

# WINGSPAN BIRD TOURS

IN

## COSTA RICA



### TRIP REPORT

FEBRUARY 22<sup>ND</sup> – MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> 2016

LEADERS: BOB BUCKLER & JOHAN FERNANDEZ

SUMMARY & REPORT WRITTEN BY BOB BUCKLER

This was yet another very enjoyable and a most successful WINGSPAN TOUR of the magical Costa Rica. I can't praise our guide Johan enough, he was superb, his skill at locating birds from calls in very difficult habitat is second to none. We found 465 species and heard another 13 without seeing them, this equals our greatest tally of 2014, we can thank Johan for this.

There were some very special moments during our two weeks, every day was full of memorable experiences with some delightful wildlife watching but the main highlights for me were watching the Quetzals at their nest hole and then later, the two hours walking along the same track where we found 22 species, nineteen of which were highland specialities. The Tarcoles River Cruise was very exciting and relaxing at the same time, it was a bird-rich experience where we able to drift close to many species in perfect weather.

The hummer feeders at Rancho, Cinchona, Tolomuco, and Savegre were mesmerising and the variety of habitats provided an endless stream of bird species giving us memories to treasure for a very long time and thousands of photographs to cherish forever.

My group this year were marvellous with a diverse range of interests and expertise. Chris, Steve and Pauline were 'hard core' birders whilst Tim and Lynn were 'hard core' Lepidopterists, Una, Margaret, Ken and Carlene were somewhere in the middle, they were happy to watch and photograph anything that moved. A happy compromise was reached by all which made the trip very interesting and enjoyable. Thank you all for making my job so easy!

A word must be said of our driver, Damain, he is such a delightful and charismatic character, he made us laugh many times and became a keen bird-spotter. Lynn especially got on well with him and even gave him English lessons. Best of all she brought tears to his eyes when she gave him her binoculars at the end of the trip.

#### **DAY 1 – 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2016 – LONDON TO SAN JOSE VIA MADRID AIRPORT – TRANSFER HOTEL TO BOUGAINVILLEA HOTEL.**

**Sunny, warm but a little windy all day.**

We arrived in San Jose after a nice steady flight and a smooth connection at Madrid, however once on the ground in San Jose things slowed up, it took 30 minutes to get through security and we waited nearly an hour for our luggage. Once outside the terminal we met up with Damian our driver and with Ken and Carlene an Australian couple who made up the rest the group. Once on the bus we were delayed getting out of the car park because the exit barriers were out of order, then we hit mega traffic around San Jose. It was dark when we got to our hotel and too late for any birding!

We ate a lovely dinner and began to relax, our bird log consisted of three species, Turkey Vulture, Great-tailed Grackle and Palm Tanager, even an after dinner owl-prowl produced nothing except for an unidentified frog!

#### **DAY 2 – 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2016 – BOUGAINVILLEA HOTEL – BRAULIO CARRILLO NATIONAL PARK – SELVA VERDE LODGE**

**WEATHER: Dry and sunny for most of the day, cloudy later with a threat of rain.**

At 6am we gathered in the garden for our pre-breakfast walk and to meet Johan our guide for the first time. A nice bright morning greeted us as we ventured into the beautiful grounds and immediately we started listing our first Costa Rican birds. The drab looking Clay-colored Thrush was one-of the first and is Costa Rica's National Bird, I assume chosen for its melodic renditions and not its looks. Red-billed Pigeon, Grayish Saltator, Baltimore Oriole and several other common species were soon in the notebook too.

After an hour we had a sizeable list with some nice species, everyone loved the Squirrel Cuckoo which showed very well, also the Hoffman's Woodpecker and the Rufous-capped Warbler. We also saw a couple of American migrant species including Tennessee Warbler and Philadelphia Vireo and our only 'hummer' was the Rufous-tailed Hummingbird. Our last

species was seen as we were leaving the garden, it was a beauty, we had extremely close views of a Yellow-throated Vireo that came to within a meter of us as it fed in a shrub.

After breakfast we loaded up the bus and set off for the Caribbean Slopes via the forested mountains and Braulio Carillo National Park. We made a short stop near the hotel to look for 'ground-sparrows' but it produced nothing.

Braulio Carillo National Park was our morning's destination, we had high hopes of seeing many new species because of the good reputation this forest park holds. However we were very disappointed, after spending a couple of hours walking the 'sendero las Palmas' we saw exactly, one bird. The habitat was wonderful and we did hear quite a few species but we failed to bump into a mixed feeding flock of any description.



Nevertheless the group remained buoyant as we embarked on a walk along a second trail. At the start of that trail, in the car park, we found a few tanager species, Silver-throated, Palm, Golden-hooded and Black-and-Yellow.

But again the walk failed to turn up much, White-whiskered Puffbird, Long-billed Gnatwren, White-breasted Wood-Wren and not much else. From a bridge near the car park we scanned the river below and came up with Louisiana Waterthrush, not a bad bird to finish the morning with.

From the park we drove down the forested mountainside into the Caribbean side of the country, we ate lunch at a roadside cantina, which was enjoyed by all, we added Montezuma's Oropendula and House Sparrow to our list during lunch.

For the afternoon we planned to visit some open areas near La Union, a small village about 15km away, our guide knew of a roosting Crested Owl site. Once off the main road we stopped to watch several new species, which included Grey-capped Yellowthroat, Red-breasted (Meadowlark) Blackbird, Blue and White Swallow, Variable Seed-eater, Black-mandibled Toucan, White-crowned Parrot and Great Kiskadee.

There were two Crested Owls showing at the site when we arrived, excellent, we left them undisturbed and this set the pattern for the rest of the afternoon, Johan took us to several sites to look for various 'target' species, which luckily, happened to be where they should have been, as a bonus we added a few more species into the bargain.

So on that theme we next went to another wood to see Spectacled Owl, again two were showing well, we added Broad-winged Hawk, a good sighting because we watched it dive down to a rocky stream where it snatched a frog from a rock and perched nearby to eat it. Also our first Chestnut-sided Warbler and a couple more Black-mandibled Toucans were seen.

Nicaraguan Seed-Finch was our next target species, we parked beside some large grasslands and within a couple of minutes we had one in the bag, marvellous, what a huge bill! The same thing happened with Great Potoo, the bird sat in a dead tree over a busy track, amazingly it managed to sleep the whole time we were there.

Our last target bird was a little harder to find but we had plenty of other birds to keep us occupied, in fact we managed to see another 20 species during the last two hours of daylight. We parked along a track near La Selva where open grazing fields supported gigantic White Almond Trees, they are the preferred nesting species for the Great Green Macaw. Whilst we searched the area we found, Grey-capped Flycatcher, Olive-throated Parakeet, Red-lored Parrot, a pair of Bat Falcons, both Chestnut-headed and Montezuma's Oropendulas, Ruddy Ground Dove, Grey-rumped Swift, Masked Tityra, Boat-billed Flycatcher and several more. Our only view of the Macaws was a pair in the distance flying passed.

The light began to fade as the clouds gathered and thickened, it looked like rain was imminent so we gave up for the day. Luckily the afternoon birding was so good that it made up for the poor start in the morning, we ended up listing 72 species and 23 butterflies.

### DAY 3 – 24<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016 – SELVA VERDE - LA SELVA ALL DAY

Weather: bright sunshine most of the day, cloud late afternoon, very warm and humid.

This was a great day for birding in Costa Rica, bright and sunny for most of the day and no wind, perfect except for the heat and humidity. We all met at 6am on the veranda of the restaurant where we drank coffee and watched a number of species coming to bird tables. A White-nosed Coati came first and devoured most of the bananas put out for the birds. However a few species turned up, Red-throated Ant-Tanagers came in small flocks, a couple of Orange-billed Sparrows dashed about on the ground, a single, male Summer Tanager was stunning, Clay-colored Thrushes and Montezuma Oropendula also dropped in.

La Selva Biological Research Station.

What a wonderful place is La Selva, you always have a great days' birding there and today was no exception it was superb. It has over 4,000 acres of lowland forest which lies adjacent to Braulio Carillo and forms a very important biological corridor



between lowland and highland forest. There is an extensive trail system which passes through forests of all ages taking you through several diverse habitats.

We arrived at 8am and signed-in for the day, the entrance fee includes a guide who gave us a talk before we set off for our first walk. The open area around the reception is usually good for seeing various species feeding in the shrubs and flowers but today it was very quiet, we saw Passerini's Tanager, Bananaquit, Yellow-bellied Elaenia and to our great delight we found a female **Snowy Cotinga**, wow what a great start.

Our walk began in earnest, we spent a great morning watching some superb species, Black-mandibled Toucan, Collared Aracari, Black-throated and Gartered Trogon, Rufous Motmot, Long-tailed Tyrant, Rufous Mourner, we saw our first Woodcreepers in the shape of Streak-headed and the larger Northern Barred Woodcreeper. Piratic and Streaked Flycatchers were the first of a dozen or so flycatchers seen today, Ochre-bellied Flycatcher soon followed.

We tracked down a couple of White-collared Manakins at a 'lek' because we could hear their distinctive 'wing-clicking' sound. A Black-throated Wren gave us its beautiful song before showing itself and we went on to seeing another 30 species in the course of the morning. It was not only forest birds on our list, we could often see patches of sky through the forest canopy where we noted several species which included Double-toothed Kite, Broad-winged Hawk, Chimney and Grey-rumped Swifts. A couple of Green Ibis were found near a small forest pool and a few mammals were also seen, Two-toed Sloth, Variegated Squirrel, Agouti, White-nosed Coati and a Mexican Dwarf Tree Porcupine. The two guides saw a Tayra dash across the track before any of us got onto it.

We ate lunch back at the visitor's centre and enjoyed an hour's rest before setting off for a second walk at 2pm. Flycatchers were the order of the day, they popped up everywhere, we soon added a few more to our list, Yellow-bellied, Yellow-margined, Yellow-olive Flycatchers, Paltry Tyrannulet, Common Tody Flycatcher and Bright-rumped Atilla. We crossed over a large suspended foot-bridge after watching Crested Guans feeding in the tree tops and then walked through the main research compound where a series of huts provided accommodation and work stations for the researchers and university students.

As we passed through we noted Olive-backed Euphonia, Pale-vented Thrush, Chestnut-side Warbler and a few other species. During the afternoon forest walk we found Purple-throated Fruitcrow, what a superb bird for our list, everyone had 'scoped' views of it. We also saw both Broad-billed and Rufous Motmots, a Rufous-tailed Jacamar called but failed to show and a White-necked Puffbird was found high in the canopy. A couple of Short-billed Pigeons fed high up whilst a Grey-chested Dove walked on the forest floor and crossed the track.

One other highlight was the finding of a Vermiculated Screech-Owl, our local guide was superb at tracking it down. Towards the late afternoon bird activity increased and whilst back in the research compound we found several more goodies, Red-capped Manakin, Olive-backed Euphonias and Golden-winged Warbler were all seen feeding in the same tree whilst higher up we added the large Mealy Parrot. One last interesting find was that of a Great Curassow, some of the group really wanted this species and thought we were going home without it until then.

Apart from the 70+ species of birds we listed many butterflies, we saw interesting insects, also an Eyelash Palm Pit-Viper, some Honduran White Bats and some lovely flowering plants. We left this memorable place very happy after a wonderful day out with some excellent species on our list.

#### DAY 4 – 25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016 – SELVA VERDE – CINCHONA ( LA VIRGEN)

Weather: a beautiful clear morning to start then cloudy later.

We met at 6am for a walk along the trails of Selva Verde, it was a clear dry morning and after watching the bird feeding station for a while we set off into the forest along the 'river' track. A couple of Ring Kingfishers flew by as we approached the water's edge and then we found Green Kingfisher and Spotted Sandpiper.

Other good birds seen during our walk included Grey-capped Flycatcher, Orange-billed Sparrow, Chestnut-backed Antbird and not much else.

After a nice breakfast we gathered again and boarded the bus for the hour long drive to La Virgen, an area of much higher elevation with steep sided forested-gorges and open pasture. Spectacular waterfalls seemed to be a feature in most of the valleys.



We climbed to the top of La Virgen Valley where a restaurant had a superb 'Galerie de Colibries' a 'gallery of Hummingbirds' which was a wooden terrace that overlooked the valley giving panoramic views including a spectacular waterfall. The platform had many 'hummer' feeders and a large feeding station. It was buzzing with all types of birds, we added seven new hummingbirds to our list including the Endemic **COPPERY-HEADED EMERALD**. It was fantastic to see so many birds at such close quarters, the bird table attracted many tanagers, we added the Common Bush-Tanager now called Common Chlorospingus to our list but seeing Silver-throated, Palm. Blue and Grey and Passerini's so close was magical.

Before long some real goodies started to appear beginning with **Prong-billed Barbet** a regional endemic, then an Emerald Toucanet showed up followed by the fantastic looking Red-headed Barbet, it was absolutely stunning.

At around 10am we decided to go for a walk down in the valley below so we boarded the bus and headed back down the main road, we stopped after a kilometer or so at a nice clear area where a good panoramic view of the valley could be had. The weather was just right for raptors, we had already noted many Turkey and Black Vultures in the sky so we looked for other birds of prey.

A pair of Barred Hawks appeared low down far below us, but they soon rose to eye-level and above, then our main target species, the White Hawk, appeared in the distance, it too was circling on the thermals and gave good views in the bins. The next bird produced some excitement from the group, it was a Swallow-tail Kite, what a beauty. Finally a Broad-winged Hawk flew over from behind us it was pursued by a Bat Falcon, they both split up and circled for a while. Well that was an exciting 30 minutes let's hope the next couple of hours will be just as good.

We drove to a dirt track which led down to the river at the base of the valley, we jumped off the bus and began our downhill trek. Within minutes we found a real gem, a Black-crested Coquette, we watched this tiny hummer return to a resting place a couple of times.

Generally the walk was quiet and we watched more butterflies than birds, but it ended with a flurry of sightings, a Tufted Flycatcher was found high up on a steep bank but it was hard to view, a Dusky-faced Tanager was found skulking in thick scrub and as we watched it a real goodie appeared in the shape of a Wrenthrush, unfortunately the sighting was only brief.

At the bottom of the track we came to a river and from the bridge we listed Black Phoebe and Torrent Tyrannulet along with several butterflies. From there we climbed back onto the bus and headed back to the restaurant for lunch.

The restaurant served us lunch on the terrace whilst hummingbirds flitted around us, what a great setting and a unique experience. We had further sightings of the 'seven' hummers but Melodious Blackbird was the only new species for us, we also added Rufous-collared Sparrow and Buff-throated Saltator to the day list.

Following lunch we drove back to the Selva Verde Lodge and took a short break of an hour, some of group stayed out birding whilst others took a rest. A nice list of species was amassed during this time including: Plain-brown and Northern-barred Woodcreepers, Stripe-breasted Wren, Lesser Greenlet, Summer Tanager and a new hummer, Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer.



For the afternoon we first went for a walk outside the perimeter of Selva Verde, the route was along the main road and then along a track to the river. We had great views of a male SNOWY COTINGA, what a beauty, then we saw a Long-tailed Tyrant, a Piratic Flycatcher and several other species. The highlights at the river included sightings of Fasciated Tiger-Heron, Amazon Kingfisher, Gartered Trogon, Black-faced Grosbeak, Lineated Woodpecker, Blue-Black Grassquit, Cinnamon Becard and lots of other previously recorded species.

Lastly we drove to the entrance-road of La Selva Biological Station where we spent the final hours of daylight searching the forest edge for new species. We tried to coax out a Uniform Crake, it called several times but did not appear, the same applied to an Olive-crowned Yellowthroat it also failed to show, however a Great Tinamou did.

A little further along the road we found Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Tropical Gnatcatcher, Long-billed Hermit, Dusky-capped Flycatcher and we had 3 Great Green Macaws fly over us. We watched large mixed flocks of the two species of Oropendolas having great views of Chestnut-headed in the scope. Our final new sighting of the day was of a Wood Thrush seen from the bus as we drove back to Selva Verde for the last time.

**DAY 5 – 26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016 – SELVA VERDA – TRANSFER TO RANCHO NATURALISTA**

Weather: Dull overcast, heavy rain to start, dry lunchtime but further heavy rain later

Our early morning walk was abandoned due to the heavy rain but most of the group got up early and sat watching the feeding station outside the restaurant. We added a couple of species to our list but generally it was very quiet. A Striped-necked Hermit and a Streak-headed Woodcreeper were the pick of the bunch. By 8am we were all packed, breakfast was over and we set off for our next destination, Rancho Naturalista some 3 hours away.

The rain subsided within an hour of setting off just as we were arriving in the village of La Union where we planned to stop for an hour or so. A local guy has developed his garden into a birding haven complete with feeders, fruiting plants and a sheltered hide. We piled into the hide and settled down to a bird-fest.

White-tipped Sicklebill - Photo by Margaret Cooper

It was a wonderful experience, the birds came so close to us, the feeders were so well placed that we could almost reach out and touch the birds. It was a bit like a hummer-show with a good number always in sight, apart from the common White-necked Jacobin and the Rufous-tailed Hummingbird we saw: Long-billed Hermit, Green Hermit, Striped-necked Hermit, Bronze-tailed Plumeleater, Crowned Woodnymph, Violet-headed Hummingbird, Blue-chested Hummingbird, but



by far the most exciting sighting was that of a **WHITE-TIPPED SICKLEBILL**, this rare little beauty was a fantastic find and a lifer for all of the group including me.

Many other species showed up during our stay, the rain stopped, the light improved and so did our enjoyment. Both Chestnut-headed and Montezuma's Oropendolas came to feed as did Green Honeycreeper, Collared Aracari, Palm Tanager, Buff-throated Saltator and a surprise was a Grey-headed Chachalaca. A Grey-necked Wood-Rail was a crowd pleaser, I could hear the rapid camera-shutters clacking, it was like being in a room full of typists.

As we left the hide the sun started to break through the clouds and Tim, our butterfly expert, found several species near the bus, that cheered him up and delayed our departure for a few minutes.

garden areas and a huge lake.

It was a 2 hour drive to Rancho Naturalista but before we arrived there we made a second birding stop at Casa Turire Hotel, this spa hotel has extensive grounds with horse paddocks, a woodland, manicured

The lake was our main reason for stopping, it is good for a number of species with Snail Kite being the main target bird. We logged Southern Lapwing on the way in and the lake produced a hat full of species; Lesser Scaup, Blue-winged Teal, Pied-billed and Least Grebes, Great Egret, Little Blue Heron, Great Blue Heron, Purple Gallinule, Common Gallinule, Northern Jacana, Muscovy Duck, Neotropic Cormorant, Anhinga and Snail Kite.

A walk in the woodlands produced very little so we set off on the last leg of our journey, a Giant Cowbird was added to our trip list on the way out of the complex.

It was still raining when we got to Rancho at 2pm, we immediately sat down for lunch on the superb terrace overlooking the gardens where bird-feeders and birds were everywhere. We quickly logged Black-Striped Sparrow and then a SNOWCAP appeared half-way through the soup course, how inconvenient!

New hummers for our list included the Snowcap, Green-breasted Mango and Green Violetear but it was just great to see so many White-necked Jacobins, Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds and Crowned Woodnymphs. Grey-headed Chachalaca, Brown Jay, Tennessee Warbler, Buff-throated Saltator and White-lined Tanager added to our enjoyment. A male Golden-winged Warbler was exquisite as it bathed in one of the numerous pools, such a gem.



After settling into our rooms we met up again at 3:45pm for a walk to the famous Rancho 'hummingbird pools' a series of small, natural basins formed by a cascading stream in the forest. These pools are visited by a number of species to wash and drink, but it is the 'hummers' that make this such a special place.

After a steep downward climb we all sat on chairs on a platform that overlooked the pools and as the light began to fade hummingbirds started to appear. Despite persistent rain they would hover over a pool and then dive down into the water to bathe, it was magical, several different species came to wash including the Snowcap and Crowned Woodnymph. Other species seen included a lovely Kentucky Warbler and an Ovenbird seen by one of the group who stayed longer than the rest of us.

Back at the Ranch a couple more birds were added to the list, another hummer, the Brown Violetear and our second Wood Thrush, finally the light faded into dark and we packed up to end an eventful day, let's hope the rain eases off tomorrow.

## DAY 6 – 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2016 - RANCHO NATURALISTA ALL DAY

**WEATHER:** clear and sunny with some cloud, warm all day

We met at 5:30am on the veranda of the main building at Rancho Naturalista, coffee and Tea was waiting for us, it was just getting light and the hummers were stirring. But before we spent time looking at the feeders we walked up the hill a little way to an area where a huge mercury lamp is used to attract moths, unfortunately for the moths it also attracts a lot of moth-eating birds. We arrived just in time to have a good look at a wide range of moth species ranging from tiny dots to huge hawk moths.

As it got light a number of birds appeared and began to devour our moth collection, White-breasted Wood-Wren, Orange-billed Sparrow and Bright-rumped Atilla came first, then a couple of Flycatchers turned up, Dusky-capped and Yellow-bellied. It took a while for our most wanted to show up, first the Buff-throated Foliage-Gleaner then the Tawny-breasted Flycatcher flitted about. We also saw Red-throated Ant-Tanager, Plain Antvireo and two nice warblers, the Golden-crowned and Kentucky Warblers, they joined Chestnut-sided and Tennessee Warblers on our list. A Blue-crowned Motmot popped in and Rufous Motmot was heard whilst both Streak-headed and Plain-brown Woodcreepers came for moths.

The feeders were busy with hummingbirds during breakfast, White-necked Jacobin, Green-breasted Mango, Stripe-throated (Little) Hermit, Crowned Woodnymph, Brown Violetear, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird and Snowcap all put in an appearance. We also saw Orange-billed Sparrow, Bananaquit, Brown Jay and Montezuma's Oropendola.

At 8am we were on our way to the nearby forest trails. It was slow going, not many species to look at, further along the trail there was a second feeding station that attracted Violet Sabrewing and Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer, just before we moved on two Crested Guans flew into nearby trees. We then walked a looped forest trail stopping to watch Dusky Antbird,

Long-billed Gnatwren, Carmoi's (Olive) Tanager, White-shouldered Tanager, Tropical Gnatwren, Buff-throated Foliage Gleaner and several more.

The next track took us to some open areas where an almond plantation grew, we saw very few birds there, Brown Jay, Cinnamon Becard, Yellow-bellied Elaenia and a Common Black Hawk overhead. We then heard a Thicket Antpitta calling from the forest, half the group opted to search for it whilst half stay in the almond orchard. They got close to the Pitta but never actually saw it and the other half of the group failed to add any new species.

We walked back to the ranch for lunch and along the way we found Thick-billed Seed-Finch, Lineated Woodpecker, a lot of Tennessee Warblers, Blackburnian Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole and several tanagers. A Snowcap appeared during lunchtime as did Rufous-capped Warbler, Bananaquit and many hummers.

It was after lunch that the real excitement started, we drove down the mountainside to an area called La Mina near the river Tuis. As soon as we got off the bus we located a **SUNBITTERN** from its constant calling, we then realised that the bird was in full display mode. With its wings fully extended and arched forward displaying its beautiful wing feathers, wow this was fantastic. We then found two other individuals and all three flew up river, we relocated them as the male began its display again, what unbelievable luck.

Sunbittern - Photo by Ken Gosbell

After a while the display ceased and the male caught a huge frog, we identified the frog as a Gladiator Frog, it was killed and promptly eaten! After that a short walk produced nothing new but we were entertained by butterflies and Tim's enthusiasm was now rubbing off onto most of the group.

We then drove to the river Tuis along another long dirt road, birding was hard work with very little to see, none of the trees were fruiting so we never found a mixed feeding flock. We did see a flock of some 15-20 Red-fronted Parrolets but they were just fly-overs, the same with a Broad-winged Hawk. A Paltry Tyrannulet, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Bay-headed Tanager and Slate-throated Redstart were some of the few birds listed.

It was now getting late in the afternoon and some of the group wanted to return to the Hummingbird Pools, whilst others wanted an early shower in readiness for our 6pm dinner. The 'Pool' group enjoyed a dry session with better light than yesterday, they saw all the usual suspects plus a Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser.

Another delicious dinner was enjoyed by all, the bird-log was a little shorter than usual but we are approaching the 250 species mark after 6 days which is on track for a 450 total.



**DAY 7 – 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2016**

**TRANSFER FROM RANCHO NATURALISTA TO OROSI VALLEY FOR TAPANTI**

**WEATHER:** Dry, sunny for the morning then rain later

We made an earlier start than usual today because we wanted to view the moth trap for a second time before breakfast, it was as good as always, we saw all the usual suspects and one new species for the trip, which was a Slaty Antwren.

Following another superb breakfast taken on the terrace we packed our things and loaded up the bus ready for our departure. We said goodbye to the staff and drove down the long driveway to the village and onto a dirt track that followed the River Tuis.

The weather was bright with sunny spells and quite a few species were flitting about in the trees that lined the stream. We noted Piratic Flycatcher, Common Tody Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Bay-headed Tanager, Paltry Tyrannulet and Yellow-faced Grassquit. After an hour or so we left the area to continue our journey to Orosi.

Our next stop was near Orosi in a little village called Ujarras which is famous for having the oldest 'Ruinas' (ruins) in Costa Rica. It is also well known for producing some of the best fruit and vegetables because of the superb soil. Squash is grown on elevated racks with an understory of weeds, birds love this, especially finches, seed-eaters and sparrows. We searched the squash fields for Prevost's and White-eared Ground-Sparrows without success but we had fun trying. We did see Lesser Goldfinch, Variable Seedeater, Rufous-collared Sparrow and a few warblers which included Mourning Warbler, Blackburnian and our first Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Just after that we drove a short distance to an 'organic' coffee plantation where we ate our picnic lunch and had a tour of the small processing plant, it was interesting and educational and even more interesting was the sighting of White-eared Ground-Sparrow which showed extremely well, what a bonus. We sampled the coffee whilst eating our picnic lunch before driving on.

Next we stopped at a large man-made lake called Cachi, after crossing the dam we parked at a view point to scan the far end of the water which was covered in water plants with some open pools and a couple of wooded islands. We found Black-crowned Night Heron, Green Heron, Wood Stork, Muscovy Duck, Little Blue Heron and many common egrets. Our first Northern Rough-winged Swallows swarmed over the water with Blue and White Swallows.

Our last stop was along a track high up above the town of Orosi which led to another dam and a smaller reservoir, unfortunately we drove into cloud and it started to drizzle, the lake wasn't visible when we got up there. However the forested roadside was dripping with birds and we tried our best to identify a few in very poor light. A juvenile Grey Hawk perched low down and gave good views but confused our guide for a while having strange plumage, the bird not the guide!

As time went by the rain worsened and so did the light but it never stopped us getting soaked whilst enjoying a number of new sightings. The beautiful White-winged Tanager was most obliging, Wilson's Warbler joined our warbler list we also added Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Spot-crowned Woodcreeper, Ochraceous Wren, and we saw Emerald Toucanet with a good selection of tanagers.



The rain and bad light eventually drove us off, we finished the transfer to our hotel arriving just as it got dark at 6pm, wet but happy, we were now ready for a hot shower and a nice dinner, we got both!

**DAY 8 – 29<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2015**

**OROSI VALLEY– TAPANTI NATIONAL PARK**

**Weather: lovely dry & sunny until around 3pm then rain**

Tapanti National Park protects some 300k hectares of mid-elevation primary forest, it has many well marked trails and a central track that cuts through the forest for several kilometers.

Just as we did last year we had a fabulous clear morning, not a cloud in sight. We met at 5:30am for the short drive to the Tapanti National Park passing through Orosi and along a 5km dirt road. A crane dashes across the track in front of the bus and Johan Identified it as a White-throated Crane, nice start!

We disembarked about 1km from the entrance to the park and began walking along a wide dirt road with encroaching forest on both sides of us. A party of Black-breasted Wood-Quails were making a lot of noise but failed to show and we also heard Buffy-crowned Wood-Partridges but they were a long way off.

The strange-looking Glasswing butterfly taken by Tim Norriss

Soon we began to find lots of birds in the trees alongside the track, Ruddy-faced Spinetail was one of the first then Black-faced Solitaire quickly followed. A few Tanagers fed above us and mixed with them were a few warblers such as Blackburnian, Golden-winged, Black & White, Chestnut-sided and a Streaked Xenops. A Slaty Antwren also ended up on our list after some searching.

Spangle-cheeked Tanagers are stunning, we saw several with Bay-headed and Silver-throated Tanagers, also the Red-headed Barbet put on a show and not to be out-done the Slate-throated Redstart was in good form. We spent some time locating a Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush and at the entrance to the park we found a pair of Spotted Barbtails. This was an excellent start to our day in Tapanti.

Next came a superb hummingbird, the Green-fronted Lancebill what a great sighting, the bill on this species must be the longest on any bird in the world in proportion to its body length, wow! A Purple-crowned Fairy and a Violet Sabrewing were found nearby. Good bird sightings kept on coming, the next goodie was a Streak-breasted Treehunter we had fantastic views of that one.



Walking deeper into the forest we found Collared Trogon, lots of Common Chlorospingus, Tawny-capped Euphonia, Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant, Paltry Tyrannulet, and one of the group saw a White-throated Thrush. We took a side trail through the forest but only found several more of the same species, it was now late morning so we decided to stop and eat lunch which was shipped-in by our driver Damian – he drove into town and returned with a lovely hot meal for us all. We ate lunch at picnic tables next to the Mirador Catarata de Salto, which overlooked an impressive waterfall far off across the valley.

After lunch we walked up to the mirador for a quick look at the valley with its impressive waterfall and whilst there we logged two Swallowtail Kites.

Our afternoon walk kicked off rather well, we found a Lineated Foliage-Gleaner, an unusual sighting indeed, then we spent 15 minutes waiting for a Silvery-throated Tapaculo to come out of the dense scrub, only one or two people actually saw it. A Tufted Flycatcher was next to go on the list a delightful and beautiful little gem. Tawny-capped Euphonias were almost common we had several sightings of them, American warblers were also a feature of our sightings, but the next best species was a Three-striped Warbler one of the few resident warblers of Costa Rica.

For late afternoon we decided to drive just outside the park and climb to much higher woodland along a steep track, it took 30 minutes to get there, the cloud was thickening and the daily weather pattern set in, it looked like rain. A light drizzle greeted us on the way up but it never stopped us enjoying sightings of Mountain Eleania and a couple of superb

looking male, Black-throated Green Warblers, what a beauty. At the top we found several Yellow-bellied Flycatchers and just as we jumped off the bus we immediately found a pair of Elegant Euphonias, the male of this species is one of the most colourful and brilliant little birds you are ever likely to see.



We set off walking and as we went downhill so did the weather, the rain began to fall heavier, we spent our last birding searching for Golden-browed Chlorophonia, we could hear them calling but they failed to show.

So the rain curtailed our day yet again! We arrived at the hotel around 5pm, some of group went birding for a short while, they turned up a couple of new species for the trip, a Black-headed Saltator was the first followed by a Roadside Hawk sighting.

We are now just over half-way through our tour with our species list fast approaching 300 in total, tomorrow we are heading to the high elevation where a host of new sightings await us.

#### **DAY 9 – 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2016**

#### **OROSI VALLEY - TRACK TO PRESA DE OROSI - TRANSFER TO SEVEGRE STOPPING AT UJARRAS and KM 71 PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAY**

A big change in the morning weather, today it was cloudy with light rains, this put off several of the group and the attendance for our early morning was somewhat depleted, most stayed in bed whilst four of us joined Johan our guide on a trek up to the Presa de Orosi track. Despite bad light and drizzling rain we found many birds although it took some time to find the first one. New birds for the list were: Brown-capped Vireo, White-naped Brush-Finch and two real goodies, the Black-bellied Hummingbird and an Eye-ringed Flatbill.

Watching mixed flocks of vireos and warblers was a great birding experience, Black and White Warblers, Blackburnian, Mourning and Tennessee Warblers were mixing with tanagers and vireos. Other nice sightings included Black Guan, Squirrel Cuckoo, Slate-throated Redstart, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and White-winged Tanager.

After breakfast we set off for the long drive to our next destination, the Savegre Hotel which is found high in the 'Central Cordillera' mountain range but first we made our second stop at Ujarras to look for the Prevost's Ground Sparrow.

Unfortunately for us, the Ground-Sparrow showed very briefly, but only to our guide. However, in our endeavour to see another one we found several other birds for our list, including a pair of Indigo Buntings, a beautiful male and a drab looking female. Also; Variable Seedeater, Blue-Black Grassquit, Rufous Collared Sparrow, Ruddy Ground-Dove, Philadelphia Vireo and Blue-chested Goldentail.

After about an hour we gave up as time was pressing, so we continued to Savegre, passing through Cartago and then making a long climb until we reach 2,500 meters about 8,000 ft. above sea-level. It was a lot cooler when we got out of the bus some 2hrs later. Lunch was eaten in a roadside restaurant, we saw Wilson's Warbler and Rufous-collared Sparrow in the gardens.

A superb picture of the male RESPLENDENT QUETZAL leaving the nest-hole - by KEN GOSBELL

For the afternoon we planned to bird this high elevation habitat which holds a completely new set of bird species and gives us an exciting prospect of seeing the wonderful Resplendent Quetzal.

We drove a short distance and turned off the highway (Pan-American Highway) onto to a dirt road, after about 1km we stopped and disembarked for our birding walk. Typically it started to rain just as we got off the bus, it was light rain which came and went over the next couple of hours and didn't spoil our birding.

We had the most incredible afternoon's birding, it was the best session of the trip by far, it was one of those episodes when everything went right and all the target birds turned up on cue. We couldn't believe it! First we stopped at a place where Johan knew of a nesting pair of Quetzals, he showed us the hole but no birds were present, however we did see a Timberline Wren which flew across the track and landed in full view, this was quickly followed by sightings of Sooty-capped Chlorospingus, Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush and Fiery-throated Hummingbird, wow what a start.

Then as we walked on a call of 'Quetzal' went out and we were soon back watching a pair around the nest hole, eventually the male went inside whilst his long-trailing tail feathers draped over him and hung out of the hole. Fantastic, our most wanted species was in the bag and what joy they brought to the group.



The afternoon just carried on in the same vein and we amassed a great list of species, the rain stopped and the sun came out, so did so many exceptional sightings. How about this for a list: Volcano Hummingbird, Band-tailed Pigeon, Barred Parakeet, Collared Redstart, Slaty Flowerpiercer, Resplendent Quetzal, Sooty Thrush, Flame-throated Warbler, Greenish Eleania, Yellow-winged Vireo, Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher, Black-cheeked Warbler, Black-capped Flycatcher, Ruddy Treerunner, Yellow-thighed Finch and Yellowish Flycatcher. All these were new for our list and lifers for most of the group. We even got views of Silvery-fronted Tapaculo, how amazing was that?

Another first was to actually see Barred Parakeets perched, it was a rare sight and one

our guide Johan had never experienced before, these tiny birds usually just scream overhead in small flocks and never seem to land!



Well we finally had to leave, our final sightings were of the Long-tailed Silky-Flycatchers a fitting ending to a marvellous afternoon. We had a 45 minute drive to the hotel Savegre and we arrived just as it was getting dark around 6pm. It had been another long day in this wonderful birding Hotspot.

**DAY 10 – 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2016**

**FULL DAY AT SAVERGE HOTEL LODGE - GARDENS – FOREST TRAILS – RIVER WALK – NIGHTJAR OUTING**

**WEATHER: SUNNY MOST OF THE DAY CLOUD LATER, CHILLY TO START**

What a wonder place Savegre Lodge is, birds and birders are everywhere. We met at 6am outside the hotel reception where a number of hummer feeders and a larger bird-table can be found. They were very busy and Johan our guide talked us through the identification of six species of hummingbirds that were regular visitors to the feeders, we saw all six! Volcano, Scintillant, Stripe-tailed, Magnificent Hummingbirds as well as Green Violetear and White-throated Mountain-Gem.

The bird table was attracting Acorn Woodpeckers, Flame Coloured Tanagers, Rufous-collared Sparrows and few common tanager species. The prolific flower beds were regularly visited by the Slaty Flowerpiercer and hummers as well as a couple of American warblers, namely; Wilson's and Tennessee.

Our walk took us into some woods in the grounds and from deep in the woods we heard the call of the Spotted Wood-Quail but after searching we saw no sign of any. The first bird we did see was a Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush followed by Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch and Tufted Flycatcher. Our walk took us through the woods to an open area of grass-lawn where we saw Mountain Eleania, Spangle-cheeked Tanager, Band-Tailed Pigeon and a flock of Sulphur-winged Parakeets flew over.

Collared Redstart – by Tim Norriss

After a 6:30am breakfast we boarded a 4-wheel drive Land Rover with bench seating whereby all 11 of us had a seat, the vehicle took us up a very steep track about 2-3km long. It was magical at the top, we stood in primary forest, the sunlight was streaming through the trees and bird song was everywhere. We quickly got our scopes onto a Ruddy Pigeon, then a pair of Acorn Woodpeckers followed by a Yellowish Flycatcher. We tried to track down a singing Rufous-browed Peppershrike but it failed to show from high up in the canopy.



We walked off the main track onto a woodland trail that snaked its way downward towards a stream. A Collared Redstart flitted close by then a Flame-throated Warbler appeared, a stunning male showed really well. We found it hard going, unlike previous years when we found large mixed feeding-flocks, today we didn't find any.

The highlights of the walk were views of: Barred Becard, Ruddy Treerunner, also a stunning Black-throated Green-Warbler, then a Black-cheeked Warbler and Flame-throated Warblers were everywhere, so were Yellow-thighed Finches and sooty-capped Chlorospingus.

We spent a couple of hours walking two circular trails and we saw a lot of species, some new for the list and others not. A Barred Forest Falcon was a good find, we had fantastic views of a Streak-breasted Treehunter, it was on the path trying to kill a huge Longhorn Beetle, without success.

We got back onto the main track and had views of the open sky where we saw both of the common vultures, also Swallowtail Kite, Red-tailed Hawk and large numbers of Collared Swifts.

As we got back to the hotel complex we viewed an apple orchard from a first floor balcony and enjoyed watching Sulphur-winged Parakeets 'scrumping' along with Rose-breasted Grosbeak and a couple of Yellow-bellied Siskins. We found an Osprey perched high up on the skyline in a very distant tree and just as we were finishing a couple of Long-tailed Silky-Flycatchers dropped down to feed on berries in the gardens.

Lunch was taken at 12 noon and we reconvened at 1:30pm to repeat this morning's walk through the local woods, in the woods we heard Spotted Wood-Quail calling again but still we couldn't see them, I had great views of a Silvery-fronted Tapaculo whilst trying to see the Wood-Quails.

We ventured further with our walk this time and added a couple of vireos to our day list as well as having sightings of Torrent Tyrannulet, Louisiana Waterthrush, Black Guan, Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher and many more species.

Our last birding excursion was at 4pm as we boarded the bus to drive to the head of the valley to look for owls and nightjars, but first we stopped at a tiny roadside café where a viewing platform had excellent views back down the valley and where a bird-feeding station had been well established besides a viewing platform. We stayed for nearly an hour watching a good number of birds giving excellent close views. We added two species to our trip list, Townsend Warbler and Large-footed Finch, they were joined by Flame-coloured Tanager, Sooty Thrush, Wilson's Warbler, Acorn Woodpecker, Rufous-collared Sparrow and Red-tailed Squirrels on or around the feeders.

Driving further up the valley we stopped at an open area of grass meadows with some trees, this was our stakeout for the nightjar. We waited almost an hour for it to get dark and then we heard two or three of them calling before a couple had very brief views of one in flight. This was a little disappointing, however on the way back down into the valley we had great views of a perched **Dusky Nightjar**, this regional endemic species is the only nightjar to breed above 1800 meters, the views were excellent but brief.

We got back to the hotel at 7:20pm and went to dinner around 7:30pm, this was our last night in this wonderful place, tomorrow we are off to warmer climes and lower altitudes.

## DAY 11 – 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2016

### SAVEGRE GROUNDS – TRANSFER TO TALARI WITH STOPS AT THE 'PARAMO' AND BOSQUE DE TOLOMUCA

**Weather: clear blue sky, no wind, cloudy later rain about 3pm.**

It was a beautiful morning with clear blue sky and no wind, what a joy. We walked into the woodland next to the hotel complex to search for Spotted Wood-Quail with resounding success, two birds came to within a few meters of us, amazing! Next we set off along a track that ran along the side of a stream, we searched for Scaled Antpitta without success but we did find Buff-fronted Quail-Dove a super bird to see. As we headed back to the hotel Johan our guide called out Black-thighed Grosbeak but the bird flew off before the rest of the group saw it.

After breakfast we packed our bags, boarded the bus and set off out of the Savegre Valley, we were sorry to leave such a wonderful place. We climbed up out of the valley and headed westward on the main Pan-American Highway. The road climbed still further until we reached an altitude of just over 3400 meters, we were above the clouds as we turned off the road onto a track. We drove into the 'Paramo' which is a unique tree-less habitat that survives in a very harsh environment. It is usually very cold, wet and cloudy, but today it was clear, sunny and warm.

Our target bird was the Volcano Junco (shown here) and once out of the bus it took all of 5 minutes to find one, in fact we found three! They were very obliging and allowed us to get very close but they wouldn't keep still enough for a digiscope photo!

From the 'Paramo' we started to descend and as we got lower in altitude so the temperature rose and cloud cover increased. We next stopped at a small garden reserve, called Bosque de Tolomuca, which is a small B&B with 'cabins' and well established, lovely gardens which also had woodland trails and lots of bird feeders. We listed a number of 'hummers' including the Snowy-bellied Hummingbird and the Green-crowned Brilliant which were new for us. It was a wonderful place, the sun came out and the temperature rose significantly as we ate our picnic lunch on the terrace.

We stayed for a couple of hours hoping to see a White-crested Coquette but it didn't show, but we did find an Elegant Euphonia sitting on a nest and the exquisite male nearby. A stunning male Red-headed Barbet turned up at the feeders, wow what a great looking species. A supporting cast of Swallow-tailed Kite, Cherrie's Tanager, Baltimore Oriole, Chestnut-capped and White-naped Brush-Finches and many common species made up for a great couple of hours' birding.

Moving on we continued our descent to a level of around 800 meters, along the way a **Fiery-billed Aracari** nearly flew into the front of the bus! We passed through San Isidro and into the countryside to the south of the town. Johan led us to a number of sites where open meadows and farmland dominated the flat landscape. It was very warm and dry habitat, but the birding was good, we added quite a few species to our trip tally. These included Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Yellow-headed Caracara, Smooth-billed Ani, Red-crowned Woodpecker and one very special bird, the Turquoise Cotinga! This was a superb find, a male too, it posed at the top of a dead tree in full view, fantastic.

From there we drove the short distance onto the grounds of Talari lodge, where we were staying for the one night. Talari is a superb little lodge that sits in secondary woodland and protects just 20 hectares but it is a birding hotspot that has been a regular venue for birding groups for many years. Several regional endemics are regularly recorded, in the past Wingspan Tours have had great results in the grounds.

After a short settling in period, during which we had a heavy downpour of rain, we set off for a walk along the many woodland trails. We then heard another target species calling, we tracked it down to a nearby bush and had brief views of an **Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush**, superb birding, a great



sighting after just five minutes.



Tanager and lots more.

During the remaining two hours of daylight we walked to an open area by the swimming pool that overlooked a river and an area of dry forest, we had a productive hour standing there with a number of good sightings: Yellow-crowned Euphonia, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Common Tody-Flycatcher, Streaked Saltator, Green Honeycreeper, Red-legged Honeycreeper, Cherrie's

We headed off on a couple of woodland trails and our walk finished in the dining room of the lodge, this huge open-plan 'platform' had wonderful panoramic views over the gardens which fell away along the slope. The gardens themselves are usually a blaze of colour with many flowering plants and trees but this year it wasn't the case, it had been too dry!

A Riverside Wren and a Rufous-breasted Wren were superb finds as was an Olivaceous Piculet. Swarms of Costa Rican Swifts were seen high in the sky along with both Barn and Blue & White Swallows.

A short 'Owl-prowl' before dinner didn't produce any sightings but we did hear Tropical Screech Owl and a Common Pauraque. Dinner was served at 7pm which went down well with a couple of cold beers. The bird log was called but we were finished by 8:30pm so most of us went off to bed. Our trip tally is steadily rising we now have 348 species, tomorrow we are heading for the Pacific coast for a whole new set of species.



#### DAY 12 – 4TH MARCH 2016

#### TRANSFER: TALARI LODGE TO LOS CERROS LODGE WITH STOPS AT LOS CUSINGOS – QUEPOS BAY, JACO RICE FIELDS

We met at 6am for another walk around the gardens and woodland at Talari Lodge, we had a clear sky, virtually no wind and a very warm temperature which stayed with us all day.

In the open area near the swimming pool we watched Grey-headed Chachalaca flit from tree to tree where several other species appeared, in fact there was a lot of activity. We found a Tropical Gnatcatcher, we observed several other species that were feeding on fruit. A Streak Saltator was next, it showed well as did a variety of tanagers. A Streaked Flycatcher was nice but our best find was a Barred Antshrike.

Breakfast was served at 7am but was interrupted several times when sightings were made of birds on the feeders or in nearby trees, we watched a Streaked Saltator, a Yellow-crowned Euphonia appeared in the bushes as well as Olivaceous Piculet, Paltry Tyrannulet, Lesser Greenlet, two varieties of Honeycreepers and lots of Tanagers.

We were on the road by 8:15am heading for the reserve at Los Cusingos, a small forested reserve founded by Alexander Skutch, the famous American author and ornithologist who put Costa Rica on the 'birding' map. Along the way we stopped to watch a tree full of Fiery-billed Aracaris, well there were three of them at least.

At Los Cusingos we explored the gardens around Alexander Skutch's home, which is now kept as a museum in his honour, he died in 2004 just before his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The forest around the garden is supposed to be a good place to find White-crested Coquette, Fiery-billed Aracari and Turquoise Cotinga, we have seen all three of them in the past but none of them showed up today. In the garden we found the nest hole of an Olivaceous Piculet, we saw the adult birds taking food to feed their chicks and a Spot-crowned Euphonia visited one of the feeding stations.

We took a trail into the forest for a walk that lasted a couple of hours or so, birds were few and far between, it was only 9am but the temperature was up in the 30's and the humidity was high too. After a while we made a series of finds, all of which were new for us, Blue-crowned Manakin was obliging and showy, a Rufous Phia sat nicely for us then we found a Grey Kite which didn't stay around for long. Just before we left Johan took us to see where Orange-collared Manakins were known to 'lek', they weren't lekking just now but we did see one briefly.

From Los Cusingos we hit the road and spent an uninterrupted hour driving to the Pacific 'Southern' region near Quepos. A nice lunch break was made at a little roadside restaurant along the way where the food was excellent, there was a

viewing platform and feeders at the back of the restaurant. We added Black-headed Tityra to the list and saw several other species.

The landscape had now changed from forested hills and mountains to very flat meadows and rice fields. There was also kilometer after kilometer of Oil-Palm plantations, a very mono-cultured environment with scant biodiversity, the thick palm canopy blocked any light from reaching the ground, leaving a very lifeless ground level.

We continued our northward journey along the pacific coastline making a quick stop at Quepos where we scanned the bay from a couple of viewing points. We listed Magnificent Frigatebird, Brown Pelican, Laughing Gull, Willet, Snowy Egret, Great Blue, Little Blue and Tricolored Herons, Royal Terns, Ring Kingfisher and Brown Booby.

A quick stop at some roadside pools north of Quepos produced a few more species, Collared Seedeater was new for us but we also saw Thick-billed Seedeater, Variable Seedeater, three species of Kingfisher, Purple Swamphen, Anhinga and Great White Egret.

The best birding of the day by far was the last hour before it got dark, we were near Jaco when we turned off the main road onto a dirt track that led us through some huge open fields of rice and grass. We had the most incredible 'owling' session' over the next hour that I have ever had it was fantastic.

In the grass meadows we found Double-striped Thick-Knee and Eastern Meadow Lark. A little further on Johan took us to an area where he knew of a roost of Scarlet Macaws. We saw two birds fly to a tall tree to join a host of others, over the next 20 minutes 37 Scarlet Macaws joined the roost adding fantastic colour to the skyline, they were joined by several Yellow-headed Caracaras. What a sight, it looked like an illuminated Christmas Tree!



Gaudy Tree Frog – photo by Margaret Cooper

It was getting dark when a host of Lesser Nighthawks began to appear, they danced across the evening skyline in search of flying insects. Lots of new sounds came from the surrounding wooded hillsides, Common Pauraque, Mottled Owl, Marbled Antpiita and we saw some Spider Monkeys high in the canopy. Then Johan drew our attention to the call of the Black and White Owl coming from not too far away, we decided to look for it. Within minutes we had the Owl perched in a tree, we scoped it by torch-light, fantastic.

On the way out of the area we found three Barns Owls, another great find. Lastly we spent a lot of time looking for Striped Owls which tend to perch on power lines and telephone cables next to the main road. At first we were unsuccessful but a few kilometers further on near Tarcoles Johan called out and stopped the bus. We got off to scope a Striped Owl sitting on the telegraph wires by the roadside. The owl moved nearer, then suddenly another, much bigger owl, flew down and chased the Striped Owl off, it was a Spectacled Owl! Amazing, this huge owl couldn't grip the wires to perch, it struggled for balance, flapping for a while trying to hold on, but it failed and so it flew off.

After our owl extravaganza we drove the few kilometres to our lodge, we were late for dinner so we went straight in to the restaurant area. During the last leg of the journey we added Virginia Opossum to our mammal list. Dinner was lovely and despite everyone feeling tired there was a buzz of excitement after our 'owl' experience around the dinner table. Despite the thrill of the owl sightings we all retired to bed by 9pm!

**DAY 13 – 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016**

**Morning at Carara National Park - Afternoon walk in the Billa Lapas Valley – return to Carara**

WEATHER: DRY SUNNY, WARM WITH HIGH HUMIDITY – SHOWER AT 3PM.

We met at 6am for a walk around the hotel grounds and along the approach track, which runs along a peninsula and offers panoramic views of Nicoya Bay, the coastline down to the river and the town of Tarcoles. A small flock of Scarlet Macaws dropped into the gardens and perched close-by for a short while, what a colourful and noisy start to the day.

We spent just 30 minutes walking along the track, where several species, not seen previously, were added to our list, these included Turquoise-browed Motmot, Stripe-headed Sparrow, Rose-throated Becard, Yellow-naped Parrot, Scrub Euphonia, Orchard Oriole, and Cinnamon Hummingbird. The area was buzzing with bird life. Back at the terraced restaurant we ate breakfast from where we could see across vast tracts of forest, we picked out a very distant Yellow-billed Cotinga, our third cotinga species of the tour, this pure-white bird stood out like a miniature beacon in the bare branches of a tree about a kilometer away.



low-level forested land and offers two very well maintained trail systems, we took the 'Headquarters Trails' as soon as we got there.

It was quite hard going at first in the forest, birds were few and far between but there was plenty of other wildlife to be seen, not just birds! The Red-rumped Agouti was common so was Spiney-tailed Iguana, Variegated Squirrel, Spider Monkeys, White-faced Capuchin and we saw Lesser White-lined Bats in a roost.

Bird-wise we did eventually find Long-billed Gnatcatcher, Black-hooded Antshrike, Chestnut-backed Antbird, Dot-winged Antwren, Brown-capped Greenlet, Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher and the endemic Yellow-naped Woodpecker. We also had several sightings of Northern Bentbill, Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, Barred Antshrike, our first Northern Waterthrush, Scarlet Macaws, Mealy Parrots and several Chestnut-sided Warblers.

Just before lunch we made a quick walk along another section of the forest called the 'Riverside' Trails, this wide trail system is the most well-known of all trails in the park. We hoped for Royal Flycatcher but couldn't find one and the only significant find was a Red-crowned Ant-Tanager.

At lunchtime the bus picked us up at the entrance to the trail and we all went to lunch together at a roadside restaurant near the Tarcoles River. A Plain-capped Starthroat was seen feeding in the garden of the restaurant, this was a new hummer for our list.

For the afternoon we walked along a metalled road, a quiet lane than led us high into the foothills inland from Tarcoles, called Billa Lapas. We quickly found Riverside Wren but generally not too many species were on show. We did find Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, Spot-crowned Euphonia, Black-mandibled Toucan, Black-headed Trogon, a Lesser Swallow-tail Swift and several other species.

At 3:30pm we drove back into the forest where Johan led us to some small pools, this was the site where many species, especially Manakins, were coming to bathe before going to roost. We waited an hour but only a Northern Waterthrush and an Orange-billed Sparrow turned up! We did notice a Basilisk Lizard lingering around the pools and we did see it dash across the water (hence the alternative name Jesus Christ Lizard) and Johan's theory is that this lizard has been grabbing the bathing birds, so they have stopped coming!

Undeterred we ventured further into the forest, the light was fading but we had high hopes of seeing an Antpitta. Sure enough Johan found two Streaked-chested Antpittas, we got very close views as they ventured onto the track, marvellous, what a great sighting. Even better than that we found a Black-faced Anthrush doing a similar thing, so we had great views of two of the most highly prized species. It was a mesmerizing experience, we all stood rigidly still, holding our breath in perfect silence, as these birds ambled by in close proximity, wow!

We set off back to the lodge driving towards a colourful setting sun, we could see several Lesser Nighthawks in silhouette as they hawked insects against a red-sky background. Later, sipping a cold beer on the terrace, we enjoyed a tranquil end to another day in paradise! Ah bliss!

## DAY 14 – 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016

### TARCOLES MANGROVE CREEK-.CRAWL - TRANSFER FROM CERROS LODGE TO ENSENADA LODGE WITH STOPS AT CHOMES SHRIMP FARMS AND CALDERA

WEATHER: Dry, sunny, hot and humid all day.

Today we ate an early breakfast and had to forego our morning walk because we had booked an early river cruise along the Tarcoles River.

Our river cruise was one of the highlights of the tour, we had a marvelous relaxing time, nearly 2 1/2 hours of fantastic bird-watching, we saw just over 50 species of birds, which is amazing really. The trip took us down-river for a 'crawl' into the mangrove swamps.

A host of herons and egrets, ibis, storks, waders, cormorants, frigatebirds, raptors and passerines made this trip so memorable. The weather was perfect too, lovely sunshine, no wind just a lovely cooling breeze.



For the first hour or so we drifted into mangrove forest where narrow channels allowed us to get very close to a number of bird species, the American Pygmy Kingfisher sat motionless for us whilst Prothonotary Warbler and Mangrove Warbler (the red-headed version of Yellow Warbler) also showed well. Several Red-winged Blackbirds dashed about, a number of Ospreys sat perched as did Common Black-Hawk and a Plumbeous Kite circled overhead. More elusive was the Mangrove Hummingbird, we had fleeting views of it, the Mangrove Vireo only called but never showed at all. Yellow-throated Vireo and American Redstart were also seen.

We found all the kingfishers that Costa Rica has to offer in the mangroves, American Pygmy, Amazon, Green and Ringed Kingfisher and later we found a Belted Kingfisher out in the open water. The best of the herons was Yellow-crowned Night Heron and Boat-billed Heron they were roosting in the mangrove trees where we got great views as we drifted very close to them. Everyone remarked with amazement at the extraordinary bill of Boat-billed Heron, it really is odd looking.

Our return journey was as equally rewarding as the outgoing trip, we drifted closer the river mouth and the ocean where large numbers of birds were roosting on the sand banks or drifting over the water. Gulls, terns, frigatebirds, and pelicans filled the sky together with at least 10 Ospreys. We added Black Skimmer and Sandwich Tern to the list together with Whimbrel, Greater Yellowlegs, Ruddy Turnstone and Grey Plover.

We all agreed that the boat trip had been a fantastic experience and topped the 'highlights' list, let's hope the rest of the tour proves equally as good with some fantastic sightings to come.

From the river we drove to a couple of areas nearby where Johan knew of specific trees where roosting owls were. First we tried the Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, this bird had chosen a huge tree to sleep in it took us ages to locate one but when we did we had super views of it. The next owl proved a little more difficult, it wasn't where it should have been, our search was fruitless except for sightings of another Mangrove Hummingbird, a White-winged Becard and some Orange-chinned Parrots. A second site for the larger Black and White Owl turned up trumps, two of these beautiful owls were present, fantastic.

We took lunch in Tarcoles and enjoyed a nice breeze to keep us cool and from there we drove into the foothills looking for one or two woodland species missing from our list. We added a couple of them but also missed a few. A Swainson's Thrush

was a good sighting as was Ochre-bellied Flycatcher we also watched the beautiful Black-billed Toucan and several warblers.

We then set off in earnest to our final destination of the tour, we had only two nights left and they were to be spent in the dry forest in the North Pacific area. We made a quick stop at Caldera along the coast where a huge brackish pool held a large roosting flock of birds. As it was a Sunday hundreds of tourists were on the beach and around the pool so we didn't stay long, we added Elegant Tern to our list and then left. Just around the corner we stopped at a small mangrove swamp where we finally got good but brief views of the Mangrove Vireo, a superb find, we also saw another Mangrove Hummingbird and a lovely male Mangrove Warbler.

Before we completed the final leg of the journey we made a detour to a shrimp farm near a village called Chomes, we had a fantastic time there. Along the approach track we stopped to watch Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Blue Grosbeak, some Howler Monkeys and several other birds.



It was low tide when we arrived so many of the mangrove pools were dry and the shrimp pools were not packed with birds as they were feeding out on the mud-flats, but a few small flocks of waders were present, Black-necked Stilts, Willets, Solitary, Least, Western and Spotted Sandpipers were present in small numbers.

We walked to the beach where we had commanding views over vast stretches of exposed mud as the tide was at its lowest ebb. Huge numbers of waders were feeding, we noted Marbled Godwit, Short-billed Dowitcher, both Semi-palmated Plover and Sandpiper. We also listed

Caspian and Black Terns, Roseate Spoonbills and many species already listed, it was a lovely spectacle.

Our driver, Damian has taken a good interest in what we do and as he strolled along the beach whilst waiting for us, he suddenly started whistling to divert our attention to a couple of birds at the back of the beach. He had only gone and found a pair of Painted Buntings, the male was in full summer plumage, absolutely stunning, bird of the day quickly sprang to mind. These exquisite birds allowed close approach and many pictures were taken despite the poor light.

So we set off at last for the last leg of the journey, we made a quick scheduled stop to look for Clapper Rail but only found White-fronted Parrots, a new species for us. Next we stopped to watch a male Blue Grosbeak and in doing so Johan called out a Lesser Ground Cuckoo, he heard it but we failed to locate it. Next we stopped to look at a small party of Crested Bobwhites seen along the side of the track, marvellous, this species can be difficult to find.

As it got dark we saw a couple of owls, the first, a perched Ferruginous Pygmy then a Pacific Screech Owl flew across the track in front of the bus, that was our last bird of a very long, but superb day. We arrived at 7:15pm at Ensenada Lodge, dinner was ready so after a quick wash we went straight to the restaurant to eat.

It is amazing that with a trip list that totalled 400 we could possibly add another 39 species but that is exactly what we did today. One more full day left so let's see what tomorrow brings.

## DAY 15 – 7TH MARCH 2016

### ENSENADA ALL DAY

**Weather: dry, sunny and hot**

Ensenada is a unique place it combines three seemingly paradoxical roles, it is a Wildlife Refuge, a working Farm and a private hotel with 22 cabins spaced in well-manicured gardens that have commanding views over Nicoya Bay and yet it all appears to work well as the bird list alone is extremely impressive.

We met up at 6am, the weather was wonderful, a clear blue sky, no wind and lovely light, a quick look out into the Nicoya Bay from the gardens produced a number of sightings, Magnificent Frigatebirds were ever present, drifting high up on the thermals, you hardly ever see them flap their wings! Brown Pelicans likewise, we also saw large numbers of Laughing and Franklin's Gull, Royal Terns and a few Ruddy Turnstones.

We then walked through the hotel compound where White-throated Magpie-Jays abound, Yellow-naped, Orange-chinned and White-fronted Parrots scream overhead from the canopy of the fruiting trees. We saw our first Spot-breasted and Streak-backed Orioles as well as the more common Baltimore Orioles. A little further down the track we watched numerous Groove-billed Anis in the meadow and a small party of Crested Bobwhites.

A pair of Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls proved to be a popular find together with Turquoise-browed Motmot, we also noted Great-crested and Brown-crested Flycatchers, a couple of Hummers, Cinnamon Hummingbird and Plain-capped Starthroat as well as a new species for us, Scaly-breasted Hummingbird. White-lored Gnatcatcher also made it onto the list, these tiny birds thought it was a good idea to 'mob' the Pygmy Owl!

After breakfast we strolled around the garden area walking down towards the shoreline of the bay, in a small copse Johan found, not one, but two Pacific Screech Owls, they were incredibly hard to locate and he worked hard to get all of the group to see them with the naked eye. We searched several areas for the elusive Lesser Ground-Cuckoo without success.



We then decided to walk towards the local 'salinas' (salt-pans) and along the lane we added Nutting's Flycatcher to our list, this completed our sightings collection of the '*Myiodynastes*' Flycatchers.

Crested Bobwhite – taken by Tim Norriss from the bus

The salt pans held a good selection of waders of all shapes and sizes ranging from the large Willet to the tiny 'peep' sandpipers, we spent an hour sifting through them and making some interesting

discoveries. Johan talked us through the subtle differences of the Semi-palmated, Wilson's and Collared Plovers, whilst Stilt Sandpipers and Short-billed Dowitchers required the same attention to detail as the duo Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs.

However to separate Semi-palmated and Western Sandpipers took a little more skill, it was fun doing this but the heat of the day soon took its toll, by 11am we were on our way back to the lodge, very hot and somewhat tired.

We reconvened at 2:30pm it was still hot but the light wasn't so harsh, some of group strolled down to the jetty at the bottom of the gardens to look at a congregation of roosting birds. It was now high tide, hundreds of terns, gulls and waders were using the jetty as a high-tide roost. It was an amazing sight to see hundreds of Royal Terns lining the jetty's handrails, Laughing and Franklin's Gulls joined them as did Brown Pelican, the odd Elegant and Sandwich Tern, Willet, Ruddy Turnstone and to our great delight there were three Surfbirds with them.

A second visit to the salt-pans did not produce any new sightings but because of the high-tide many more waders were present. It was enjoyable sifting through the hundreds of waders but only for a few of us. So we concentrated on the mangroves and the open scrub found a little further along the track where a freshwater laguna was to be found.

Ground Doves were very common as were flycatchers, we also saw Yellow-throated Vireo and Scrub Euphonia but there was no sign of the Ground-Cuckoo. At the lake we had good close views of Western, Semi-palmated and Least Sandpipers as well as Northern Waterthrush and several heron species.



We returned to the lodge at 4pm it was getting cooler and a nice breeze had struck up. We noted Orange-chinned, White-fronted Parrots and another pair of Ferruginous Pygmy Owls. However, once out in the scrub away from the lodge birding was quite tough. Johan found a couple of hummers and managed to show all of us the Canivet's Emerald.

We also saw Masked Tityra, Ruby-throated Hummingbird and yet more flycatchers. A Laughing Falcon was found by one of the group, we all enjoyed scope-views of this attractive-looking bird of prey, a Grey Hawk sat high up too.

Along the way back and to our great delight we found a Double-striped Thick-Knee, a second bird appeared to be sitting on eggs so we kept our distance and stayed on the bus.

Well that concluded our last day's birding, we have a couple of hours free in the morning before we set off for the airport so our very last birding excursion will be made then. Trip total is now 454 species.

#### **DAY 16 – 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016**

#### **ENSENADA LODGE - TRANSFER TO SAN JOSE AIRPORT WITH A COUPLE OF SHORT BIRDING STOPS ALONG THE WAY.**

#### **WEATHER: DRY AND SUNNY, HOT AND HUMID**

Our very last day started the same as yesterday at 6am, the hot, dry weather continued. We went for a pre-breakfast walk at 6am. which was very pleasant but failed to produce anything new. A colourful array of species was seen which included: Turquoise-browed Motmot, Streak-backed Oriole, Stripe-headed Sparrow, White-throated Magpie-Jay and a variety of common species.

At breakfast we had to fight off the Magpie-Jays as they came down to steal things from our plates! By 8am we were packed and on-board the bus. We drove for an hour or so and stopped in a beachside fishing village where we were able to scan the pebbled shoreline for waders etc. It was devoid of shorebirds we only listed gulls, White Ibis and Black Vultures on the beach. A few Magnificent Frigatebirds drifted over but that was all.

Next we stopped in Johan's childhood stomping-ground, a place of rolling hills, with small pastures and wooded valleys. We were joined by Johan's father and together they led us down into a steep sided valley and up the other side. We first found a pair of Olive Sparrows in the scrub this was quickly followed by a most prized sighting, the LESSER GROUND CUCKOO, what a great addition to the trip list. The cuckoo did exactly what it says on the tin, it hopped the ground walking slowly and stealthily in the scrub giving us fantastic views.

As we walked back down to the bottom of the valley we put-up a Common Pauraque which was another trip tick, then Johan called out Long-tailed Manakin, it was a female so it didn't have the long tail feathers of the male, but nevertheless it was our fourth new bird in about 30 minutes. We saw one or two other good species in the woodland near a stream, the best of which was roosting Spectacled Owls, there were two of them, an adult and a fluffy white chick. Several other species were flitting about too, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Tropical Gnatcatcher and a couple of Tanagers.

This last birding session epitomised the quality of birding in Costa Rica, you can literally stop anywhere in any habitat and at any elevation and find a hat-full of birds, it is an amazing place!

Now the trip was finally over, we bid farewell to Damian our driver and Johan our excellent guide at the airport at 2pm. For four of us our flights home went smoothly the other six were staying on in Costa Rica for a few days. It was sunny and 27C at San Jose when we left and we arrived the following day at London, Heathrow where it was windy, raining and only 7C.

## PLACES VISITED

<b>DAY 1 FEBRUARY 22<sup>ND</sup></b>	<b>FLIGHT UK – COSTA RICA - TRANSFER TO BOUGAINVILLEA HOTEL</b>
<b>DAY 2 FEBRUARY 23<sup>RD</sup></b>	<b>BOUGAINVILLEA HOTEL GROUNDS, BRAULIO CARILLO NATIONAL PARK + AREAS NEAR LA UNION AND LA SELVA</b>
<b>DAY 3 FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SELVA VERDE – LA SALVA</b>
<b>DAY 4 FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SELVA VERDE – LA VIRGEN VALLEY (CINCHONA RESTAURANT) – LA SELVA ENTRANCE ROAD</b>
<b>DAY 5 FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SELVA VERDE – LA UNION – HOTEL CASA TURIRE (lake Angostura) – RANCHO NATURALISTA</b>
<b>DAY 6 FEBRUARY 27<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>RANCHO NATURALISTA FOREST TRAILS – LA MINA – RIO TUIS</b>
<b>DAY 7 FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>RANCHO NATURALISTA – RIO TUIS – UJARRAS – PRESA DE OROSI</b>
<b>DAY 8 FEBRUARY 29<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>TAPANTI NATIONAL PARK</b>
<b>DAY 9 MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup></b>	<b>OROSI VALLEY – TRACK TO PRESA DE OROSI – UJARRAS – KM 71 PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAY – SAVEGRE VALLEY</b>
<b>DAY 10 MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup></b>	<b>SAVEGRE FOREST TRAILS - SAN GERRADO DE DOTA VALLEY</b>
<b>DAY 11 MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup></b>	<b>SAVEGRE HOTEL GROUNDS – PARAMO – BOSCA DE TOLOMUCA – SAN ISIDRO – TALARI LODGE</b>
<b>DAY 12 MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>TALARI LODGE – LOS CUSINGOS – QUEPOS BAY – JACO RICE FILEDS – CERROS LODGE</b>
<b>DAY 13 MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>CERROS LODGE - CARARA NATIONAL PARK – BILLA LAPAS – CARARA TRAILS</b>
<b>DAY 14 MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>CERROS LODGE-TARCOLES RIVER CRIUSE AND MANGO CREEK CRAWL – CHOMES SHRIMP FARM</b>
<b>DAY 15 MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>ENSENADA LODGE – ENSENADA SALINAS</b>
<b>DAY 16 MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>ENSENADA LODGE – TRANSFER TO SAN JOSE AIRPORT</b>





	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
50	White Hawk	<i>Pseudastur albucollis</i>					X												
51	Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
52	Gray Hawk	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>								X					X	X	X	X	
53	Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>													X				
54	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>											X						
	<b>Eurypygidae</b>																		
55	Sunbittern	<i>Eurypyga helias</i>							X										
	<b>Rallidae</b>																		
56	White-throated Crake	<i>Laterallus albigularis</i>					H				X								
57	Grey-necked Wood-Rail	<i>Aramides cajaneus</i>						X											
58	Uniform Crake	<i>Amaurolimnas concolor</i>				H													
59	Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinicus</i>						X							X				
60	Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>						X											
	<b>Burhinidae</b>																		
61	Double-striped Thick-Knee	<i>Burhinus bistriatus</i>													X			X	
	<b>Recurvirostridae</b>																		
62	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>															X	X	
	<b>Charadriidae</b>																		
63	Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>															X	X	
64	Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>						X							X				
65	Collared Plover	<i>Charadrius collaris</i>																X	
66	Wilson's Plover	<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>																X	
67	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>															X	X	
	<b>Jacanidae</b>																		
68	Northern Jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>						X									X		
	<b>Scolopacidae</b>																		
69	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>				X	X			X					X		X	X	
70	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>															X		
71	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>																X	
72	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>													X		X	X	
73	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>															X	X	
74	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>															X	X	
75	Marbled Godwit	<i>Limos Fedoa</i>															X		
76	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>															X	X	
77	Surfbird	<i>Calidris virgata</i>																X	
78	Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>																X	
79	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>															X	X	
80	Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>															X	X	



	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
113	Vermiculated Screech-Owl	<i>Megascops guatemalae</i>				X													
114	Crested Owl	<i>Laphostrix cristata</i>			X														
115	Spectacled Owl	<i>Pulsatrix perspicillata</i>			X										X				X
116	Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium costaricanum</i>											H						
117	Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>															X	X	
118	Mottled Owl	<i>Ciccaba virgata</i>							X	H					H				
119	Black-and-White Owl	<i>Ciccaba virgata</i>													X				
120	Striped Owl	<i>Pseudoscops clamator</i>													X				
	<b>Caprimulgidae</b>																		
121	Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>													X	X			
122	Common Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>													H				X
123	Dusky Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus saturatus</i>											X						
	<b>Nyctibiidae</b>																		
124	Common Potoo	<i>Nyctibius griseus</i>								H									
125	Great Potoo	<i>Nyctibus grandis</i>			X														
	<b>Apodidae</b>																		
126	White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>					X				X		X						
127	Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>					X												
128	Costa Rican Swift	<i>Chaetura fumosa</i>												X					
129	Grey-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>			X	X		X											
130	Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift	<i>Panyptila cayennensis</i>															X		
	<b>Trochilidae</b>																		
131	White-necked Jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>				X	X	X	X	X					X	X			
132	White-tipped Sicklebill	<i>Eutoxeres aquila</i>					X												
133	Green Hermit	<i>Phaethornis guy</i>			H		X	X	X		X	X							
134	Long-billed Hermit	<i>Phaethornis longirostris</i>					X	X											
135	Stripe-throated Hermit	<i>Phaethornis striigularis</i>			H			X									X		
136	Green-fronted Lancebill	<i>Doryfera ludovicae</i>									X								
137	Brown Violetear	<i>Colibri delphinae</i>						X	X	X									
138	Green Violetear	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>						X	X			X	X	X					
139	Purple-crowned Fairy	<i>Heliophryx barroti</i>									X								
140	Green-breasted Mango	<i>Anthracothorax prevostii</i>						X	X	X									X
141	Green Thorntail	<i>Discosura conversii</i>					X												
142	Black-crested Coquette	<i>Lophornis helenae</i>					X												
143	Green-crowned Brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa jacula</i>					X								X				
144	Magnificent Hummingbird	<i>Eugenes fulgens</i>											X	X					
145	Plain-capped Starthroat	<i>Heliomaster constantii</i>														X		X	



	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
180	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>															X		
181	Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquatus</i>				X	X								X	X	X		
182	Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>				X	X								X	X			
183	Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>				X									X	X			
184	American Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>															X		
	<b>Bucconidae</b>																		
185	White-necked Puffbird	<i>Notharchus macrorhynchos</i>			X														
186	White-whiskered Puffbird	<i>Malacoptila panamensis</i>		x															
	<b>Galbulidae</b>																		
187	Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>			H	X										H			
	<b>Semnornithidae</b>																		
188	Prong-billed Barbet	<i>Semnornis frantzii</i>				X			H										
189	Red-headed Barbet	<i>Eubucco bourclerii</i>				X				X			X						
	<b>Ramphastidae</b>																		
190	Emerald Toucanet	<i>Aulacorhynchus prasinus</i>				X		X				X	X						
191	Collared Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus torquatus</i>			X		X												
192	Fiery-billed Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus frantzii</i>											X	X	X				
193	Keel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos sulfuratus</i>			X		X	X	X										
194	Black-mandibled Toucan	<i>Ramphastos ambiguus</i>		x	X	X										X			
	<b>Picidae</b>																		
195	Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>											X	X					
196	Golden-naped Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes chrysauchen</i>														X			
197	Black-cheeked Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes pucherani</i>		x	X	X	X	X	X										
198	Red-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes rubricapillus</i>												X	X				
199	Hoffmann's Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes hoffmannii</i>		x					X		X					X	X	X	
200	Rufous-winged Woodpecker	<i>Piculus simplex</i>												X					
201	Chestnut-colored Woodpecker	<i>Celeus castaneus</i>				X													
202	Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>				X		X											
203	Pale-billed Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i>			X	X													
204	Olivaceous Piculet	<i>Picumnus olivaceus</i>											X	X					
	<b>Falconidae</b>																		
205	Barred Forest-Falcon	<i>Micrastur ruficollis</i>	?																
206	Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>		x	X		X								X	X	X	X	
207	Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>												X	X	X	X		
208	Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>													H			X	
209	Bat Falcon	<i>Falco ruficularis</i>		x		X													
210	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				X											X		



	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
242	Streaked Xenops	<i>Xenops rutilans</i>								X	X								
243	Spotted Barbtail	<i>Premnoplex brunnescens</i>									X								
244	Ruddy Treerunner	<i>Margarornis rubiginosus</i>										X	X						
245	Red-faced Spinetail	<i>Cranioleuca erythrops</i>								X	X								
246	Streak-breasted Treehunter	<i>Thripadectes rufobrunneus</i>									X		X						
247	Buff-throated Foliage Gleaner	<i>Autofocus ochrolaemus</i>							X	X						X			
248	Lineated Foliage-Gleaner	<i>Syndactyla subalaris</i>									X								
249	Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser	<i>Sclerurus mexicanus</i>							X										
	<b>Dendrocolaptidae</b>																		
250	Plain-brown Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla fuliginosa</i>				X		X	X										
251	Tawny-winged Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla anabatina</i>													X				
252	Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>									X								
253	Northern-barred Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae</i>			X	X													
254	Cocoa Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus susurrans</i>				X										X			
255	Spotted Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus erythropygius</i>							X	X			X						
256	Streak-headed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>			X	X	X	X											
257	Spot-crowned Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes affinis</i>								X	X			X					
	<b>Tyrannidae</b>																		
258	Yellow-bellied Elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>			X			X	X										
259	Mountain Elaenia	<i>Elaenia frantzii</i>									X	X	X	X					
260	Greenish Elaenia	<i>Miopagis viridicata</i>										X							
261	Torrent Tyrannulet	<i>Serpophaga cinerea</i>				X					X		X	X					
262	Olive-striped Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes olivaceus</i>											X						
263	Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>			X			X						X	X	X			
264	Slaty-capped Flycatcher	<i>Leptopogon superciliaris</i>						X											
265	Northern Bentbill	<i>Oncostoma cinerregulare</i>														X			
266	Southern Beardless Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>												X					
267	Paltry Tyrannulet	<i>Zimmerius vilissimus</i>			X	X		X	X	X	X				X				
268	Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Lophotriccus pileatus</i>									X								
269	Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Poecilatriccus sylvia</i>														X			
270	Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>			X			X						X	X	X			
271	Eye-ringed Flatbill	<i>Rhynchocyclus brevirostris</i>										X							
272	Black-headed Tody	<i>Todirostrum nigriceps</i>			X														
273	Yellow-olive Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>			X			X	X					X					
274	Yellow-margined Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias assimilis</i>			X														
275	Tawny-chested Flycatcher	<i>Aphanotriccus capitalis</i>						X											
276	Dark Pewee	<i>Continue lugubris</i>							X					X					
277	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>			X			X	X			X							

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278	Yellowish Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flavescens</i>										X	X	X					
279	Black-capped Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax atriceps</i>										X	X						
280	Tufted Flycatcher	<i>Mitrephanes phaeocercus</i>									X	X	X	X	X				
281	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
282	Long-tailed Tyrant	<i>Colonia colonus</i>			X	X													
283	Bright-rumped Attila	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>		H	X			X	X										
284	Rufous Mourner	<i>Rhytipterna holerythra</i>			X														
285	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>			X	X	X	X	X			X		X	X	X			
286	Panama Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus panamensis</i>															X		
287	Nutting's Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus nuttingi</i>																	X
288	Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>			X														X
289	Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>																	X
290	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X
291	Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarhynchus pitangua</i>		X	X	X								X					
292	Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>		X	X		X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X
293	Gray-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes granadensis</i>		X	X	X		X	X							X	X	X	
294	White-ringed Flycatcher	<i>Conopias albovittatus</i>			X	X													
295	Golden-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes hemichrysis</i>							X	X									
296	Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>			X										X	X			
297	Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes luteiventris</i>							X										
298	Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeupiratic s</i>			X	X		X		X		X							
299	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>		x	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
300	Fork-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>												X					
301	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>															X	X	
	<b>Tytiridae</b>																		
302	Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>		x										X					X
303	Black-crowned Tityra	<i>Tityra inquisitor</i>													X				X
304	Barred Becard	<i>Pachyramphus versicolor</i>											X						
305	Cinnamon Becard	<i>Pachyramphus cinnamomeus</i>				X		X										X	
306	Rose-throated Becard	<i>Pachyramphus aglaiae</i>														X	X		
307	Northern Schiffornis	<i>Schiffornis veraepacis</i>														X			
	<b>Cotingidae</b>																		
308	Snowy Cotinga	<i>Carpodectes nitidus</i>			X	X													
309	Yellow-billed Cotinga	<i>Carpodectes antoniae</i>														X	X		
310	Turquoise Cotinga	<i>Cotinga ridwayi</i>												X					
311	Purple-throated Fruitcrow	<i>Querula purpurata</i>			X														
312	Rufous Piha	<i>Lipaugus unirufus</i>													X				





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378	Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>														X	X	X	
379	Flame-throated Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis gutturalis</i>										X	X						
380	Tennessee Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis peregrina</i>			X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	
381	Tropical Parula	<i>Setophaga pitaiayumi</i>									X								
382	Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Setophaga fusca</i>						X	X	X	X	X							
383	Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>			X			X				X				X		X	
384	Mangrove Warbler	<i>Dendroica p. erythachorides</i>																X	
385	Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Setophaga pensylvanica</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			
386	Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>											X						
387	Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Setophaga virens</i>									X	X	X	X					
388	Buff-rumped Warbler	<i>Myiothlypis fulvicauda</i>			H		X												
389	Rufous-capped Warbler	<i>Basileuterus rufifrons</i>			X				X							X			
390	Black-cheeked Warbler	<i>Basileuterus melanogenys</i>										X	X						
391	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>								X	X	X	X	X					
392	Slate-throated Redstart	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>							X		X	X							
393	Collared Redstart	<i>Myioborus torquatus</i>										X	X	X					
394	Golden-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>							X	X									
395	Three-striped Warbler	<i>Basileuterus tristriatus</i>									X								
396	Wrenthrush	<i>Zeledonia coronata</i>					X												
	<b>Coerebinae</b>																		
397	Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>				X			X	X	X	X		X	X				
	<b>Thraupidae</b>																		
398	White-shouldered Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus luctuosus</i>							X							X			
399	White-lined Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus rufus</i>						X	X	X		X							
400	Passerini's Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus passerinii</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
401	Cherries's Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus costaricensis</i>												X	X	X			
402	Blue-gray Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X		
403	Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>		X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X	X			
404	Golden-hooded Tanager	<i>Tangara larvata</i>			X	X	X		X	X	X				X	X			
405	Speckled Tanager	<i>Tangara guttata</i>												X					
406	Spangle-cheeked Tanager	<i>Tangara dowii</i>									X		X						
407	Plain-colored Tanager	<i>Tangara inornata</i>								X		X							
408	Bay-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>			X				X	X	X			X	X	X			
409	Silver-throated Tanager	<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
410	Black-and-Yellow Tanager	<i>Chrysothlypis chrysomelas</i>			X														
411	Scarlet-thighed Dacnis	<i>Dacnis venusta</i>												X					
412	Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>				X	X	X	X					X	X				



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447	Painted Bunting	<i>Passerina ciris</i>															X		
448	Black-faced Grosbeak	<i>Caryothraustes polioaster</i>				X													
449	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>		X				X					X	X	X	X			
450	Blue-black Grosbeak	<i>Cyanocompsa cyanoides</i>			X											X			
451	Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>															X	X	
452	Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>										X							
	<b>Icteridae</b>																		
453	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>															X		
454	Red-breasted Blackbird	<i>Sturnella militaris</i>		X															
455	Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>													X				
456	Melodious Blackbird	<i>Dives dives</i>				X	X	X								X	X	X	
457	Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
458	Black-cowled Oriole	<i>Icterus prothemelas</i>			X	X													
459	Bronzed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>							X						X				
460	Giant Cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>					X												
461	Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>														X			
462	Spot-breasted Oriole	<i>Icterus pectoralis</i>																X	
463	Streak-backed Oriole	<i>Icterus pustulatus</i>																X	
464	Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
465	Chestnut-headed Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius wagleri</i>		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
466	Montezuma Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius montezuma</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X	
	<b>Fringillidae</b>																		
467	Scrub Euphonia	<i>Euphonia affinis</i>														X		X	
468	Yellow-crowned Euphonia	<i>Euphonia luteicapilla</i>				X					X		X	X					
469	Yellow-throated Euphonia	<i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>			H											X			
470	Elegant Euphonia	<i>Euphonia elegantissima</i>								X			X						
471	Spot-crowned Euphonia	<i>Euphonia imitans</i>												X	X				
472	Olive-backed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia gouldi</i>			X	X	X												
473	White-vented Euphonia	<i>Euphonia minuta</i>							X										
474	Tawny-capped Euphonia	<i>Euphonia anaeae</i>							X	X									
475	Golden-browed Chlorophonia	<i>Chlorophonia callophrys</i>									H								
476	Yellow-bellied Siskin	<i>Carduelis xanthogastra</i>											X						
477	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>							X										
	<b>Passeridae</b>																		
478	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		X								X							

<b>MAMMALS</b>			
1.	Bat , Lesser-White-Lined	<i>Saccopteryx leptura</i>	X
2.	Tamandua , Northern	<i>Tamandua maxicana</i>	X
3.	Agouti , Central-American	<i>Dasyprocta punctata</i>	X
4.	Squirrel , Red-Tailed	<i>Sciurus granatensis</i>	X
5.	Squirrel , Varigated	<i>Sciurus variegatoides</i>	X
6.	Porcupine , Mexican-Hairy-Dwarf	<i>Sphiggurus mexicanus</i>	X
7.	Coati , White-Nosed	<i>Nasua narica</i>	X
8.	Sloth ,Three-Toed	<i>Bradypus variegatus</i>	X
9.	Sloth , Hoffman's-Two-Toed	<i>Choloepus hoffmanni</i>	X
10.	Monkey , Mantled-Howler	<i>Alouatta palliata</i>	X
11.	Monkey ,Central-Am.-Spider	<i>Saimiri oerstedii</i>	X
12.	Monkey , White-Faced-Capuchin	<i>Cebus capucinus</i>	X
13.	Peccary , Collared	<i>Pecari tajacu</i>	X
14.	Deer , White-Tailed	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	X
15.	Virginia Opossum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	X
16.	Tayra	<i>Eira barbara</i>	X
17.	Hondurian White Bat	<i>Ectophylla alba</i>	X
18.	Long-nosed (Proboscis) Bat	<i>Rhynchonycteris naso</i>	X
19.	Nine-banded Armadillo	<i>Dasyus novemcinctus</i>	X
20.	Greater White-lined Bat	<i>Saccopteryx bilineata</i>	X
21.	Skunk sp.		X
<b>REPTILES</b>			
1.	Basilisk, Green	<i>Basiliscus plumifrons</i>	X
2.	Caimen , Spectacled	<i>Caiman crocodilus</i>	X
3.	Crocodile , American	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>	X
4.	Iguana , Spiny-Tailed	<i>Ctenosaura similis</i>	X
5.	Black River Turtle	<i>Rhinoclemmys funerea</i>	X
6.	Green Iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>	X
7.	Eye-lash Palm Pit-Viper	<i>Bothriechis schlegelii</i>	X
8.	House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus garnotii</i>	X
9.	Green Spiney Lizard	<i>Sceloporus malachiticus</i>	X
<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>			
1.	Poison-Dart-Frog , Black & Green	<i>Dendrobates auratus</i>	X
2.	Toad , Cane (Marine)	<i>Bufo marinus</i>	X
3.	Rain Frog sp		X

4.	Masked Tree-Frog	<i>Smilisca phaeota</i>	X
5.	Gaudy Tree Frog	<i>Agalychnis callidryas</i>	X
6.	Smooth Litter Toad	<i>Bufo haemetiticus</i>	X
7.	Goliath Toad	<i>Conraura goliath</i>	X
8.			