

Costa Rica

Naturetrek Tour Report

25 January - 8 February 2009



Purple Throated Mountain Gem (male) - Monteverde



Colorado Salinas

Report compiled by Chris Kehoe

Images by kind permission of participant John Lockwood



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Day 1

Sunday 25th January

Outbound to San Jose

Weather: dry and warm on arrival in San Jose

Group members converged on Madrid International Airport from where an Iberian Airlines direct flight to the Costa Rican capital, San Jose, departed a little late. After about 11 hrs in the air the flight touched down at 1650 (local), everyone quickly collected their luggage and met Simon Ellis of Birdwatch Costa Rica and myself outside the arrivals hall. Santiago, our excellent driver, soon had the bus loaded and we were on our way to the San Gildar Hotel where we arrived at 1845. After a long day, most retired early after a drink or two at the hotel bar...

Day 2

Monday 26th January

Finca Mirador de Quetzales; Savegre Mountain Lodge

Weather: overcast and drizzly in the morning but bright and sunny at Savegre, warm

Our first day in Costa Rica began with a wake-up call at 05.15 followed by coffee and a snack at 05.45 and a 06.00 departure to the highlands to the south along the Pan-american Highway. After about 90 minutes we arrived at Finca Mirador de Quetzales in steady rain and opted to stay dry by visiting the hummingbird feeders at a nearby cafe where we were immediately confronted by masses of Magnificent and Fiery-throated Hummingbirds just inches away. A couple of Volcano Hummingbirds also came and went and a pair of soggy looking Flame-throated Tanagers was also seen.

After breakfast at the Finca restaurant we set off on a three hour walk through the nearby cloudforest and more open areas in the company of local guide Carlos. In initially dry conditions we started to see some more of the avian delights of the area as both Black-and-yellow and Long-tailed Silky-flycatchers performed, a pair of Tufted Flycatchers showed well and a couple of Flame-throated Warblers appeared. Ruddy Treerunners followed a roving group of Sooty-capped Bush-tanagers through the bushes and a Hairy Woodpecker appeared at close range while Carlos went off down a steep grassy slope in search of Quetzals.

A couple of minutes later he summoned us and we scrambled down in steady drizzle to enjoy views of a total of four Resplendent Quetzals (including two adult males) in the scope. A steady walk back to the Finca in continuing rain was enlivened by a couple of feeding flocks of small birds, one of which contained a Black-cheeked Warbler amongst the more numerous Wilson's Warblers and Black-capped Flycatchers. Back at the restaurant a Yellow-thighed Finch put on a good show before we settled down to a hearty lunch.

At 13.00 we set off in the bus on a 40 minute drive to Savegre Mountain Lodge and arrived in bright sunshine. Hummingbird feeders here attracted numerous Green Violet-ears and a few Grey-tailed Mountaingems and after a little while a couple of Scintillant Hummingbirds also put in an appearance. Slightly further afield a group of Sulphur-winged parakeets were seen at a small orchard and others seen during our 90 minute stay included some obliging Slaty Flowepiercers and soaring Red-tailed Hawks. Back up on the Pan-americana our journey back to San Jose was mostly in thick cloud until we reached the Central Valley. We were back at the San Gildar by 18.00, in time for a shower and change before dinner at 19.30.

Day 3

Tuesday 27th January

En route to Hacienda Solimar via Orotina; Hacienda Solimar: Estero Madrigal

Weather: dry, sunny, warm/ hot

After breakfast at 0630 we loaded the bus and commenced the journey to Hacienda Solimar at 0700. After 90 minutes we arrived in the small town of Orotina where a 30 minute stroll in the town centre park produced good views of a hoped-for Black-and-white Owl, a Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth and couple of Hoffman's Woodpeckers. Half-an-hour later a coffee stop on the coast at Caldera gave us our first Laughing Gulls and Royal Terns along with Magnificent Frigatebirds and Brown Pelicans.

Shortly before arriving at Hacienda Solimar a couple of hours later a short stop at a roadside pool produced good views of several Least Grebes. After settling in to the Hacienda, where Turquoise-browed Motmots and White-throated Magpie-jays and others were in evidence and a bite to eat we set off with local guide Demetrio to explore some of the local wetlands at Estero Madrigal. On arrival we were immediately confronted by a mass of waterbirds including several Bare-throated Tiger-herons amongst the commoner herons and egrets present, a handful of Snail Kites and Ringed Kingfishers.

A short walk through the woodland bordering the wetland gave us good views of two Roadside Hawks, Red-lore Parrots, our first Ferruginous Pygmy-owl and others. Moving on to a more open wetland area produced views of several Limpkins, a couple of Harris' Hawks and more herons and egrets plus a few waders, including our only Killdeers, and Black-bellied Whistling Ducks.

Day 4

Wednesday 28th January

Hacienda Solimar: Gallery forest and Colorado Salinas

Weather: dry, sunny and hot

Early risers enjoyed views of Spot-breasted Orioles, White-tailed Kites and others before breakfast at 0630. A twenty minute drive then delivered us to the starting point of a three hour walk through an area of gallery forest but a few minutes near the parking place produced several good birds including Scrub Euphonias, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Ferruginous Pygmy-owl. In the gallery forest itself we soon came across our first Green Kingfisher with other highlights including a perched Hook-billed Kite, Streaked Flycatchers, and a Pauraque.

Back at the lodge the siesta time was enlivened by periodic appearances of Cinnamon and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at the flowers below the veranda and a couple of fleeting visits by a Salvin's Emerald. An evening tide drew us to Colorado Salinas for our afternoon excursion. We arrived at 15.30 to find masses of waders of 15 species had gathered to roost, including about 20 Wilson's Plovers amongst the more numerous Semipalmated Plovers, other notables included Short-billed Dowitchers and Marbled Godwits, Willets and Stilt Sandpipers. Large numbers of Gull-billed Terns were flying in from the Gulf of Nicoya and among them were smaller numbers of Royal Terns (and a single Sandwich Tern) as well as several Black Skimmers and Laughing Gulls. A few minutes at the nearby mangrove edge gave views of several Prothonotory warblers and a couple of Yellow Warblers of the very distinctive mangrove subspecies. Back at the bus a couple of Stripe-headed Sparrows put on a show before we returned to the Hacienda for sundowners.

Day 5

Thursday 29th January

Hacienda Solimar: Finca Pavones and dry forest

Weather: dry, sunny, warm/ hot

After breakfast a short drive delivered us to Finca Pavones where we arrived at 07.30 and set off on a two hour walk through the regenerating forest there. Highlights before we returned to the bus were two Long-tailed Manakins (including an adult male), several Banded Wrens, numerous Tropical Gnatcatchers, Brown-crested Flycatchers and three species of Oriole and several species of migrant warblers.

After lunch we set off at 15.00 on a 15 minute drive to an area of dry forest which produced a couple of fleeting Collared Forest-falcons, an unexpected Chuck-will's Widow, a couple of Common Pauraques and, best of all, a fine Spectacled Owl that posed for the scope. A nearby wetland area held large numbers of birds including an adult Jabiru, several Snail Kites and about 20 Muscovy Ducks.

Day 6

Friday 30th January

En route to Monteverde; Monteverde Hummingbird Gallery

Weather: dry and warm, mostly sunny

After breakfast we loaded the bus, said our goodbyes to Demetrio (and Rocky) and the excellent staff at the Hacienda and commenced the three hour journey to our base for the next two nights, hotel Montana in Monteverde.

After settling into our rooms, notching up a few new birds such as Yellow-faced Grassquits, Black-throated Green Warblers and Blue-crowned Motmots, we set off at 1430 on a 15 minute drive to the entrance of Monteverde Cloudforest Preserve and its famous Hummingbird Gallery.

Over the next two hours we enjoyed point-blank views of a total of eight species of hummingbird ranging in size from the whopping (by hummingbird standards) Violet Sabrewing to the miniscule (and endemic) Copper-headed Emerald. Bananaquits were also new for our list here and some of the best coffee and cake in Costa Rica added some icing to a most pleasant afternoon. Back at the hotel there was time to admire our first Boat-billed Flycatchers, Masked Tityra and Greyish Saltators before the light faded.

Day 7

Saturday 31st January

Monteverde Cloudforest Preserve and Hummingbird Gallery

Weather: light drizzle in the morning, rainy and breezy in the afternoon at the cloudforest, sunnier at Hotel Montana

We returned to the Cloudforest Preserve entrance accompanied by local guide Bernal at 0720 and set off on a walk along the main trail there. An early highlight was an uncharacteristically showy Scale-crested Pygmy-tyrant but before we returned to the Hummingbird Gallery three hours later an excellent selection of birds had been seen with Orange-bellied Trogon, Resplendent Quetzal, Black Guan, Grey-throated Leaf-tosser and Bare-shanked Screech-owl just some of the highlights. After lunch at the hotel about half the group opted for a return visit to the cloudforest where Bernal led us along a narrower trail to a waterfall where a couple of Green-fronted Lancebills put in an appearance. Wet weather made bird-finding a little tricky but with perseverance we enjoyed excellent views of Slate-coloured Redstarts, Black-faced Solitaire and others before making a final visit to the hummingbirds/ coffee shop.

Day 8

Sunday 1st February

En route to Villa Lapas via Rio Tarcoles Bridge; Rio Tarcoles Mangrove boat trip

Weather: Bright and sunny, warm/ hot

Early risers saw White-necked Robin and Grey-breasted Wren close to our rooms before breakfast, after which we had a little time for some final packing before boarding the bus at 08.30 for the three hour drive back to the Pacific lowlands. By 11.00 we arrived at a small café at the north end of the bridge over the Rio Tarcoles where there was time for a coffee before we set off on a walk across the bridge. Large numbers of American Crocodiles gave great views right below us and a good selection of waterbirds were seen before we rejoined the bus on the far side of the bridge and drove for ten minutes to Villa Lapas for a two night stay. Our evening excursion consisted of a boat trip along the Rio Tarcoles that produced masses of birds, often at close range and including new species such as Boat-billed Herons, Plumbeous Kite, American Pygmy Kingfisher and Mangrove Black Hawk as well as excellent views of several species we had previously seen only briefly or at some distance.

Day 9

Monday 2nd February

Carara NP

Weather: dry, bright and hot

After an early breakfast we were on our way to nearby Carara NP by 07.00 and soon set off on the five kilometre round trip to the oxbow lake on the wide River Trail.

Not long after entering the trail we were seeing our first birds as Chestnut-backed Antbirds skulked about in the undergrowth and a male Orange-collared Manakin put in a good show in a small clearing. Soon afterwards a Northern Royal Flycatcher was a good find and almost immediately afterwards a superb Pale-billed Woodpecker was posing for the scope. By the time we reached the oxbow lake, our turning around point, at 09.00 we had amassed even more new birds with a close perched Laughing Falcon an obvious highlight. We spent half-an-hour enjoying the pleasant surroundings at the lake where Boat-billed Herons and others provided good views. The return walk produced more new birds such as Northern Bentbill and Black-hooded Antshrike as well as an obliging performance by a troop of White-faced Capuchin Monkeys.

Back at Villa Lapas those who opted to continue birding during siesta time were rewarded with views of lekking Orange-collared Manakins, a White-whiskered Puffbird, Dusky Antbirds, Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher and Riverside Wren. Those who opted for a return to Carara NP for an evening walk were well rewarded by a brief but very close view of a stunning male Red-capped Manakin with a supporting cast of Dot-winged Antwrens and Rufous-breasted Wrens. We were back at the hotel in time to see our only Tropical Parula in the garden just before the light faded.

Day 10

Tuesday 3rd February

En route to Mt. Arenal; Mt. Arenal area

Weather: dry and warm at Villa Lapas, some rain en route and overcast and cooler but dry at Arenal

With a departure for Mt Arenal at 08.00 there was time for a little birding in the hotel grounds before breakfast and we were amply rewarded with superb views of a pair of Scarlet Macaws feeding in a fruiting tree behind our rooms as well as more usual fare such as several Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Red-legged Honeycreepers and many other species. A little over three hours after leaving Villa Lapas we arrived at a German Bakery in Nuevo Arenal (having seen a Grey-necked Wood-rail en route) and had a 30 minute break. About 90 minutes later we arrived at Arenal Observatory Lodge and had lunch before checking-in to our rooms.

The volcano was obscured by clouds and it rained on and off for most of the afternoon but occasional rumbles were heard from the mountain and the lodge birdtables kept us entertained with views of our first Passerini's Tanagers, Olive-backed Euphonias, Green Honeycreeper Black-striped Sparrows, Black-cowled Orioles and Black-cheeked Woodpeckers and several other species while nearby flowering plants attracted Violet-headed and Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds and Grey-headed Chachalacas inhabited the shrubbery.

Day 11

Wednesday 4th February

Mt. Arenal area; en route to Selve Verde; Selve Verde

Weather: dry but overcast at Arenal, wet and unusually cool at Selve Verde

Although it remained dry until our departure at 08.30 the mountain remained largely covered in cloud although we did see some steaming lava flows from time to time. Birdlife at the lodge was similar to yesterday with new additions including Crimson-collared Tanagers and Crested Guans and, as we were departing, Broad-billed Motmot and Buff-rumped Warbler.

A mammalian surprise was a Kinkajou (normally nocturnal) raiding the birdtable in broad daylight. The journey to Selve Verde took a little over three hours (with a 30 minute coffee stop in Muelle en route) and as we travelled heavy rain set in; indeed it rained more or less continually until we arrived in San Jose three days later!

After settling in to our rooms we sat down for lunch as the river outside looked more like a raging torrent (much to Santiago's excitement). An advantage of Selve Verde Lodge is that it has an extensive series of covered walkways through the grounds so that birding is still possible even in heavy rain and during the rest of the day we divided our time between wading the paths and watching the feeders scattered throughout the grounds where Orange-billed Sparrows and Shining Honeycreepers were new as were several superb Collared Aracaris that periodically descended on the birdtables to eat bananas. A Snowy Cotinga was a prized find in a bare treetop above the bar, a Zone-tailed Hawk took to the air during a lessening in the rain, and a Fasciated Tiger gave some great views on the riverside nearby where a pair of Black Phoebes perched prominently.

Day 12

Thursday 5th February

Selve Verde

Weather: wet and cool

Early risers were treated to views of a pair of Sunbitterns near the bar although later risers were able to see one on a flooded path near our rooms later on. As the rain continued to pour we had little alternative but to concentrate our efforts at the lodges bird tables and covered paths but we were rewarded with Caribbean lowland species such as Red-throated Ant-tanagers and Grey-breasted Wood-wrens and more Snowy Cotingas with a support cast including, Northern Barred Woodcreeper, Long-billed and Stripe-throated Hermits and Brown-hooded and White-crowned Parrots. Highlight for those who saw them was a pair of Great Green Macaws that flew over the lodge late afternoon. As the day wore on more and more debris (some a legacy of the recent earthquake upstream) backed-up against the suspension bridge near the bar and as we ate dinner that evening it eventually began to collapse!

Day 13

Friday 6th February

Selve Verde

Weather: wet and cool

Sunbittern was again a pre-breakfast treat near our rooms, as was a superb Rufous Motmot and a good selection of skulkier species in the undergrowth. After breakfast the rain eased somewhat, and even stopped briefly, so we set off over the road to the botanical gardens area with local guide Rodolpho and soon encountered new species such as White-collared Swifts, Violaceous Trogons, Broad-winged Hawk, White-collared Manakins and Black-headed Tody-flycatcher before the rain returned in earnest and we retreated to the lodge, though not before another fly-past performance by a pair of Great Green Macaws that most managed to see. Birding continued in the lodge grounds through the rest of the day (our planned visit to nearby La Selva being cancelled due to the closure of the area due to a flooded access road). There was always plenty to see at and around the feeders with new species such as Bay Wren and Kentucky Warbler found in the undergrowth. After dark a couple of Northern Raccoons came to the bird table near the bar.

Day 14

Saturday 7th February

Selve Verde; en route to San Jose via La Tapir, inbound to Madrid

Weather: wet and cool at Selve Verde and La Tapir, dry, sunny and warm in San Jose

Once more a Sunbittern put on a good display at dawn on the river near the bar and as the rain had temporarily stopped a couple of Short-tailed Nighthawks took to the air there and put on a good show. A nice selection of birds in a feeding flock near our rooms contained a Cocoa Woodpecker and a Grey-breasted Martin was another new addition to the list before we loaded the bus and set off towards San Jose at 09.30. After 45 minutes we pulled into the car park of an abandoned butterfly farm at La Tapir (adjacent to Braulio Carrillo NP) and spent an hour or so watching the surrounding bushes from the shelter of a covered veranda. A couple of final additions to our bird list here were Silvery-throated Tanager and Violet-capped Woodnymph.

On arrival in San Jose we dropped off those remaining in Costa Rica at Pavas Airport (where we took the opportunity to purchase our departure tax and have a coffee) before driving the short distance to the International airport where check-in was reasonably quick and we were soon browsing the shops in the departure area. Our flight to Madrid took off about 90 minutes late at 19.30 and we soon settled down for a night in the air over the Atlantic.

Day 15

Sunday 8th February

Inbound to Madrid/ London

Despite our late departure from San Jose we arrived in Madrid just 30 minutes late and transferred to the terminal where our onward flight to a chilly Heathrow left about an hour late but arrived only 40 minutes behind the scheduled time.

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Systematic Lists:

Birds

Species order, taxonomy and nomenclature follow the IOC list of the Birds of the World (v-7) unless otherwise stated. Alternative names that differ substantially from IOC names are also given when there is a possibility of confusion. Species marked LO were seen only by the tour leader or local guides and are not included in the grand total; species marked NL were not seen by either the tour leader or local guides.

TINAMIDAE

[Great Tinamou *Tinamus major fuscipennis*]

Heard but not seen at Selve Verde

ANATIDAE

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna a. autumnalis*

Up to 200 were seen at the wetlands at Hacienda Solimar

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

About 20 were seen during our final afternoon at Hacienda Solimar

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

Up to 30 were on the Hacienda Solimar wetlands

CRACIDAE

Gray-headed Chachalaca *Ortalis cinereiceps*

Six were at Arenal and a handful more at Selve Verde

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens aequatorialis*

Two were seen at Arenal (N/L)

Black Guan *Chamaepetes unicolor*

One was seen during our morning walk at Monteverde

PODICIPEDIDAE

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus brachypterus*

A roadside pool near Hacienda Solimar held about eight birds and a similar number were seen on a pool near Canas

PELECANIDAE

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis carolinensis* etc...

Several hundred rather distant birds were on a sandbar of the Rio Tarcoles and a further 20 or so were along the Pacific coast near Puntarenas

PHALACROCORACIDAE

Neotropical Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus mexicanus*

About 20 were along the Rio Tarcoles

ANHINGIDAE

Anhinga *Anhinga a. leucogaster*

About 10 were on the Rio Tarcoles with a few more at Hacienda Solimar

FREGATIDAE

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*

Small numbers were seen right along the Pacific coast with a large gathering of about 50 at the Tarcoles estuary

ARDEIDAE

Fasciated Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum salmoni*

At least one individual was seen every day at Selve Verde

Bare-throated Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum*

Up to 30 were seen at Hacienda Solimar, 10 on the Rio Tarcoles and one at Selve Verde

Great Blue Heron *Ardea b. herodias*

About 30 were seen in total with over half of these at Hacienda Solimar and the rest at Carara NP and along the Rio Tarcoles

Great Egret *Ardea alba egretta*

Ones and twos were seen at various wetland sites on eight dates

Snowy Egret *Egretta t. thula*

Most wetland areas visited held at least a few birds, seen on seven dates

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*

Distribution and numbers were very similar to the previous species

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor ruficollis*

Five at Hacienda Solimar and Colorado Salinas were followed by another six on the Rio Tarcoles and at Carara NP

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus i. ibis*

Fairly common in the lowlands, especially in associated with cattle

Green Heron *Butorides v. virescens / striatus*

Ones and twos were seen at most wetland areas visited

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax v. violaceus*

One was at Hacienda Solimar and about 10 on the Rio Tarcoles

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax n. boactli*

Up to eight were at Hacienda Solimar

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius c. panamensis* / ssp. X

Eight were along the Rio Tarcoles with a similar number next day at Carara NP

THRESKIORNITHIDAE

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*

About 30 were on the Rio Tarcoles with a similar number at Hacienda Solimar

Roseate Spoonbill *Ajaia ajaja*

Three were seen at Hacienda Solimar

CICONIIDAE

Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria*

A half-grown juvenile was on a nest at Hacienda Solimar where a single adult was also seen

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*

Common in the Pacific lowlands

CATHARTIDAE

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes a. aura*

Generally common and widespread, though inconspicuous in the rain at Selve Verde

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

Generally common and widespread, though inconspicuous in the rain at Selve Verde

ACCIPITRIDAE

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*

About five were seen at Hacienda Solimar, up to six were at the Rio Tarcoles and another four at widespread lowland sites

Hook-billed Kite *Chondrohierax u. uncinatus*

One gave some decent scope views in the gallery forest at Hacienda Solimar

White-tailed Kite *Elanus l. leucurus* / *majusculus*

A couple were seen on three occasions at Hacienda Solimar

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus s. sociabilis*

Up to 20 were at the Hacienda Solimar wetlands

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea*

One was seen during the Rio Tarcoles boat trip

Semiplumbeous Hawk *Leucopternis semiplumbea*

One showed well at Selve Verde during our final afternoon there

Mangrove Black-Hawk *Buteogallus subtilis bangsi*

About six were seen along the Rio Tarcoles

Great Black-Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga ridgwayi*

One flew over at Hacienda Solimar

Harris' Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi*

Two were seen at Hacienda Solimar one evening

Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris griseocauda* / *petulans*

Two showed well at Hacienda Solimar

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo p. platypterus*

One was seen at Selve Verde

Gray Hawk *Buteo nitidus plagiatus* / *costaricensis*

One was at Hacienda Solimar, two at Carara/ Villa Lapas and one at

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus fuliginosus*

One was seen over Hacienda Solimar

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus*

One was seen at Selve Verde

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis costaricensis* e

A couple were seen soaring above Savegre Mountain Lodge

FALCONIDAE

Collared Forest-Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus naso*

A pair gave two fleeting views at Hacienda Solimar where a few more were heard

Crested Caracara *Polyborus cheriway audubonii*

About 10 were seen at Hacienda Solimar with a further 10 at widespread sites

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima cordatus*

One showed well at Hacienda Solimar and about eight were seen along the Rio Tarcoles

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres c. cachinnans*

A calling bird showed very well at Carara

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus ssp.*

Singles were seen on two occasions at Hacienda Solimar and another was along the Rio Tarcoles

RALLIDAE

Gray-necked Wood-Rail *Aramides c. cajanea / plumbeicollis*

One walked across the road in front of the bus as we approached Nuevo Arenal

EURYPYGIDAE

Sunbittern *Eurypyga helias major*

We had a total of seven encounters with one or other (and once both) of the resident pair at Selve Verde, views were generally excellent

ARAMIDAE

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna dolosus*

The Hacienda Solimar wetlands held about 30 birds

BURHINIDAE

Double-striped Thick-Knee *Burhinus b. bistriatus*

Two were seen at Hacienda Solimar

CHARADRIIDAE

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola cynosurae*

About 50 were at Colorado Salinas

Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia beldingi*

Up to 20 were at Colorado Salinas, one or two are more usual there

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*

About 100 were at Colorado Salinas

Killdeer *Charadrius v. vociferus*

Two were at Hacienda Solimar

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*

Small numbers were seen on virtually all of the wetlands visited

JACANIDAE

Northern Jacana *Jacana s. spinosa*

All wetlands with emergent vegetation held a few birds

SCOLOPACIDAE

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*

Small numbers were on all wetlands visited with a concentration of about 40 birds at the Rio Tarcoles

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

One was at Hacienda Solimar

Willet *Catoptrophorus s. semipalmatus / inornatus*

Up to 100 were at Colorado Salinas

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

A total of four were seen at Colorado Salinas and Hacienda Solimar

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*

Up to 50 were at Colorado Salinas after 10 were on the mud at Caldera

Marbled Godwit *Limosa f. fedoa*

About 10 were at Colorado Salinas

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria i. interpres*

At least 20 were at Colorado Salinas

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*

At least 150 were at Colorado Salinas with a couple elsewhere

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*

About 150 were at Colorado Salinas

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*

About 200 were seen in total with groups of up to 50 at Colorado Salinas, the Hacienda Solimar wetlands and along the Rio Tarcoles

Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus*

About 20 were at Colorado Salinas

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus ssp*

Up to 50 were at Colorado Salinas

LARIDAE

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla megalopterus*

Several hundred were seen at various points on the Pacific coast

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica vanrossemi*

400-500 were at Colorado Salinas

Royal Tern *Sterna m. maxima*

About 20 were at Colorado Salinas after a few earlier at Caldera

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis acuflavida*

One was at Colorado Salinas

Black Skimmer *Rynchops n. niger*

About 20 were at Colorado Salinas

COLUMBIDAE

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas f. flavirostris / minima*

Two were seen at Arenal

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata crissalis*

A couple flew over at Savegre

[Short-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas nigrirostris*]

Heard but not seen at Carara NP

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica australis*

Several were seen from the moving bus along the Pacific coast near Puntarenas

Inca Dove *Scardafella inca*

Small numbers were at widespread lowland sites

Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerina neglecta*

A handful were seen at Hacienda Solimar

Plain-breasted Ground-Dove *Columbina minuta elaeodes*

Three were seen at Hacienda Solimar

Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti rufipennis*

Fairly common in the Pacific lowlands

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila v. verreauxi / riottei*

Small numbers were seen and others heard at most sites on the Pacific slope

Grey-chested Dove *Leptotila cassini cerviniventris / rufinucha*

One was seen and several heard at Carara NP and a couple performed well at Arenal

PSITTACIDAE

Sulphur-winged Parakeet *Pyrrhura b. hoffmanni*

About 10 were seen a couple of times at Savegre

Crimson-fronted Parakeet *Aratinga finschi*

About 20 flew over our hotel in San Jose

Orange-fronted Parakeet *Aratinga c. canicularis*

A handful were seen at Hacienda Solimar

Great Green Macaw *Ara a. ambigu*

A pair (presumably the same two) were seen in flight on five occasions at Selve Verde and heard but not seen a couple of times too

Scarlet Macaw *Ara m. macao*

A total of about 15 were recorded at Carara/ Villa Lapas, a few gave excellent perched views but most were in flight

Orange-chinned Parakeet *Brotogeris j. jugularis*

Small noisy groups were seen at several mainly lowland sites

Brown-hooded Parrot *Pionopsitta b. haematotis*

Small groups flew over on two occasions at Monteverde and about 10 perched birds were seen at Selve Verde

White-crowned Parrot *Pionus senilis rubigularis*

Up to 10 were seen at Selve Verde

White-fronted Amazon *Amazona albifrons nana*

A handful were seen at Hacienda Solimar, Villa Lapas and Monteverde; also known as White-fronted Parrot

Red-Lored Amazon *Amazona autumnalis salvini*

Two showed well and a few more were seen fleetingly at Hacienda Solimar and four more were seen at Selve Verde; also known as Red-lored Parrot

Mealy Amazon *Amazona farinosa virenticeps*

A few were heard at Selve Verde but two perched birds were seen at La Tapir; also known as Mealy Parrot

Yellow-naped Amazon *Amazona a. auropalliata*

Groups of up to 10 were seen regularly at Hacienda Solimar; also known as Yellow-naped Parrot

*CUCULIDAE*Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana thermophila*

Ones and twos were seen quite regularly at all lowland sites; about 10 were seen in total

[Lesser Ground-Cuckoo *Morococcyx e. erythropygus*]

Heard but not seen at Hacienda Solimar, despite Demetrio's best efforts to coach one into view

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*

Fairly common and widespread in more open lowland areas

STRIGIDAE

Bare-shanked Screech-Owl *Megascops clarkii*

A roosting bird was seen fairly well at Monteverde

Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata saturata / chapmani*

One posed for the scope in the dry forest at Hacienda Solimar

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum ridgwayi*

About six were seen and others heard at Hacienda Solimar

Black-and-white Owl *Strix nigrolineata*

One of the famous resident pair in the town park at Orotina showed well in the scope

CAPRIMULGIDAE

Short-tailed Nighthawk *Lurocalis semitorquatus noctivagus*

Two or three were hawking over the river at Selve Verde around dawn on our final morning, no doubt hungry after several days of rain

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis littoralis* etc

Two or three were seen hawking at dusk at Hacienda Solimar

Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis intercedens*

Two or three were seen at Hacienda Solimar, others were heard there

Chuck-will's-widow *Caprimulgus carolinensis*

One roosting high in a tree in the dry forest at Hacienda Solimar was a surprise find

APODIDAE

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris bouchelli*

About 30 were seen at Selve Verde, one of which put on a good show from the bar area

Costa Rican Swift *Chaetura fumosa*

Two flew over at Villa Lapas

Gray-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris phaeopygos*

About 30 were seen at Selve Verde

TROCHILIDAE

Green Hermit *Phaethornis gyy coruscus*

One or two came to feeders at Monteverde Hummingbird Gallery, one was at Arenal and another at La Tapir

Long-billed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris cephalus*

One or two were seen on four occasions at Selve Verde

Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis saturatus*

One was seen twice at Selve Verde

Green-fronted Lancebill *Doryfera ludovicae veraguensis*

Two were at the waterfall in Monteverde Cloudforest Preserve

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird *Campylopterus curvieri roberti* & *maculicauda*

About four were seen at and near Villa Lapas

Violet Sabrewing *Campylopterus hemileucurus mellitus*

Up to 20 were at Monteverde Hummingbird Gallery

Green Violet-ear *Colibri thalassinus cabanidis*

Up to 10 were at Finca Mirador de Quetzales, Savegre and Monteverde Hummingbird Gallery

Green-breasted Mango *Anthracoceros prevostii gracilirostris*

About six were seen at Hacienda Solimar

Violet-headed Hummingbird *Klais guimeti merrittii*

About five were seen at Arenal and another at La Tapir

Salvin's Emerald *Chlorostilbon salvini*

One put in several brief appearances at Hacienda Solimar; formerly part of Fork-tailed Emerald (then Canivet's Emerald) but now considered a species in its own right

Violet-crowned Woodnymph *Thalurania colombica venusta*

Two showed well at La Tapir

Fiery-throated Hummingbird *Panterpe i. insignis* / *eisenmanni*

Up to 20 gave some great views on feeders at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

Blue-throated Goldentail *Hylocharis e. eliciae*

Two singing birds posed for the scope at Carara NP

Steely-vented Hummingbird *Amazilia saucerrottei hoffmanni*

Ones and twos were seen at Monteverde and Villa Lapas

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia t. tzacatl*

A couple were at Monteverde and Villa Lapas with several more at Arenal, Selve Verde and La Tapir

Cinnamon Hummingbird *Amazilia rutila corallirostris*

About five were seen at Hacienda Solimar

Stripe-tailed Hummingbird *Eupherusa eximia*

Three or four were seen at Monteverde

Coppery-headed Emerald *Elvira cupreiceps*

Up to 10 performed well at Monteverde

Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer *Chalybura urochrysis melanorrhoa*

One was seen briefly at Selve Verde

Purple-throated Mountain-gem *Lampornis calolaemus* ssp

Feeders at Monteverde attracted about 15

Grey-tailed Mountain-gem *Lampornis cinereicauda*

At least two attended the feeders at Savegre

Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula henryi*

Common at Monteverde where up to 30 were seen

Magnificent Hummingbird *Eugenes fulgens spectabilis*

About 15 were at Finca Mirador de Quetzales and Savegre

Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliobryx barroti*

Two showed well at Carara NP and others were at Arenal and Selve Verde

Plain-capped Starthroat *Heliothraupis constantii*

One appeared briefly at Hacienda Solimar

Magenta-throated Woodstar *Calliphlox bryantae*

Up to four were seen at Monteverde

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*

Flowering plants at Hacienda Solimar attracted about 10

Volcano Hummingbird *Selasphorus flammula torridus*

Finca Mirador de Quetzales and Savegre produced about eight

Scintillant Hummingbird *Selasphorus scintilla*

One or two were seen briefly at Savegre

TROGONIDAE

Black-headed Trogon *Trogon melanocephalus*

Three or four were at Hacienda Solimar

Violaceous Trogon *Trogon violaceus concinnus*

Two were seen briefly at Selve Verde

Orange-bellied Trogon *Trogon 'aurantiiventris'*

One at Monteverde gave a couple of decent views; many recent authors regard this as a colour morph of Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris*

Slaty-tailed Trogon *Trogon massena hoffmanni*

Two showed well at Carara NP and two more were at Selve Verde

Resplendent Quetzal *Pharomachrus mocinno costaricensis*

Four, including two males with full 'tail' regalia, were at Finca Mirador de Quetzales and a female was at Monteverde

ALCEDINIDAE

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*

Small numbers were seen at widespread lowland wetlands, about 12 were seen in total

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*

Ones and twos were seen at most lowland wetland sites with about seven seen in total

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana septentrionalis*

Two or three were at Hacienda Solimar, Villa Lapas, Rio Tarcoles and Selve Verde

American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle a. aenea*

Two showed very well during our Rio Tarcoles boat trip

MOMOTIDAE

Blue-crowned Motmot *Momotus momota lessonii*

Up to six were seen at Monteverde

Rufous Motmot *Baryphthengus martii semirufus*

One showed well on two occasions at Selve Verde

Broad-billed Motmot *Electron platyrhynchum minor*

Singles were seen at Arenal and La Tapir

Turquoise-browed Motmot *Eumomota superciliosa australis*

About five were at Hacienda Solimar and a couple more at Rio Tarcoles

BUCCONIDAE

White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis inornata / panamensis*

Singles were seen at Villa Lapas and Carara NP

RAMPHASTIDAE

Prong-billed Barbet *Semnornis frantzii*

Four showed well at Monteverde

Blue-throated Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus caeruleogularis*

One was seen at Monteverde

Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus t. torquatus*

Up to eight were regularly seen at Selve Verde

Keel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos sulfuratus brevicarinatus*

About five were seen at Selve Verde

Chestnut-mandibled Toucan *Ramphastos swainsonii*

Up to 10 per day were at Selve Verde after a couple of earlier birds at Villa Lapas

PICIDAE

Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani*

Up to three were at Arenal with a couple more at Selve Verde

Hoffmann's Woodpecker *Melanerpes hoffmannii*

Common on the Pacific slope where up to eight per day were noted

Hairy Woodpecker *Picooides villosus sanctorum*

Two showed well at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus l. lineatus / similis*

Two were seen at Hacienda Solimar with further singles at Arenal and Selve Verde

Pale-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus g. guatemalensis*

One showed very well at Carara NP

FURNARIIDAE

Red-faced Spinetail *Craniolenuca erythropros rufigenis*

One was seen briefly at Monteverde

Spotted Barbtail *Premnoplex brunnescens brunneicauda*

A total of four were found at Monteverde

Ruddy Treerunner *Margarornis r. rubiginosus*

Ones and two were seen on five occasions at Finca Mirador de Quetzales and Monteverde

Lineated Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla subalaris lineata*

Two or three gave some decent views at Monteverde

Grey-throated Leaf-tosser *Sclerurus albigularis canigularis*

Two of these often elusive birds gave some great views at Monteverde

Northern Barred Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes s. sanctithomae / hesperius*

One or two were seen on four occasions at Selve Verde

Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans costaricensis*

One was seen on our final morning at Selve Verde

Spotted Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius punctigula*

One showed briefly at Monteverde

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii compressus*

Singles were seen on five occasions at widespread lowland sites

THAMNOPHILIDAE

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus intermedius*

Three were seen at Hacienda Solimar

Black-hooded Antshrike *Thamnophilus bridgesi*

About four were seen at Carara NP

Dot-winged Antwren *Microrhopias quixensis virgatus*

Two showed well at Carara NP

Dusky Antbird *Cercomacra tyrannina crepera*

Two were seen at Carara NP and Villa Lapas, others were heard

Chestnut-backed Antbird *Myrmeciza exsul occidentalis / exsul*

Half a dozen were at Carara NP and a similar number at Selve Verde

RHINOCRYPTIDAE

[Silver-fronted Tapaculo *Scytalopus a. argentifrons*]

Heard but not seen at Monteverde

TYRANNIDAE

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster subpagana*

A couple were seen at Monteverde

Olive-striped Flycatcher *Mionectes o. olivaceus*

One was seen at Monteverde

[Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus assimilis*]

Singles were seen at Villa Lapas and Selve Verde (L\O)

[Northern Scrub-flycatcher *Sublegatus a. arenarum*]

One was in the mangroves at Colorado Salinas (L/O)

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant *Lophotriccus pileatus luteiventris*

One showed well at Monteverde

Northern Bentbill *Oncostoma cinereigulare*

One was seen at Carara NP

[Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilatriccus sylvia*]

One was seen at Hacienda Solimar (L/O)

Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum nigriceps*

A singing bird posed for the scope at Selva Verde

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum finitimum* / *wetmorei*

Ones and twos were seen at widespread lowland sites

Yellow-olive Flatbill *Tolmomyias sulphurescens cinereiceps*

Two were seen at Hacienda Solimar and another at Villa Lapas; also known as Yellow-olive Flycatcher

[Northern] Royal Flycatcher *Onychorhynchus (coronatus) mexicanus*

One was seen well on both visits to Carara NP

Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher *Myiobius sulphureipygius aureatus*

One was seen at Villa Lapas

Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus aurantiiventris*

Up to four showed well at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

Black-capped Flycatcher *Empidonax atriceps*

Up to eight showed well at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans amnicola*

Two were regularly along the river at Selva Verde

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer littoralis* / *nigricapillus*

One was seen at Hacienda Solimar where others were heard

Panama Flycatcher *Myiarchus panamensis actiosus*

One was seen briefly during our boat trip on the Rio Tarcoles

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus*

One was at Villa Lapas and two at Selva Verde, also heard at Hacienda Solimar

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus brachyurus*

Five were seen at Hacienda Solimar

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus guatemalensis*

Common and widespread away from the highest elevations visited

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarhynchus pitangua mexicanus*

About 12 were seen after the first at Monteverde

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis texensis / columbianus*

Fairly commonly seen after the first at Monteverde, dozens were seen in total with most at Villa Lapas

Grey-capped Flycatcher *Myiozetetes g. granadensis*

Ones and twos were seen regularly after the first at Villa Lapas

[Golden-bellied Flycatcher *Myiodynastes hemichrysus*]

Heard but not seen at Monteverde

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus difficilis / insolens*

Three were at Hacienda Solimar and another four at Villa Lapas

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus satrapa*

Common and widespread

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*

One showed well at Hacienda Solimar and another was briefly at Carara NP

INCERTAE SEDIS (relationships currently unresolved)

White-winged Becard *Pachyramphus polychopterus similis*

One was seen at Carara NP

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae latirostris*

Up to four per day were seen at Hacienda Solimar and Villa Lapas

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata costaricensis*

Singles were seen at the San Gildar in San Jose, Hacienda Solimar and Monteverde

Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor fraserii*

Two were seen at Villa Lapas

COTINGIDAE

Snowy Cotinga *Carpodectes nitidus*

One or two were seen on four occasions at Selve Verde

[Three-wattled Bellbird *Procnias tricarunculata*]

Heard but not seen at Carara NP

PIPRIDAE

White-collared Manakin *Manacus candei*

Four were seen at Selve Verde

Orange-collared Manakin *Manacus aurantiacus*

Up to eight were at Villa Lapas and Carara NP

Long-tailed Manakin *Chiroxiphia linearis fastuosa*

Two showed quite well at Hacienda Solimar and couple of more fleeting birds were at Villa Lapas

Red-capped Manakin *Pipra m. mentalis / ignifera*

One gave brief but very close views at Carara NP

VIREONIDAE

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*

Yellow-winged Vireo *Vireo carmioli*

Two or three were seen at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus*

About six were at Villa Lapas

Yellow-green Vireo *Vireo flavoviridis*

One or two were seen briefly at Hacienda Solimar

Lesser Greenlet *Hylophilus d. decurtatus*

Ones and twos were seen at Hacienda Solimar, Villa Lapas and Selve Verde

CORVIDAE

White-throated Magpie-Jay *Calocitta formosa pompata*

Up to six were frequently seen around the Hacienda at Solimar and one was seen below Monteverde

Brown Jay *Cyanocorax (morio) mexicanus*

Birds were seen in small numbers on six dates at Monteverde, Villa Lapas and Arenal

HIRUNDINIDAE

Grey-breasted Martin *Progne c. chalybea*

One was perched at Selve Verde as we left for San Jose

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea*

Fairly common along the estuarine parts of the Rio Tarcoles with a couple more at Selve Verde

Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon c. cyanoleuca*

Flocks of up to 30 were in the highlands south of San Jose, at Monteverde and at Arenal

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

A handful were seen at Arenal and Selve Verde

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis decolor*

A handful were seen at Arenal and Selve Verde

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica erythrogaster*

Common at Hacienda Solimar with a few elsewhere

TROGLODYTIDAE

Rufous-naped Wren *Campylorhynchus rufinucha capistratus / nicoyae*

Up to six were seen each day at Hacienda Solimar with a few more at Villa Lapas

Bay Wren *Thryothorus nigricapillus castaneus*

One was seen at Selve Verde (N/L)

Riverside Wren *Thryothorus semibadius*

One or two were seen at Villa Lapas

Rufous-breasted Wren *Thryothorus rutilus hyperythrus*

About four were seen at Carara NP

Banded Wren *Thryothorus pleurostictus rarus*

At least four were seen at Hacienda Solimar

Southern House Wren *Troglodytes musculis ssp*

A few were around our accommodation at Monteverde, Villa Lapas and Arenal

Ochraceous Wren *Troglodytes o. ochraceus*

Two or three showed quite well at Monteverde

White-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorbina leucosticta ssp*

Up to six per day were seen or heard at Selve Verde

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorbina leucophrys collina*

One was near our rooms at Selve Verde; others were heard but seen in the Cloudforest Preserve

SYLVIIDAE

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Polioptila plumbea ssp*

Fairly common at Hacienda Solimar where up to 10 per day were seen

TURDIDAE

Black-faced Solitaire *Myadestes melanops*

About five were seen at Monteverde

Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus g. gracilirostris*

Half-a-dozen showed well at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*

One was at Villa Lapas

Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina*

One was at Carara NP and a couple more at Selve Verde

Sooty Thrush *Turdus nigrescens* Hi

Up to 10 were at Finca Mirador de Quetzales and Savegre

Mountain Thrush *Turdus p. plebejus*

One was at Monteverde

Clay-colored Thrush *Turdus grayi casius*

Common and widespread

White-throated Thrush *Turdus assimilis cnephosus*

One showed well near our rooms on successive mornings at Monteverde

PTILOGONATIDAE

Black-and-yellow Silky-Flycatcher *Phainoptila melanoxantha*

About four were seen at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher *Ptilogonys caudatus*

One showed very well at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

PARULIDAE

Tennessee Warbler *Vermivora peregrina*

Small numbers were seen at Hacienda Solimar, Monteverde and Villa Lapas, about 20 were seen in total

Flame-throated Warbler *Parula gutturalis*

Two or three were seen at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

Tropical Parula *Parula pitiayumi speciosa*

One was seen at Villa Lapas

Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia*

Fairly common at Hacienda Solimar with smaller numbers at Villa Lapas

'Mangrove' Yellow Warbler *Dendroica (p.) erithaborides*

A couple at Colorado Salinas were followed by about five during our boat trip on the Rio Tarcoles; opinion is divided about whether this form should be regarded as a subspecies of Yellow Warbler or a species in its own right

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Dendroica pensylvanica*

After a couple on the Pacific slope this species was seen fairly regularly at Arenal and Selve Verde

Black-throated Green Warbler *Dendroica v. virens*

Two or three were seen at Monteverde

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*

Singles were at Hacienda Solimar, Monteverde and Carara NP

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*

Three at Colorado Salinas were followed by about six during our Rio Tarcoles boat trip

Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis*

A couple at Hacienda Solimar were followed by a few more at Villa Lapas and Arenal

Kentucky Warbler *Oporornis formosus*

One was at Villa Lapas and at least three more at Selve Verde

Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla*

Fairly common at Finca Mirador de Quetzales with a couple more at Monteverde and one at Arenal

Slate-throated Redstart *Myioborus miniatus*

Up to 10 were seen at Monteverde

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus* ssp

Two were seen at Monteverde

Rufous-capped Warbler *Basileuterus rufifrons delatarii*

One showed quite well at Hacienda Solimar

Black-cheeked Warbler *Basileuterus m. melanogenys*

One showed well at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

Three-striped Warbler *Basileuterus tristriatus melanotis / chitrensis*

About 10 were seen at Monteverde

Buff-rumped Warbler *Phaeothlypis fulvicauda*

A couple were at Arenal and a couple more at Selve Verde

COEREBIDAE

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola mexicana*

A handful were seen at Monteverde and Arenal

THRAUPIDAE

Common Bush-Tanager *Chlorospingus ophthalmicus regionalis* and *novicius*

About 20 were seen at Monteverde

Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager *Chlorospingus p. pileatus*

Common at Finca Mirador de Quetzales but not seen elsewhere

White-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus luctuosus axillaris* / *nitidissimus*

About four were seen at Carara NP

White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus*

A female was seen at Arenal

Red-throated Ant-Tanager *Habia f. fuscicauda*

About a dozen were seen at Selve Verde

Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava testacea*

At least two came to the feeders at Arenal

Summer Tanager *Piranga r. rubra*

Small numbers were seen at widespread lowland sites, most prominently at Selve Verde

Flame-colored Tanager *Piranga bidentata citrea*

Up to five were at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

White-winged Tanager *Piranga leucoptera latifasciata*

A female was seen briefly at Arenal (N/L)

Crimson-collared Tanager *Phlogothraupis sanguinolenta*

Four were at Arenal

Passerini's Tanager *Ramphocelus passerinii*

Common at Arenal with smaller numbers at Selve Verde and La Tapir; formerly called Scarlet-rumped Tanager XX incorporating the next species

Cherrie's Tanager *Ramphocelus costaricensis*

One was seen at Villa Lapas (N/L)

Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus cana*

Fairly common and widespread in the lowlands, especially prominent at feeding tables on the Caribbean slope

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum atripennis*

Small numbers were at various sites after the first in San Jose, common at Selve Verde

Silver-throated Tanager *Tangara icterocephala frantzii*

One was seen at La Tapir

Golden-hooded Tanager *Tangara l. larvata / centralis / franciscae*

Up to six were seen at Villa Lapas and another at La Tapir

Spangle-cheeked Tanager *Tangara dowii*

A couple showed rather poorly at Monteverde

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza arguta*

A male came regularly to the birdtable at Arenal and another was briefly at Selve Verde

Shining Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes lucidus isthmicus*

A pair came regularly to the birdtables at Selve Verde

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus carneipes*

Up to 10 were seen at Villa Lapas

EMBERIZIDAE

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina splendens*

A handful were seen at Hacienda Solimar

Variable Seedeater *Sporophila c. corvina / hoffmannii*

Half a dozen were at Villa Lapas (subspecies *corvina*) and small numbers of subspecies *hoffmannii* were at Selve Verde and La Tapir after a few at Arenal

White-collared Seedeater *Sporophila torqueola moreletii*

Up to 20 were seen at Hacienda Solimar

Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivacea pusillus*

Half a dozen were often on the lawn of our hotel in Monteverde

Slaty Flowerpiercer *Diglossa p. plumbea*

Up to six were at Finca Mirador de Quetzales and Savegre

Yellow-thighed Finch *Pselliophorus tibialis*

Two were seen at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

Chestnut-capped Brush-finch *Buarremon b. brunneinucha*

One was glimpsed at Monteverde

Orange-billed Sparrow *Arremon a. aurantirostris / rufidorsalis*

Up to 10 per day were seen at Selve Verde

Olive Sparrow *Arremonops rufivirgatus superciliosus*

Three or four were seen at Hacienda Solimar

Black-striped Sparrow *Arremonops conirostris richmondi*

Up to four were at Arenal

Stripe-headed Sparrow *Aimophila r. ruficauda*

About eight were seen at Hacienda Solimar and Colorado Salinas

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis costaricensis*

Fairly common at Finca Mirador de Quetzales and Savegre with a few more at Monteverde

CARDINALIDAE

Greyish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens brevicaudus*

A couple were seen at Monteverde

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus magnoides / intermedius*

Small numbers were seen on six dates after the first at Monteverde

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Phenicticus ludovicianus*

Up to 10 were seen at Villa Lapas

ICTERIDAE

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna* ssp.

A few were in the pastures at Hacienda Solimar

Melodious Blackbird *Dives dives*

A couple were at Monteverde and one at Arenal

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus peruvianus*

Common and very widespread in more open contexts

Black-cowled Oriole *Icterus dominicensis*

Two or three were at Arenal and another at Selve Verde

Streak-backed Oriole *Icterus pustulatus sclateri*

Only seen at Hacienda Solimar, about 10 were recorded in total

Spot-breasted Oriole *Icterus pectoralis espinachi*

Regularly seen at Hacienda Solimar where about 10 were noted

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*

Up to 10 per day were seen throughout

Montezuma Oropendola *Psarocolius montezuma*

A handful were seen at scattered sites on the Pacific slope but many were seen on the Caribbean slope

FRINGILLIDAE

Scrub Euphonia *Euphonia a. affinis*

About eight were seen at Hacienda Solimar

Yellow-crowned Euphonia *Euphonia luteicapilla*

A handful were at Monteverde and a couple more at Villa Lapas and Selve Verde

Yellow-throated Euphonia *Euphonia birundinacea gnatho*

A few were seen at our hotel in Monteverde

Olive-backed Euphonia *Euphonia gouldi praetermisa*

A couple were at Arenal and several more at Selve Verde

PASSERIDAE

[House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*]

A handful were at our coffee stop in Muelle; an introduced species

Mammals

Species order and nomenclature follows Fiona Reid's A Field Guide to the Mammals of Central America and Southeast Mexico (OUP) 1997

Opossum species

One appeared briefly at the bar area at Selva Verde one evening (L/O)

Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth *Choloepus hoffmanni*

One was in the town square in Orotina where it actually woke up and moved about for us, an unusual sight!

White-faced Capuchin *Cebus capuchinus*

Up to six showed very well at Carara NP

Mantled Howler Monkey *Alouatta palliata*

Most woodland areas held these noisy animals, several gave good views

Variiegated Squirrel *Sciurus variegatoides*

These striking animals were seen well at Hacienda Solimar and around Selva Verde

Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis*

Several were at Selve Verde

Central American Dwarf (or Pygmy) Squirrel *Microsciurus alfari*

A handful were seen at Selve Verde

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata*

Singles were seen at Monteverde and twice at Carara NP

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica*

Quite a lot were seen after the first at Carara NP, especially along roadsides where they were attracted to scraps offered by motorists; about 50 were seen in total

Northern Raccoon *Procyon lotor*

One was at a feeding table near the bar at Selve Verde one evening

Kinkajou *Potos flavus*

One with a damaged tail attended the bird feeders at Arenal

[Neotropical River Otter *Lutra longicaudis*]

One was seen from the bar at Selve Verde early one morning (L/O)

Coyote *Canis latrans*

Heard but not seen at Hacienda Solimar, one was seen briefly at Monteverde

Other fauna

Reptiles were represented by large numbers of American Crocodiles on the Rio Tarcoles and at Hacienda Solimar, Iguanas of at three species and a range of smaller unidentified lizards and geckos.

Amphibians were represented by some spectacular frogs including a Blue Jeans at Selve Verde.

Of the many invertebrates encountered most spectacular were several Blue Morpho and Owl Butterflies (amongst many other colourful species) while Leafcutter Ants and others were as entertaining as ever.