bus but all the others had to settle for flight views. This was not the case for the Turquoise Cotinga, this was our third Cotinga of the trip and it showed very well.

Other target bird seen were Smooth-billed Ani, Fork-tailed Flycatcher and Northern Beardless Pygmy-Tyrannulet. We also added a good deal more with Rufous-browed Peppershrike being the most admired.

We moved on around 10:30 and headed for the Paramo area in the middle of the country, passing first through San Isidro then climbing up into the cloud forest. We stopped for an early lunch at a restaurant that had feeders and a viewing balcony. We saw our first White-naped Brush-Finch and several tanagers.

Our next stop was at a regular site, we stop there every year, it was a private lodge which has wonderful gardens and many feeders. We notched up 8 hummingbirds several of them were new for us, such as, White-throated Mountain-Gem, White-tailed Emerald, Snowy-bellied Hummingbird and the star hummer, White-crested Coquette. We also added Slaty Flowerpiercer.

We continued our climb up into the Talamanca Cordillera, we could see the highest peak, Mount Chirripo, which stands at 3,819 meters. Once above the tree-line we entered the 'Paramo' a rich area of vegetation, mainly low growing shrubs adapted to the severe weather conditions found there

The weather was very kind to us up in the Paramo, a bit of cloud but generally dry and clear with very little wind. It was quite chilly so we all grabbed our fleeces as we got off the bus. We thought we had found our main target bird,

the Volcano Junco, almost immediately but it turned out to be a Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush we then found several Slaty Flowerpiercers, a Dusky-headed Chlorospingus, we had brief views of a Volcano Hummingbird and a Black-throated Green Warbler was seen by just two of the group..



We piled back onto the bus and drove to the top of the track, we were now at the highest point that you can drive to in Costa Rica, which is 3300 meters approx. 11,000 ft. A Volcano Junco popped out right in front of us and showed no fear of us as it perched very close, some of the group were taking selfies with the bird it was that close!

Another high-altitude bird is of course our main target species the RESPLENDENT QUETZAL and Johan knew exactly where to find one. So, we drove a further 20 minutes along the highway (passing our turning to our next hotel) where we turned onto another track that led us down below the Paramo to forested habitat.

We spent a wonderful hour having the most enjoyable views of the Quetzal, in fact three birds were present, all males with varying lengths of tail, differentiating their ages and maturity. One had the longest tail I had ever seen, Johan our guide was impressed too. We also added Collared Redstart to the list.



After that great excitement we turned the bus around and drove to the lodge which was situated in the San Gerardo de Dota Valley some 20 minutes away. A long and winding road led us down into the lush valley where the Savegre River begins its long journey to the coast. The river passes through the grounds of our lodge and its water is said to be the cleanest in Costa Rica and is used for many trout farms in the valley.

A lovely dinner was enjoyed by all, including local trout of course. Our bird-log now stands at 405 species with three full days left.



**ALL DAY IN THE SAN GERARDO DE DOTA VALLEY**

It was very chilly at 6am when we met at the hotel reception, we were all wrapped up warmly. The sky was clear blue with no wind, perfect for birding. Both Large-footed Finch and Yellow-thighed Finch flitted about in the gardens with Rufous-collared Sparrows and a few hummers fed in the shrubs, we noted Volcano Hummingbird, Lesser Violetear and Rufous-tailed Hummingbird.



We walked up through the gardens and onto the woodland trail which was very quiet, at a viewing platform we turned around and went back down the track, we did see Black-cheeked Warbler and Sooty Thrush but not much else. From there we took the main track that led us away from the lodge and at the main gate we found a pair of Torrent Tyrannulets. Along the main road we walked a short distance but only noted Mountain Thrush and not much else.

After that we walked back to the lodge for breakfast, some of the group lagged behind and decided to look at the river to look for American Dipper but found instead a Louisiana Waterthrush, a great find. A Resplendent Quetzal was calling from the forest adjacent to the lodge as we made our way back.



One of my favourite parts of this trip is the forest trail walk in this lush valley, the San Gerardo de Dota, today we did just that. We drove 3km down the valley to the Savegre Lodge and waited in the car park for our 'jeep' ride to the top of the mountain. Near the main reception we noted a few species but only Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher was new for us. It takes about 10 minutes to drive some 500 meters in altitude up the steep track to the forest trails and it took us nearly 4 hours to walk back down!

I love it up there and today was just as good as ever, a lovely azure sky with warm sunlight breaking through the canopy and bird song coming from all directions. We found an Acorn Woodpecker straight away and then we began our walk down the track.

It wasn't long before we bumped into a feeding flock of birds, we saw Ruddy Treerunner, Spot-crowned Woodcreeper, Wilson's Warbler, Barred Becard, Ochraceous Wren, Yellow-winged Vireo and few tanagers. This is how our birding went as we dropped down towards the lodge, we would walk for several minutes and not see a bird then suddenly there were many.

We added a few flycatchers to our list, the lovely Tufted Flycatcher was a crowd pleaser, but we also saw Ochraceous Pewee, Olive-striped Flycatcher and Mountain Eleania. Several good birds were seen individually such Wrenthrush, Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush, Black-faced Solitaire, Spangled-cheeked Tanager and we also listed Summer Tanager, Black-and-White Warbler, the gorgeous Black-throated Green Warbler and several Chestnut-sided Warblers.



We emerged back onto the main track a few hundred meters from the lodge, now we could see the sky and we quickly found Red-tailed Hawk, both Black and Turkey Vultures, White-collared Swift and Blue-and-White Swallows. A grassy bank produced a flurry of birds, many Tennessee Warblers were feeding on the ground with both Lesser Goldfinches and Yellow-bellied Siskins and Rufous-collared Sparrows. We then had a short encounter with a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker before it flew off.

Johan led us to an apple orchard where a flock of Sulphur-winged Parakeets were feeding and then we watched a bird-feeding station for a while where tanagers, woodpeckers, warblers and hummers were active.

For lunch we drove up to the head of the valley where a tiny restaurant had a viewing platform with feeders, the food was good and the birding great. Many species were visiting the feeders, none of them new for us but it delightful to see them as such close-quarters, unperturbed by our presence.

After an hour long break back at the lodge we made our final walk of the day, this time we drove right down the valley to the end of the main road and then walked a track along the river to some waterfalls. It had clouded over and as we set off light rain came down. It was dull in the forest, but many birds were seen. We added Brown-capped Vireo, Hairy Woodpecker, Black-faced Solitaire, Dusky-capped Chlorospingus and many birds already listed. An American Dipper was found near the waterfall and during the walk back we saw three Spotted Wood-Quails on the track.

It was nearly 6pm and getting dark when we returned to the bus but we continued birding. After a 40 minute drive back up to the head of the valley we got off the bus in the dark. Johan called out a Dusky Nightjar which appeared within seconds it flew around us and perched on a power line, we had great views of it, a smashing bird to end a very successful day.

We had seen 39 new species today bring our total to 444, tomorrow we head off to Tapanti National Park for our last two days.

## **DAY 14 – THURSDAY MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> 2018**

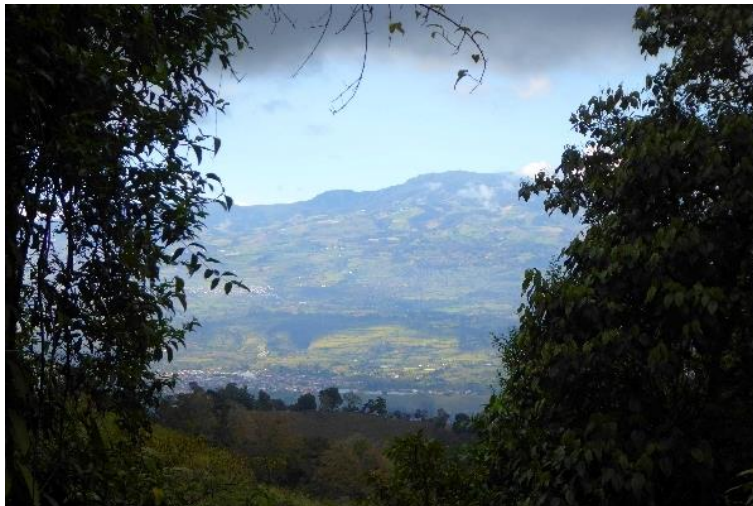
### **TRANSFER FROM TROGON LODGE TO THE RIO PERLAS HOTEL IN OROSI**

We had a lie-in today, there was no early morning walk! We met at 7am for breakfast having already packed our bags in readiness for our departure immediately after we had eaten.

It was another beautiful sunny morning, but it was cold, a mild ground frost covered the lawns of the hotel. The 10km climb out of the valley took us into warm sunshine and onto the Pan-American Highway. We turned off shortly afterwards onto a dirt road and began our first birding of the day.



We had three main target species there and within 30 minutes we had seen all three of them, really well. The first was a hummingbird, the Fiery-throated Hummingbird. What a beauty, if the light caught its throat feathers then a stunning array of red, blue and yellow colours would emanate from them. Next came the Black-and-Yellow Silky-Flycatcher, two of these sought-after birds showed reasonably well for all of us to see. Lastly the Timberline Wren became our most wanted species, they are usually 'skulkers' and are very hard to see, but not today! Two of them popped out in full view and very close to us, amazing.



Other species seen during our walk were Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush, Sooty-capped Chlorospingus, Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher and several common species.

We then spent a couple of hours in the bus stopping once for toilets and refreshments and stopping at a road-block where Parents were demonstrating outside a school about a teacher they wanted sacked! It cost us nearly an hour but we got through. Before lunch we visited a private coffee plantation where we were given the complete tour and free coffee afterwards, of course most of us bought quantities of coffee on the way out. We added one new species at the plantation, the Plain Wren (which has now been split into three species, we have already seen the Isthmian species and today we saw the Cabanis's version).



Our lunch was taken at a restaurant at Ujarras where we sat and ate in a large garden full of bird feeders, it was fantastic, the birds were just a few meters from our lunch table. We had excellent close views of many species including Blue-crowned Motmot, Summer Tanager, Greyish Saltator, Rufous-capped Warbler and many common species. We added White-lined Tanager and searched for the Garden Emerald which is a speciality of the area but we failed to see one. So, we took a little walk to a wild flower bush in the drive-way and saw the Emerald there, job done.

For the next hour we searched the local tracks for the endemic Cabanis's Sparrow (formerly thought to be a subspecies of Prevost's Ground-Sparrow but now given species status) without luck, we did see Lesser Scaup in good numbers on a lake we overlooked from the track.

We then set off for our next hotel near Orosi, making one final stop at the Embalse Cachi near Orosi. We found a Least Grebe there as well as Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Great Egret, Wood Stork and a Muscovy Duck.

We settled into our rooms at 5:30pm and met up for dinner at 6:45pm, our bird-log didn't take long to complete, we had only seen 69 species today with just 13 new species bringing the total to 457.

### **DAY 15 – FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2018**

#### **TAPANTI NATIONAL PARK ALL MORNING AND OROSI RESERVOIR ROAD IN THE AFTERNOON**

Well, Tapanti was as good as ever, we were also especially lucky with the weather, it is supposed to be a cloud forest National Park but we hardly saw a cloud! We had breakfast at 6am and we set off at 6:40 for the short drive to the Park which is about 45 minutes from the hotel. We notched up Bronze Cowbird along the way and a few Montezuma Oropendolas.



The park opens at 8am and we arrived near the entrance at 7:30pm so we got off the bus and birded the approached track, listing Broad-winged Hawk, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Black Phoebe, Collared Trogon and quite a few tanagers.

Once in the park we walked along the main track with the bus following behind us. The main track was very wide giving an open area where we could view the forest on both sides of us. Several smaller trails run off the main track and we took one of those at some stage.

Birds were few and far between until we bumped into a feeding flock, then everything happened at once, many species were in each flock and Johan worked hard to show them all to us. Lots of flocks were made up of Tanagers and American Warblers that over-winter in Costa Rica. We saw Black-and-White, Wilson's, Chestnut-sided, Tennessee, Bay-breasted, Blackburnian, Black-throated Green and Golden-winged Warblers. Also, American Redstart, Tropical Parula, Slate-throated Redstart, Bananaquit and lots of Common Chlorospingus.

New birds for our were hard to come by but we managed to see a few of them, Red-faced Spinetail, Spotted Barbtail, the beautiful Golden-browed Chlorophonia, both White-winged and Yellow-and-Black Tanagers, Elegant

Euphonia, Golden-bellied Flycatcher and Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush (giving us the full set of four of this family).



For lunch we drove into town and ate a restaurant near the main square which was lovely. Then we took a dirt road up into the mountains above Orosi where a large reservoir sits. Unfortunately, there wasn't any water behind the dam because of repair work, so we didn't see any ducks or grebes. Our walk down the track was just as interesting as the walk in Tapanti was this morning. We quickly listed three new species, first, a flock of Barred Parrots flew over calling loudly, we counted 18 of them. Secondly a Streaked Xenops appeared with a small flock of other birds in nearby bushes, at the same time two hummingbirds appeared. The Green-breasted Mango chased off the Black-bellied Hummingbird which was high up on our most wanted list, neither of the hummers returned.

The walk down was punctuated with many stops we had a great time watching dozens of birds, but we never added another species to the list. About 5pm it clouded over and began to rain lightly, this was our cue to leave and head back to the hotel.

Our list for the day was 90 species with a number of new sightings bringing the new total to 470 (11 of which were 'heard only').

We have time for one last birding session tomorrow morning before we pack for the last time and head off to the airport.

#### **DAY 16 – SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2018**

##### **TRANSFER FROM RIO PERLAS HOTEL IN OROSI, TO ALJUELA, SAN JOSE AIRPORT**

Our morning walk produced very little in terms of numbers of birds it was very quiet as we walked along the main road outside of the hotel grounds. So, we went for breakfast having listed about 10-15 species.

It was just before breakfast time that we had our last bit of excitement when one of the group found a pair of Sunbitterns in the hotel grounds. Fantastic, we all had great views of this mysterious bird, the male was calling whilst the female was collecting nesting material. The breakfast table was buzzing.

Furthermore, Johan our guide, had one last trick up his sleeve during the journey to the Airport. He stopped the bus in the centre of Cartago and walked us to the main plaza which had several mature trees growing in front of the modern Catholic Church. He set his scope onto a Palm Tree where a hole contained a Barn Owl, unbelievable!

A Barn Owl nesting in the centre of a huge city, whatever next? Well, we walked 20 meters or so and Johan showed us a pair of Tropical Screech Owls roosting above a busy walk-way. Truly amazing and a great bit of last minute birding. Just after we set off again, we saw from the bus a Mourning Dove fly across our view, another trip tick bringing the total to 472.

We arrived at the airport in good time, Johan, Rommel and three of the group (they were staying on for extra days and later flights) left with the bus, the rest of us said our farewells and entered the airport. The trip was over, everyone was safely delivered to the check-in desk, can't wait for next year's trip, come and join us!

## WINGSPAN BIRD TOURS IN COSTA RICA - FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup> – MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup> 2019

### SPECIES RECORDED BETWEEN FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> – MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup> 2018

	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	TRIP
	<b>Tinamidae</b>		
1	Great Tinamou	<i>Tinamus major</i>	X
2	Slaty-breasted Tinamou	<i>Crypturellas boucardi</i>	X
	<b>Anatidae</b>		
3	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	X
4	Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>	X
5	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	X
6	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	X
	<b>Cracidae</b>		
7	Gray-headed Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis cinereiceps</i>	X
8	Crested Guan	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>	X
9	Black Guan	<i>Chamaepetes unicolor</i>	X
10	Great Curassow	<i>Crax rubra</i>	X
	<b>Podicipedidae</b>		
11	Least Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>	X
	<b>Odontophoridae</b>		
12	Spotted Wood-Quail	<i>Odontophorus guttatus</i>	X
13	Crested Bobwhite	<i>Colinus cristatus</i>	X
	<b>Ciconiidae</b>		
14	Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	X
	<b>Fregatidae</b>		
15	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	X
	<b>Phalacrocoracidae</b>		
16	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	X
	<b>Anhingidae</b>		
17	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	X
	<b>Pelecanidae</b>		
18	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	X
	<b>Ardeidae</b>		
19	Bare-throated Tiger Heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>	X
20	Fascinated Tiger Heron	<i>Trigrisoma fasciatum</i>	X
21	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	X
22	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	X
23	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	X
24	Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>	X
25	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	X
26	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolour</i>	X
27	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	X
28	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	X
29	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	X
30	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>	X
31	Boat-billed Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>	X



	<b>Threskiornithidae</b>		
32	White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	<b>X</b>
33	Green Ibis	<i>Mesembrinibis cayennensis</i>	<b>X</b>
34	Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Cathartidae</b>		
35	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	<b>X</b>
36	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	<b>X</b>
37	King Vulture	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Pandionidae</b>		
38	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Accipitridae</b>		
39	Swallow-tailed Kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	<b>X</b>
40	White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	<b>X</b>
41	Plumbeous Kite	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>	<b>X</b>
42	Barred Hawk	<i>Morphnarchus princeps</i>	<b>X</b>
43	Roadside Hawk	<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>	<b>X</b>
44	Harris's Hawk	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>	<b>X</b>
45	Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	<b>X</b>
46	Gray Hawk	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>	<b>X</b>
47	Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo bracyurus</i>	<b>X</b>
48	Common Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>	<b>X</b>
49	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	<b>X</b>
50	Ornate Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus ornatus</i>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Eurypygidae</b>		
51	Sunbittern	<i>Eurypyga helias</i>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Rallidae</b>		
52	White-throated Crake	<i>Laterallus albigularis</i>	<b>H</b>
53	Russet-naped Wood-Rail	<i>Aramides albiventris</i>	<b>X</b>
54	Rufous-necked Wood-Rail	<i>Armides axillaris</i>	<b>X</b>
55	Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinicus</i>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Burhinidae</b>		
56	Double-striped Thick-Knee	<i>Burhinus bistriatus</i>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Charadriidae</b>		
57	Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>	<b>X</b>
58	Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	<b>X</b>
59	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Recurvirostridae</b>		
60	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Jacanidae</b>		
61	Northern Jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Scolopacidae</b>		
62	Surfbird	<i>Aphriza virgata</i>	<b>X</b>
63	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	<b>X</b>
64	Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	<b>X</b>
65	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpresjū</i>	<b>X</b>
66	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	<b>X</b>
67	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	<b>X</b>
68	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	<b>X</b>
69	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limos Fedoa</i>	<b>X</b>
70	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	<b>X</b>
71	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	<b>X</b>
72	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	<b>X</b>
73	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	<b>X</b>
74	Wilson's Plover	<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Laridae</b>		
75	Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>	<b>X</b>
76	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	<b>X</b>
77	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	<b>X</b>
78	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	<b>X</b>
79	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Rynchopidae</b>		

80	Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>	X
	<b>Columbidae</b>		
81	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	X
82	Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>	X
83	Scaled Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas speciosa</i>	H
84	Red-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i>	X
85	Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	X
86	Ruddy Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas subvinacea</i>	X
87	Short-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas nigrirostris</i>	X
88	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	X
89	Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>	X
90	Common Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	X
91	Plain-breasted Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina minuta</i>	X
92	Blue Ground-Dove	<i>Claravis pretiosa</i>	X
93	Ruddy Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	X
94	White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	X
95	Gray-chested Dove	<i>Leptotila cassinii</i>	X
	<b>Cuculidae</b>		
96	Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	X
97	Lesser Ground-Cuckoo	<i>Morococcyx erythropygus</i>	H
98	Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>	X
99	Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	X
	<b>Tytonidae</b>		
100	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	X
	<b>Strigidae</b>		
101	Pacific Screech Owl	<i>Megascops cooperi</i>	X
102	Tropical Screech-Owl	<i>Megascops choliba</i>	X
103	Crested Owl	<i>Lophistrix cristata</i>	X
104	Spectacled Owl	<i>Pulsatrix perspicillata</i>	X
105	Mottled Owl	<i>Ciccaba virgata</i>	X
106	Black-and-White Owl	<i>Ciccaba nigrolinata</i>	X
107	Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>	X
	<b>Caprimulgidae</b>		
108	Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>	X
109	Common Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>	X
110	Dusky Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus saturatus</i>	X
	<b>Apodidae</b>		
111	Spot-fronted Swift	<i>Cypseiodes cherriei</i>	X
112	White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>	X
113	Chestnut-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne rutila</i>	X
114	Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	X
115	Black Swift	<i>Cypseloides niger</i>	X
116	Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	X
117	Costa Rican Swift	<i>Chaetura fumosa</i>	X
118	Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift	<i>Panyptila cayennensis</i>	X
119	Gray-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>	X
	<b>Trochilidae</b>		
120	White-necked Jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	X
121	Green Hermit	<i>Phaethornis guy</i>	X
122	Long-billed Hermit	<i>Phaethornis longirostris</i>	X
123	Stripe-throated Hermit	<i>Phaethornis striigularis</i>	X
124	Green Violetear	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>	X
125	Purple-crowned Fairy	<i>Heliothryx barroti</i>	X
126	Green-breasted Mango	<i>Anthracothorax prevostii</i>	X
127	Black-crested Coquette	<i>Lophornis helenae</i>	X
128	White-crested Coquette	<i>Lophornis adorabilis</i>	X
129	Green-crowned Brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa jacula</i>	X
130	Green Thorntail	<i>Discosura conversii</i>	X
131	Talamanca Hummingbird	<i>Eugenes spectabilis</i>	X
132	Fiery-throated Hummingbird	<i>Panterpe insignis</i>	X
133	Plain-capped Starthroat	<i>Heliomaster constantii</i>	X

134	White-throated Mountain-gem	<i>Lampornis castaneiventris</i>	X
135	Purple-throated Mountain-gem	<i>Lampornis calolaema</i>	X
136	Magenta-throated WoodStar	<i>Calliphlox bryantae</i>	X
137	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	X
138	Volcano Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus flammula</i>	X
139	Scintillant Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus scintilla</i>	X
140	Violet-headed Hummingbird	<i>Klais guimeti</i>	X
141	Scaly-breasted Hummingbird	<i>Phaeochroa cuvierii</i>	X
142	Violet Sabrewing	<i>Campylopterus hemileucurus</i>	X
143	Stripe-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Eupherusa eximia</i>	X
144	Black-bellied Hummingbird	<i>Eupherusa nigriventris</i>	X
145	White-tailed Emerald	<i>Elvira chionura</i>	X
146	Coppery-headed Emerald	<i>Elvira cupreliceps</i>	X
147	Snowcap	<i>Microchera albocoronata</i>	X
148	Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer	<i>Chalybura urochrysis</i>	X
149	Crowned Woodnymph	<i>Thalurania colombica</i>	X
150	Mangrove Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia boucardi</i>	H
151	Steely-vented Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia saucerrottei</i>	X
152	Snowy-bellied Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia edward</i>	X
153	Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>	X
154	Cinnamon Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia rutila</i>	X
155	Blue-throated Goldentail	<i>Hylocharis eliciae</i>	X
	<b>Trogonidae</b>		
156	Slaty-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon massena</i>	X
157	Black-headed Trogon	<i>Trogon melanocephalus</i>	X
158	Gartered Trogon	<i>Trogon caligatus</i>	X
159	Black-throated Trogon	<i>Trogon rufus</i>	X
160	Collared Trogon	<i>Trogon collaris</i>	X
161	Resplendent Quetzal	<i>Pharomachrus mocinno</i>	X
	<b>Momotidae</b>		
162	Lesson's Motmot	<i>Momotus lessonii</i>	X
163	Rufous Motmot	<i>Baryphthengus martii</i>	X
164	Broad-billed Motmot	<i>Electron platyrhynchum</i>	X
165	Keeled-billed Motmot	<i>Electron carinatum</i>	X
166	Turquoise-browed Motmot	<i>Eumomota superciliosa</i>	X
	<b>Alcedinidae</b>		
167	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	X
168	Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquatus</i>	X
169	Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>	X
170	Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	X
171	American Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>	X
	<b>Bucconidae</b>		
172	White-necked Puffbird	<i>Notharchus macrorhynchos</i>	X
173	White-whiskered Puffbird	<i>Malacoptila panamensis</i>	X
	<b>Galbulidae</b>		
174	Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>	X
	<b>Semnornithidae</b>		
175	Prong-billed Barbet	<i>Semnornis frantzii</i>	X
176	Red-headed Barbet	<i>Eubucco bourclerii</i>	X
	<b>Ramphastidae</b>		
177	Emerald Toucanet	<i>Aulacorhynchus prasinus</i>	X
178	Yellow-eared Toucanet	<i>Selenidera spectabilis</i>	X
179	Collared Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus torquatus</i>	X
180	Fiery-billed Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus frantzii</i>	X
181	Keel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos sulfuratus</i>	X
182	Yellow-throated Toucan	<i>Ramphastos ambiguus</i>	X
	<b>Picidae</b>		
183	Olivaceous Piculet	<i>Picumnus olivaceus</i>	X
184	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	X
185	Black-cheeked Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes pucherani</i>	X
186	Red-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes rubricapillus</i>	X



187	Hoffmann's Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes hoffmannii</i>	X
188	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	X
189	Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	X
190	Rufous-winged Woodpecker	<i>Piculus simplex</i>	X
191	Golden-olive Woodpecker	<i>Collapses rubiginosus</i>	X
192	Cinnamon Woodpecker	<i>Celeus loricatus</i>	X
193	Chestnut-colored Woodpecker	<i>Celeus castaneus</i>	X
194	Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	X
195	Pale-billed Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i>	X
	<b>Falconidae</b>		
196	Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>	X
197	Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>	X
198	Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>	X
199	Merlin	<i>Falco colombarius</i>	X
200	Bat Falcon	<i>Falco rufigularis</i>	X
	<b>Psittacidae</b>		
201	Crimson-fronted Parakeet	<i>Aratinga finschi</i>	X
202	Sulphur-winged Parakeet	<i>Pyrrhura hoffmanni</i>	X
203	Olive-throated Parakeet	<i>Aratinga nana</i>	X
204	Orange-fronted Parakeet	<i>Aratinga canicularis</i>	X
205	Great Green Macaw	<i>Ara ambiguus</i>	X
206	Scarlet Macaw	<i>Ara macao</i>	X
207	Barred Parakeet	<i>Bolborhynchus lineola</i>	X
208	Orange-chinned Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris jugularis</i>	X
209	Brown-hooded Parrot	<i>Pyrilia menstruus</i>	X
210	White-crowned Parrot	<i>Pionus senilis</i>	X
211	White-fronted Parrot	<i>Amazona albifrons</i>	X
212	Red-lore Parrot	<i>Amazona autumnalis</i>	X
213	Mealy Parrot	<i>Amazona farinosa</i>	X
214	Yellow-naped Parrot	<i>Amazona auropalliata</i>	X
	<b>Thamnophilidae</b>		
215	Fasciated Antshrike	<i>Cymbilaimus lineatus</i>	X
216	Barred Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>	X
217	Black-hooded Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus bridgesi</i>	X
218	Russet Antshrike	<i>Thamnistes anabatinus</i>	X
219	Dusky Antbird	<i>Cercomacra tyrannina</i>	X
220	Barer-crowned Antbird	<i>Gymnocichla nudiceps</i>	X
221	Spotted Antbird	<i>Hylophylax naevioides</i>	X
222	Dull-mantled Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza laemosticta</i>	X
223	Chestnut-backed Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza exsul</i>	X
224	Black-crowned Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus atrinucha</i>	X
	<b>Grallariidae</b>		
225	Streaked-chested Antpitta	<i>Hylopezus perspicillatus</i>	X
226	Thicket Antpitta	<i>Hylopezus dives</i>	X
	<b>Rhinocryptidae</b>		
227	Silvery-fronted Tapaculo	<i>Scytalopus argentifrons</i>	H
	<b>Furnariidae</b>		
228	Plain Xenops	<i>Xenops minutus</i>	X
229	Streaked Xenops	<i>Xenops rutilans</i>	X
230	Spotted Barbtail	<i>Premnoplex brunnescens</i>	X
231	Ruddy Treerunner	<i>Margarornis rubiginosus</i>	X
232	Red-faced Spinetail	<i>Cranioleuca erythrops</i>	X
233	Lineated Foliage Gleaner	<i>Syndactyla subalaris</i>	X
234	Tawny-throated Leaf Tosser	<i>Sclerurus mexicanus</i>	X
	<b>Dendrocolaptidae</b>		
235	Olivaceous Woodcreeper	<i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i>	X
236	Tawny-winged Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla anabatina</i>	X
237	Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>	X
238	Northern-barred Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocolaptes sanctithoma</i>	X
239	Cocoa Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus susurrans</i>	X
240	Spotted Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus erythropygius</i>	X

241	Streak-headed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>	X
242	Spot-crowned Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes affinis</i>	X
243	Brown-billed Sythebill	<i>Campylorhamphus pusillus</i>	X
	<b>Tyrannidae</b>		
244	Yellow-bellied Elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>	X
245	Mountain Elaenia	<i>Elaenia frantzii</i>	X
246	Greenish Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis viridicata</i>	X
247	Northern Scrub-Flycatcher	<i>Sublegatus arenarum</i>	X
248	Torrent Tyrannulet	<i>Serpophaga cinerea</i>	X
249	Olive-striped Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes olivaceus</i>	X
250	Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>	X
251	Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher	<i>Myiobius sulphureipygius</i>	X
252	Slaty-capped Flycatcher	<i>Leptopogon superciliaris</i>	X
253	Northern Bentbill	<i>Oncostoma cinerreigulare</i>	X
254	Paltry Tyrannulet	<i>Zimmerius vilissimus</i>	X
255	Northern Beardless Tyrannulet	<i>Campostoma limberbe</i>	X
256	Southern Beardless Tyrannulet	<i>Campostoma obsoletum</i>	X
257	Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Myornis atricapillus</i>	X
258	Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Lophotriccus pileatus</i>	X
259	Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Poecilatriccus sylvia</i>	X
260	Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>	X
261	Eye-ringed Flatbill	<i>Rhynchocyclus brevirostris</i>	X
262	Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum nigriceps</i>	X
263	Yellow-olive Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>	X
264	Yellow Tyrannulet	<i>Capsiempis flaveola</i>	X
265	Royal Flycatcher	<i>Onychorhynchus coronatus</i>	X
266	Ochraceous Pewee	<i>Contopus ochraceus</i>	X
267	Dark Pewee	<i>Contopus lugubris</i>	X
268	Tropical Pewee	<i>Contopus cinereus</i>	X
269	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	X
270	Black-capped Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax atriceps</i>	X
271	Tufted Flycatcher	<i>Mitrephanes phaeocerus</i>	X
272	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	X
273	Long-tailed Tyrant	<i>Colonia colonus</i>	X
274	Bright-rumped Attila	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>	X
275	Rufous Mourner	<i>Rhytipterna holerythra</i>	X
276	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>	X
277	Panama Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus panamensis</i>	X
278	Nutting's Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus nuttingi</i>	X
279	Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	X
280	Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>	X
281	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	X
282	Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarhynchus pitangua</i>	X
283	Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	X
284	Gray-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes granadensis</i>	X
285	Golden-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes hemichrysus</i>	X
286	Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>	X
287	Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeipiraticus</i>	X
288	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	X
289	Fork-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>	X
290	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	X
	<b>Tyritidae</b>		
291	Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>	X
292	Black-crowned Tityra	<i>Tityra inquisitor</i>	X
293	Barred Becard	<i>Pachyramphus versicolor</i>	X
294	Cinnamon Becard	<i>Pachyramphus cinnamomeus</i>	X
295	Rose-throated Becard	<i>Pachyramphus aglaiae</i>	X
	<b>Cotingidae</b>		
296	Snowy Cotinga	<i>Carpodectes nitidus</i>	X
297	Yellow-billed Cotinga	<i>Carpodectes antoniae</i>	X
298	Turquoise Cotinga	<i>Carpodectes ridgwayi</i>	X

299	Purple-throated Fruitcrow	<i>Querula purpurata</i>	<b>X</b>
300	Three-wattled Bellbird	<i>Procnias Tricaruncalatus</i>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Pipridae</b>		
301	White-collared Manakin	<i>Manacus candei</i>	<b>X</b>
302	Orange-collared Manakin	<i>Manacus aurantiacus</i>	<b>X</b>
303	Red-capped Manakin	<i>Pipra mentalis</i>	<b>X</b>
304	Long-tailed Manakin	<i>Chiroxiphia holochlora</i>	<b>X</b>
305	Blue-crowned Manakin	<i>Pipra coronata</i>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Vireonidae</b>		
306	Mangrove Vireo	<i>Vireo pallens</i>	<b>X</b>
307	Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	<b>X</b>
308	Yellow-winged Vireo	<i>Vireo carmioli</i>	<b>X</b>
309	Brown-capped Vireo	<i>Vireo leucophrys</i>	<b>X</b>
310	Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	<b>X</b>
311	Lesser Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus decurtatus</i>	<b>X</b>
312	Rufous-browed Peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>	<b>X</b>
313	Green Shrike-Vireo	<i>Vireolanius pulchellus</i>	<b>H</b>
	<b>Corvidae</b>		
314	White-throated Magpie-Jay	<i>Calocitta formosa</i>	<b>X</b>
315	Brown Jay	<i>Psilorhinus morio</i>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Hirundinidae</b>		
316	Gray-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>	<b>X</b>
317	Mangrove Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>	<b>X</b>
318	Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Pygochelidon cyanoleuca</i>	<b>X</b>
319	N. Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	<b>X</b>
320	S, Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>	<b>X</b>
321	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	<b>X</b>
322	Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	<b>X</b>
323	Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Troglodytidae</b>		
324	Nightingale Wren	<i>Microcerulus philomela</i>	<b>H</b>
325	House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	<b>X</b>
326	Timberline Wren	<i>Thryorchilus browni</i>	<b>X</b>
327	Ochraceous Wren	<i>Troglodytes ochraceus</i>	<b>X</b>
328	Band-backed Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus zonatus</i>	<b>X</b>
329	Rufous-naped Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus rufinucha</i>	<b>X</b>
330	Rufous-breasted Wren	<i>Pheugopedius rutilus</i>	<b>X</b>
331	Stripe-breasted Wren	<i>Cantorchilus thoracicus</i>	<b>X</b>
332	Black-throated Wren	<i>Pheugopedius atrogularis</i>	<b>X</b>
333	Bay Wren	<i>Cantorchilus nigricapillus</i>	<b>X</b>
334	Riverside Wren	<i>Cantorchilus semibadius</i>	<b>X</b>
335	Isthmian Wren	<i>Cantorchilus elutus</i>	<b>X</b>
336	Cabanis's Wren	<i>Cantorchilus modestus</i>	<b>X</b>
337	White-breasted Wood-Wren	<i>Henicorhina leucosticta</i>	<b>X</b>
338	Gray-breasted Wood-Wren	<i>Henicorhina leucophrys</i>	<b>X</b>
339	Banded Wren	<i>Thryothorus rufalbus</i>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Poliophtidae</b>		
340	Long-billed Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>	<b>X</b>
341	White-lored Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila albiloris</i>	<b>X</b>
342	Tropical Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila plumbea</i>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Cinclidae</b>		
343	American Dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Turdidae</b>		
344	Black-faced Solitaire	<i>Myadestes melanops</i>	<b>X</b>
345	Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush	<i>Catharus frantzii</i>	<b>X</b>
346	Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush	<i>Catharus gracilirostris</i>	<b>X</b>
347	Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush	<i>Catharus mexicanus</i>	<b>X</b>
348	Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush	<i>Catharus aurantirostris</i>	<b>X</b>
349	Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush	<i>Catharus fuscater</i>	<b>X</b>
350	Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	<b>X</b>
351	Sooty Thrush	<i>Turdus nigrescens</i>	<b>X</b>



352	Mountain Thrush	<i>Turdus plebejus</i>	X
353	Clay-colored Thrush	<i>Turdus grayi</i>	X
354	Pale-vented Thrush	<i>Turdus obsoletus</i>	X
355	White-throated Thrush	<i>Turdus assimilis</i>	X
	<b>Mimidae</b>		
356	Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	X
	<b>Ptilonotidae</b>		
357	Black-and-yellow Silky-Flycatcher	<i>Phainoptila melanocephala</i>	X
358	Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher	<i>Ptilonotus caudatus</i>	X
	<b>Parulidae</b>		
359	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	X
360	Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	X
361	Golden-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	X
362	Mourning Warbler	<i>Geothlypis philadelphia</i>	X
363	Olive-crowned Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis semiflava</i>	X
364	Grey-crowned Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis poliocephala</i>	X
365	Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	X
366	American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	X
367	Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	X
368	Flame-throated Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis gutturalis</i>	X
369	Tennessee Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis peregrina</i>	X
370	Tropical Parula	<i>Setophaga pitayumi</i>	X
371	Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Setophaga fusca</i>	X
372	Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	X
373	Mangrove Warbler	<i>Dendroica p. erythrorhynchos</i>	X
374	Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Setophaga pensylvanica</i>	X
375	Bay-breasted Warbler	<i>Setophaga castanea</i>	X
376	Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Setophaga virens</i>	X
377	Buff-rumped Warbler	<i>Myiothlypis fulvicauda</i>	X
378	Rufous-capped Warbler	<i>Basileuterus rufifrons</i>	X
379	Black-cheeked Warbler	<i>Basileuterus melanogenys</i>	X
380	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	X
381	Slate-throated Redstart	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>	X
382	Collared Redstart	<i>Myioborus torquatus</i>	X
383	Golden-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>	X
384	Wrenthrush	<i>Zeledonia coronata</i>	X
	<b>Coerebinae</b>		
385	Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	X
	<b>Thraupidae</b>		
386	Dusky-faced Tanager	<i>Mitrospingus cassinii</i>	X
387	Grey-headed Tanager	<i>Eucometis penicillata</i>	X
388	White-shouldered Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus luctuosus</i>	X
389	Tawny-crested Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus delatirii</i>	X
390	White-lined Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus rufus</i>	X
391	Crimson-collared Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus sanguinolentus</i>	X
392	White-throated Shrike Tanager	<i>Lanio leucothorax</i>	X
393	Passerini's Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus passerinii</i>	X
394	Cherries's Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus costaricensis</i>	X
395	Blue-gray Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	X
396	Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	X
397	Golden-hooded Tanager	<i>Tangara larvata</i>	X
398	Speckled Tanager	<i>Tangara guttata</i>	X
399	Spangle-cheeked Tanager	<i>Tangara dowii</i>	X
400	Bay-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>	X
401	Emerald Tanager	<i>Tangara florida</i>	X
402	Silver-throated Tanager	<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>	X
403	Black-and-Yellow Tanager	<i>Chrysothlypis chrysomelas</i>	X
404	Rufous-winged Tanager	<i>Tangara lavinia</i>	X
405	Scarlet-thighed Dacnis	<i>Dacnis venusta</i>	X
406	Blue Dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>	X
407	Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>	X

408	Red-legged Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>	X
	<b>Estrildidae</b>		
409	Tri-colored Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>	X
	<b>Genus Incertae Sedis</b>		
410	Grayish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>	X
411	Buff-throated Saltator	<i>Saltator maximus</i>	X
412	Black-headed Saltator	<i>Saltator atriceps</i>	X
413	<b>Emberizidae</b>		
414	Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>	X
415	Variable Seedeater	<i>Sporophila americana</i>	X
416	White-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila torqueola</i>	X
417	Thick-billed Seed-Finch	<i>Oryzoborus funereus</i>	X
418	Yellow-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris olivaceus</i>	X
419	Slaty Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa plumbea</i>	X
420	Yellow-thighed Finch	<i>Pselliophorus tibialis</i>	X
421	Large-footed Finch	<i>Pezopetes capitalis</i>	X
422	Orange-billed Sparrow	<i>Arremon aurantirostris</i>	X
423	Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch	<i>Arremon brunneinucha</i>	X
424	White-naped Brush-Finch	<i>Atlapetes albinucha</i>	X
425	Cabanis's Ground-Sparrow	<i>Melospiza bicolor</i>	X
426	White-eared Ground-Sparrow	<i>Melospiza leucotis</i>	X
427	Black-striped Sparrow	<i>Arremonops conirostris</i>	X
428	Olive Sparrow	<i>Arremonops rufivirgatus</i>	X
429	Stripe-headed Sparrow	<i>Peucaea ruficauda</i>	X
430	Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>	X
431	Volcano Junco	<i>Junco vulcani</i>	X
432	Common Chlorospingus	<i>Chlorospingus flavopectus</i>	X
433	Sooty-capped Chlorospingus	<i>Chlorospingus pileatus</i>	X
	<b>Cardinalidae</b>		
434	Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	X
435	Hepatic Tanager	<i>Piranga flava</i>	X
436	Flame-colored Tanager	<i>Piranga bidentata</i>	X
437	White-winged Tanager	<i>Piranga leucoptera</i>	X
438	Red-throated Ant-Tanager	<i>Habia fuscicauda</i>	X
439	Camiol's Tanager	<i>Chlorothraupis carmioli</i>	X
440	Black-faced Grosbeak	<i>Caryothraustes poliogaster</i>	X
441	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	X
442	Blue-black Grosbeak	<i>Cyanocopsa cyanoides</i>	X
443	Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	X
444	Painted Bunting	<i>Passerina ciris</i>	X
	<b>Icteridae</b>		
445	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	X
446	Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	X
447	Melodious Blackbird	<i>Dives dives</i>	X
448	Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	X
449	Black-cowled Oriole	<i>Icterus prothemelas</i>	X
450	Bronzed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>	X
451	Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>	X
452	Spot-breasted Oriole	<i>Icterus pectoralis</i>	X
453	Streak-backed Oriole	<i>Icterus pustulatus</i>	X
454	Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	X
455	Scarlet-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus uropygialis</i>	X
456	Chestnut-headed Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius wagleri</i>	X
457	Montezuma Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius montezuma</i>	X
	<b>Fringillidae</b>		
458	Scrub Euphonia	<i>Euphonia affinis</i>	X
459	Yellow-crowned Euphonia	<i>Euphonia luteicapilla</i>	X
460	Yellow-throated Euphonia	<i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>	X
461	Elegant Euphonia	<i>Euphonia elegantissima</i>	X
462	Spot-crowned Euphonia	<i>Euphonia imitans</i>	H
463	Olive-backed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia gouldi</i>	X

464	Tawny-capped Euphonia	<i>Euphonia anneae</i>	<b>X</b>
465	Golden-browed Chlorophonia	<i>Chlorophonia callophrys</i>	<b>X</b>
466	Yellow-bellied Siskin	<i>Carduelis xanthogastra</i>	<b>X</b>
467	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Passeridae</b>		
468	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	<b>X</b>
	<b>Total seen = 463 total heard-only = 5</b>		
	<b>MAMMALS</b>		
1.	Bat, Honduran White	<i>Diclidurus albus</i>	<b>X</b>
2.	Bat , Lesser-White-Lined	<i>Saccopteryx leptura</i>	<b>X</b>
3.	Tamandua , Northern	<i>Tamandua maxicana</i>	<b>X</b>
4.	Agouti , Central-American	<i>Dasyprocta punctata</i>	<b>X</b>
5.	Squirrel , Red-Tailed	<i>Sciurus granatensis</i>	<b>X</b>
6.	Squirrel , Varigated	<i>Sciurus variegatoides</i>	<b>X</b>
7.	Coati , White-Nosed	<i>Nasua narica</i>	<b>X</b>
8.	Raccoon, Crab-eating	<i>Procyon cancrivorous</i>	<b>X</b>
9.	Sloth ,Three-Toed	<i>Bradypus variegatus</i>	<b>X</b>
10.	Monkey , Mantled-Howler	<i>Alouatta palliata</i>	<b>X</b>
11.	Monkey ,Central-Am.-Spider	<i>Saimiri oerstedii</i>	<b>X</b>
12.	Monkey , White-Faced-Capuchin	<i>Cebus capucinus</i>	<b>X</b>
13.	Peccary , Collared	<i>Pecari tajacu</i>	<b>X</b>
14.	Neotropic River Otter	<i>Lutra longicaudis</i>	<b>X</b>
15.	Rabbit, Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	<b>X</b>
16.	Opossum, Brown Four-eyed	<i>Metachirus nudicaudatus</i>	<b>X</b>
17.			
18.			
	<b>REPTILES</b>		
1.	Basilisk, Emerald	<i>Basiliscus plumifrons</i>	<b>X</b>
2.	Basilisk, Striped	<i>Basiliscus vittatus</i>	<b>X</b>
3.	Basilisk, Common (jesus Christ)	<i>Basiliscus basiliscus</i>	<b>X</b>
4.	AnoLe, Ground	<i>Norops humilis</i>	<b>X</b>
5.	Lizard, Green Spiny	<i>Sceloporus malachiticus</i>	<b>X</b>
6.	Caimen , Spectacled	<i>Caiman crocodilus</i>	<b>X</b>
7.	Crocodile , American	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>	<b>X</b>
8.	Iguana, Green	<i>Iguana iguana</i>	<b>X</b>
9.	Iguana , Spiny-Tailed	<i>Ctenosaura similis</i>	<b>X</b>
10.	Snake, Common Cat-eyed	<i>Leptodeira annulata</i>	<b>X</b>
11.	Viper, Eyelash Pit	<i>Bothriechis schlegelii</i>	<b>X</b>
12.	Turtle, Black River	<i>Rhinoclemmys funerea</i>	<b>X</b>
13.			
	<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>		
1.	Poison-Dart-Frog , Green-&-Black	<i>Dendrobates auratus</i>	<b>X</b>
2.	Poison-Dart Frog, Blue Jeans	<i>Dendrobates pumilio</i>	<b>X</b>
3.	Toad , Cane (Marine)	<i>Bufo marinus</i>	<b>X</b>
4.	Milk Frog	<i>Phrynohyas venulosa</i>	<b>X</b>
5.			



