

WINGSPAN BIRD TOURS
IN
COSTA RICA



FEBRUARY 25TH – MARCH 11TH 2020

TRIP REPORT

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SUMMARY

We had 15 glorious days of fun, laughter and, of course, some excellent birding. The weather was very kind to us as we had no rain, only very light showers and one late afternoon down pour. There are a whole string of highlights that I could mention but you can read about those in the report. However, I will mention the two superb boat cruises we took and the visit to Copé's Garden which all stand out in my memory and were outstanding birding excursions. Our tally was over 450 species despite missing a few regular sightings, but everyone went home happy with a vault full of memories and thousands of pictures to treasure for ever.

We were extremely lucky to escape the disruption caused by the world epidemic of the Corona Virus outbreak, most of us passed through Miami Airport a few days before it went into lockdown and all European Travel was banned, phew!! A narrow escape.

DAY 1 – TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25TH 2020

TRANSFER FROM SAN JOSE AIRPORT TO HOTEL BOUGAINVILLEA - WITH STOPS AT FREDDO FRESAS, JARDIN DE COLIBRIES - CINCHONA GALERIA DE COLIBRIES – VALLE DE VIRGEN TRACK TO RIO VIRGEN

We had a smashing start to the trip having all arrived the day before, we were all fresh this morning and raring to go. So, at 7:00am we met in the hotel reception area and began listing birds in the garden and driveway of the hotel. There were far more birds around than I had anticipated and within the hour we had listed 20 species, I can't believe how good an introduction to Costa Rica Birding this was for my group.



The national bird of Costa Rica is the Clay-colored Thrush and they were everywhere, dozens of them, the same went for Tennessee Warblers they seemed to like feeding in the palms near the fresh clumps of palm nuts. A couple of Yellow Warblers brightened up the scenery, as did Baltimore Oriole, Blue-gray Tanager, Summer Tanager and our first Hummer, the Rufous-tailed Hummingbird.

Further sightings were made in the more mature trees along the driveway and in the garden hedgerows, we found our first Woodpeckers, a family party of Hoffman's Woodpeckers were very noisy, but the much larger Lineated Woodpecker was silent and more secretive. The Rufous-naped Wren, a real beauty, was a crowd pleaser, we saw at least 8 of those with two pairs making nests, it was interesting to see that last year's off-spring were also helping with the building of the nests.

Birds of prey started to appear over the gardens, we saw Grey Hawk, Roadside Hawk and both Black and Turkey Vultures, a Great Blue Heron flew over and both Blue & White and Northern Rough-winged Swallows flew around the hotel buildings. Other birds came along at regular intervals, we saw Great Kiskadee, Tropical Kingbird, Squirrel Cuckoo, Buff-throated and Black-headed Saltators and Rufous-collared Sparrow.

Our bus with driver (Toni) and guide (Johan) turned up on time and before 10am we were off, the tour had begun! We drove up into the highlands just below the Poas Volcano and stopped at roadside restaurant called Freddo Fresas. What is special about this restaurant is that it has a flower-garden with bushes and trees and most importantly, it has hummingbird feeders. We were there to see the Purple-throated Mountain-Gem and that is exactly what we did. Other 'hummers seen were Violet Sabrewing, Lesser Violetear, Talamanca Hummingbird and Green-crowned Brilliant.

Apart from the hummers we found a lot of species already listed earlier this morning as well as a few new species, we saw Mountain Elaenia, Mistletoe (formerly Paltry) Tyrannulet and Wilson's Warbler. We drove further up into the hills and turned onto a road which led down into the Virgen Valley, we were now in the clouds so most of the beautiful scenery was lost to sight. Along this valley we pulled into a roadside restaurant for lunch, a place where a platformed terrace juts out over the steep valley, where numerous feeding stations were positioned right next to the platform. We had wonderful views of dozens of birds, there was so much activity going on.

We ordered and ate a lovely lunch whilst watching some superb species. The Northern Emerald (subsp. Blue-throated) Toucanet was particularly appreciated by the group but also the very common Silver-throated Tanager, the unexpected **Buff-fronted Quail-Dove**, the Chestnut-crowned Brush-Finch and a good number of other species.

Hummers were the stars of the show, in particular the **Endemic Coppery-headed Hummingbird**, but also, Green Thorntail, Green Hermit and Green-crowned Brilliant.



Coppery-headed Hummingbird – taken by Richard Pettett

It was getting late in the afternoon but we still had time for walk in the valley, so we drove to a track that led all the way down to the river and we saw some great species along the way. A few American Warblers appeared, the stunning Black-throated Green Warbler was enjoyed as well as Blackburnian, Golden-winged, Chestnut-sided and the stunning Tropical Parula. We had great views of Yellow-throated Toucan, Crested Guan, Golden-olive Woodpecker, Slaty-throated Redstart and Variable seedeaters.



***Northern Emerald Toucanet [Blue-throated] -this is one of 7 subspecies,
(Aulacorhynchus prasinus caeruleogularis)***

A couple of nice raptors were found, a very distant Laughing Falcon was 'scoped from the track and then Mervyn found a White Hawk, he tracked it until it perched and then showed the whole group, all having great 'in the scope' views.

At the river we enjoyed American Dipper, Black Phoebe, Tufted Flycatcher and a bit of patience was rewarded with views of **Sooty-faced Finch**, a real great species for the list. We tried to call out a **Nightingale Wren** without success, in fact, Wrens weren't very obliging at all, because we also heard Bay Wren and Black-throated Wren without seeing them either.

We drove all the way back to the suburbs of San Jose to our next hotel, it was dark when we arrived and so the birding for day one was over, we had seen over 70 species, not a bad start, a great introduction to central American birding.

A few of us ventured out after dinner and discovered a Pacific Screech Owl, at least two were calling but we got very good views of one them.

DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26TH 2020

TRANSFER FROM HOTEL BOUGAINVILLEA TO LA SELVA – BIRDING THE HOTEL GARDENS – COPE'S GARDEN, BRAULIO CARRILLO

WEATHER: a glorious sunny morning, light breeze top temp. 30C

It was a glorious start to our second day in this tropical paradise, it was also a very early start! It begins to get light at 5:30am we were all out in the garden just before six. The extensive gardens have manicured flower beds, open grass lawns, ponds, scrub and mature trees. We had a couple of main targets species and spent most of our time in the areas where these species are found.

The Rufous-capped Warbler is one of the few resident warblers in Costa Rica, we had short glimpses of it for a while, then a pair showed very well, in the past all my sightings were of them on the ground but these today stayed in the canopy of the bushes! The White-eared Ground-Sparrow was much harder to find but Johan was persistent, everyone got to see this species really well.



The Yellow-throated Toucan

Lots of other species kept us busy too, we watched our first Grayish Saltator, White-tipped Dove, Lesson's Motmot, House Wren, White-fronted Parrots and many other species that we had listed yesterday were also on display.

A lovely breakfast just after 7am was followed by a quick exit from the hotel (and yes, we did pay our bills before we left)! We only drove 500 meters from the hotel when we turned onto a side road and parked up. Our aim was to find a Cabanis's Ground-Sparrow, recently split from Provost's Ground-Sparrow and now recognised as an endemic to Costa Rica. Its limited range is in the central valley in small coffee plantations which is under threat as more and more plantations are abandoned.

We never had a sniff of the Ground-Sparrow but we did see a few extra species for the list. A White-tailed Kite (very similar to the black-winged Kite of the Western Palearctic) flew over us and then we found a couple of Yellow-headed Caracaras. A Cabanis's Wren (formerly Plain Wren) called from the hedgerow but it never showed.

A flowering tree held Melodious Blackbirds, Baltimore Orioles and Rose-breasted Grosbeak, we then found both Hoffman's and Lined Woodpeckers and another pair of Grayish Saltators. We walked into a coffee plantation and found 3 Lesson's Motmots and not much else. On the way back to the bus we found a Groove-billed Ani and a few Vaux's Swift flew over, both were additions to our list.



Spectacled Owl – looks a bit surprised to see us!

Major road works along the highway to the Caribbean side of the island made progress very slow, we eventually arrived at Braulio Carrillo National Park around 10:30am. We then spent the rest of the morning walking one of the main trails through some of the most fantastic tropical rain forest, it was the first time I had visited Braulio in sunshine!!

However, the good weather did not mean more sightings, in fact, it was pretty quiet, exactly as it was during last year's visit. We saw about 6 species in 1 ½ hours and heard a few more. The highlight was the sighting of the car park after our walk! That's not strictly true. We did see Black-faced Grosbeak, Tawny-crested Tanager, Broad-billed Motmot and we had very brief views of Tawny-capped Euphonia, Chestnut-sided Warbler and Ochre-bellied Flycatcher. A Dull-mantled Antbird called but never showed and I forgot to mention the sighting of a King Vulture just after we arrived.

Our attempt to look for the beautiful hummingbird called the Snowcap was thwarted by a locked gate at the usual site, so we drove down to the Caribbean lowlands and went for lunch in a superb roadside restaurant where a delicious lunch was had by all. We even had the audacity to add House Sparrow to our bird list!

The afternoon birding was a hundred times better than this morning's we saw many more species with some excellent goodies too. Our first stop after lunch was an area of old woodland near the village of 'La Union', as we jump down off the bus we found Yellow-throated Toucan. We were joined by a local guide who led the whole group into some very interesting woodland. We were guided straight to a pair of roosting Spectacled Owls, they looked magnificent sitting high up in their chosen tree.



Three-toed Sloth pictured by Ray Marsh

Next, we were shown a small group of five roosting Honduran White Tent Bats, they were ghostly white and tiny, all huddled together under a large leaf on a banana tree. We followed that with a visit to another part of the wood where the local guide showed us the nest of the Long-billed Hermit, it was amazingly delicate, with 2 or 3 chicks huddled inside.

The guides then spent some time in another woodland looking for a Crested Owl but this time they came up with nothing, so we hopped back onto the bus and drove for another twenty minutes. On a dirt track in the middle of nowhere the local guide stopped the bus and we all piled out whilst he pointed to a Great Potoo sitting on a bough up in a road-side tree. Nearby, we saw Montezuma's Oropendula, Pale vented Pigeon, Ruddy Ground Dove and Green Ibis. Whilst watching the Ibis we found a pair of Orange-chinned Parrots and a Lineated Woodpecker.

The best was yet to come! We drove back to La Union and turned off onto a side road and stopped outside the, now famous, Cope's Nature Garden where a local bird guide and artist had set up an amazing hide overlooking a pond and several feeders. Well, my group were simple blown away by the bird activity there, it was like Picadilly Circus in rush hour.

Dozens of birds were in view all the time, I can't recall how many species we saw, but I bet it was around 25! We added a few new Hummers to the list: Brown-tailed Plumeleteer, Long-billed and Stripe-throated Hermits, Crowned Woodnymph and White-necked Jacobin. Three species of Honeycreeper appeared, Shining, Red-Legged and Green Honeycreepers. Both of the Oropendula Species showed well as did Collared Aracari (5 at one time).

A normally secretive Wood Thrush sat right out in the open, wow, what a stunning looking thrush. Bananaquit, Crimson-collared and Scarlet-rumped Tanagers joined the common species, it was truly a fantastic hour or so. To top it off a Three-toed Sloth came into view and showed extremely well, we saw it feeding on some bean-like fruit. A second Sloth was found just after. We also saw a Casque-headed Basilisk Lizard and outside whilst in the street we saw Mealy and White-crowned Parrots, Variegated Seedeater, both common vultures and Social Flycatcher.

We left the amazing Cope's Garden at 5pm and reached La Selva just before 6pm. Dinner was taken at 7pm and after we called the log we went outside of the dining hall and found a Common Pauraque, a lovely nightjar to finish off the day's list.

DAY 3 – THURSDAY FEBRUARY 27TH 2020

LA SELVA BIOLOGICAL STATION and SURROUNDING TRACKS, ALL DAY

WEATHER: another beautiful day, bright sunshine, light breeze, hot and humid after 10am Temp mid 30's C

La Selva is a research centre, run by a non-profit making organisation and supports hundreds of students and research projects throughout the year. It comprises of over 100,000 hectares of luxuriant, evergreen tropical vegetation. The species richness is outstanding, with more than 2,077 plants, 125 mammals, 470 species of birds, 48 amphibians, 87 reptiles and 45 species of fish, phew, it going to take a few hours to see all of those.

You couldn't have wished for a better morning it was superb, the weather was great and the birding was out of this world! We left our rooms at 5:45 to walk to the main reception area and by 8:30am we had seen or heard 73 species!! Wow, how about that for two hours birding?

I cannot list the birds in sequence but suffice is to say that we were kept busy all the time. Trogons, Motmots, Jacamars. Flycatchers, Wrens, Tanagers, Woodcreepers and Woodpeckers it was crazy out there.



Some of the best sightings included: Olive-throated Parakeet, Red-throated Ant-Tanager, Orange-billed Sparrow, Snowy Cotinga, Black-throated Wren, White-breasted Wood-Wren (constructing a nest at the side of the track), Rufous Mourner, Semi-Plumbeous Kite, Rufous-winged Woodpecker, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Rufous Motmot (there's a lot of rufous going on here!), Masked Tityra, Grey-Chested Dove, Hook-billed Kite, King Vulture, Grey-headed Hawk, Grey-capped Flycatcher, Black-faced Grosbeak, Southern Rough-winged Swallow, Grey-rumped Swift, Long-tailed Tyrant. We paused for breakfast at 8:30am.

The Rufous-tailed Jacamar

For the rest of the morning we were joined by George, one of the La Selva Guides and he really piled on the birds for us. We spent another hour just around the visitor's centre listing bird after bird before we even went onto one of the many trails of La Selva.

The birding slowed down a little as it approached lunchtime and some of the group began to fade. A selection of the new birds seen were: Purple-throated Fruitcrow, White-collared Manakin, Rufous-winged and Pale-billed Woodpeckers, Crested Guan, Band-backed Wren, Black-throated Wren, Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher, Tawny-capped and Olive-backed Euphonias, Black-cowled Oriole, Shiny Cowbird and Melodious Blackbird.

We returned to the visitor's centre at 12:30 for lunch and then we took an hour relaxation back at our rooms. It was 2:30 when we met up again for the afternoon birding session. The first place we went to was off the reserve and onto nearby local farms and grass meadows. Our main target bird was the Nicaraguan Seed-Finch as well as other species.



Snowy Cotinga

We stopped several times to look at flocks of birds in the grass and along hedgerows, we found Variable Seedeater, Thick-billed Seed-Finch, Olive-crowned Yellowthroat, Red-winged Blackbird, Groove-billed Ani and Mangrove Swallows. Further stops added a few more species, Common Tody-Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Eleania and Yellow Tyrannulet.

We heard a White-throated Crake calling but it was impossible to see it in the tall sedge, however, we did see Green Ibis, Cattle Egret and a Slaty-tailed Trogon, the elusive Nicaraguan Finch did not show up.

From the fields we drove back into La Selva and spent a nice hour in the cooler cover of the trees, we didn't add much but we did see Great Curassow, we heard both Great & Slaty-breasted Tinamou at one stage we found a small feeding flock with about 15 species.

Both Yellow-crowned and Olive-backed Euphonias were seen with a Stripe-breasted Wren, Tropical Gnatcatcher, Common Tody-Flycatcher, a couple of 'hummers, Green Honeycreeper, Golden-winged Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler and a few others.

Finally, as the light began to fade we drove along a track adjacent to La Selva and watched Great Green Macaws coming into roost, by the time we got there half a dozen were sitting in a trees with the setting sun behind them. All we got was a silhouette of these very large birds. One bird did fly in and gave us a good view, in the meantime we found two Bat Falcons in another tree and many Red-lored Parrots flew around.

It was just after dark when we got back to our rooms, a Common Pauraque was calling outside our window as we got ready for dinner.

DAY 4 – FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28TH 2020

LA SELVA MORNING WALK – TRANSFER TO ARENAL LODGE – FORTUNA BIRDING

WEATHER: after heavy overnight rain we had another lovely sunny morning, 28C

Our last morning at La Selva was spent walking the trails in the forest and on local tracks just outside. We started at the usual time of 5:45am and drove the short distance to the site where the Great Green Macaws feed and roost, we had cloud cover at first then it cleared into a beautiful morning. The Macaws showed well but at a distance, good views were had through the scopes, we also saw quite few Red-lored Parrots, Bat Falcon, Montezuma Oropendolas and lots of Kiskadees.



The overnight rain had brought out a lot of frogs, this is the very tiny 'Blue Jeans' Dart Frog

A little nearer to us we found several new species for the list, Black-striped Sparrow was one of them and to our great delight Nicaraguan Seed-Finch was another. We also saw Thick-billed Seed-Finch and Variable-Seedeater, the White-lined Tanager and Bronzed Cowbird were also additions to our list. A Slatey Spinetail refused to show itself so after a few minutes we left the area and headed back into the reserve centre for breakfast. Before we sat down to eat we spent a little time along the approach track where many species were seen. Snowy Cotinga showed much closer than it did yesterday, a Squirrel Cuckoo did the same we also watched Masked Tityra, Long-tailed Tyrant and many others.

Our post breakfast walk was along one of the many trails found on the far side of the river where we found our first Great Tinamou. We also heard a Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher but despite a long search we failed to see it. A Buff-rumped Warbler was nice to see and some of the group saw a Neotropic River Otter, we all saw Three-toed Sloth, Central American Spider Monkey, Collared Peccary, Agouti and Red-tailed Squirrel.



Equally as diminutive is the 'Green & Black' Dart Frog

We took an early lunch, then loaded the cases onto the bus and left at 12:30. It took a couple of hours to reach Fortuna where we stopped in the town centre. It was packed with tourists enjoying a lovely sunny afternoon, we sat in a lovely park eating our first ice-cream of the tour. We made a quick stop just outside the city centre at a restaurant which was surrounded by small ponds in a wooded area.



A White-throated Crake

We found Boat-billed Heron and Yellow-crowned Night Heron in a small roost over the ponds and a number of other species in the bushes. Red-legged Honeycreeper, Grey-capped Flycatcher, a bunch of Grey-headed

Chachalacas and several common species. The star bird at this place was the White-throated Crake, what a little stunner. Johan coaxed them out of cover and both a male and female appeared.

Our next stop was on the dam of the huge Arenal Lake, it was a bit windy there and rain threatened to cut short our visit. In the fifteen minutes we stayed there we found Ringed and Amazon Kingfishers, Grey-breasted Martin, Mangrove and Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Bronze Cowbird and Swallowtail Kite (3).

We arrived at our hotel via a 5km approach track which rises steeply up from the lake. At the top, the views are outstanding, all of our rooms overlooked this stunning scenery. We had an hour and half to settle in before we met for a pre-dinner drink and bird log. From our verandah we watched several species visiting feeders, Yellow-throated Euphonia was a lovely sighting, also Scarlet-rumped Tanagers, a Northern Waterthrush, Grey-capped Flycatcher, Rufous-collared Sparrow and the ubiquitous Clay-colored Thrush.

We completed the bird log and a lovely dinner was served at 7pm.

DAY 5 – SATURDAY FEBRUARY 29TH 2020

ARENAL OBSERVATORY PRIVATE RESERVE – ARENAL NATIONAL PARK

WEATHER: what a difference a day makes! We had strong blustery winds all night with bouts of torrential rain, this continued until about 8am. Then we had broken sunshine, very light showers. Temp 20C

We had a day of mixed fortunes and the weather had a lot to do with that. Our pre-breakfast morning walk was abandoned before it even started, the lodge and surrounding area was completely enshrouded in mist, it was also very windy and raining.



Black-crested Coquette

So, we went straight into breakfast at 6:30am and departed for Arenal Observatory around 7:45. We saw a few species along the way, the best were on a river, we saw Green Kingfisher, Louisiana Waterthrush and Neotropic Cormorant.

Once in the grounds of the Observatory we had a quick look at the feeders next to the restaurant which were very disappointing, we only saw a couple of birds there, we then walked down into the gardens around the accommodation chalets. After a short while we found our main target bird, the tiny Black-crested Coquette, what a little beauty, we also found a few other hummers feeding on the same flowers, Scaly-breasted, Rufous-tailed, Violet-headed Hummingbirds and a Green Thorntail.



Gaudy Leaf Frog – this was seen at Arenal Lodge last night

Our first walk on the trails was quite bird-less, we did hear a few species but saw very few! We found our first Emerald Tanagers and saw Scarlet-rumped Tanager, we heard both Stripe-breasted and White-breasted Wood Wren and we spent a lot of time waiting in hope of seeing a Thicket Antpitta. This bird was calling incessantly and came very close to the edge of the dense forest undergrowth but only one of our group managed to see it very briefly.

We then took another track and to our great fortune we bumped into an ant swarm! Not so fortunate for those who unknowingly stood in the swarm, ouch!! Several birds were seen around the swarm, these were Antbirds and they follow the swarm, not to eat the ants but catch any insects that jump up to get out of the way of the swarm! We saw several Spotted Antbirds, also Great Antshrike, Bicoloured Antbird and the real star, an Ocellated Antbird.

We left the trails and headed back to the main reception area and spent a little time at the feeders where we added Golden-hooded and Blue-gray Tanagers, Red-legged Honeycreeper, Crested Guan and Montezuma Oropendola to our day list. A second walk along the main entrance track produced little else, we did see a Rufous-winged Woodpecker digging out a nest hole and that was it.

We had a lovely lunch in the main restaurant before setting off on our main walk along the 'waterfall' trail. We went via a new trail which led us steeply downhill from the gardens, it went a long way down but fortunately the track then took a turn onto a very gradually sloping pathway back into the forest. We saw zilch on that walk!! Then we came to a lookout tower and a group of people were photographing an Eyelash Pit Viper and that was our only excitement of the walk.

Next we tried the main track to the 'waterfall', we found Smokey Brown Woodpecker and two of the group saw a Great Black-Hawk just as we set off. The trail was a real disappointment, we walked a long way for very little reward, it was quite windy and rain threatened but did not materialise. There were a few 'heard only' species and one or two brief views, we did see Golden-crowned Warbler, Buff-rumped Warbler, Broad-billed Motmot

and that was about it. Nightingale Wren was heard, Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant and a couple more wrens called but were not seen.



Spotted Antbird several were seen around the ant-swarm – picture taken by Ray Marsh



Keel-billed Motmot

It was about 3pm when we left the Observatory, we took the scenic route back to Arenal Lodge which was a bumpy track that followed the contour of the huge lake. We stopped several times to look for Keel-billed Motmot, we did see our first White-throated Magpie-Jays and Crimson-collared Tanagers but not much else until the very last stop.



White-faced Nunbird

Finally, we found a large mixed feeding flock, it was great to watch a group of birds flitting around in the canopy. A party of very noisy White-faced Nunbirds came first, then a few tanagers. Johan then quickly picked out Slay-capped and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Black-and-white Warbler, Rufous Piha, Cocoa Woodcreeper, Rufous-winged Woodpecker and several other species.

We then finished our birding for the day by finding the Keel-billed Motmot and our second Great Potoo!!

An exhausted group made it to dinner at 7pm, we quickly went through the bird log.

DAY 6 – SUNDAY MARCH 1ST 2020

CAÑO NEGRA – MEDIO QUESO MARSH

WEATHER: overcast with sunny spells. Temp 25C

We had a fantastic day today, we added a new venue to the WINGSPAN TOUR ITINERARY, with plenty of new sightings recorded for the trip list. We travelled quite far and spent a lot of time in the bus, but it was worth it because of the sightings we made when we got there. We travelled to Cano Negra where we took a boat cruise along the river and down through open marshes which were covered in birds.



A Tayra – seen in the gardens at Arenal Lodge – taken by Ray Marsh

As we approached Cano Negro we drove past open meadows with marshland and small pools and we started listing new birds out there. We found Bare-necked Tiger Heron, Northern Jacana, Ringed Kingfisher, Snowy, Great and Cattle Egrets.

Once on the boat the birds just kept on coming, we had a wonderful time and spent nearly 3 hours out there on the river. Our most wanted species turned up about halfway through the trip, the SUNGREBE! We got fairly close to one of them and even saw its strange black and white feet as it climbed up into a shrub.

As well as many herons, egrets, ibis, storks, spoonbills and cormorants we saw four species of Kingfisher, lots of waders and several species of passerines. We had good weather with excellent light and the photographers had a dream of a time because many species were very approachable because we were in the boat.

The American Pygmy Kingfisher was especially approachable. As we were watching the Kingfisher, we found a Northern Beardless Pygmy-tyrant perched close to it and a Ringed Kingfisher perched close by on some wires. The colourful Anhinga was a great favourite of the group as well as many Spectacled Caiman.

We saw the most species where the ground opened out and large pools of water could be scanned. The Roseate Spoonbill was a real crowd pleaser, such a beautiful and elegant bird. The Limpkin went down well too, we had good views of several of those. Also Tricolored Heron, Wood Storks, Little and Great Blue Herons. A Glossy Ibis was an excellent sighting as they are not common in central America.

Wader numbers were quite low, but the species count was fairly good, a few small flocks of Black-necked Stilts were joined by Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper and Southern Lapwing. We also had close views of Mangrove Swallow, Northern Jacana and we saw our first Nicaraguan Grackle.

Birds of prey were remarkable only because of their absence, a few Ospreys were seen fishing and the usual Turkey & Black Vultures drifted over the river. We saw no other raptor except a roosting Pacific Screech Owl that was pointed out to us. We saw a flock of Blue-winged Teal but they were the only waterfowl we saw and a pair of Russet-naped Wood-rails was an excellent find by John. Well, 3 hours flew by and before we knew it we were back on terra firma walking into the pretty village to take a late lunch at 2pm.



The American Dwarf Kingfisher – by Richard Pettett



Sun Grebe – take by Richard Pettett

For the rest of the afternoon we headed back to Arenal but not before we made a detour towards the border with Nicaragua to visit a large marshland. Along the bumpy track back to the main road we stopped to look at several perched birds and to scan any marshes for the elusive Jabiru. We found a couple of Roadside Hawks, sitting as they do, by the roadside, where else? Also, we stopped to look at a male Nicaraguan Seed-Finch and a huge collection of egrets, storks, spoonbills and ibis which also held half a dozen Muscovy Ducks.

We made it to the marshes within half-an-hour, what a great place for birding. A raised central track dissected the marsh allowing wonderful panoramic views of the reedbeds and open pools. It was a very popular place as many local families were out enjoying a Sunday afternoon, fishing whilst enjoying picnics.

New birds came in thick and fast, I never expected to see Pinnated Bittern out in the open like that, but several of them showed really well. Red-winged Blackbirds were a joy to watch flitting about in the reeds. We saw a single Solitary Sandpiper, well, did you expect us to find a flock of them with a name like that?



After a short walk where we constantly stopped to scan the marshes we came across the magnificent JABIRU, hooray, our most wanted bird of the day. This majestic giant stood like a sentinel right at the back of the marsh, as though standing guard over the entire bird population.



Limpkin – picture courtesy Richard Pettett

A flock of Black-bellied Whistling Duck were joined by a few Blue-winged Teal and we found a few Purple Gallinules in the reeds and that completed our sightings for the day. It was now getting on for 5pm so we had to leave this magical place.

We arrived back at the hotel at 7:15pm having stopped near the gatehouse to look at a Black-and-white Owl, dinner was taken an hour later followed by the bird-log, the list count is now approaching 300 species, the bad news is that ASTON VILLA lost in the EFL Cup Final today!

DAY 7 – MONDAY MARCH 2ND 2020

TRANSFER TO THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST COAST – ARENAL LAKE - NICOYA BAY AT ENSENADA LODGE

WEATHER: sunny spells in the morning, clear sky afternoon. Temp 18 – 32C

We said goodbye to Arenal Lodge and made our way down to Arenal Lake where we spent an hour birding along a track before we set off for the Pacific coast. It was a lovely morning, plenty of sunshine and for the first time we could see the top of Mount Arenal. We found a mixed flock of species with a few warblers, a couple of flycatchers, Tropical Parula and Tanagers but nothing new for the list. A Thicket Antpitta called from the wooded hillside and we did see a female Barred Antshrike. A Bare-crowned Antbird also called which would have a much better sighting but it never showed. Our 'best' bird was the Black-crowned Tody-Flycatcher, we finally caught up with this species having missed it before on a couple of occasions.



Berania's Daggerwing Butterfly

A Rufous-tailed Jacamar sat out nicely for us and we had brief views of a Stripe-breasted Wren before we concluded the walk and got back onto the bus.

Our route took us along the complete length of the Arenal Lake before we cut across the hills towards the coast, we stopped after an hour or so to stretch our legs and found a few species around a small shop in the middle of nowhere. Yellow-faced Grassquit, Morelet's Seedeater, Piratic Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Toucan and a few common tanagers were all seen.

We stopped for lunch around 12 noon as we made it to the Pan American highway, the difference in temperature was quite noticeable as we stepped down from the bus, it was so much warmer. Not long after lunch we turned off the main road onto a dirt road which we followed all the way to Ensenada Lodge. We passed through a completely different habitat now, it was very dry with rolling hills, large meadows with cattle in them, woodland with leafless trees (the trees shed their leaves in the dry season to save moisture) and despite this there were birds out there.

We made several stops to look at birds, so progress was slow. Southern Lapwing, Common Ground Dove, Stripe-headed Sparrow and Tricolored Heron were a few of the birds we noted.

Once at the lodge we had a couple of hours to settle in. We met up again at 4pm for a birding session. Our rooms were ideally placed with views over the beautiful gardens and down to Nicoya Bay where we all watched Magnificent Frigatebirds flying past and the odd-looking Brown Pelican flying in strings in an evenly spaced formation.



Our last birding around Lake Arenal

In the meantime most of us had been for a walk in the grounds and seen the White-throated Magpie-Jay, lots of Groove-billed Anis, various types of Oriole including Baltimore and Spot-breasted, also Rufous-naped Wren, Squirrel Cuckoo and a few others.

Our afternoon birding session consisted of a visit to a lagoon about 2 or 3 km's down a track, we took the bus of course, even though the heat had now abated somewhat, it was quite a pleasant temperature. We walked past an area of salt pans which had a few birds feeding or roosting but as it was low tide not many waders were present. We did see Least Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Black-necked Stilt, Whimbrel and Lesser Yellowlegs.

Along the track to the laguna from the salt pans we found quite a few species in the scrub, a couple of new flycatchers for the list were the main sightings. Both Northern Scrub and Brown-headed Flycatchers were seen well, as was Yellow-throated Vireo, White-lored Gnatcatcher, the Banded Wren proved to be a little more difficult to see but the Black-headed Trogon sat out nicely.

The Yellow Warbler seemed quite common we saw a lovely male and the sub-species Mangrove Warbler which has a reddish-brown head, several birds appeared to be intergrades of the two having splashes of reddish brown over the head, face and throat.

The laguna was packed with species, hundreds of birds were out there and several large crocodiles, so we kept clear of the shoreline. We added a few species to our list but no many, most sightings were of birds that we had seen yesterday at Cano Negra. Common Gallinule was new also Stilt Sandpiper, we had much better views and closer views of a lot of egrets, herons, storks, spoonbills and ibis. There was even a few Pelicans out there.



Black-headed Trogon



The final view of Mount Arenal

Our walk back to the salt pans produced a couple more new sightings, Peregrine Falcon was one of them, but it was the salt pans that were now prolific, they were covered in waders as the tide had now come in and the birds were there to roost for the night. There were thousands of them! We added a dozen or more new birds to the list there must have been about 20 different waders out there.

The small 'peeps' were the hardest to identify, Least, Western and Semi-palmated Sandpipers, they were there in good numbers, also the Semi-palmated Plover was difficult to separate from the Wilson's Plover without good scrutiny. We also saw hundreds of Whimbrel with the odd Marbled Godwit, Long-billed Curlew, Willet and Red Knot. Dozens of Ruddy Turnstones, Short-billed Dowitchers, Stilt Sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs joined the throng.

Four Royal terns were joined by a single Sandwich Tern and then a dozen or so Laughing Gulls dropped in, phew it was mayhem out there. A Black Vulture flew low over the pans and put all the birds up, as the light began to fade we looked towards the setting sun behind the trees and we could the sky was also full of birds. Dozens of Barn Swallows and just as many Lesser Nighthawks filled the sky it was an amazing sight.

We got back to the lodge in the dark around 6pm and met up again for dinner at 7, one or two of the group had seen the local Hooded Skunk around the grounds as they made their way to dinner.

DAY 8 – TUESDAY MARCH 3RD 2020

ENSENADA SALT PANS AND TRAILS

WEATHER: dry, hot and sunny all day, a nice onshore breeze. Top temp 34C



This picture epitomises Ensenada Lodge – the rickety, old jetty covered in Royal Terns

Today we made the most of both the cool early morning light and the late afternoon drop in temperature, but in the middle of day we rested in the shade of our chalets or used the swimming pool. At 5:45am we set off for our first walk of the morning, was just lovely, about 20C with a breeze and the trees were full of birds, the ultimate T-shirt and Shorts birding that I love. During a couple of hours, we recorded over 40 species and about 25% of them were new for the list.

The White-collared Puffbird sat out nice for us as did the Torquoise-browed Momot and Hoffman's Woodpeckers seemed everywhere, much to the delight of Mervyn. We watched the antics of a Black-headed Trogon, what a beautiful blue eye ring it has, we saw Stripe-headed Sparrow and we found a Double-striped Thick-knee.



A typical dry forest bird – the White-collared Puffbird

There were four species of hummingbird seen, Canivet's, Cinnamon, Green-breasted Mango and Ruby-throated, none of them stayed around long and most of the sightings we had of them were up in the canopy. The Orioles looked particularly grand in the morning light, we saw Spot-breasted, Streak-backed and Baltimore Orioles. Johan was quick to point out the different flycatchers on show, the Streaked Flycatcher standing out in my memory but the tufted head-gear of the Yellowish Eleania and the larger Brown-capped Flycatcher were also on show. The much smaller Northern beardless Tyrannulet also grabbed our attention a couple of times.



Brown-crested Flycatcher

After a lovely breakfast we walked to the car park, but before getting onto the bus Johan, our guide, showed us a Pacific Screech Owl which was roosting in a nearby tree. We then set off in the bus and headed back to the salt pans. This time we had a more relaxing visit with plenty of time to point out all the species of waders, in particular, the difference between Western, Semi-palmated and least Sandpipers. None of the birds on the 'pans' were new to our list, but most of them were seen much better than before. We also saw Brown Pelican, Osprey, Common Black

Hawk, White Ibis, Yellow-crowned Night Heron and Wood Storks.

Once on the trails in the dry forest habitat we searched the trees for more species and at times there were several birds in one tree and it was difficult to pick them all out, so concentrating on a single bird reaped rewards. We saw Yellow Warbler, White-lored Gnatcatcher, Long-billed Gnatwren, Northern Scrub Warbler, Scrub Euphonia, Tennessee Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler and one or two of the group got on to an American Redstart.

We searched for the mythical Lesser Ground Cuckoo without success, but we did find Ferruginous Pygmy Owl and our first Yellowish Eleania with Northern-beardless Tyrannulet, Olive-green Flycatcher and our first Orange-fronted Parakeet. Before we went to lunch we spent a little time walking down to the shoreline of Nicoya Bay. At the bottom of the huge garden area there is an old jetty, during high tide periods there is normally a huge gathering of gulls and terns roosting on the wooden railings along the jetty.



Surfbird (left) with a Black-bellied Plover

Today the jetty was packed solid with Royal Terns, a couple of Sandwich Terns had slotted in with them but there was no space for gulls, they had to stand on the jetty floor. We saw a good number of Laughing Gulls and a single Franklin's Gull with many Brown Pelicans and Magnificent Frigatebirds flying over. Just along the beach a rocky outcrop held a bunch of waders and to our great delight several Surfscreechers were present with Black-bellied Plover, Semi-palmated Plover and a few Least Sandpipers.

Masked Tityra

Lunch was served dead on 12 noon, after that we had a long siesta during the hottest part of the day. Some of the group went swimming in the pool and I think we all had a quick nap. During the break several birds were found in the grounds including Masked Tityra, Black-headed Trogon, various orioles and a troupe of Howler Monkeys.

Only half of the group turned out for the afternoon walk! So, six of us and our guide, Johan, set off on foot to find the



elusive Lesser Ground Cuckoo, we walked down the main approach track before turning off to a Mirador. Along the track we found Orange-fronted Parrots, Nutting's Flycatcher, Common Ground Dove and many birds seen already this morning.

We stopped several times during the climb up to the Mirador, finding other flycatchers including a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and a new hummer, the Blue-tailed Hummingbird. At the top the views were spectacular. We could see the salt pans, the laguna, vast areas of farmland and a huge stretch of Nicoya Bay. 'Scoping the bay we could see thousands of waders, herons, egrets, ibis, pelicans, frigatebirds and even an Osprey standing in the water.

We spent the next 30 minutes listening and looking for the Lesser Ground Cuckoo without success, so we picked up our scopes and began our walk back, just as we were leaving the mirador, the Cuckoo called!!! We quickly walked back to the Mirador and sure enough there he was sitting near the ground calling, what a great bird for the list and what a beauty too!



The Lesser Ground Cuckoo – it is a full frame picture because I could not back off any further without falling over a steep precipice

The walk back down was so much quicker, we had a spring in our step and we were in a buoyant mood, the bus was waiting for us at the bottom of the hill, we drove back to the lodge and had a nice cold beer to celebrate our find.

Dinner was at 7pm, but we called the bird-log first, we now have 310 species on the list and are halfway through the trip.

DAY 9 – WEDNESDAY 4TH MARCH 2020

ENSENADA WALK – TRACK STOP – CHOMES SALT LAKES AND SHORELINE

WEATHER: dry, hot and sunny. Top Temp 30C

Our pre-breakfast walk was a short walk in the gardens, down to the jetty and then along the main approach track. It was a beautiful morning, with a clear sky and a lovely temperature. We saw plenty of species but only two of them were new for the list. First was the Rose-breasted Becard, we saw both male and female, they have completely different plumage, and second was the Plain-breasted Ground-Dove.

Further down the track a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl showed very well at the top of a tree and another pair of White-collared Puffbirds put in an appearance. The Turquoise-browed Motmot was also well appreciated and the three species of Orioles added bright colour to the dead-looking leafless trees. A small troupe of Howler Monkeys were eating fruit on the ground at the side of the track and they didn't take the slightest bit of notice of us as we walked past them.



The view from our Cabins of Nicoya Bay and the old Jetty

A nice breakfast had to be carefully guarded because it was likely to be stolen by White-throated Magpie-Jays, they are cheeky little blighters and the staff are forever shooing them off. With packed bags loaded onto the bus we set off to our next destination, Tarcoles. The drive was about 100km south of Ensenada but we planned to detour along the way for more birding sessions.

The track to the main road is about 15km long from Ensenada and we made frequent stops to watch roadside birds. The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was a hit with the group we saw a handful of those, we also stopped for Crested Caracara and we made a stop to see a special bird of the dry forest region. We scoured an area of forest for the Long-tailed Manakin which eventually showed for all of us, what a little stunner, a male too! For our morning birding session, we stopped at Chomes Shrimp Farm. There we scanned a series of lakes and we took a walk along a beach.

Many birds were on the lakes, none of which were new species for us, but we had much better views of a lot of waders that had been a bit distant last time we saw them. It was the birds out on a sand bar that proved to be of more interest. A large group of Royal Terns also held Caspian, Gull-billed and Sandwich Terns. Next to the terns was a single Herring Gull and several Laughing Gulls. We found our first American Oystercatcher, also present was Black-bellied Plover, Willet, Whimbrel and a few herons.



The sand-bar with gulls, terns and waders

We left Chomes without seeing a single Black Skimmer which was unusual and our first dip of this species at this site (the tide was high which makes a difference). After taking lunch at a roadside restaurant we continued south and arrived at the famous Tarcoles River Bridge. Very large American Crocodiles were seen from the bridge as we walked across, there were several crocodiles, one or two were 4+ meters long.



We arrived at our hotel around 2pm and as we stepped down from the bus two Scarlet Macaws flew over us calling noisily, what a nice welcome. After settling into our air-conditioned rooms, we arranged to meet up again at 3:45pm. The hotel had wonderful gardens and included pools and a river running through it. A few species were found by some of the group, Bare-necked Tiger Heron, Northern Waterthrush, a few common species and one person photographed a Scaly-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant.

For the afternoon birding we drove up very high above the surrounding countryside. We had fantastic views over the whole area but especially looking north. We could see out to the coast and we could trace the meandering course of the Tarcoles River. Birding was very good up there, especially for raptors, even this late in the day. Dozens of Turkey Vultures were circling, we had three or four sightings of King Vulture, we also saw Broad-winged and Zone-tailed Hawks.

In the trees along the lane we found four more Scarlet Macaws which allowed fairly close approach before flying off. Other species seen were already listed, until that is, we walked into an area where we found a couple of new Wrens. Both Rufous and White Wren and Rufous-breasted Wren were seen, a Cabanis's Wren (formerly Plain Wren) also called but we never saw that one.



Scarlet Macaw – taken by Richard Pettett

Our search for the endemic Fiery-billed Aracari went unrewarded but we enjoyed the walk, the scenery and a nice array of butterfly species. We arrived back at the hotel around 5:45pm and met again at 7pm for the bird-log. Dinner was a buffet, we sat down to dinner at 7:30pm. A very large Cane Toad made it into the reception area and we could hear Bull Frogs calling from the garden, just outside my room there were half a dozen White-lined Bats hanging around when I left for dinner.

DAY 10 – THURSDAY 5TH MARCH 2020

CARARA NATIONAL PARK ALL DAY

WEATHER: sunshine all day, hot and humid 30C

Our day started with a walk around the grounds and along the lane just outside the hotel which was full of birds. The Turquoise Motmot seemed to be common, we also saw a Lesson's Motmot and our first Blue Black Grosbeak. Wrens and flycatchers popped up here and there and of course the huge Scarlet Macaw flew noisily over the hotel. It was a short walk, with about 20 species seen, we were sitting down to breakfast around 6:45am.

An hour later we were pulling into the car park at Carara. Carara National Park protects a vast area of tropical rain forest, an extensive network of trails snake their way through the forest and allow you to see a good deal of it. We spent some time in the car park looking for a Bright-rumped Atilla, it was calling none-stop from the canopy but we failed to see it.

Over the next 3 hours we walked slowly along the 'River' trail stopping to watch birds, butterflies, mammals and reptiles, it was a glorious morning with a lovely temperature although it got very warm after 10am. We started see Antbirds and Antshrikes as well as Manakins, Trogons, Tanagers and Flycatchers. The Barred Antshrike is a particular favourite of mine, we saw the stunning male, also Black-hooded Antshrike, Dot-winged Antwren and Dusky Antbird.

The Orange-collared Manakin was a favourite of the group and the Gartered Trogon sat out nicely for us. Lots of other birds appeared briefly in the scrub or the canopy, it was difficult birding and almost impossible to get



everyone in the group onto every bird. A flyover Black Hawk-Eagle was a nice find as was a flock of Costa Rican Swifts. We saw Yellow-naped Woodpecker, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, White-whiskered Puffbird, Lesser Greenlet and a couple of hummers, Ruby-throated and Scaly-breasted.

Barred Antshrike by Richard Pettett

Other wildlife seen included the Northern Ghost Bat, lots of Iguanas, the Black Ctenosaur, White-faced Capuchin Monkey and lots of very colourful butterflies. We left the forest around 10:30, it had gone quite quiet, so we headed off into Tarcoles to visit a couple of areas of mangrove swamps to look for Mangrove Vireo and perhaps the endemic Mangrove Hummingbird.

Tropical Pewee went onto the list for the first time, we saw a nice selection of flycatchers but not the Mangrove Vireo. At one stage we walked out onto the beach area near the mouth of the river Tarcoles and watched the antics of the Magnificent Frigatebirds, the pirates of the sea.

We also saw Brown Pelicans and a sandbar held many terns, mostly Royal Terns but a single Elegant Tern sat with them. One great find was that of a Reddish Egret, not in summer plumage but you could make out the reddish

colour of the neck and chest. We also watched the fishing performance of the Reddish Egret as it danced about in the shallow water with its wings extended, similar to the performance of Black Storks in Europe.

We ate lunch in Tarcoles before returning the hotel for a midday break. In the afternoon half of the group decided to stay at the hotel and just six of us left for a second visit to the Carara National Park. The going was slow at first, we picked up a few species as we ambled along the well-made paths. Orange-billed Sparrow, Turquoise-browed Motmot and Cocoa Woodcreeper went on the list first.

A Great Tinamou gave unbelievable views at the side of the path before we found a Chestnut-backed Antbird. From a bridge over a stream we watched a swarm of Green Page Moths (they look like large black and green swallowtail butterflies) and were obviously gathering to pick up minerals from the wet soil. It was around 4pm when we arrived at our target site which was a slow-moving stream with small pools, this is where a number of birds come to bathe in the late afternoon, especially manakins. We stood in silence for about 45 minutes watching an incredible collection of birds come down to drink or bathe. The Red-capped Manakin was the star, what a stunning bird, the Blue-crowned Manakin is another stunner and also put in an appearance.



White-faced Capuchin Monkey

Other birds seen at the bathing pools were Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Northern Schiffornis, White-tipped Dove and the only mammal was an Agouti. We left the pools just before 5pm and made our way out of the forest, but not before stopping to watch a Riverside Wren. Then, to our great delight, a Black-faced Antthrush walked across the path in front of us. I was at the back so I missed it but the rest of the group saw it. An amazing bird to finish off our day's birding.



Red-capped Manakin

DAY 11 – FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2020

RIVER TARCOLES CRUISE – TRANSFER TO SAN ISIDRO AT TALARI LODGE WITH STOPS AT QUEPOS – QUEPOS PALM PLANTATION – SAN ISIDRO CENTRAL

WEATHER: a few fluffy white clouds, lovely temperature on the cruise, hot and humid later. Max temp 30C

At first light we met at reception and boarded the bus, then we set off for our early morning boat cruise. It was 6am when we boarded the boat, having left the hotel 15 minutes earlier, the river was flat calm, the light was exquisite. A gentle breeze wafted across our bows as we set off down the river to the mangroves.



We didn't get too close to the very large Crocodiles

A Northern Waterthrush was one of the first birds to be called, quickly followed by Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Great Egret, Little Blue Heron, Tri-colored Heron, Brown Pelican and White Ibis. We drifted near the shore where birds were perched in riverside trees, we noted Boat-billed and Yellow-crowned Herons, also Yellow-naped Parrots, Yellow Warblers and even a perched Osprey.

As we got to the edge of the mangroves we found our first Black-crowned Night Heron of the trip and we had fabulous views of both Prothonotary and Mangrove Warblers (the latter being a sub-species of the Yellow Warbler). We searched in earnest for the endemic Mangrove Hummingbird but our guide Johan only heard one, it did not show.

The Mangrove Vireo was a different story, this bird showed very well as did the Panama Flycatcher and several Common Black Hawks. We saw a few Red-winged Blackbirds and had great views of Green, American Dwarf and Ringed Kingfishers, also there was a constant presence of herons, egrets, Spotted Sandpipers, Neotropic Cormorants and Anhingas.

On our way back the tide was a little higher and a few Magnificent Frigatebirds were patrolling the river mouth. We saw a few more waders and lots of herons and egrets. Back at the reception area of the cruise company we saw a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl before we got onto the bus and drove back to the hotel. It had been a great trip, only a couple of new species for us, but a wonderful wildlife experience that will stay in our memories for a long time.

It was 8:45 when we sat down for breakfast and just an hour later we were on our way to the next hotel. Heading south along the coast we expected to be on the road for most of the day with several small stops planned.

The first stop was at Quepos seafront where we scanned a beautiful part of the coastline for seabirds. In a rocky bay we found a WANDERING TATTLER on the rocks and out to sea we watched a couple of distant Brown Boobies and plenty of Brown Pelicans flew around or loafed on the rocks. We found a Three-toed Sloth in the palm trees around the shoreline.

A few kilometers south we stopped for lunch in a roadside fish restaurant, the portions were huge, not many of us finished our meal but it was great food. Next stop was along a beach road which passed through a Palm Plantation, Johan spotted a Pearl Kite perched high up on a dead tree. In some mangroves next to a small pond we found Boat-billed Herons. Then after a visit to the beach to look for waders we stopped in an area of open grassland nearer to the main road, there we found many species and enjoyed a nice 30 minutes or so listing some interesting new birds.

We found a male Orchard Oriole with Baltimore Orioles, Red-crowned Woodpeckers were visiting a nest hole and lower down in the grass we saw a couple of hard to find species. The first was a Pale-breasted Spinetail which showed intermittently in the grass and then a Grey-crowned Yellowthroat which showed very well sitting on top of a bush. We also added a couple of hummingbirds to the list, the first was a Charming Hummingbird and the second a Long-billed Starthroat.

Our next stop was high up in the hills above San Isidro, it was a short coffee break at a restaurant which had bird feeders. The view from the terrace was stunning, we could see for miles down to a river and across distant countryside to the Central Cordillera mountain range and the dormant volcanoes, Turriabla and Iruzu. We got reacquainted with a number of birds that we hadn't seen for a while such as, Green Honeycreeper, Blue-gray and Golden Hooded Tanagers, Tennessee Warbler, Yellow-throated Toucan and Blue-black Grassquit. A pair of Yellow-bellied Elaenias were visiting a nest in the garden.

As we entered San Isidro we stopped at a sewerage works where a couple of large open pools were covered in ducks, grebes and waders. Hundreds of Blue-winged Teal were joined by fewer Black-bellied Whistling Ducks and a handful of Least Grebes. There was also Northern Jacana, Lesser Yellowlegs and the ubiquitous Spotted Sandpiper. The sky was full Barn Swallows and Southern Rough-winged Swallows, we left there around 4:30pm and spent twenty minutes getting through the busy traffic to our final stop.

In the suburbs of San Isidro near a police training facility and just round the corner from a school we parked the bus and got out to scan a row of trees in the distance. Johan found our target bird after a couple minutes. A



TURQUOISE COTINGA what a little beauty and an obvious Aston Villa fan as it was sporting some wonderful claret and blue colours.



Turquoise Cotinga

It took another fifteen minutes to get to the Lodge where we were staying for the night, phew! It had been a long but very enjoyable day, plenty of new birds for the list. In the next five days we hope for another 80-90 species as we drive up to the high cloud forest.

DAY 12 – SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2020

TALARI LODGE GARDENS – LOCAL SITES – TRANSFER TO SAN GERRADO DE DOTA AT SAVEGRE LODGE WITH STOPS AT THE PARAMO

WEATHER: dry, hot and sunny, cloudy and chilly at the Paramo. Cold after dark in the San Gerrado Valley.

Our garden (woodland) walk at Talari Lodge produced some very nice new birds, we met at 5:45, the dawn chorus was tremendous, but the cicadas were even louder. A short walk took us to a vantage point where we could look over the river, we saw the inevitable Spotted Sandpiper on the rocks in the river and we found two White-tailed Kites perched on a distant tree. A Red-headed Woodpecker showed very well and a Yellow-throated Toucan was also seen with plenty of common species flitting about.

We followed a winding path through the woods and a few of us got a glimpse of the Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush, but this bird did not show well. Generally, the birding was difficult with fewer species in the trees than have been in previous years. A Streaked Saltator was new for the list as was a pair of Yellow-Green Vireos. We saw Mistletoe Tyrannulet, Summer and Golden-hooded Tanager and on a second walk into the woods behind the restaurant building we found Grey-cowled Crake and the beautiful Orange-collared Manakin.

Hummers were few and far between, it was very dry in the gardens with few flowering plants and trees, no rain had fallen for four months which made a difference. We ate breakfast in the lovely open plan restaurant watching a few birds from there. Riverside Wren went on the day-list with Red-legged Honeycreeper and not much else.



Fork-tailed Flycatcher – taken by Ray Marsh

Before we left, the owner of the lodge helped us try to find a resident Common Potoo, unfortunately for us this bird was not roosting in its usual place and could not be found. Just before we left at 8:30am a few hawks appeared in the sky, we saw four Swainson's Hawks and a Roadside hawk. Our visit to Talari Lodge was short but memorable, we were taking away a few new species and the experience of an earthquake which measured 5.9 on the Richter scale!!!



The spectacular Speckled Tanager taken by Richard Pettett

For the next two hours we drove around the suburbs of San Isidro and out to some nice farmland areas to look for the Fiery-billed Aracari, this rare endemic had eluded us so far. We found many species but not the Aracari. Several short walks added a few species to our list, the Lesser Greenlet was the most prestigious and it did show

well. We also saw Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher and our views of Fork-tailed Flycatcher were outstanding, this bird flew towards us and perched right next to the bus, an amazing sight.

We finally left San Isidro around 11am and headed up into the Salamanca mountain range it took 40 minutes to reach our next destination which was a small private hotel with fantastic grounds, full of flowers and bird feeders. The Bosque del Tolomuco is a regular stop for our groups and a number of hummers are the reason why, especially the White-crested Coquette.



White-crested Coquette by Richard Pettett

Flame-coloured Tanager is one of the most beautiful Tanagers, they lit up the feeders with an array of bright colour along with Speckled, Golden-hooded and Blue-gray Tanagers. Several Wilson's and Tennessee Warblers also appeared with a number of hummers, we saw Green-crowned Brilliant, Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, Scintillant Hummingbird, White-throated Mountain-gem and of course the Coquette which showed extremely well.

The sky was full of Swallow-tailed Kites and Vultures, we were hoping for an Ornate Eagle but one never turned up during our stay, so, after an hour we moved on and continued our climb into the mountains. We stopped for lunch at a restaurant which had bird feeders around a terraced walk-way and one of the most stunning views into the central valley, we could see the large city of Cartago below us in the distance.

A few hummers came to the feeders, we saw Green-crowned Brilliant and Violet Sabrewing, we also found a few warblers in the bushes and trees. The most stunning of the American Warblers has to be the male Blackburnian, what a beauty, the field guides get nowhere near recreating the magnificence of this bird, we also saw Wilson's Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler and Tennessee Warbler.

Our final climb into the mountains took us into the cloud forest habitat called the Paramo, this is a heathland type of scrub with thick undergrowth and stunted trees. We were in the clouds, it was windy and quite chilly, our main reason for being there was to see the Volcano Junco. It took us a while to find one but when we did we were rewarded with fantastic views of it.



Volcano Junco by Ray Marsh



Resplendent Quetzal

The final leg of the trip was the drop down into the hidden valley of San Gerrada de Dota, the winding, twisting road dropped us from almost 11,000 feet to 8,000 feet at the valley bottom. We saw many Sooty Thrushes along the way and a few of the group saw Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher. We stopped twice to look for the **RESPLENDENT QUETZAL**, the first stop produced Sooty-faced Finch and not much else, but the second stop was a resounding

success! We found a male Quetzal and boy did it show well, the ridiculously long tail flashed through the trees as the bird moved from one perch to another, it was absolutely superb and the group loved it.

It was almost dark as we reached the Savegre Hotel a cloud of White-collared Swifts screamed above us as we made our way to our chalet rooms. A superb buffet dinner was served at 7:30pm, thus ended another long and eventful day in beautiful Costa Rica.

DAY 13 – SUNDAY 8TH MARCH 2020

SAVEGRE LODGE AND SURROUNDS ALL DAY

WEATHER: a lovely sunny day, a little windy at times. Temp 25C

We met up at 6am at the reception area for our pre-breakfast walk in the grounds of the lodge, whilst waiting for others to arrive we saw Band-tailed Pigeon, Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher and Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush. Most of the group soon arrived, it was a good turn out, we then made our way into some woodland and into the grounds of the hotel next door. A Grey-breasted Wood-Wren showed well quickly followed by the near endemic Black-cheeked Warbler and then a Dark Pewee, also a near endemic. Flame-colored Tanager looked beautiful in the morning light and as we made our way down to the river we found Common Chlorospingus (a juvenile fledgling had crashed into a window and the parent was still trying to feed it).

Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher by Ray Marsh



We got back to the restaurant area around 7am for breakfast and by 8am we were all loading into 4*4 jeeps which were to take us up to the top of the mountain ridge. It was a beautiful morning, clear blue sky, nice and calm with clear fresh air. The forest at the top was just fantastic, a lot of very tall trees in primary forest, with huge trees all around us from where Ruddy Pigeons called, and Acorn Woodpeckers tapped on the dead branches.

We took 4 hours to walk back down to the lodge and saw a tremendous variety of species. Our first trail produced a few interesting species with Hairy Woodpecker, Tufted Flycatcher and Mountain Eleania showing well and the Black-faced Solitaire not.

We walked a second trail back towards the lodge, this trail looped into the forest, down past a stream. Along this trail we found a good number of species especially when we bumped into mixed feeding flocks. Our sightings included; Acorn Woodpecker, Collared Redstart,

Spot-crowned & Streak-headed Woodcreepers, Yellowish Flycatcher, Yellow-green Vireo, Spangle-cheeked Tanager, Ruddy Treerunner, Buffy Tuftedcheek, Yellow-thighed Finch, Large-footed Finch, Sooty-capped Chlorospingus and the star of the show the endemic Flame-throated Warbler, what a stunning looking bird! We also saw a lot of species previously recorded.



A Flame-throated Warbler taken by Richard Pettett in dark conditions

We spent a lot of time watching the flocks pass through, but we had to continue down the forest trails to the main track. A few species still eluded us, they called but we did not see them, this included Silvery Tapaculo and Barred Parakeet (flyover) the Black-faced Solitaire continued to frustrate us but we caught up with Rufous-browed Peppershrike and several other new species. We also bumped into one or two groups of Spotted Wood-Quails which showed well with a little patience.



Collared Redstart – taken by Richard Pettett

Back on the main track some of us finally caught up with the Black-faced Solitaire, we also found a small flock of Lesser Goldfinches and a Red-tailed Hawk drifted over. We got back to the lodge around 12 noon, it had been one of the best birding mornings of the trip, we must have seen 40 species with many new for the list.

We ate lunch at 12:30pm and met up again at 2:30pm for a walk to a local beauty spot, a waterfall at the bottom of the valley. Unfortunately, many other people had the same idea, so bird life was very quiet. Along the river we watched American Dipper and we found a Louisiana Waterthrush and not much else. A Yellowish Flycatcher showed well along the track and a small party of Black-cheeked Warblers was also seen. As we got back to the bus we all finally got to see Black-faced Solitaire, at last!



Our intention for the evening was to drive up to the head of the valley to look for Nightjars so we set off at 5pm to do just that. We stopped at a nest site of the **Resplendent Quetzal** and had a thrilling time watching a change-over at the nest. It is incredible to watch a male Quetzal with a very long tail squeeze into a nest hole in a tree! At least 12 inches of the tail protrudes from the hole over the top of the bird once it is settled on the nest.

At the Quetzal site some of us saw our first Golden-browed Chlorophonia and we had extremely close view of Acorn Woodpecker which was picking up grit from the track. The Nightjar viewing did not go too well, we heard several and had glimpses of them in flight and a very quick look at one perched on the telegraph wire and that was all. It was cold and rain drizzled down on us, not pleasant birding conditions.

We arrived late back for dinner and went straight into the restaurant, we missed the bird-log, but our count is now around 420 species.

DAY 14 – MONDAY 9TH MARCH 2020

TRANSFER FROM SAN GERRADO TO OROSI – WITH STOPS AT PROVIDENCIA ROAD, UJARRAS AND COFFEE PLANATATION

WEATHER: sunshine all day, cloudy later. Temp 25C



Our early morning walk produced nothing new, we walked from the reception area at Savegre to the hotel next door and then down to the river. We saw many species as usual and had good views of Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher, Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush, Slaty Flowerpiercer and a few local hummers including Scintillant Hummingbird.

Spot-crowned Woodcreeper taken by Richard Pettett

We were packed and ready to move on at 8am, so off we went. As we drove past the Quetzal nest site the inevitable happened, a Quetzal was sighted! So we all piled off the bus and had additional views of this enigmatic species. We also watched Acorn Woodpecker, Rufous-collared Sparrow and Flame-colored Tanagers.

It took 30 minutes to drive out of the valley and climb up to the main road, we then turned toward Cartago and after a few kilometers we turned onto a side-track to look for a few species missing

from our list. Timberline Wren was a prime target and we soon had that little gem in the bag, it came quite close to the side of the road and we all got glimpses of it.

Sooty-capped Chlorospingus was seen a few times and we found another pair of Resplendent Quetzals before we added Black and Yellow Silky Flycatcher to the list. We got Band-tailed Pigeon in the scope and just before we turned back to the bus we watched Yellow-browed Chlorophonia and we found the very rare COSTA RICAN PYGMY OWL, wow! What a great find.

Our next stop was at a small coffee plantation where we had a guided tour of the small holding and we were taken through the process of coffee making, the whole farm was organic, it was covered in wild flowers, birds and butterflies. We saw a few species of birds near the feeders which included Green-winged Vireo and Tennessee Warbler.

Our lunch stop was magical, we found a restaurant near the famous old town of Ujarras where we could sit and eat whilst watching a number of feeders and the most prolific butterfly garden we had seen so far. It took a while for the birds to arrive but when they did we were thrilled to see them so close.

The most amazing bird to arrive was Cabanis's Ground-Sparrow (formerly Prevost's Ground-Sparrow), what a beautiful little chap and especially exciting for me as it was the first 'real' sighting I have had of this species. We had a lovely lunch with plenty of the most colourful birds all around us.

From Ujarras we drove directly to our hotel in Orosi, we all checked in and before dinner we took a walk along the lane outside the hotel. Our first White-vented Euphonia went on the list, plenty of other birds were seen too,

White-crowned Parrots, Tropical Parula, Montezuma Oropendula, Brown Jay, Crimson-collared Tanager, Scarlet-rumped Tanager, the Barred Antshrike was a particular crowd pleaser and we saw Gray-capped, Social and Boat-billed Flycatchers, plus many more species.

Torrent Tyrannulet

A walk down by the River Perlas produced sightings of Torrent Tyrannulet and Black Phoebe but we couldn't find a Sunbittern, however we knew that they breed in the hotel grounds, so hopefully, we shall find them later. We called the bird-log at

7pm and we were supposed to eat at 7:30, but the service was so slow we didn't eat until an hour later, methinks a change of hotel may be on the cards for next year.



DAY 15 – TUESDAY 10TH MARCH 2020

TAPANTI NATIONAL PARK ALL MORNING – CACHI RESERVOIR AND TRACK – HOTEL GROUNDS

WEATHER: yet another beautiful day, sunny and warm, cloudy late afternoon. Temp 25C

Well, our final birding day had arrived, I can't believe how quickly the trip has flown by, we have seen 444 species and there are still plenty of potential new species at Tapanti National Park.

We met up at 6am, collected our breakfast packs from reception and set off for the day. We passed through Orosi very quickly as traffic was light, before we knew it, we were on the approach track to the National Park. Birds came thick and fast, the very first bird seen during our walk was the regional Endemic, the Black-bellied Hummingbird, what a little poser, he sat out nicely for us. We then found a couple of Euphonias, when White-vented popped up and the stunning Elegant Euphonia sat out for ages, we saw two males and a single female.

Black-bellied Hummingbird – taken by Richard Pettett



Further along the track a Brown-capped Vireo fed with a mixed flock of tanagers and a Tropical Parula, Slate-throated Redstart, Common Chlorospingus, Scarlet-thighed Dacnis, Green Honeycreeper and Chestnut-sided Warbler. As we neared the entrance gate we found Collared Trogon and the most beautiful White-winged Tanager, what a stunner, it made the Spangle-cheeked and the silver-throated Tanagers look plain!



The gates to the park opened at 8am just as we got there, we ate our picnic breakfast inside the main building in a small lecture room before setting off on foot into the park. The main track through the park is quite wide so when a bird is sighted all of the group had a good chance of seeing it.

Prong-billed Barbet

We walked for a couple of hours and added a dozen or so species to the list, a couple of hummers were nice finds, we saw White-bellied Mountain-gem and Green-fronted Lancebill. We found a Red-faced Spinetail building a nest, we had great views of that. A couple of times we found mixed feeding flocks, the tiny Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant appeared a few times, we saw a female White-ruffed Manakin, Rufous Mourner,

Black-faced Solitaire and had glimpses of several other species.

Walking back to the main gate was just as exciting even though it had warmed up considerably and we expected things to go quiet. Johan found both species of Barbet, The Prong-billed and the stunning Red-headed Barbets, he got a glimpse of a Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner (a bird he hadn't seen in Costa Rica), we heard Rufous-breasted Antthrush but never saw it.

Whilst watching a flock of White-collared Swifts we picked out a Double-toothed Kite, but not much else was seen in the bright blue sky above us. It was 12:30 when we left the park, we drove down into town to find a restaurant for lunch. At 2:30pm we drove up to the Cachi Reservoir which is found high above the town in the hills.

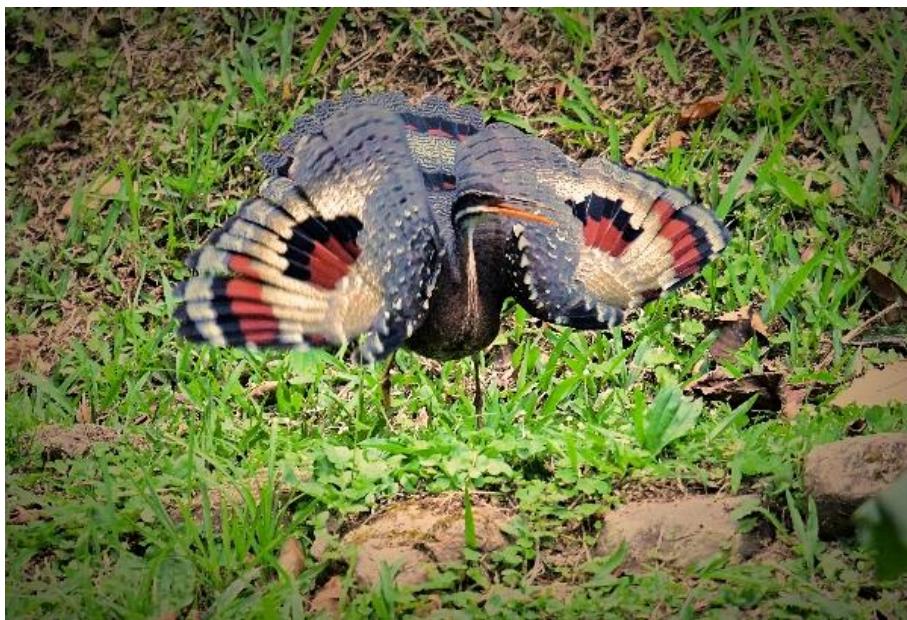
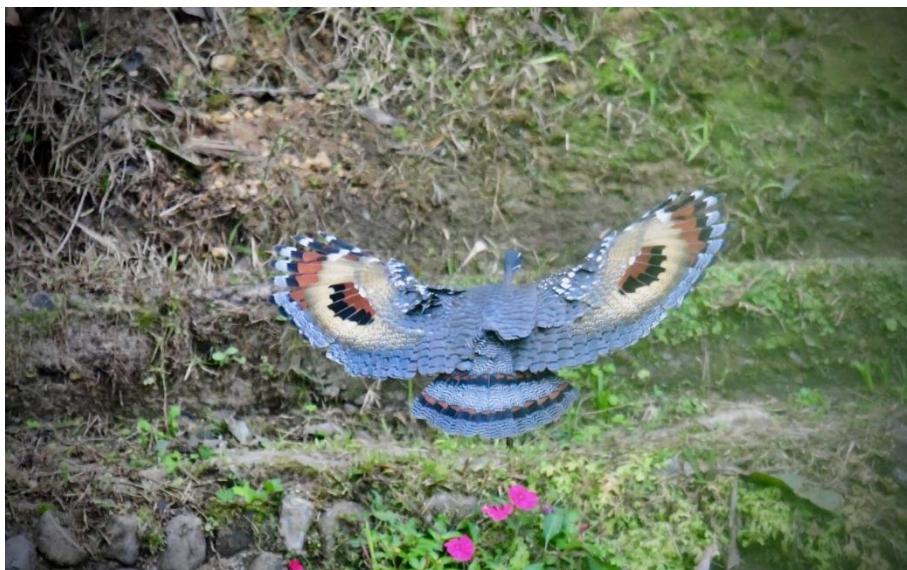
A flock of Lesser Scaup were the only birds on the water with many Blue-and-White Swallows feeding over it. Our walk down the hill along the track wasn't too eventful we only walked for about 30 minutes, it was very quiet. We picked out Blackburnian and Black-and-White Warblers, a few tanagers and not much else. So we gave up and decided to return to the hotel to concentrate on finding the resident Sunbitterns.

It was 4pm when we got back to the hotel grounds, we quickly dropped off our ruck-sacks in our rooms and made our way to a small pool behind the restaurant. In the meantime a coach had arrived and dropped off 50 teenaged American students so it was very noisy everywhere.

Johan went looking in the scrub along the feeder-stream next to the pond and came back with great news, he had found a male Sunbittern, at the same time Mervyn had found a second bird further up the stream, wow!! We watched the male as it began calling and eventually it walked up to the pond where its nest is located in the trees. We saw it make several small flights when it displays its wonderful wing pattern, what a great bird!



Sunbittern



The group were in high spirits at dinner where we made our presentations to Johan our guide and Toni our driver. We had added 15 new species to the list giving us a new total of 459 for the trip. A fine effort and a tribute to the dedication of our guide, Johan, and to a group of 12 little helpers who found some of the species. It had been a great trip with a smashing group of people who gelled really well.

DAY 16 – 11TH MARCH 2020

TRANSFER FROM OROSI TO SAN JOSE AIRPORT

WEATHER: sunny warm morning.

So, our final day had arrived, everyone was still keen to get more views of the SUNBITTERN. Breakfast was scheduled for 7am but most of the group were up at first light (6am) to look for the enigmatic bird. There was a pair of the birds at the pond and both of them continued building their nest in a tree above the pond. We had great views of both birds.

Richard Pettett captures the male offering a Frog to the female who doesn't look too interested



It was just after 8:15 when we set off for the airport, all of our optics were packed away so any further birding was not on the cards. We arrived in plenty of time for our flights, 3 of the group were dropped off at a nearby hotel for an overnight stay before flying home tomorrow.

We had encountered 468 species of birds, 15 of which we heard only and not seen. Also a terrific array of colourful butterflies, many reptiles and a host of mammals. Costa Rica is truly a wildlife wilderness full of promise.

The trip was officially over, if you have enjoyed reading this trip report and are tempted to join us next year please get in touch as bookings are now being taken for 2021.

PLACES VISITED

DAY 1 FEBRUARY 25TH	Hotel Aeropuerto gardens, transfers to Bougainvillea Hotel with stops at Freddo fresas jardin de colibries and Valle de Virgen (Cinchona - galleria de Colibries).
DAY 2 FEBRUARY 26TH	Transferred from Heredia to La Selva:- stopped at Braulio Carrillo NP, La Union (Cope's Garden)
DAY 3 FEBRUARY 27TH	La Selva and surrounds all day
DAY 4 FEBRUARY 28TH	La Selva - transfer to Arenal Lodge birding in Fortuna
DAY 5 FEBRUARY 29TH	Arenal Observatory trails – afternoon birding by Arenal Lake
DAY 6 MARCH 1ST	Cano Negra and Medio Queso Marsh
DAY 7 MARCH 2ND	Transfer to the Northwest Pacific Coast – Nicoya Bay at Ensenada Lodge – Arenal Lake
DAY 8 MARCH 3RD	Ensenada Salt Pans, Laguna and trails
DAY 9 MARCH 4TH	Ensenada walk – tracks – Chomes Shrimp Farm and shoreline
DAY 10 MARCH 5TH	Carara national park all day
DAY 11 MARCH 6TH	River Tarcoles cruise – transfer to San Isidro at Talari lodge with stops at Quepos – Quepos palm plantation – San Isidro central
DAY 12 MARCH 7TH	Talari Lodge gardens – local sites – transfer to San Gerardo de Dota at Savegre Lodge with stops at the Paramo
DAY 13 MARCH 8TH	Savegre Lodge and surrounds all day
DAY 14 MARCH 9TH	Transfer from San Gerrado to Orosi – with stops at Providencia road, Ujarras and Cristina coffee plantation
DAY 15 MARCH 10TH	Tapanti National Park all morning – Cachi Reservoir and track – hotel grounds
DAY 16 MARCH 11TH	Transfer from Orosi to San Jose Airport for flight home

WINGSPAN BIRD TOURS - CHECKLIST FOR COSTA RICA

25TH FEBRUARY - 11TH MARCH 2020

	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	TRIP	LIFER	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Tinamidae																				
1	Great Tinamou	<i>Tinamus major</i>					H	X							X						
2	Slaty-breasted Tinamou	<i>Crytorellus boucardi</i>					H														
	Anatidae																				
3	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>									X			X	X						
4	Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>									X										
5	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>									X	X		X	X						
6	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>																		X	
	Cracidae																				
7	Gray-headed Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis cinereiceps</i>				X		X	X					X	X	X		X			
8	Crested Guan	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>			X		X	X	X	X	X	X									
9	Black Guan	<i>Chamaepetes unicolor</i>										X						X			
10	Great Curassow	<i>Crax rubra</i>					X		X												
	Odontophoridae																				
11	Spotted Wood-Quail	<i>Odontophorus guttatus</i>															X	X			
	Podicipedidae																				
12	Least Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>														X					
	Columbidae																				
13	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>			X	X					X	X		X	X						
14	Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>				X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X							
	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	TRIP	LIFER	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	Red-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i>			X	X	X	X	X											X	
16	Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>																X	X		
17	Ruddy Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas subvinacea</i>																X			
18	Short-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas nigrirostris</i>					X	H													
19	Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>			X	X	X						X	X	X						
20	Common Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>										X	X	X							
21	Plain-breasted Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina minuta</i>												X							
22	Ruddy Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X		
23	White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>				X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				

120	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>										X	X	X	X	X						
	Sulidae																					
121	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogastor</i>																			X	
	Anhingidae																					
122	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>								X											X	
	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	TRIP	LIFER	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
	Phalacrocoracidae																					
123	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>								X	X		X	X	X	X						
	Pelecanidae																					
124	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>										X	X	X	X	X						
	Ardeidae																					
125	Pinnated Bittern	<i>Botaurus pinnatus</i>									X											
126	Bare-throated Tiger Heron	<i>Tigrisomo mexicanum</i>									X			X	X	X						
127	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>			X		X				X	X		X		X			X		X	
128	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
129	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>									X	X	X	X		X						
130	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>									X	X	X	X		X						
131	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolour</i>									X	X	X	X		X						
132	Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>													X							
133	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X
134	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>									X	X	X		X	X						
135	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>														X						
136	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>						X			X	X	X		X							
137	Boat-billed Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>						X			X	X		X		X						
	Threskiornithidae																					
138	White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>									X	X	X	X	X	X						
139	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadus falcinellus</i>									X											
140	Green Ibis	<i>Mesembrinibis cayennensis</i>				X	X	X			X											
141	Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>									X	X	X	X		X						
	Cathartidae																					
142	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
143	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
144	King Vulture	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>				X	X							X								
	Pandionidae																					
145	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>									X	X	X	X	X	X						
	Accipitridae																					
146	Gray-headed Kite	<i>Leptodon cayanensis</i>					X															
147	Hook-billed Kite	<i>Chondrohierax uncinatus</i>					X															
148	Swallow-tailed Kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>						X	X								X					

421	Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Setophaga pensylvanica</i>				X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X				
422	Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Setophaga virens</i>				X												X			
423	Rufous-capped Warbler	<i>Basileuterus rufifrons</i>					X														
424	Black-cheeked Warbler	<i>Basileuterus melanogenys</i>																	X		
425	Golden-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>							X												
426	Buff-rumped Warbler	<i>Myiothlypis fulvicauda</i>						X	X		X										
427	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>				X												X	X		
428	Slate-throated Redstart	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>				X															
429	Collared Redstart	<i>Myioborus torquatus</i>																	X		
	Cardinalidae																				
430	Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>				X			X	X			X	X	X	X	X				
431	Flame-colored Tanager	<i>Piranga bidentata</i>																X	X		
432	White-winged Tanager	<i>Piranga leucoptera</i>																		X	
433	Red-throated Ant-Tanager	<i>Habia fuscicauda</i>						X													
434	Red-crowned Ant-tanager	<i>Habia rubia</i>																X			
435	Black-faced Grosbeak	<i>Caryothraustes poliogaster</i>					X	X	X												
436	Black-thighed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus tibialis</i>																			X
437	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>					X														
438	Blue-black Grosbeak	<i>Cyanocompsa cyanoides</i>						H	H						X						
	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	TRIP	LIFER	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Thraupidae																				
439	Grey-headed Tanager	<i>Eucometis penicillata</i>													H		X				
440	Tawny-crested Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus delatirii</i>					X														
441	White-lined Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus rufus</i>							X	X		X									
442	Crimson-collared Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus sanguinolentus</i>				X	X			X	X	X									
443	Scarlet-rumped Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus passerinii</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X				
444	Blue-gray Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			
445	Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X				
446	Speckled Tanager	<i>Tangara guttata</i>								X							X				
447	Golden-hooded Tanager	<i>Tangara larvata</i>						X	X	X		X				X	X	X			
448	Spangle-cheeked Tanager	<i>Tangara dowii</i>																X			
449	Plain-colored Tanager	<i>Tangara inornata</i>						X													
450	Emerald Tanager	<i>Tangara florida</i>								X											
451	Silver-throated Tanager	<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>				X				X							X	X			
452	Scarlet-thighed Dacnis	<i>Dacnis venusta</i>						X													X
453	Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>					X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X				
454	Shining Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes lucidus</i>					X														
455	Red-legged Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>					X		X	X					X	X	X				
456	Black-and-Yellow Tanager	<i>Chrysothlypis chrysomelas</i>					H														
457	Slaty Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa plumbea</i>																	X		

