

# WINGSPAN BIRD TOURS

## TRIP REPORT

### COSTA RICA

FEBRUARY 8TH - 23RD 2014



**LEADERS; ROY OROZCO & BOB BUCKLER**

## SUMMARY

Many thanks go to our Costa Rican Guide, Roy Orozco and also to the group as a whole for making this a tremendously successful tour, everyone gave a good measure of input and put in a lot of effort to find a huge list of species. Yes we saw 446 species and listed another 9 which were only heard and not seen.

We saw many regional endemics and 2 out of the 3 Costa Rican endemics, they were the Coppery-headed Emerald, and Mangrove Hummingbird. We saw 44 of the 51 species of hummingbirds found in Costa Rica, this was due to Roy's profound knowledge of these special little birds.

Other highlights included: several sightings of Resplendent Quetzal, a displaying Black-bellied Hummingbird, we had great views of Northern Bentbill, Golden-crowned Spadebill, Scarlet Macaw, Green Macaw, Elegant Euphonia, Golden-browed Chlorophonia.....the list could go on for pages.

Here is A description of each day's birding as we travelled the length and breadth of this beautiful country.

## DAY 1 – FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> 2014

### ARRIVAL IN SAN JOSE AND TRANSFER TO VISTA DE VALLE HOTEL



Roy our Costa Rican guide turned up on time at my hotel and we drove to the meet some of the group members that had already arrived. We sat and chatted for a while before taking our bus to the Hotel Vista de Valle from where

the tour will commence and where the second half of our group will come to meet us this evening after their late flights.

After a brief settling in period we set off for an afternoon walk in the grounds of the hotel. The lodge and most of the cabins are built not far from a very deep gorge where fantastic views can be had of the gorge itself and

the surrounding countryside. It has extensive gardens and trails, we hadn't got far before finding a pair of lovely Rufous-capped Warblers, such stunning colours on such a small bird. We then moved onto open ground and discovered a couple of flowering Poro trees where a couple of dozen of Baltimore Orioles were feeding, they were joined by 2 Hoffman's Woodpeckers, Palm Tanagers, Blue and Grey Tanagers, Black-cowled Oriole, and a Yellow Warbler. We then found a ferruginous Pygmy Owl, lots of Montezuma's Oropendolas, Masked Tityra and a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

As we approached the 'creek trail' we stopped to watch a Yellow-breasted Vireo and a Blue-throated Goldentail, this was our third hummer of the walk! We then walked to a small lake which was both pretty and quiet, just a few Greater Kiskadees and Tropical Kingbirds were catching flies. On the way back we found a huge mixed flock of swifts overhead, they included White-collared, Vaux's and to our great delight one or two Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts. Other sightings included: White-winged, White-tipped and Inca Doves, Red-billed Pigeon and a beautiful Blue-crowned Motmot.

We then sat on the veranda which overlooks the gorge and watched as the sun went down, we added a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak to the list as well as Broad-winged Hawk.

Well that ended our first day in Costa Rica, a very good start to a promising trip. We ate dinner before myself and Roy drove to the airport to collect the remaining six group members.

## **DAY 2 – FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup> 2014**

### **EARLY MORNING WALK AT VISTA DE VALLE – TRANSFER TO SELVA VERDE WITH STOPS AT BRAULIO CARRILLO AND LA SELVA**

Our group was finally fully assembled after last night's arrival of the last 6 members. We all met up at 5:45am at the reception area for our first official birding trip of the tour. We walked the grounds again and found many of the same species that we recorded yesterday with the addition and omission of a few. The Hoffman's Woodpecker showed well again as did the Ferruginous Pygmy Owl and the beautiful Baltimore Orioles. We added new species to the list; Boat-billed Flycatcher, Greyish Saltator, White Hawk, Groove-billed Ani and Rose-throated Becard to name but a few.

During breakfast we also found Keel-billed Toucan, what a stunning that bird is. At 9am we packed our cases onto the bus in readiness for our trip to the Caribbean slopes.

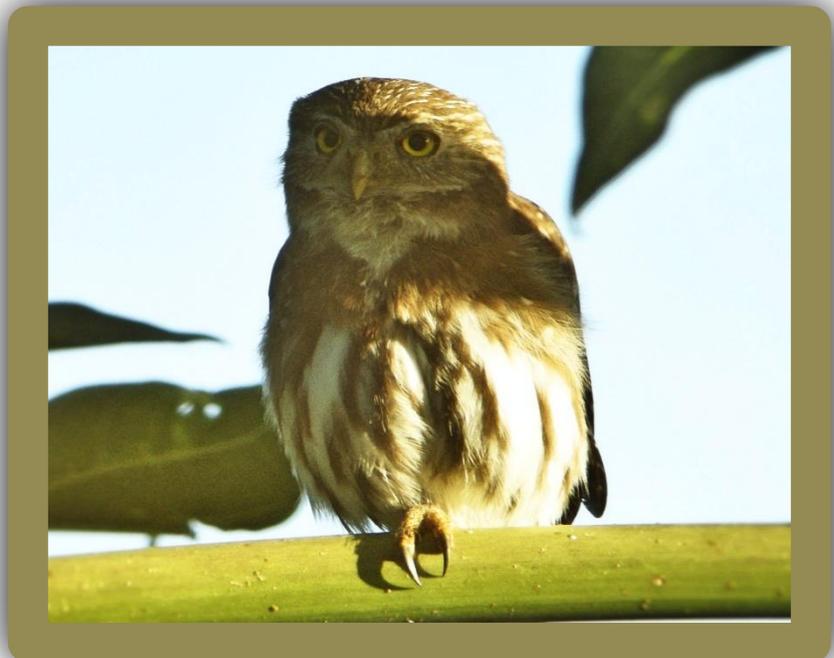
About 1 ½ hours into the journey we stopped at the roadside to look at a Bat Falcon which was perched in its regular roost, nice bird. Then we drove a short way to the entrance of Braulio Carrillo National Park. We had climbed up from the Central valley heading eastward and were a few hundred meters above sea level, Braulio is a National Park of some 50,000 hectares (118,000 acres) and consists mainly of primary forest.

We spent 3 ½ hours on one single trail which loops around one small section of the park, it was full of birds, we were luckily enough to bump into 2 or 3 feeding flocks that held lots of species. We soon got overwhelmed with new birds flitting passed at a fast rate of knots, but with several accomplished birders in the group many of the species were identified. Black-faced Grosbeak, fed with a number of tanagers, the Blue and Gold Tanager was one of prizes. A couple of Euphonias were found with the next feeding flock, we saw the Olive-backed and Tawny-capped varieties.

One super bird and a lifer for most of us was the Brown-billed Sythebill, It is a woodcreeper with the most unusually curved bill you may ever see. Other flocks held, Lesser Greenlet, Plain Xenops, Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Black and White Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Olive Tanager, White-shouldered Tanager and a couple of good finds the Black & Yellow Tanager and the Tawny-crested Tanager. We also found Trogons, Motmots, more woodcreepers and warblers, it was a superb walk and we really had to drag ourselves away for lunch.

It was quite late in the afternoon when we finished lunch so we had to press on to our next lodge but we did make a couple of short stops before we arrived there. The first stop was at the roadside where we look over a large expanse of grassland, we were hoping for Nicaraguan Seedeater, but found only Passerini's Tanager, Blue-black Grassquit and Variable Seedeater. In the distance we saw a very large mixed flock of Red-winged Blackbirds, Groove-billed Anis, Grackles and Cowbirds.

Next we pulled onto a track which led us near to the reserve at La Selva, we stood watching several large fruiting trees in search of Great Green Macaws. It wasn't long before one turned up, calling loudly, it was huge. Whilst there



we also found another Bat Falcon, a Laughing Falcon and to our great surprise and delight five Scarlet Macaws flew in, they looked fantastic in the afternoon sunlight, we also found several parakeets, a couple of parrots and at least 5 Black-mandibled Toucans.

Our last stop was an impromptu one to look at more grassquits seen at the side of the track, but the stop soon developed into much more as new birds appeared from all directions! We watched from the bus as a heavy downpour began, but we had fabulous views of a Hooded Warbler bathing on a large leaf just after the rain-shower. We also saw our second species of woodcreeper, our first Social Flycatcher, a Black-striped Sparrow which was tracked down as we followed its wonderful melodic song, did I really say that about a sparrow!

The light began to fade, and fast, so we jumped back onto the bus and drove the few kilometres to the Selva Verde Lodge. After settling in we drove into the local town to sample local food in a lovely restaurant.

To date we had seen 114 species with some very special sightings in the bag.

### **DAY 3 – FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup> 2014**

### **SELVA VERDE LODGE - LA VIRGEN CLOUD FOREST**

A day of overcast sky and bouts of rain with prolonged rain in the late afternoon.

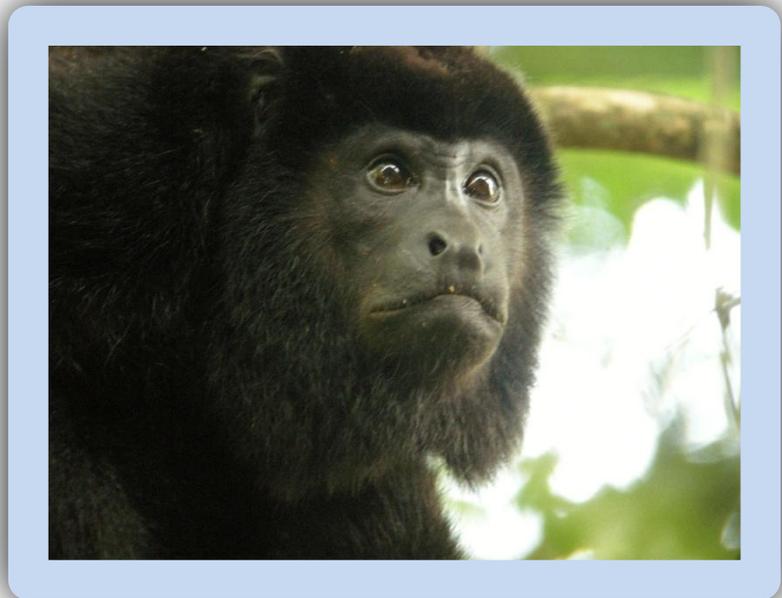
Our day began at 6am with a pre-breakfast walk in the lovely grounds and forest at Selva Verde. But first we watched the bird feeders. Not many species came to feed, however, we did find a Red-throated Ant-Tanager and a Pale-billed Woodpecker nearby. Our walk took us to the river where we enjoyed a hour or so watching both water birds and forest birds along the water's edge.

In and near the water we found two species of Tiger-Heron, the Bare-throated and the Fasciated, they were both in juvenile plumage and it took some time to separate them from one another. We also had great views of Amazon Kingfisher, Spotted Sandpiper and Buff-rumped Warbler.

Many other species flew over the river or perched high in dead trees, we found both Chestnut Mandibled and Keel-billed Toucans, Neotropic Cormorant and several other nice species. Back on the forest trail we found Orange-billed Sparrow, White-collared Manakin and Streak-headed Woodcreeper.

We ate a lovely breakfast at 8am and by 9am we were on the trails again, this time we walked across to the small area of gardens where many species were seen flitting about in the numerous trees and shrubs. Birds such as Cinnamon Becard, Golden-hooded Tanager, Yellow-crowned Euphoria, Red-throated Ant-Tanager, Bronze-tailed Plumeteer, Tropical Gnatcatcher and others kept us busy for a long time. We walked along a dirt track and found a Black-throated Trogon, Tennessee Warbler and Chestnut-sided Warbler. A couple of other sightings were made back at the reception area as we returned: Stripe-throated Hermit and a lovely Wood Thrush.

After a quick break we jumped onto the bus and headed for our next venue the "cloud Forest" at La Virgen. Our destination was a small restaurant where we intended to eat lunch, they had some very active feeders there. Some great treats awaited us, we quickly listed about 15 new birds for the trip. Some excellent sightings were made of Coppery-headed Emerald (one of the three endemics of Costa Rica), also the Prong-billed Barbet ( a regional endemic) and the star of the show had to be the Emerald Toucanet, what a fabulous bird.



We then ate a lovely lunch served in the restaurant, our food was cooked over an open fire and it was superb. It clouded over (well we were in the cloud forest!) and light rain began but it didn't stop us going for a walk a few kilometres down the road. The track we chose dropped steeply down into a steep sided gorge and it was full of birds. There were several American Warblers we had good views of Wilson's, Tennessee, Chestnut Sided and Townsend Warblers, as well as Tropical Perula, Slate-throated Redstart, Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant, Bay-headed Tanager and a couple of new hawks, Barred hawk and Swainson's Hawk.



A little further down the track a beautiful Collared Redstart showed brilliantly, it came so close us that we didn't need bins, it was a photographer's dream, absolutely gorgeous.

More warbler sightings followed but the rain got steadily worse and eventually we arrived at the bottom of the gorge where we stood on a bridge scanning the river. All we found was Black Phoebe, it now getting quite dull too so we called it day and got back onto the bus which had followed us down the track.

We met up again at 7pm and drove into town for our dinner and the heavens opened up, it poured for an hour or so and eased off just in time for us to get back to the lodge to finish another day.

The trip total now stands at 165 species, coming on nicely!

## **DAY 4 - FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> 2014**

### **TRANSFER TO LA SELVA - BIRDING LA SELVA ALL DAY**

Well it poured down all night with some really heavy downpours, that's what everyone told me because I slept through it!!

We got up at 6am it was a dull, drab morning, our meeting time was 7am so we had an hours daylight before then. Some of the group went for a walk others had a lie-in. A couple of good birds were recorded during that time: Great Tinamou and a Ruddy Quail-Dove. Others went looking for poison-dart frogs and found 3 species.

We set off at 7:45am and took a short detour before heading off to La Silva, the detour was to see a Great Potoo, news of which had come our way at breakfast, it was an opportunity not to be missed. The bird was magnificent, although it was fast asleep we appreciated its size and significance of its rarity value in Costa Rica.



So we finally set off for La Selva and arrived at 8:45am when we met our guide for the day. We spent 30 minutes or so listing the species in and around the visitor's centre where a host of birds was seen.

We then set off for our morning walk and one of the first birds that we found was a Snowy Cotinga, what a fantastic, beautiful bird and well named too! We also found a Plain -coloured Tanager on the nest and a small flock of Dusky-faced Tanagers.

Further into the walk we bumped into a small flurry of activity, first we found a Rufous-tailed Jacamar, then a Red-throated Ant Tanager and that was followed by Dusky Antbird, Rufous Mourner, and a Fasciated Antshrike. We then tried to track down a Long-billed Gnatwren but only got brief glimpses of it.

Next we found a Yellow-olive Flycatcher followed by a Slaty-tailed Trogon. Birds just kept on coming and back at the visitor's centre just before lunch we added Common Tody Flycatcher, Black-thighed Grosbeak, Blue Dacnis, Green Honeycreeper and Black-cowled Oriole.



We continued to add new birds to our list, however the clouds thickened and the rain

returned to spoil the afternoon somewhat. Two Motmots were seen, first the Rufous variety and then Broad-billed, both showed extremely well. A Kentucky Warbler was a nice find as was a Cinnamon and then a Chestnut-coloured Woodpecker. Two more Flycatcher went onto the expanding Flycatcher-list, Dusky-capped and Great-crested were both seen well.

We then took another pathway and saw a lovely Black Currasow in the lower branches of a tree. A few Coloured Pheasant were walking about and we did find a very interesting and poisonous snake, the Eye-lashed Pit-Viper as well as Long-nosed bats, Strawberry Poison Dart Frog, Black River-Turtle, Variegated Squirrel, Two-toed Sloth, Spiny-tailed Iguana and lots of unnamed butterflies, moths and other insects.

In the main compound of the field-study centre we stood and watched the tall trees all around the perimeter, many birds were feeding there: Golden-hooded Tanagers joined lots of Baltimore Orioles, Yellow-crowned and Olive-backed Euphonias, Masked Tityras, Buff-throated Saltators and several other species. One nice species was a Lesser Swallow-tail Swift which flew over and one of the group happened to look up at the right time, well done Patrick.

On the way back we stopped on the 'rope-bridge' and found White-ringed Flycatcher, Great Blue Heron, Green Kingfisher and White-crowned Parrots.

We returned at 5pm to end the day's birding but we got carried away chasing more species with the Band-backed Wren finally being added to the day's tally.

Finally as we ate dinner we could hear a Common Parakeet calling so we went out to see it. This nightjar was very confident and let approach quite close, smashing and Good night.

#### **DAY 5 – FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> 2014**

##### LA SELVA MORNING WALK – TRANSFER TO RANCHO NATURALISTA

Our day started at the usual time of 5:45am, we rose listening to the sound of the Common Parakeet, we saw several of them as we drove along the track to the start of our walk. For this first hour we walked through the forest back towards the visitor's centre, it was fairly quiet probably due to the fact that a heavy rainstorm had come over an hour before we got up. It was the larger forest birds that grabbed our attention for most of the time as we found a beautiful male Great Currasow, then a Crested Guan and finally we had two sightings of Great Tinamou, the second was of an adult with chicks.

The smaller species began to appear but only the Ochre-bellied Flycatcher was new for us, however we had excellent views of some species that were only glimpses yesterday.

We ate breakfast at 7:30am before going out for another walk and again it proved to be frustrating as not many birds were seen in the dense primary forest where we walked, usually you bump into a feeding flock or an ant swarm but we found neither. A 'lek' was found of the Stripe-throated Hermit but it only held one bird. We did get good views of White-breasted Wood-Wren and later of a Stripe-breasted Wren and many of the species seen yesterday also showed up.



We then loaded up the bus and set off for our next venue – Rancho Naturalista which sits at a higher elevation and offers a lot of new species for us to find. We stopped for lunch and to look for Nicaraguan Seed-Eater which showed for some and not for others, however as consolation a White-tailed Hawk hovered in the background and then a Short-tailed Hawk flew right over the top of us.

Our journey lasted 2 hours, we arrived at 4pm at Rancho and after a very quick settling-in period we were all found on the superb veranda in the main building. All hell let loose as dozens of hummers were dashing about, visiting the feeders and often perching very close to us. Several bird tables held other species and 3 small pools held yet more species.

Several really nice bird sightings stand out in my memory: the first was of a male Golden-winged Warbler bathing as a Swainson's Thrush looked on. Another was of both Orange-billed and Black-striped Sparrows visiting the pools and then a Wood Thrush popped in!

But it was the hummers that stole the show with a beautiful array of colour and agility that held us spellbound for a good hour or so. We saw Snowcap, Violet-crowned Woodnymph, Brown Violetear and Green-breasted Mango which were all new for us as well as 8 other species of hummers that we had already noted.

All in all we saw about 30 species just watching from the veranda, how amazing is that?

Our dinner was served early at 6pm, we completed dinner and the bird-log by 8pm and everyone went off to bed in readiness for another early start tomorrow.

#### **DAY 6 – FEBRUARY 2014**

##### **ALL DAY AT RANCHO NATURALISTA**

Weather - sunny and warm all day, no wind.

Perfect weather for birding, we rose with the sun at 6am. We spent the first hour on the veranda watching the feeders before taking a wonderful breakfast on the terrace, it is so lovely to be able to sit outside for breakfast at 7 in the morning. Apart from a diverse range of birds including a stunning male Snowcap we also had mammalian visitors to the garden. First a Common Opossum, then a Coati and that was followed by a Brazilian Rabbit.

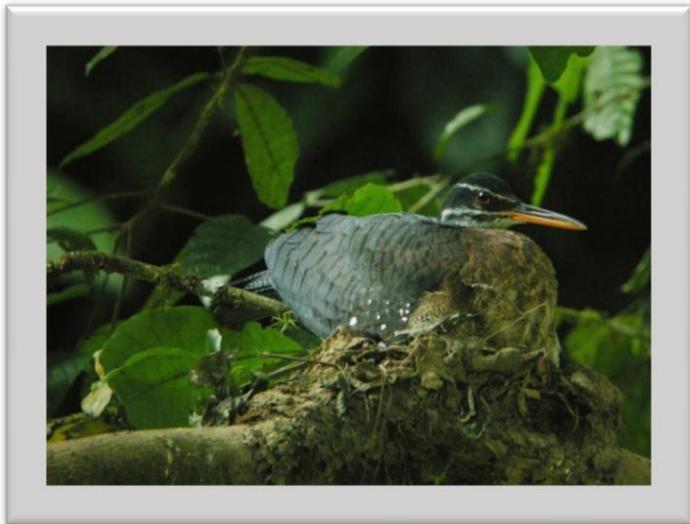


Our first walk took up into the forest on a gently climbing trail. We stopped to watch a couple of Flycatchers before walking into open areas where fruit trees had been planted. It was fantastic and most of the group agreed that it was our best birding yet. The young saplings in the field were full of birds with some very nice finds too!

A Golden-browed Chlorophonia was the star it is another regional endemic found only in Costa Rica and Western Panama. The male Blackburnian Warbler was superb whilst Golden-crowned, Mourning, Macgillivray's and Chestnut-sided Warblers provided a supporting cast.

There were many Euphonias flitting about and we caught up with three species in a very small area, the White-vented and Tawny-capped showed the best. We also saw Green Honeycreeper, Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Slate-throated Redstart, Tropical Perula and so much more.

Eventually things went quiet and so we walked back into the forest, over the next 30 minutes we listed a few new species; Slatey-capped Flycatcher, White-ruffed Manakin and Roadside Hawk.



Before we returned to Rancho for lunch we stopped off at a nearby farm where a lovely garden was attracting some special birds. We were there for ten minutes before first a Black-crested Coquette and then a Snowcap turned up to feed on the flowers, what a fantastic way to end the morning. The afternoon was anti-climatic except for our first river walk. We drove to the local River Mina where it was possible to see a Sunbittern. Well the first one we found was down to Anita, we had all walked past the bird but the more vigilant Anita found a beautiful Sunbittern lurking in the shadows, amazing. We went on to find a nest with a sitting bird and even had the luck to see the chick under the adult, superb birding.

Other species found along the river were; Black Phoebe, Torrent Tyrannulet, American Dipper, Amazon & Green Kingfishers, Spotted Sandpiper and our first Dusky Antbird.

We made a brief visit to the Tuis River where we found another Flycatcher species and we had great views of Bay-headed, Emerald and Silver-throated Tanagers.

Back at Rancho at 5pm we still had time to visit the 'hummingbird pools', these are a series of small shallow natural pools that form in the dry season along the course of a stream. For some reason hummingbirds love to go there to bathe, it was magical to see those tiny creatures hovering over the pools making tiny splashes as they dipped quickly in and out of the water.

One final thing to report - as I sit here on the terrace at 9pm when everyone else has gone off to bed I can hear several sounds coming from the garden and the forest. A Common Parakeet is driving me mad with incessant calls, but a Common Potoo has just rendered its cascading call and a Mottled Owl began to deliver its two-note hoot..... time for bed.

#### **DAY 7 – FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup> 2014**

#### **RANCHO NATURALISTA – LAGUNA ANGOSTURA – TRANSFER TO TAPANTI**



We started the day on the veranda at first light and were rewarded with great views of a Snowcap and then a Bicoloured Hawk, great start to the day. Before breakfast we took a short walk to the 'bug' trap (moth trap) which consisted of a large white sheet under a shelter with a very powerful light behind it. Several species of birds came to feed on the bugs and moths and we went to watch them. Three nice Flycatchers put in an appearance; Tawny-chested, Dusky-capped and Yellow-bellied and a Spotted Woodcreeper was a nice addition, we also had superb views of a White-breasted Wood-Wren and the best of all was a Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner.

After another excellent breakfast we set off in the bus to a nearby marsh area where a

huge laguna holds lots of species. The laguna Angostura sits by the side of a large hotel complex which has a huge area of lawns and meadows.

The laguna itself held many birds, we listed about 25 species which included ducks, herons, egrets and lots more. The highlights were; Snail Kite, Limpkin, Northern Jacana, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron all seen out on the marsh. In the trees and the scrub we also saw some excellent species with the Yellow-winged Vireo topping the list. Alongside this bird we found Yellow-throated and Philadelphia Vireos, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Tropical Gnatcatcher and all of these were in the same tree. A Yellow-bellied Eleania was a nice find and in a meadow we saw Giant Cowbirds with Melodious Blackbirds and a few Shiny Cowbirds, this latter species is a relatively new species on the Costa Rican list.

We drove back to Rancho and ate our last meal there before loading up the bus with our luggage and setting off into the mountains for the next leg of our journey. Tapanti National Park was our destination, a mid-level elevation site

about 1500 meters above sea level which promised a lot of new species for us. In fact, on our arrival, we hadn't even unpacked the bus when a shout went up of "Green Ibis" we all dashed down to the trout pools that formed part of the lodge's grounds and sure enough an ibis was there, fantastic.



Half an hour later we were out in the courtyard listing the birds present in and around the lodge. A small colony of the noisy Montezuma Oropendola was literally hanging from the nearest trees and both Palm & Blue & Grey Tanagers joined Melodious Blackbirds and the pretty Rufous-collared Sparrows around the bird table.

We then walked on the track looking for new sightings. It wasn't long before we had a nice list despite the dull mass of cloud and the reduced light. A Grey-breasted Wren joined White-naped Brush-Finch onto the list with several Silver-throated, Spangled-cheeked, Bay-headed Tanagers, all showing well too. The Yellow-faced Grassquit was nice to see as was another gorgeous Blackburnian Warbler. As we neared a stream the light began to fade and light rain began to fall so we turned around and headed back but not before watching a group of Brown Jays and a flock of Chestnut-headed Oropendolas.

Dinner was served at 7:30pm and as we were staying on a fish farm most of us tried the delicious 'home-grown' fresh trout which was superb.

### **COSTA RICA - DAY 8 – FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> 2014**

#### **TAPANTI NATIONAL PARK ALL DAY.**

Weather: it was dull and cloudy at first then it got brighter with rain later.

Well Tapanti lived up to its reputation as an excellent birding venue we had a great day there which started at 6am as we pulled up at the gates of the national park, just before that we had stopped to watch an American Kestrel sitting in a roadside tree, how amazing it was where I had seen the same species in the same tree for 3 years in a row?

For the first hour we never ventured more than 100 meters from the main gate. A Collared Trogon was seen on a telephone wire then we found a mixed feeding flock which to our great joy contained a Streak-breasted Tree-hunter, a Wedge-billed Woodcreeper and a good variety of tanagers one of which was the superb Spangled Cheeked Tanager. We also found a Red-faced Spinetail and a nice Tawny-chested Flycatcher, then as we walked back to the bus we heard a Silvery-fronted Tapaculo calling, we waited patiently and after 10 minutes or so the bird showed intermittently and most of us got good views of it.

We drove back to the lodge for breakfast then we returned to the park for an extended walk along the main track. It seemed that birds were everywhere and we found it difficult to keep up with birds being shouted out. Another couple of flycatchers were added to the growing tally, the Golden-bellied was particularly appreciated. One of the best birds seen was the Spotted Barbtail but we also had great views of Eye-ringed Flatbill, Dark Peewee, Spotted Woodcreeper and there was such a lot more too. Not forgetting the 'hummers' we found several of these little gems, Purple-crowned Fairy, Green Thorntail and three new ones: the Magnificent, Fiery-throated and the regional endemic the Black-bellied Hummingbird, the latter caused a lot of excitement as we saw a male courting a female and displaying all around her, it doesn't get much better than that, but it did later!

A short trail leading off the main track took us down to the river, a Black Guan was seen just above us as we entered the trail. The path wound its way down to the river where we added American Dipper and Torrent Tyrannulet, then a second Spotted Barbtail was found and this one showed really well.

It was now approaching lunch time so we walked back to the bus and hopped on and drove back to the lodge to eat.

The afternoon birding session began at 3:30pm we drove back to the park with the intention of walking all the way back to the lodge. At the entrance gate we spent a fair amount of time watching the trees around the compound and parking area, it was fantastic birding, we found a pair of Red-headed Barbets, they showed really well and are exquisite! Both male and female birds are so different and equally as beautiful what a sighting. A Mountain Thrush put in an appearance too and we found a pair of Tawny-capped Euphonias. Silver-throated Tanagers and Common Bush-Tanagers were very common all along the track and around the car park.



One mixed flock held some of the most colourful tanagers you can get, have a look at these beauties in the field guides: Bay-headed, Spangled-cheeked, Speckled, Golden-hooded and Silver-throated all of these were seen together, absolutely lovely, it was a great display of colour to brighten even the dullest of days.

The cloud thickened and the rain started so we beat a hasty retreat back to the lodge to get ready for dinner. Two final bird incidences of the day were, firstly a Green Ibis came nosily into to roost in the trees around the car park and then later a Common Paraque was found on the grass lawn as some of the group were returning to their rooms after dinner.

## **COSTA RICA - DAY 9 – FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup> 2014**

### **TAPANTI EARLY MORNING THEN TRANSFER TO SAVEGRE WITH A STOP AT PARAISO del QUETZAL**

A brilliant day full of exciting finds with many endemic species added to our list. It was a full-on action packed day, with dull overcast conditions to start us off and to finish with, but it was bright sunshine through most of the day.

The early morning walk was taken along the track above the lodge, we drove 2km uphill reaching 2700 meters elevation and then began the descent on foot. We started in the clouds so the light was really bad when we found our first new bird of the day. A pair of Orange-bellied Trogons sat on the wires near a street lamp, they were catching moths and gave continuous calls which was the only way we could separate them from the Collared Trogon in the poor light.

At times the cloud lifted and it did turn brighter and as it did so, so the birds came out. We had a nice spell when we tracked down a Rufous-browed Peppershrike, what a great bird species to locate and one that is not easy to find anywhere. Next we heard a Golden-browed Chlorophonia but could not see it in the gloom, but a pair of Elegant Euphonias were nice and again they were not easy to track down.

A Yellowish Warbler came next and then an unexpected Band-backed Wren put in an appearance, this species was out of range high up there. After chasing and searching for a view of the Elegant Euphonia earlier on the walk we

now found a male sitting out in the open singing his little heart out. Then just around the next bend we bumped into a small flock of Golden-browed Euphonias and got some outstanding views of this exquisitely coloured little gem.

Well that walk set us up for the day, so after scrambled eggs, toast and wonderful coffee we set off in the bus to our next destination, the Savegre hotel.

We stopped after 3 hours to take a light lunch which was over in 30 minutes and soon we arrived at the Paraiso del Quetzal Lodge where we hoped to see the most wanted species of all the Resplendent Quetzal.

After collecting a local guide from the Lodge we drove a short distance and then turned onto a side track and quickly parked up. We followed the track on a steep downhill course, it was very windy on the way down but we managed to see a few species including Common Bush-Tanager, Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager and a newly fledged Green Violetear.

At the bottom of the hill the guide led us to a fruiting avocado tree where we found a superb male Resplendent Quetzal, our most wanted species was now in the bag. We had great views of it perched and in flight what a stunner.

We crawled our way back up the 1km hill (remember we were at 8000ft so the air was a little thinner, some of us struggled) and got back onto the bus. The short drive back gave us time to recuperate before another walk was taken. We birded the approach track to the Paraiso del Quetzal Lodge and new species came thick and fast. Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush was first on the list, then Yellow-thighed Finch, Mountain Elaenia, Black-capped Flycatcher, Mountain Thrush and lots more.

At the lodge the group split into two, some went on a further walk whilst others stayed at the lodge. More birds were added from both groups; Wrenthrush is a little beauty and well applauded by the group for showing so well, Timberline Wren, another sought after regional endemic species also showed well, we also saw both the Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher and the Black & Yellow Silky-Flycatchers as well as a lot of 'good' high altitude species.

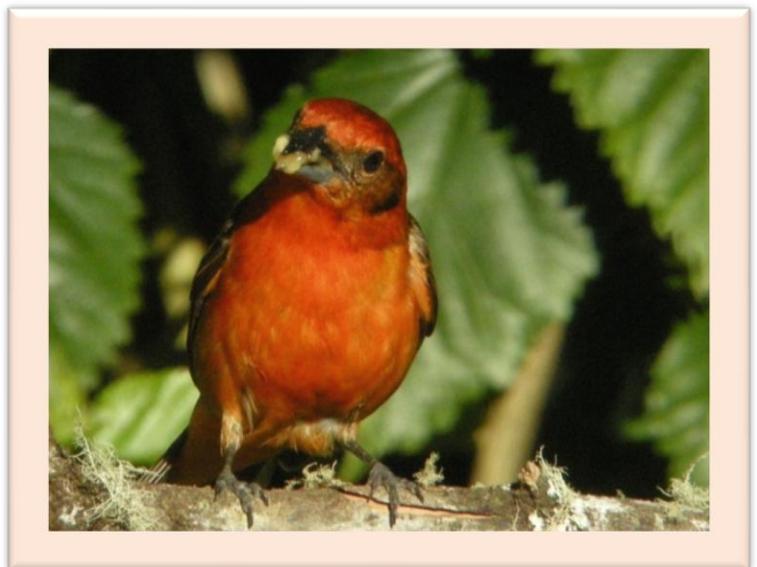
Back at the lodge we spent some time on the excellent veranda watching the hummer feeders where we had great views of a number of hummingbirds including Volcano, Magnificent, Fiery-throated, Green Violetear and Purple-throated Mountain-gem.

Other birds seen around the lodge not already mentioned were: Large-footed Finch, Black-cheeked Warbler, Collared Redstart, Band-tailed Pigeon and close views were had of Sooty Thrush.

At 5pm we had to make a move to our next venue which was the Savegre Hotel some 45 minutes away. We still added a few more species as we drove there, Acorn Woodpecker, Sulphur-winged Parakeet and Red-tailed Hawk.

Well what a day, we added 25 species to our list which now stood at 305 and we are only just passed half-way.

We arrived at Savegre with just enough time to settle in, later we enjoyed a super dinner and a nice cold beer.



## **DAY 10– FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> 2014**

### **SAVERGE HOTEL - MONTAÑE TRAILS - ALL DAY**

It was a much quieter day and a little anticlimactic after yesterday's fantastic birding extravaganza. After a lovely breakfast at 6:30am we loaded up into two four wheel drive land rovers and were taken up some 300 meters to the top of mountain behind the hotel. It was a lovely bright sunny day with little cloud and we were sheltered from any wind by the mountain.

It started slow then we had a couple of purple patches then it went slow again for a while. We walked back down along the main track before turning off onto one the well maintained walks, we choose the Quebrada Trail.

We found the Collared Redstart to be quite common and also the Wilson's Warbler, most of the small flocks we found were of Common Bush-Tanagers which lived up to their name. A sighting of a male Black-throated Green Warbler was our first new species, a couple of Mountain Eleanias and Yellowish Flycatchers were nice to see also an Ochraceous Peewee showed well.

Our first feeding flock held several species, the beautiful Spangled-cheeked Tanager was the most common of the tanagers and were often joined by Silvery-throated Tanagers. This first flock had 4 or 5 Ruddy Treerunners, a Spotted Barbtail and a Barred Becard (we only heard this species). Yellow-thighed Finches fed with the bush tanagers and we had a brief view of a what we thought was a Silver-throated Jay.

A Golden-browed Chlorophonia called, we never located it but we did tracked down a Resplendent Quetzal from its call. A Silvery-fronted Tapaculo refused to show but we found our one and only Green-fronted Lancebill and what a bill it has! The next few hundred metres went quiet and only few sightings were made, a Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch showed for a few of us and not much else happened.

Lunch was taken back at the hotel and we reconvened at 3:30pm outside the main reception office. We set off on foot taking a track through the woods to an open grassy area, there we found several species including: Summer Tanager, Yellow-winged Vireo and Brown-Capped Vireo. We also had good views of a Black-throated Green Warbler and the beautiful Spangle-cheeked Tanager, a Dark Pewee and a Tufted Flycatcher were nice to see too.



We walked down to the river and hit a purple patch when we found a pair of the endemic Flame-throated Warblers, what a stunning looking species. We had excellent views of yet another male Resplendent Quetzal, this bird is almost common around here. Next we found a Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush, a Gray-breasted Wren and a little later we found another target species a Spot-crowned Woodcreeper. We walked back to the hotel via the river and found a Louisiana Waterthrush feeding in the river. Finally as we walked back to the hotel through a small wood we found a group of Spotted Wood-Quail, the whole group were mesmerised and stood perfectly still as these rare birds came closer and closer. We had

unbelievable views as they scratched around in the undergrowth, a-maz-ing!

Back at the hotel we watched the last of the activity at the feeders with Flame-coloured Tanagers and Acorn Woodpeckers making an appearance.

Well that concluded another great day in Costa Rica, tomorrow we will be on the move to the Pacific Slopes at a much lower altitude.

### **DAY 11 – FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> 2014**

TRANSFER FROM SAVEGRE TO TALARI LODGE WITH STOPS AT PROVIDENCIA TRACK, BOSQUE del TOLOMUCO, PARAMO FOREST AND LOS CUSINGOS

It seemed that we saw more venues than birds today with lots of stops and not much to show for our efforts. We departed from Savegre just after breakfast and drove up the valley to the main road, after about 2km we turned onto a wide track called La Providencia where we got off the bus to walk. We were in cloud, it was quite chilly and the light was bad. After about an hour we had very few species but two of them were new for the trip; Slaty Finch and Peg-billed Finch, both were fantastic finds, the latter being an endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama, other species seen were: Common Bush-Tanager, Sooty-capped Brush-Finch, Volcano Hummingbird, Mountain Eleania and a few tanagers.

We climbed back onto the bus and drove for a couple of hours towards our next destination. A quick stop at a small lodge called Bosque del Tolomuco was made to look at the hummer feeders that are dotted about the lush gardens. We noticed a distinct change in temperature as we alighted from the bus, it was very much warmer, we were now on the Pacific slopes on the eastern side of the country.

During our short stay we added three out of four of our target hummingbirds which is not a bad effort. Green-crowned Brilliant was the most common species seen, along with the Magnificent Hummingbird then our first new species was found when a Violet-headed Hummingbird showed up then a Magenta-throated Woodstar turned up, this species is yet another endemic to Costa Rica and Western Panama. Finally we found a Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, this along with Scintillant Hummingbird and Green Hermit made up the total of our sightings at the feeders.

Other birds seen at this wonderful venue was Swallow-tailed Kite, Baltimore Oriole, Cherrie's Tanager and a Rufous-breasted Wren, both of the latter two species were new for us.



Lunch was taken at a roadside restaurant which had a magnificent panoramic view and a couple of feeders which were very quiet, just a Stripe-throated Hermit and a couple of common tanager species were seen.

Our afternoon venue was a conservation area known as Los Cusingos, this where the famous ornithologist and author Alexander Skutch lived for over 50 years, his home remains untouched since his death and is now a museum maintained in his honour, it is a fascinating place to visit and well recommended.

Today the gardens and surrounding secondary forest were very quiet it took great effort to see even one bird! We waited a while before taking a circular walk in the forest, even then it was hard to

find a single bird. We started well with a Red-capped Manakin then a single flycatcher was seen and we heard a few more species including an elusive Scaled Pigeon.

Back in gardens things started to move around 5pm, tanagers began to emerge and visit the feeding tables as did a Green Honeycreeper and a Blue Dacnis. A few warblers flitted about we saw Tennessee and Chestnut-sided Warblers, then a couple of Yellow-headed Caracaras appeared followed by a Roadside Hawk and a couple of hummers. A short walk near the river produced a Riverside Wren which was one of our target species for this site.

A little later Roy, our guide, called us to the back of the buildings to watch a Grey-necked Wood-Rail and an Agouti walked by. So our great expectations of Los Cusingos were certainly dampened by the poor show of birds and no sign of Cotingas or Aracaris.

We drove to our lodge, called Talari, where a lovely dinner was served and an early night was taken by the group.

## **DAY 12 – FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup> 2014**

### **TRANSFER FROM TALARI LODGE TO CERROS LODGE ON THE PACIFIC COAST**

From the sublime to the ridiculous, yesterday was almost a total wipe-out and today we were blitzed by birds. It was truly amazing this morning and one of our best birding sessions yet, we met in the car park at 5:45am and were still there at 6:45am because so many species were milling around. We got great views of some birds that had only been glimpses before today and we added a dozen or so species to our list. Red-headed Woodpecker was one of the first we had a dozen sightings of this species. Then we found Yellow-crowned Euphonia, Common Tody Flycatcher, Piratic Flycatcher and a lovely new hummer – the Long-billed Star-throat.

A Streaked Saltator was next then an American Redstart showed well, a Tropical Gnatcatcher was also nice to see, the whole garden was buzzing with tanagers, orioles, warblers, flycatchers, thrushes and honeycreepers, what a great time we all had. A short walk through some secondary forest produced Lineated Woodpecker and we heard

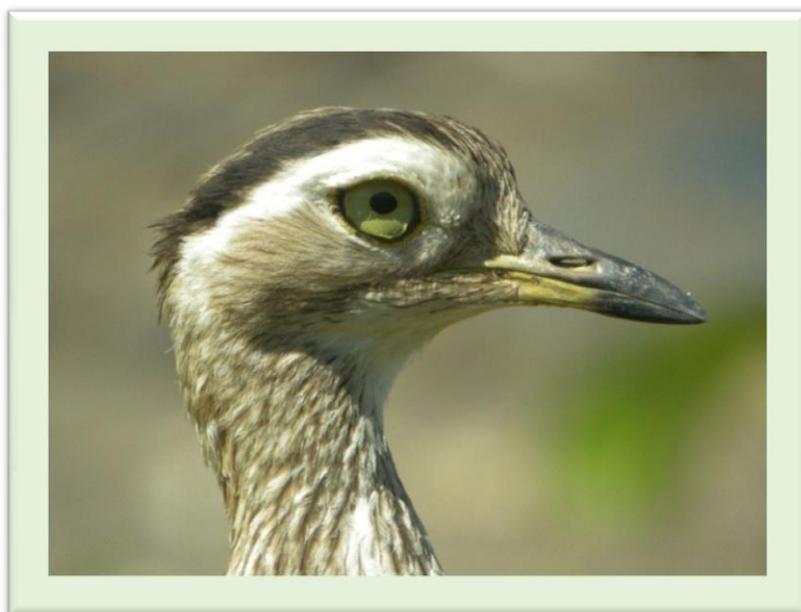
the Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush but couldn't lure it out from the dense scrub. A poro tree was absolutely full of birds, dozens of Baltimore Orioles were joined by Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, the males of both of these species were exquisite in their summer plumage.

Our breakfast was delayed but we eventually dragged ourselves to the dining room which was open plan and we could see the whole garden and some feeders where the stunning Speckled Tanager and both Red-legged and Green Honeycreepers came to feed.

At 9:30am we got on the bus and continued our journey to the Pacific coast. We arrived on the coast near Quepos. We passed hundreds of hectares of Palm Olive groves before turning off the Main road to drive through the palms to some open grass and rice meadows.

A very straight, long track bordered the rice fields and we took this track on foot. A wide, water-filled ditch ran alongside the track and this was full of birds, lizards, frogs and butterflies. Again we were presented with a plethora of birds, many in song and lots on the move. We quickly found Green Heron, American Pygmy Kingfisher, Purple Gallinule, Green Kingfisher and a small party of Dickcissel. Then we found several flocks of seedeaters with 3 varieties being listed, all the time there were doves, vultures, hawks and egrets in the sky and also perched in trees and bushes.

Our walk ended a couple of hours later, the bus picked us up and we made the short journey into Quepos where we ate lunch and visited Roy's art gallery. A quick look at the beach produced 3 new species Magnificent Frigatebird, Willet and Tricoloured Heron.



At 2pm we were on the road again heading north towards Carara National Park and our lodge nearby. But first we made a stop at the Parrita River. This tidal river usually holds many waders, egrets and herons and even though it was high tide there were a lot species there. Adjacent to the river there is a huge shrimp farm with many pools, some are quite shallow which provides a haven for waders during high tide. It was there that we concentrated our efforts, we quickly located small flocks of 'peeps' and larger shorebirds. Whimbrel, Grey Plover, Willet, Black-necked Stilt, Least Sandpiper, Semi-palmated Plover and a Spotted Sandpiper were first on the list. The waders were joined by Roseate Spoonbills, White Ibis, Snowy and Great

Egrets, Wood Storks and both Great Blue and Little Blue Herons. We also found Lesser Scaup and Blue-winged Teal on the water.

In the trees along the road we found Common Black Hawk, Crested and Yellow-headed Caracara as well as Orchard Oriole.

Again we had to drag ourselves away and continued northward, an unscheduled stop at the side of the road was made to view a large pool in a field, it was full of birds. Mainly storks, egrets and herons (including the Bare-throated Tiger Heron), but also a few species of waders. We added Lesser Yellowlegs, Western and Solitary Sandpipers to our wader list and we saw our first Spectacled Caiman. The caiman was very large and spent its time catching fish in this ever-shrinking pool which was drying out rapidly. The Roseate Spoonbills looked fantastic in the afternoon sunlight contrasting strongly with the ugly, dull Wood Storks.

A couple of Mealy Parrots and a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher were also added to our list, both species were sitting in middle-distant trees. Other sightings along the road included: Scarlet Macaw, White-tailed Kite and last but not least Lesser Nighthawk. We saw a dozen or so of these nightjars hawking insects above the track in the final 2kms of our journey, a nice bird to end a great day's birding. I haven't counted but we must have seen over 100 species today and added about 30 new ones.

Our list now stands at 375 species. With a full day in Carara tomorrow and two more days further north we should top the 400 mark easily.

### **DAY 13– FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup> 2014**

#### **CARARA NATIONAL PARK – TARCOLES RIVER – MANGROVE WALK**

Breakfast was taken at 6am. We then spent a while watching the feeders from the restaurant veranda. One great sighting was of a distant Yellow-billed Cotinga, we were told that this bird often made a short stay in its usual tree and we were lucky enough to see it. Several Scarlet Macaws flew over, as did Crested Caracara and Montezuma Oropendola.

So at 7am we all set off for a day visit to the famous Carara National Park, it was a beautiful day with wall to wall sunshine and a nice temperature. We set off on foot along the 'river' trail, it was a wide track that ran through the forest in a nice straight, flat line. It wasn't long before the birds started to appear and Roy our excellent guide was calling them left, right and centre. A Black-hooded Antshrike came first followed quickly by a Dot-winged Antwren. Then we waited patiently near a known nest-site of a Royal Flycatcher, within a few minutes a lovely male showed well, it's crest wasn't erect but it was still a special find for us. Turquoise-browed Motmot, Violaceous Trogon, White-whiskered Puffbird came one after another. We visited a leaking-site of the Orange-collared Manakin and saw three individuals but not displaying, just 'clicking' and flitting about.

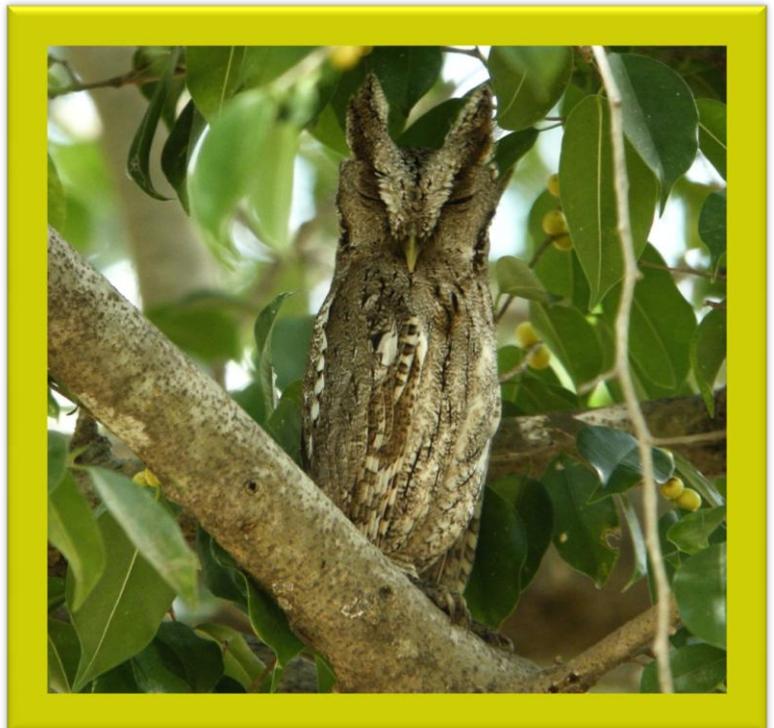
Next we located a Northern Bentbill, super little beast, it was well liked by the group, this little tyke liked our attention and showed well for a few minutes. A Slaty-headed Tody Flycatcher called from trees nearby but only Roy our guide saw it. However our next bird was seen very well by all of us. A male Barred Antshrike sat out in the morning sun and posed for us, what a superb looking bird, even its crest is barred, wonderful, another great species to find.

Next came some real excitement as we came across a swarm of soldier ants crossing our path, Roy knew this would be good and led us around the swarm to a nice vantage position and we waited. First a few Grey-headed Tanagers appeared, then. Bicoloured Antbird, followed by a Chestnut-backed Antbird. These are typical birds that follow ant swarms, they do not eat the ants but take anything that flies up or runs out of the path of the ants, very clever, let the ants do the work.

Other birds joined the flock, Tawny-winged Woodcreeper, Buff-throated Saltator and even Clay-coloured Thrushes were at it.

Well what next? We walked further along the trail and turned off to the Meander River where a small section of an ox-bow lake is visible, it was now very overgrown with reeds and shrubs but we did manage to see a few species. Black-necked Stilts, Northern Jacana, Tricoloured Heron and a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher were seen. Then we approached some tall trees that grew alongside the 'lake' and we found a small colony of roosting Boat-billed Herons, this bizarre looking creature was a most wanted species by the group, off went the cameras, click, click, click.

It was now approaching 11am and some of the group had pre-arranged to return to the lodge for an afternoon of leisure, so they departed and we journeyed on. Within a few minutes we found a Black-faced Antthrush which was quickly followed by a Ruddy Quail-Dove, both of these are hard to find species. Then we had a quiet spell as we made our way back to the entrance, we then jumped back onto the bus and were driven to the main visitor's centre where we sat at shaded picnic tables and ate an excellent packed lunch.



The afternoon started slowly, it was very hot and humid even in shade of the forest trees. We watched a pair of Scarlet Macaws at their nest hole and photographed a few lizards before moving deeper into the forest. Birds started to call, a Rufous Pitta called but we couldn't find it and so did a number of other species including a Scaly-breasted Wren.

Then we hit a good patch where birds began to show, first a Tawny-crowned Greenlet then a Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher, but the best of the three was by far a Golden-crowned Spadebill, what a little beauty and usually so hard to see, we even got it in the scope, fantastic bird. We continued along the track adding species at regular intervals,

Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner, Plain Xenops and Northern-barred Woodcreeper to name but a few.

A calling Streaked Antpitta was next to be found, it was very close to the side of the track and with a little patience we located it and got great views. It doesn't get much better than this. After that superb addition to our list everything else seemed anti-climatic, even party of beautiful Bay-headed Tanagers didn't draw much attention.

Our last birds found on the trail were, Great Tinamou, then Black-hooded Antbird and Dot-winged Antwren, both of the latter two species showed very well at eye level and gave much better views than they did earlier.

Well it was now 4pm, the park was closing so

we jumped onto the bus and drove the short distance into Tarcoles, we parked down by the river in preparation for a short walk near the mangrove swamp.

The area where we walked had mature trees adjacent to the mangroves, it was full of birds, we never walked far before listing 4 of our 5 target species. A Prothonotary Warbler was first in the bag, we saw two or three of them. A Northern Waterthrush then showed well before we found a Mangrove Warbler (this is a sub-species of Yellow Warbler, the male has a completely red-brown head - they were split at one stage but have been lumped back together as one species) regardless it was nice to see several of them. Next we turned our attention to the many Flycatchers buzzing about, we took time on one particular bird and finally identified it as a Tropical Peewee, we then saw a nice Streaked Flycatcher before finding the Panama Flycatcher. Lastly we were looking for the endemic Mangrove Hummingbird, this is a prize indeed, and before long our excellent guide Roy found, first a female then a male, we were over the moon!

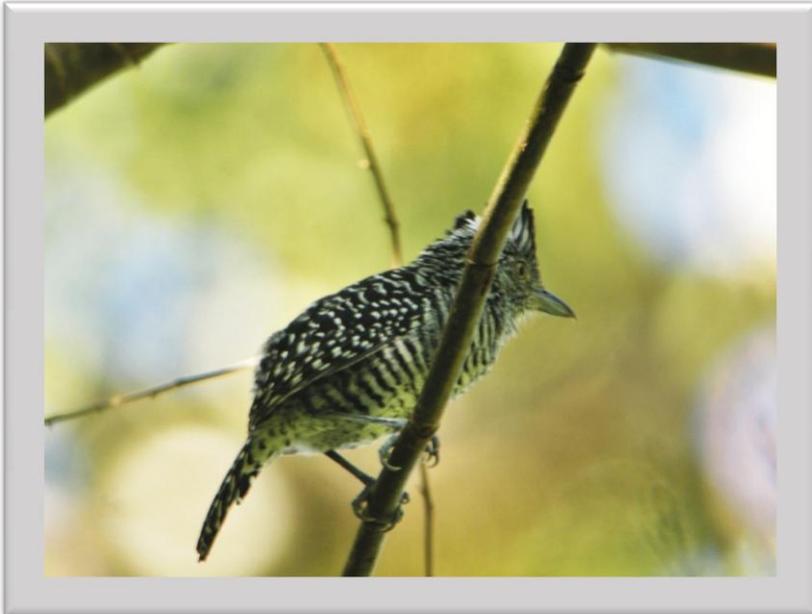
That concluded our birding for the day, we drove back to the lodge noting 20-30 Lesser Nighthawks, they were hawking insects in the late afternoon sky. Back at the lodge the rest of the group had a relaxing time but still managed to see a couple of new species, the Stripe-headed Sparrow was one of them.

#### **DAY 14 – FEBRUARY 21<sup>st</sup> 2014**

##### **CERROS LODGE WALK - TARCOLES BOAT TRIP - TRANSFER TO ENSENADA**

Today we got up early, oh there's a change, ha! We met at 5:30am at the main reception area and went for a walk in and around the grounds and also along the track outside. We spent an hour so enjoying a lovely cool morning and some great new species. Stripe-headed Sparrow was now on everyone's list and we soon found a new Flycatcher. I must say that Roy our guide is mustard on his Flycatchers and hummers, he knows all the calls in an instant. This new one was Nutting's Flycatcher which showed very well. A little further along the road we found a small flock of Yellow-naped Parrots, they sat in the morning sunlight and looked stunning. Over the course of the next hour we saw a number of White-faced Capuchin Monkeys, Pale-billed Woodpecker, Squirrel Cuckoo, Groove-billed Ani, Black-crowned Tityra, White-lord Gnatcatcher, Rose-throated Becard and lots of common species.

At breakfast we enjoyed the lovely view of the distant Pacific Ocean and several Magnificent Frigatebirds flying over it. We had several visits into the garden by Scarlet Macaws and a few orioles, tanagers, thrushes



and sparrows to the feeders. A bird of prey sat in a dead tree and was identified as a Double-toothed Kite, another addition to our list.

After breakfast we drove down into Tarcoles and half of the group got off the bus and onto a boat for the 'crocodiles and birds' cruise whilst the rest drove further away to bird-watch a new area hoping to find the Fiery-billed Aracari.

The boat-trip was superb, we had glorious weather, a nice cooling breeze and lots of birds to see. We were supplied with a checklist and nearly completed the whole list and we had to add several species to it. A nice male Prothonotary Warbler was one of the first birds on the list then many of the common herons and egrets were seen along the shore. We then found a few roosting Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, an Osprey, lots of Spotted Sandpipers and a few very big crocodiles.

Then we had some real excitement when not one but two Yellow-billed Cotingas flew into a riverside tree, what a wonderful find, they were smashing to see.

A little later the guide from the boat jumped ashore and put on the 'tourist show' by hand feeding a docile gigantic crocodile, then a Yellow-headed Caracara came down for the left over scraps.

Still further upriver we had great close views of a Grey-necked Wood Rail and of Double-striped Thick-Knee, Southern Lapwing and Belted Kingfisher. At that point we turned the boat around and headed back down river where we found a Ringed Kingfisher, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Northern Jacana and lots more egrets. Overhead we saw lots of vultures and a Wood Stork circling on the thermals.

For the last part of the trip we zoomed down to the mangrove swamps to look for some specialist species, on the way we passed about 20 Magnificent Frigatebirds that were dropping down to the water to pick up fish.

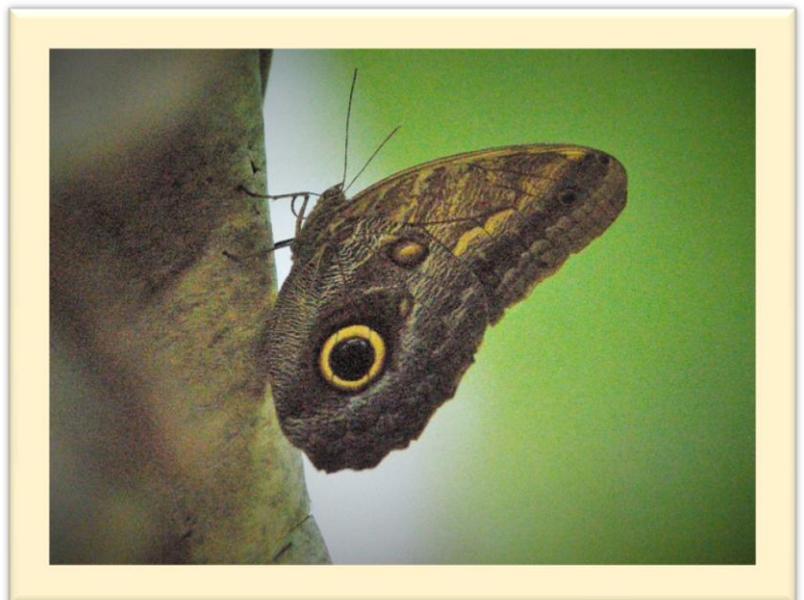
In the mangrove swamps we drifted quietly down the enclosed channels and found many new species. Two Kingfishers were added to the list, Green and American Pygmy Kingfishers, we found Yellow Warbler with a chestnut head (formerly Mangrove Warbler now just a sub-species of Yellow Warbler), a couple of Red-winged Blackbirds hopped about in the dense scrub and we had excellent views of Panama Flycatcher just a couple of metres from the boat.

As we turned to go back a Plumbeous Kite circled high above us with the Vultures, then the guide heard a Mangrove Vireo so we pulled into the bank and he mimicked the call of the Pygmy Owl, within seconds we had a number of birds around us, Prothonotary Warbler, Common Tody Flycatcher and the target bird the Mangrove Vireo.

We headed back seeing a few more species such as Neotropic Cormorant, Anhinga, Royal Tern and at least four more Ospreys.

Well that ended the boat trip, we all thoroughly enjoyed it and notched up just under fifty species, we had a quick drink before jumping onto our waiting bus and set off to collect the other half of the group.

They had not fared so well, it was hot and dusty along the track they chose to walk along. A few birds were seen with some additions to the trip list which included: King Vulture, Black Swift, and Cooper's Hawk but there wasn't a sighting of the most wanted Aracari.



From there we drove northwards along the Nicoya Bay and after a stop for lunch we arrived at our last destination of the trip, Ensenada Lodge. There was a noticeable difference in the climate and the vegetation, we were well and truly in dry, hot forest.

After a hour's settling time we set off for a short walk to explore the grounds and surrounding forest. Our lovely rooms overlooked the Nicoya Bay and the distant hills. Immediately in front of us was a large open meadow of short grass.

We walked along a track which took us into open dry forest and birds began to appear as the heat abated. A couple of Parrots and a parakeet were first on the list, two of them were new for us, Orange-fronted Parakeet and Yellow-napped Parrot. Then we had a Couple of new orioles to admire, the Streak-backed was lovely and the male Orchard Oriole was stunning.

I can't believe that at this stage of the trip there are still hummingbirds out there for us to find, but there are,

we found two of them in quick succession. We found Canivet's Hummingbird and Plain-capped Starthroat, that brings the total number of hummers on our list to 44 different species, amazing.

During the walk we also found Brown-capped Flycatcher and Northern Beardless Tyrannulet, two more 'firsts' for the trip. We also found a lovely Vine Snake and several superb butterflies.

Back the lodge we found our third species of Oriole when a male Spot-breasted sat nicely for us in the late afternoon sun. A few White-Throated Magpie-Jays came close as we got into



the complex.

Our evening meal was taken in the main building where we could watch a lovely setting sun over the bay.

#### **Day 15 - February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014**

#### **HACIENDA SOLIMA - ENSENADA LODGE AND SALINAS (SALT PANS)**

Well our last full day had finally arrived and oh so quickly. It was yet another opportunity to wake the group up early, but by now they were used to it. So we ate breakfast at 6:30am and boarded our nice air-conditioned bus at 7:15am.

It took an hour to drive a few kilometres to Hacienda Solima because the track was very bumpy and we stopped to look at a few birds. We had frequent sightings of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, we stopped to watch a pair of Double-striped Thick-Knee and we added Eastern Meadowlark to our list.

Hacienda Solima is a huge privately owned working cattle ranch of some 20,000 hectares, of which approx. 30% is set aside as nature conservation areas. Much of the land is open pasture which is fed by canals and wet ditches, there are many pools and larger flooded meadows at this time of the year. The whole area is a magnet for birds and some of the pools were literally covered in wildfowl.

We arrived at 8am and after checking in at the hacienda and collecting a guide we were able to take the bus all over the ranch, with the aid of the resident bird guide and Roy, our own guide, we saw a tremendous number of species.

The first official stop produced a list as long as your arm, but the highlight had to be both the Jabiru and the Lesser Ground Cuckoo. The Jabiru sat out in the marsh with hundreds of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Storks, White Ibis, Limpkin, Northern Jacana and hundreds of egrets and herons. It was nice to see so many Bare-throated Tiger-Herons out in the open like that.

The Lesser Ground-Cuckoo was special for most of the group and well appreciated, it was hard to find in the scrub but eventually it sat out and posed for our cameras and scopes.

Next we went for a short walk into a small patch of dry forest, the approach path wound its way through some long grass and scrub where we disturbed a couple of Coyotes, my first ever sightings of this species made it special.

Our local guide took us on a narrow trail into the dense forest and led us directly to a roost-site of Spectacled Owls, amazing how he could see them from where we stood. We all had great views in the scope of two of the owls. We then walked a little further and the guide whistled for a while then another fantastic bird appeared, a Long-tailed Manakin, this bird blew us away with its beautiful plumage and long tail feathers. During our spell in the woods we also saw Black-headed Trogon and Turquoise-browed Motmot.

After that excitement we boarded the bus and continued our tour of the ranch, we passed many pastures with hundreds of cows and bulls feeding in them. We searched the flocks of ducks for Fulvous Whistling Duck without success but the many egrets and herons kept us happy. It was also excellent for raptors, Snail Kites were common, a couple of Harris Hawks were seen and a great number of vultures circled above us with Wood Storks.

Our next stop was in a sheltered area adjacent to a canal with some mangrove swamp on one side. Our guide pointed out a roosting Lesser Nighthawk, which sat just above the track, super. We stood and watched the area of water where mangroves hung over the edges. Within a few minutes we had listed some excellent species; American Pygmy Kingfisher, Ringed Kingfisher, Boat-billed Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Bare-throated Tiger Heron, Anhinga, Common Ground-Dove and we heard a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl calling.

Our journey continued with the same pattern, which consisted of short stops where we stepped out into the heat for a short scan or to watch a particular species.

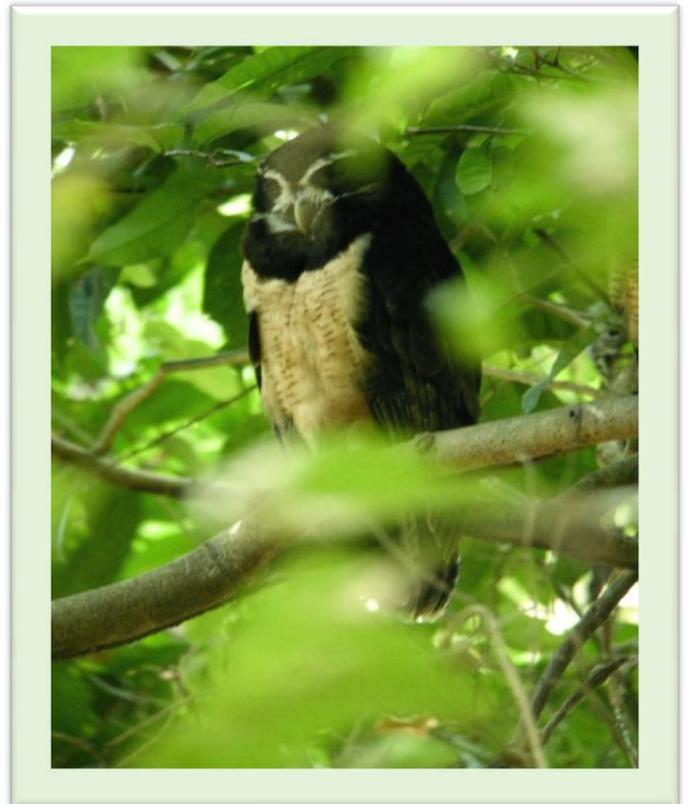
An American Kestrel was nice to see as was Eastern Meadowlark, Plain Breasted Ground-Dove, a flock of some 25 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and much, much more.

It was now nearly lunchtime so we made our way back to the hacienda where we stopped along the driveway to look for another roosting owl. This time we found a Pacific Screech Owl what a lovely little chap. We then found a Tree Porcupine sleeping in the next tree, now that was an ugly little critter but nice to see, a tame Bush Buck was also walking around the gardens at the hacienda.

We ate a very welcomed lunch before saying goodbye to our guide and the staff at Hacienda Solima, we had had a great morning's birding with some special memories to cherish. We drove back to Ensenada lodge and took a break before meeting up again for our afternoon birding session, this time we were going for our first waders-watch at the Salinas de Ensenada.

These salt pans lie very close to the ocean and provides a haven for hundreds of roosting and feeding shorebirds. The pans looked empty as we drove in but on closer inspection we could see many birds, and as time went by, more and birds flew in until it

was packed, we had chosen a good time to visit just before high tide.



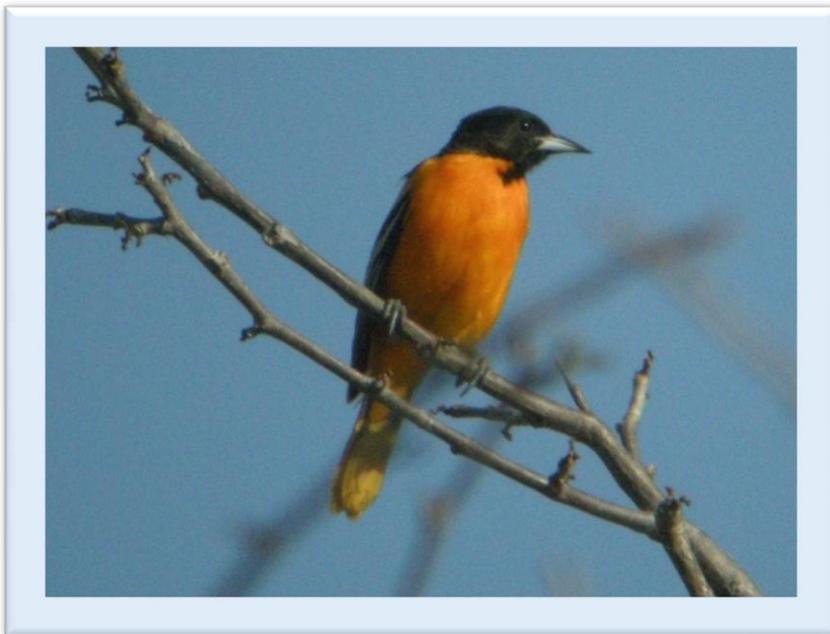
I will list the waders seen approximately tallest to shortest: Black-neck Stilt, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Willet, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Spotted Sandpiper, Sanderling, Semi-palmated Plover, Least Sandpiper and Western Sandpiper. Some of these gave us ID problems of course, but we got there in the end.

Other birds around were Osprey, Wilson's Phalarope, Roseate Spoonbill, we searched for Collared Plover and Killdeer without success.

The light was beginning to fade so we decided to take a short walk in the nearby mangroves to look for other species and our last new bird often day was found when a nicely coloured, male, Indigo Bunting turned up.

A last minute search back at the lodge for Crested Bobwhite produced only a small flock of Striped-headed Sparrows, the gorgeous White-throated Magpie-Jay and a few Spot Breasted Orioles.

A beautiful sunset ended this superb birding, which was rather fitting as we had travelled throughout a beautiful country and see some exquisite birds.



At dinner we all listed our top 6 species in order starting with the favourite first, after totting up the scores the top 3 came out as; Resplendent Quetzal, Golden-browed Chlorophonia and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

The total number of species listed was 455 with 9 heard but not seen, this impressive total was due to the keen eyed participants and their untiring, sometimes relentless pursuit of target species and of course most of the credit goes to Roy. His expertise and outstanding knowledge of hummingbirds and flycatchers was phenomenal, because of this we listed 44 out of 51 possible hummers and over

30 different Flycatchers.

#### **Day 16 - February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014**

#### **TRANSFER FROM ENSENADA LODGE TO SAN JOSE AIRPORT FOR DEPARTURE HOME**

Our tour was finally over we had had 14 full days of exciting birding and listed 454 species but we were not finished just yet!

We departed from Ensenada at 3am!!!! The approach track was 17km long and very bumpy so it took 50 minutes or so to navigate. Along the way we saw several Common Parakeet, a couple of Lesser Nighthawks and two Rufous Nightjars, a new trip bird. This was our final species of the trip making a final total of 455.

We all arrived at the airport with plenty of time for boarding, we said our goodbyes as we split up to take different flights.

THANKS FOR READING THIS TRIP REPORT OF OUR COSTA RICAN TOUR - IF IT HAS WHETTED YOUR APPETITE FOR SOME GREAT BIRDING, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH AND BOOK YOUR PLACE ON NEXT YEAR'S TOUR.

## SPECIES RECORDED DURING THIS TRIP

	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	
	<b>Tinamidae</b>		
1	Great Tinamou	<i>Tinamus major</i>	✓
	<b>Anatidae</b>		
2	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	✓
3	Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>	✓
4	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	✓
5	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	✓
6	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	✓
	<b>Cracidae</b>		
7	Gray-headed Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis cinereiceps</i>	✓
8	Crested Guan	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>	✓
9	Black Guan	<i>Chamaepetes unicolor</i>	✓
10	Great Curassow	<i>Crax rubra</i>	✓
	<b>Podicipedidae</b>		
11	Least Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>	✓
12	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	✓
	<b>Odontophoridae</b>		
13	Spotted Wood-Quail	<i>Odontophorus guttatus</i>	✓
	<b>Ciconiidae</b>		
14	Jabiru	<i>Jabiru mycteria</i>	✓
15	Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	✓
	<b>Fregatidae</b>		
16	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	✓
	<b>Phalacrocoracidae</b>		
17	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	✓
	<b>Anhingidae</b>		
18	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	✓
	<b>Pelecanidae</b>		
19	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	✓
	<b>Ardeidae</b>		
20	Bare-throated Tiger Heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>	✓
21	Fascinated Tiger Heron	<i>Trigrisoma fasciatum</i>	✓
22	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	✓
23	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓
24	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	✓
25	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	✓
26	Tricoloured Heron	<i>Egretta tricolour</i>	✓
27	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓
28	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	✓
29	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	✓
30	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>	✓
31	Boat-billed Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>	✓
	<b>Threskiornithidae</b>		
32	White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	✓
33	Green Ibis	<i>Mesembrinibis cayennensis</i>	✓
34	Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>	✓
	<b>Cathartidae</b>		
35	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	✓
36	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	✓
37	King Vulture	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>	✓
	<b>Pandionidae</b>		
38	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	✓
	<b>Accipitridae</b>		
39	Common Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>	✓
40	Hook-billed Kite	<i>Chondrohierax uncinatus</i>	✓

41	Swallow-tailed Kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	✓
42	White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	✓
43	Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>	✓
44	Double-toothed Kite	<i>Harpagus bidentatus</i>	✓
45	Plumbeous Kite	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>	✓
46	Barred Hawk	<i>Morphnarchus princeps</i>	✓
47	Bicolored Hawk	<i>Accipitor bicolor</i>	✓
48	Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipitor cooperi</i>	✓
49	Harris's Hawk	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>	✓
50	White Hawk	<i>Pseudastur albucollis</i>	✓
51	Roadside Hawk	<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>	✓
52	Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	✓
53	Gray-lined Hawk	<i>Buteo nitidus</i>	✓
54	Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo bracyurus</i>	✓
55	Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	✓
56	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	✓
	<b>Eurypygidae</b>		
57	Sunbittern	<i>Eurypyga helias</i>	✓
	<b>Rallidae</b>		
58	White-throated Crake	<i>Laterallus albigularis</i>	<b>H</b>
59	Grey-necked Wood-Rail	<i>Aramides cajaneus</i>	✓
60	Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinicus</i>	✓
	<b>Aramidae</b>		
61	Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	✓
	<b>Burhinidae</b>		
62	Double-striped Thick-Knee	<i>Burhinus bistriatus</i>	✓
	<b>Charadriidae</b>		
63	Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>	✓
64	Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	✓
65	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	✓
	<b>Recurvirostridae</b>		
66	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	✓
	<b>Jacanidae</b>		
67	Northern Jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>	✓
	<b>Scolopacidae</b>		
68	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	✓
69	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	✓
70	Ruddy Turnstone		✓
71	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	✓
72	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	✓
73	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	✓
74	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	✓
75	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limos Fedoa</i>	✓
76	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	✓
77	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	✓
78	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	✓
79	Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>	✓
80	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	✓
81	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	✓
	<b>Laridae</b>		
82	Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>	✓
83	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	✓
84	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	✓
	<b>Columbidae</b>		
85	Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>	✓
86	Scaled Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas speciosa</i>	✓
87	Red-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i>	✓
88	Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	✓
89	Ruddy Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas subvinacea</i>	✓
90	Short-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas nigrirostris</i>	✓

91	White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	✓
92	Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>	✓
93	Common Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	✓
94	Ruddy Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	✓
95	White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	✓
96	Gray-chested Dove	<i>Leptotila cassinii</i>	✓
97	Ruddy Quail-Dove	<i>Geotrygon montana</i>	✓
	<b>Cuculidae</b>		
98	Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	✓
99	Lesser Ground-Cuckoo	<i>Morococcyx erythropygus</i>	✓
100	Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>	✓
	<b>Strigidae</b>		
101	Pacific Screech Owl	<i>Megascops cooperi</i>	✓
102	Spectacled Owl	<i>Pulsatrix perspicillata</i>	✓
103	Mottled Owl	<i>Ciccaba virgata</i>	<b>H</b>
104	Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>	✓
	<b>Caprimulgidae</b>		
105	Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>	✓
106	Common Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>	✓
107	Rufus Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus rufus</i>	✓
	<b>Nyctibiidae</b>		
108	Great Potoo	<i>Nyctibus grandis</i>	✓
	<b>Apodidae</b>		
109	White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>	✓
110	Black Swift	<i>Cypseloides niger</i>	✓
111	Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	✓
112	Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift	<i>Panyptila cayennensis</i>	✓
113	Gray-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>	✓
	<b>Trochilidae</b>		
114	White-necked Jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	✓
115	Band-tailed Barbthroat	<i>Threnetes ruckeri</i>	✓
116	Green Hermit	<i>Phaethornis guy</i>	✓
117	Long-billed Hermit	<i>Phaethornis longirostris</i>	✓
118	Stripe-throated Hermit	<i>Phaethornis striigularis</i>	✓
119	Green-fronted Lancebill	<i>Doryfera ludovicae</i>	✓
120	Brown Violetear	<i>Colibri delphinae</i>	✓
121	Green Violetear	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>	✓
122	Purple-crowned Fairy	<i>Heliostyris barroti</i>	✓
123	Green-breasted Mango	<i>Anthracothorax prevostii</i>	✓
124	Green Thorntail	<i>Discosura conversii</i>	✓
125	Black-crested Coquette	<i>Lophornis helenae</i>	✓
126	Green-crowned Brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa jacula</i>	✓
127	Green Thorntail	<i>Discosura conversii</i>	✓
128	Magnificent Hummingbird	<i>Eugenes fulgens</i>	✓
129	Fiery-throated Hummingbird	<i>Panterpe insignis</i>	✓
130	Plain-capped Starthroat	<i>Heliomaster constantii</i>	✓
131	White-bellied Mountain-gem	<i>Lampornis hemileucus</i>	✓
132	White-throated Mountain-gem	<i>Lampornis castaneoventris</i>	✓
133	Purple-throated Mountain-gem	<i>Lampornis calolaema</i>	✓
134	Magenta-throated WordStar	<i>Calliphlox bryantae</i>	✓
135	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	✓
136	Volcano Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus flammula</i>	✓
137	Scintillant Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus scintilla</i>	✓
138	Canivet's Emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon canivetii</i>	✓
139	Violet-headed Hummingbird	<i>Klais guimeti</i>	✓
140	Scale-breasted Hummingbird	<i>Phaeochroa cuvierii</i>	✓
141	Violet Sabrewing	<i>Campylopterus hemileucurus</i>	✓
142	Stripe-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Eupherusa eximia</i>	✓
143	Black-bellied Hummingbird	<i>Eupherusa nigriventris</i>	✓
144	White-tailed Emerald	<i>Elvira chionura</i>	✓

145	Coppery-headed Emerald	<i>Elvira cuprelceps</i>	✓
146	Snowcap	<i>Microchera albocoronata</i>	✓
147	Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer	<i>Chalybura urochrysis</i>	✓
148	Violet-crowned Woodnymph	<i>Thalurania colombica</i>	✓
149	Charming Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia decora</i>	✓
150	Mangrove Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia boucardi</i>	✓
151	Steely-vented Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia saucerrottei</i>	✓
152	Snowy-bellied Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia edward</i>	✓
153	Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>	✓
154	Cinnamon Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia rutila</i>	✓
155	Blue-throated Goldentail	<i>Hylocharis eliciae</i>	✓
	<b>Trogonidae</b>		
156	Slaty-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon massena</i>	✓
157	Black-headed Trogon	<i>Trogon melanocephalus</i>	✓
158	Baird's Trogon	<i>Trogon bairdii</i>	✓
159	Violaceous Trogon	<i>Trogon violaceus</i>	✓
160	Black-throated Trogon	<i>Trogon rufus</i>	✓
161	Collared Trogon	<i>Trogon collaris</i>	✓
162	Orange-bellied Trogon	<i>Trogon aurantiiventris</i>	✓
163	Resplendent Quetzal	<i>Pharomachrus mocinno</i>	✓
	<b>Momotidae</b>		
164	Blue-crowned Motmot	<i>Momotus momota</i>	✓
165	Rufous Motmot	<i>Baryphthengus martii</i>	✓
166	Broad-billed Motmot	<i>Electron platyrhynchum</i>	✓
167	Turquoise-browed Motmot	<i>Eumomota superciliosa</i>	✓
	<b>Alcedinidae</b>		
168	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	✓
169	Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquatus</i>	✓
170	Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>	✓
171	Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	✓
172	American Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>	✓
	<b>Bucconidae</b>		
173	White-whiskered Puffbird	<i>Malacoptila panamensis</i>	✓
	<b>Galbulidae</b>		
174	Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>	✓
	<b>Semnornithidae</b>		
175	Prong-billed Barbet	<i>Semnornis frantzii</i>	✓
176	Red-headed Barbet	<i>Eubucco bourclerii</i>	✓
	<b>Ramphastidae</b>		
177	Emerald Toucanet	<i>Aulacorhynchus prasinus</i>	✓
178	Collared Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus torquatus</i>	✓
179	Keel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos sulfuratus</i>	✓
180	Black-mandibled Toucan	<i>Ramphastos ambiguus</i>	✓
	<b>Picidae</b>		
181	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	✓
182	Golden-naped Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes chrysauchen</i>	✓
183	Black-cheeked Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes pucherani</i>	✓
184	Red-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes rubricapillus</i>	✓
185	Hoffmann's Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes hoffmannii</i>	✓
186	Smokey-brown Woodpecker	<i>Picoides fumigatus</i>	✓
187	Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	✓
188	Rufous-winged Woodpecker	<i>Piculus simplex</i>	✓
189	Golden-olive Woodpecker	<i>Collapses rubiginosus</i>	✓
190	Cinnamon Woodpecker	<i>Celeus loricatus</i>	✓
191	Chestnut-colored Woodpecker	<i>Celeus castaneus</i>	✓
192	Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	✓
193	Pale-billed Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i>	✓
	<b>Falconidae</b>		
194	Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>	✓
195	Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>	✓

196	Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>	✓
197	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	✓
198	Bat Falcon	<i>Falco ruficularis</i>	✓
	<b>Psittacidae</b>		
199	Crimson-fronted Parakeet	<i>Aratinga finschi</i>	✓
200	Sulphur-winged Parakeet	<i>Pyrrhura hoffmanni</i>	✓
201	Orange-fronted Parakeet	<i>Aratinga canicularis</i>	✓
202	Great Green Macaw	<i>Ara ambiguus</i>	✓
203	Scarlet Macaw	<i>Ara macao</i>	✓
204	Orange-chinned Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris jugularis</i>	✓
205	White-crowned Parrot	<i>Pionus senilis</i>	✓
206	White-fronted Parrot	<i>Amazona albifrons</i>	✓
207	Red-lored Parrot	<i>Amazona autumnalis</i>	✓
208	Mealy Parrot	<i>Amazona farinosa</i>	✓
209	Yellow-naped Parrot	<i>Amazona auropalliata</i>	✓
	<b>Thamnophilidae</b>		
210	Fasciated Antshrike	<i>Cymbilaimus lineatus</i>	✓
211	Barred Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>	✓
212	Black-hooded Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus bridgesi</i>	✓
213	Russet Antshrike	<i>Thamnistes anabatinus</i>	✓
214	Dot-winged Antwren	<i>Microrhopias quixensis</i>	✓
215	Dusky Antbird	<i>Cercomacra tyrannina</i>	✓
216	Dull-mantled Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza laemosticta</i>	✓
217	Chestnut-backed Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza exsul</i>	✓
218	Bicolored Antbird	<i>Gymnopithys leucaspis</i>	✓
	<b>Grallariidae</b>		
219	Streaked-chested Antpitta	<i>Hylopezus perspicillatus</i>	✓
	<b>Rhinocryptidae</b>		
220	Silvery-fronted Tapaculo	<i>Scytalopus argentifrons</i>	✓
	<b>Formicarius</b>		
221	Black-faced Antthrush	<i>Formicarius analis</i>	✓
	<b>Furnariidae</b>		
222	Plain Xenops	<i>Xenops minutus</i>	✓
223	Spotted Barbtail	<i>Premnoplex brunnescens</i>	✓
224	Ruddy Treerunner	<i>Margarornis rubiginosus</i>	✓
225	Red-faced Spinetail	<i>Cranioleuca erythropus</i>	✓
226	Streak-breasted Treehunter	<i>Thripadectes rufobrunneus</i>	✓
227	Buff-throated Foliage Gleaner	<i>Autofocus ochrolaemus</i>	✓
	<b>Dendrocolaptidae</b>		
228	Tawny-winged Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla anabatina</i>	✓
229	Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>	✓
230	Northern-barred Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae</i>	✓
231	Cocoa Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus susurrans</i>	✓
232	Spotted Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus erythropygius</i>	✓
233	Streak-headed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>	✓
234	Black-striped Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus</i>	✓
235	Spot-crowned Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes affinis</i>	✓
236	Brown-billed Sythebill	<i>Campylorhamphus pusillus</i>	✓
	<b>Tyrannidae</b>		
237	Yellow-bellied Elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>	✓
238	Mountain Elaenia	<i>Elaenia frantzii</i>	✓
239	Torrent Tyrannulet	<i>Serpophaga cinerea</i>	✓
240	Olive-striped Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes olivaceus</i>	✓
241	Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>	✓
242	Slaty-capped Flycatcher	<i>Leptopogon superciliaris</i>	✓
243	Northern Bentbill	<i>Oncostoma cineriregulare</i>	✓
244	Paltry Tyrannulet	<i>Zimmerius vilissimus</i>	✓
245	Northern Beardless Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma limberbe</i>	✓
246	Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Myornis atricapillus</i>	✓
247	Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Lophotriccus pileatus</i>	✓

248	Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Poecilotriccus sylvia</i>	✓
249	Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>	✓
250	Eye-ringed Flatbill	<i>Rhynchocyclus brevirostris</i>	✓
251	Black-headed Tody	<i>Todirostrum nigriceps</i>	✓
252	Yellow-olive Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>	✓
253	Golden-crowned Spadebill	<i>Platyrhinchus coronatus</i>	✓
254	Royal Flycatcher	<i>Onychorhynchus coronatus</i>	✓
255	Tawny-chested Flycatcher	<i>Aphanotriccus capitalis</i>	✓
256	Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	✓
257	Ochraceous Pewee	<i>Contopus ochraceus</i>	✓
258	Dark Pewee	<i>Contopus lugubris</i>	✓
259	Ochraceous Pewee	<i>Contopus ochraceus</i>	✓
260	Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	✓
261	Tropical Pewee	<i>Contopus cinereus</i>	✓
262	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	✓
263	Yellowish Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flavescens</i>	✓
264	Black-capped Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax atriceps</i>	✓
265	Tufted Flycatcher	<i>Mitrephanes phaeocercus</i>	✓
266	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	✓
267	Long-tailed Tyrant	<i>Colonia colonus</i>	✓
268	Bright-rumped Attila	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>	✓
269	Rufous Mourner	<i>Rhytipterna holerythra</i>	✓
270	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>	✓
271	Panama Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus panamensis</i>	✓
272	Nutting's Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus nuttingi</i>	✓
273	Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	✓
274	Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>	✓
275	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	✓
276	Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarhynchus pitangua</i>	✓
277	Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	✓
278	Gray-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes granadensis</i>	✓
279	White-ringed Flycatcher	<i>Conopias albobittatus</i>	✓
280	Golden-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes hemichrysus</i>	✓
281	Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>	✓
282	Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeupiraticus</i>	✓
283	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	✓
284	Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	✓
285	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	✓
	<b>Tytridae</b>		
286	Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>	✓
287	Black-crowned Tityra	<i>Tityra inquisitor</i>	✓
288	Barred Becard	<i>Pachyramphus versicolor</i>	<b>H</b>
289	Cinnamon Becard	<i>Pachyramphus cinnamomeus</i>	✓
290	Rose-throated Becard	<i>Pachyramphus aglaiae</i>	✓
	<b>Cotingidae</b>		
291	Snowy Cotinga	<i>Carpodectes nitidus</i>	✓
292	Yellow-billed Cotinga	<i>Carpodectes antoniae</i>	✓
293	Rufous Piha	<i>Lipaugus unirufus</i>	<b>H</b>
	<b>Pipridae</b>		
294	White-collared Manakin	<i>Manacus candei</i>	✓
295	Orange-collared Manakin	<i>Manacus aurantiacus</i>	✓
296	Red-capped Manakin	<i>Pipra mentalis</i>	✓
297	Long-tailed Manakin	<i>Chiroxiphia holochlora</i>	✓
	<b>Vireonidae</b>		
298	Mangrove Vireo	<i>Vireo pallens</i>	✓
299	Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	✓
300	Yellow-winged Vireo	<i>Vireo carmioli</i>	✓
301	Brown-capped Vireo	<i>Vireo leucophrys</i>	✓
302	Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	✓
303	Tawny-crowned Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus ochraceiceps</i>	✓

304	Lesser Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus decurtatus</i>	✓
305	Rufous-browed Peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>	✓
306	Green Shrike-Vireo	<i>Vireolanius pulchellus</i>	H
	<b>Corvidae</b>		
307	White-throated Magpie-Jay	<i>Calocitta formosa</i>	✓
308	Brown Jay	<i>Psilorhinus morio</i>	✓
	<b>Hirundinidae</b>		
309	Gray-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>	✓
310	Mangrove Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>	✓
311	Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Pygochelidon cyanoleuca</i>	✓
312	N. Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	✓
313	S, Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>	✓
314	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓
	<b>Troglodytidae</b>		
315	House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	✓
316	Scaly-breasted Wren	<i>Microcerculus marginatus</i>	H
317	Timberline Wren	<i>Thryorchilus browni</i>	✓
318	Ochraceous Wren	<i>Troglodytes ochraceus</i>	✓
319	Band-backed Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus zonatus</i>	✓
320	Rufous-naped Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus rufinucha</i>	✓
321	Rufous-breasted Wren	<i>Pheugopedius rutilus</i>	✓
322	Black-bellied Wren	<i>Pheugopedius fasciatoventris</i>	H
323	Rufous-and-white Wren	<i>Thryophilus rufalbus</i>	✓
324	Stripe-breasted Wren	<i>Cantorchilus thoracicus</i>	✓
325	Bay Wren	<i>Cantorchilus nigricapillus</i>	✓
326	Riverside Wren	<i>Cantorchilus semibadius</i>	✓
327	Plain Wren	<i>Cantorchilus modestus</i>	✓
328	White-breasted Wood-Wren	<i>Henicorhina leucosticta</i>	✓
329	Gray-breasted Wood-Wren	<i>Henicorhina leucophrys</i>	✓
	<b>Poliophtilidae</b>		
330	Long-billed Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>	✓
331	White-lored Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila albiloris</i>	✓
332	Tropical Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila plumbea</i>	✓
	<b>Cinclidae</b>		
333	American Dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>	✓
	<b>Turdidae</b>		
334	Black-faced Solitaire	<i>Myadestes melanops</i>	✓
335	Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush	<i>Catharus aurantirostris</i>	H
336	Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush	<i>Catharus frantzii</i>	✓
337	Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	✓
338	Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	✓
339	Sooty Thrush	<i>Turdus nigrescens</i>	✓
340	Mountain Thrush	<i>Turdus plebejus</i>	✓
341	Clay-colored Thrush	<i>Turdus grayi</i>	✓
342	Pale-vented Thrush	<i>Turdus obsoletus</i>	✓
343	White-throated Thrush	<i>Turdus asimilis</i>	H
	<b>Ptilonotidae</b>		
344	Black-and-yellow Silky-Flycatcher	<i>Phainoptila melanoxantha</i>	✓
345	Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher	<i>Ptilonotus caudatus</i>	✓
	<b>Parulidae</b>		
346	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	✓
347	Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	✓
348	Kentucky Warbler	<i>Oporornis formosus</i>	✓
349	Mourning Warbler	<i>Oporornis tolmiei</i>	✓
350	Golden-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	✓
351	Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	✓
352	American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	✓
353	Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	✓
354	Flame-throated Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis gutturalis</i>	✓
355	Tennessee Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis peregrina</i>	✓

356	Tropical Parula	<i>Setophaga pitiayumi</i>	✓
357	Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Setophaga fusca</i>	✓
358	Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	✓
359	Mangrove Warbler	<i>Dendroica p. erythachorides</i>	✓
360	Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Setophaga pennsylvanica</i>	✓
361	Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>	✓
362	Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Setophaga virens</i>	✓
363	Buff-rumped Warbler	<i>Myiothlypis fulvicauda</i>	✓
364	Rufous-capped Warbler	<i>Basileuterus rufifrons</i>	✓
365	Black-cheeked Warbler	<i>Basileuterus melanogenys</i>	✓
366	Macgillivray's Warbler	<i>Oporornis tolmiei</i>	✓
367	Hooded Warbler	<i>Wilsonia citrina</i>	✓
368	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	✓
369	Slate-throated Redstart	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>	✓
370	Collared Redstart	<i>Myioborus torquatus</i>	✓
371	Golden-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>	✓
372	Wrenthrush	<i>Zeledonia coronata</i>	✓
	<b>Coerebinae</b>		
373	Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	✓
	<b>Thraupidae</b>		
374	Dusky-faced Tanager	<i>Mitrospingus cassinii</i>	✓
375	Grey-headed Tanager	<i>Eucometis penicillata</i>	✓
376	White-shouldered Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus luctuosus</i>	✓
377	Tawny-crested Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus delatirii</i>	✓
378	White-lined Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus rufus</i>	✓
379	Crimson-collared Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus sanguinolentus</i>	✓
380	Passerini's Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus passerinii</i>	✓
381	Cherries's Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus costaricensis</i>	✓
382	Blue-gray Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	✓
383	Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	✓
384	Blue-and-gold Tanager	<i>Bangsia arcae</i>	✓
385	Golden-hooded Tanager	<i>Tangara larvata</i>	✓
386	Speckled Tanager	<i>Tangara guttata</i>	✓
387	Spangle-cheeked Tanager	<i>Tangara dowii</i>	✓
388	Plain-colored Tanager	<i>Tangara inornata</i>	✓
389	Bay-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>	✓
390	Emerald Tanager	<i>Tangara florida</i>	✓
391	Silver-throated Tanager	<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>	✓
392	Black-and-Yellow Tanager	<i>Chrysothlypis chrysomeias</i>	✓
393	Scarlet-thighed Dacnis	<i>Dacnis venusta</i>	✓
394	Blue Dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>	✓
395	Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>	✓
396	Red-legged Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>	✓
	<b>Genus Incertae Sedis</b>		
397	Streaked Saltator	<i>Saltator albicollis</i>	✓
398	Grayish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>	✓
399	Buff-throated Saltator	<i>Saltator maximus</i>	✓
400	Black-headed Saltator	<i>Saltator atriceps</i>	✓
	<b>Emberizidae</b>		
401	Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>	✓
402	Variable Seedeater	<i>Sporophila americana</i>	✓
403	White-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila torqueola</i>	✓
404	Nicaraguan Seedeater	<i>Oryzoborus nuttingi</i>	✓
405	Yellow-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris olivaceus</i>	✓
406	Peg-billed Finch	<i>Acanthidops bairdii</i>	✓
407	Slaty Finch	<i>Haplospiza rustica</i>	✓
408	Slaty Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa plumbea</i>	✓
409	Yellow-thighed Finch	<i>Pselliophorus tibialis</i>	✓
410	Large-footed Finch	<i>Pezopetes capitalis</i>	✓
411	Orange-billed Sparrow	<i>Arremon aurantirostris</i>	✓

412	Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch	<i>Arremon brunneinucha</i>	✓
413	White-naped Bush-Finch	<i>Atlapetes albinucha</i>	✓
414	Black-striped Sparrow	<i>Arremonops conirostris</i>	✓
415	Stripe-headed Sparrow	<i>Peucaea ruficauda</i>	✓
416	Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>	✓
417	Volcano Junco	<i>Junco vulcani</i>	✓
418	Common Bush-Tanager	<i>Chlorospingus ophthalmicus</i>	✓
419	Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager	<i>Chlorospingus pileatus</i>	✓
	<b>Cardinalidae</b>		
420	Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	✓
421	Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	✓
422	Flame-colored Tanager	<i>Piranga bidentata</i>	✓
423	Red-throated Ant-Tanager	<i>Habia fuscicauda</i>	✓
424	Black-faced Grosbeak	<i>Caryothraustes poliogaster</i>	✓
425	Black-thighed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus tibialis</i>	✓
426	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	✓
427	Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	✓
428	Dickcissal	<i>Spiza Americana</i>	✓
	<b>Icteridae</b>		
429	Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	✓
430	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	✓
431	Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	✓
432	Melodious Blackbird	<i>Dives dives</i>	✓
433	Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	✓
434	Black-cowled Oriole	<i>Icterus prothemelas</i>	✓
435	Bronze Cowbird	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>	✓
436	Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>	✓
437	Giant Cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>	✓
438	Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>	✓
439	Spot-breasted Oriole	<i>Icterus pectoralis</i>	✓
440	Streak-backed Oriole	<i>Icterus pustulatus</i>	✓
441	Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	✓
442	Yellow-billed Cacique	<i>Amblycercus holosericeus</i>	✓
443	Scarlet-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus uropygialis</i>	✓
444	Chestnut-headed Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius wagleri</i>	✓
445	Montezuma Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius montezuma</i>	✓
	<b>Fringillidae</b>		
446	Scrub Euphonia	<i>Euphonia affinis</i>	✓
447	Yellow-crowned Euphonia	<i>Euphonia luteicapilla</i>	✓
448	Yellow-throated Euphonia	<i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>	✓
449	Elegant Euphonia	<i>Euphonia elegantissima</i>	✓
450	Spot-crowned Euphonia	<i>Euphonia imitans</i>	✓
451	Olive-backed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia gouldi</i>	✓
452	White-vented Euphonia	<i>Euphonia minuta</i>	✓
453	Tawny-capped Euphonia	<i>Euphonia anae</i>	✓
454	Golden-browed Chlorophonia	<i>Chlorophonia callophrys</i>	✓
	<b>Passeridae</b>		
455	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓

MAMMALS		
1	Bat , Lesser-White-Lined	<i>Saccopteryx leptura</i>
2	Tayra	<i>Eira barbara</i>
3	Agouti , Central-American	<i>Dasyprocta punctata</i>
4	Squirrel , Red-Tailed	<i>Sciurus granatensis</i>
5	Squirrel , Varigated	<i>Sciurus variegatoides</i>
6	Tree Porcupine	<i>Sphiggurus mexicanus</i>
6	Coati , White-Nosed	<i>Nasua narica</i>

8	Jaguarundi	<i>Herpailurus yaguarondi</i>
9	Sloth , Brown-Throated-Three-Toed	<i>Bradypus variegatus</i>
10	Sloth , Hoffman's-Two-Toed	<i>Choloepus hoffmanni</i>
11	Monkey , Central-American-Spider	<i>Saimiri oerstedii</i>
12	Monkey , Mantled-Howler	<i>Alouatta palliata</i>
13	Monkey , White-Faced-Caphuchin	<i>Cebus capucinus</i>
14	Peccary , Collared	<i>Pecari tajacu</i>
<b>REPTILES</b>		
1	Basilisk , Green	<i>Basiliscus plumifrons</i>
2	Caimen , Spectacled	<i>Caiman crocodilus</i>
3	Crocodile , American	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>
4	Iguana , Spiny-Tailed	<i>Ctenosaura similis</i>
5	Eyelash Pit Viper	<i>Bothriechis schelgelii</i>
6	Green Vine Snake	<i>Oxybelis fulgidus</i>
7	Black River Turtle	<i>Rhinoclemmys funerea</i>
8	Brown Wood Turtle	<i>Rhinoclemmys annulata</i>
<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>		
1	Poison-Dart-Frog , Green-And-Black	<i>Dendrobates auratus</i>
2	Toad , Cane (Marine)	<i>Bufo marinus</i>