

COSTA RICA

2nd to 22nd DEC 2020



Bill Simpson
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Unspotted Saw-whet Owl, Volcan Irazu

TRANSPORT

AIRPORT PARKING LHR Purple Parking Park and Ride. £70 for 22 days.

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS £502 EACH. IBERIA

02-DEC LHR T5 DEP 10.55HRS (VIA MADRID) ARR SJO 20.20HRS.

22-DEC SJO DEP 17.00HRS (VIA MADRID) ARR LHR 17.20HRS



CAR RENTAL. A DAIHATSU TERIOS 4X4 from www.wild-rider.com for 19.5 days for \$780. (£580)

\$700 held as a bond in the pending area of my bank account (but was covered by the Insurance4carhire policy).

When we returned the vehicle, the return procedure was quick and easy and they drove us immediately to the airport which was only c 5 minutes away. They came recommended and were up front with all the compulsory insurances which is why we chose them. Beware of the cheaper internet prices that seem too good to be true!

DRIVING ON THE RIGHT.

Driving was fine with the usual and expected differences in driving conditions and standards. The high clearance was very helpful at times and the 4x4 came in useful on a few occasions also. Fuel was about 93p/litre for "super".

We also encountered several Police road checks which were no bother and we were always waved on.

Google Maps was more accurate with driving times than Mapsme but generally the traffic was bad only around San Jose and was slow on the winding mountain roads. A driving curfew was in place from 10pm-4am weekdays and 9pm-4am weekends.

San Jose has a alternating daily restrictions on cars related to the number plate but this does not apply to Tourists in rental cars.

MONEY, VISAS, TIME ETC

VISABritish Nationals do not require a Visa and may stay up to 90 days, although at this moment in time was limited to the duration of the purchased insurance duration.

EXCHANGE RATE£1= 800 CRC.

TIME6 hrs BEHIND GMT

SUNRISE 05.30HRS SUNSET 17.30HRS

COVID-19 Entry requirements included;

Covid Insurance for the duration of the stay covering \$50k Medical and \$2k for Accommodation. This cost \$436.80 (£328) for the two of us through Sagicor which, although more expensive than the other Costa Rican option, was a more reliable website. A **Health Pass** had to be submitted 48 hrs before departure requiring details such as: **flight No, 1st Hotel, travelling companions and seat number and also the insurance policy number.** We had a problem in that we couldn't check in for our flight online and so had to make our seat numbers up as this Health pass had to be presented for the initial check in at LHR. Other travellers had done the same and no problems were encountered. We also did this on the return to the UK.

BOOKS, MAPS, RECORDINGS ETC

LITERATURE

Birds of Costa Rica.....Garrigues, Dean.

Birds of Central America.....Vallely and Dyer would have been a lot more useful!

Where to watch birds COSTA RICA.....Barrett Lawson. (Didn't use it at all this time)

Internet Trip reports.

E-BIRD for new and current information and sites.

MAPSME to mark all sites, hotels etc accurately, and to use as a Sat Nav.

SOUND RECORDINGS

Voices of Costa Rican Birds Caribbean Slope Discs 1&2.. David L Ross Jnr.

Voices of the Cloud Forest Costa Rica.....David Ross.

XENO CANTO

EQUIPMENT

OPTICS.

LEICA 10x32 ULTRAVIDS
KOWA TSN-553 Scope.
PULSAR AXION KEY XM30

CAMERAS / LENSES ETC.

CANON EOS 5D Mk IV.
CANON 100-400mm MKII
CANON extender EF 1.4X II
B+W 77mm MRC Clear UV Haze (010) Filter
Remote Control RC-201
VANGUARD VEO 2 235CB tripod

SOUND EQUIPMENT

SAMSUNG GALAXY S6 Phone
SAMSUNG S2 GT-19100
OLYMPUS LS-14 Linear PCM recorder.
JBL CLIP Bluetooth speaker.
SENNHEISER ME66 short microphone.

LIGHTS

LED LENSER M17R
BLACK DIAMOND REVOLT HEADTORCH

TRIP IN GENERAL

SUNRISE 05:30 SUNSET 17:30

Aside from the original cancellation due to a UK National Lockdown, the trip went well and the only problem we encountered was a lack of time as usual, and a bit of bad weather. The Pacific Slope sites were pretty much dry and hot with just the odd shower and we even had a lot of bright and dry weather in the mountains, but we did get rained out at Las Heliconias. This was my third trip to Costa Rica so the Target list was both smaller and harder but I still managed to see some fantastic birds and with an extra 3 weeks could have almost cleaned up.

The COVID restrictions were hardly noticeable, just masks and frequent hand washing but the savings at hotels were 30-50% minimum usually. This was a great break from the UK restrictions and felt like a sensible compromise for a country with reduced infections.

SERGE ARIAS

Serge can be contacted at www.birdwatchingincostarica.com and can help you with all aspects of your Costa Rica or even a Central American trip. A wealth of information, Serge provides accommodation, meals and a fantastic garden with many good species coming to a feeding station right next to where you eat or sit. Try and make contact well in advance as he may be able to offer you good local and current advice and maybe help with your trip plans.

ERNESTO M. CARMEN

Contacted via the link [Get your birds | USWO](#)

Ernesto was a pleasure to deal with and a wealth of information about all the birds of Costa Rica. I would recommend contacting for likely superb views of Unspotted Saw-whet Owl without the likely hassle and disturbance of searching for yourself.

Best bird of the trip for me and a thoroughly recommended excursion.

JEISSON FIGUEROA SANDI

Contacted at; jeisson.figueroa@tropicalstudies.org tel; (506) 2773 4004 / 8648 6820

Jeisson is an exceptional guide for the San Vito area and beyond ! He has multiple sites for the regions good birds and works very hard to deliver. I only wish I could have had more time to spend with him.

SITES VISITED

*Prices are for me and the wife per night unless stated.

* BF=BreakFast Included.

*Prices were often via [Booking.com](#) with Genius level 2 discount.

SAN JOSE AIRPORT

Close to SJO Airport, we stayed one night at the [Hotel La Guaría Inn & Suites](#) in Alajuela for \$34 BF. This also included a free taxi ride to or from the airport if required.

GALERIA DE COLIBRI Y CHINCHONA MIRADOR <https://goo.gl/maps/bofzjvMsRbhuySxM9>

Found on E-bird, this site was superb for Hummers, Toucanets, Tanagers, Black Guans, Orioles, and anything else that might want some fruit. A great, cheap and tasty restaurant feeding the forest birds and also a site for **Buff-fronted Quail-dove** which after a couple of hours sneaked in for a brief show. Also close to the Volcan Poas area for that race of Volcano Hummingbird.

CARARA AREA

We stayed at the [Carara Hotel in Tarcoles 25-40k CRC](#) depending on weekday/ weekend and your negotiation skills, and should have been c50% more. We also stayed at [Cerro Lodge \\$27](#) on Booking.com although they initially wanted \$44 when we first dropped in. They are both ideal locations for the Park and also have Scarlet Macaws flying around all day. The Carara Hotel has access to the Pacific coast 100m away and Cerro Lodge has a superb covered tower overlooking forest and a fantastic coastal view. Shops and restaurants are available in Tarcoles as well as birding guides if required. The Park itself is open 7am – 4pm and costs \$11 per person and optional guides are often hanging around the car park waiting for business.

At [JACO](#) I birded the roadside eventually finding a singing **Slate-colored Seedeater** here; <https://goo.gl/maps/YQYNAZUeHdZU4CM7A>

VOLCAN IRAZU & CASA TANGARA DOWII

For convenience of Volcan Irazu access, we stayed at [Cabana Vista Verde](#) in Cartago for £31 for a self contained apartment. This was 45 minutes drive away from Volcan Irazu and my night out with ERNESTO M CARMEN locating a spectacular **Unspotted Saw-whet Owl**. It is also a good idea to stay one night nearby at [Casa Tangara Dowii https://g.page/casadowii?share](#) as the guest Of SERGE ARIAS, a great bloke who runs www.birdwatchingincostarica.com as not only does he have some great birds in his garden (notably **Buff-fronted Quail-Dove** and **Buffy-crowned Wood-Partridge**) and can provide great meals, but he can also give you invaluable current bird advice as well as provide entertainment!

SAVEGRE

We stayed at the [Cabinas El Quetzal for \\$84 BF](#) which appeared to be cheap for the area. I walked the Robles trail in Savegre Hotel grounds for \$10 on the first afternoon and also tried the Batsu Garden (Seed-eater area) feeding station, which I think you are supposed to pay for ? We ate at the Lauraceas at night which was about £10 each for a meal and a drink. The next morning I paid my \$10 at the Savegre Hotel and thrashed the small wooded area accessed from cabin 144 and over the bridge. After several hours I found **3 Spotted Wood Quail** by hearing their quiet leaf scratching and also found a **Scaled Antpitta** in the manure dump of the Suenos Del Bosque Lodge. This dump was found by emerging from the same wood and turning right down to the river.

SAN VITO AREA

A good area for several restricted birds, we stayed at **Casa Vista Linda BF** which was basically a motel with a restaurant and a superb view down to the lowlands and coastal area. From here it was a short drive down to Ciudad Neily rice fields and up to San Vito. We stayed at the **Las Cruces Biological Station \$78 BF**. I was assisted here by **JEISSON FIGUEROA SANDI** who was fantastic at getting me the required birds, **Ruddy Foliage-Gleaner** and **Costa Rican Brushfinch** at immediate notice. Jeisson is thoroughly recommended for the tricky species and an informative day out.

CUIDAD NIELY RICE FIELDS, COTO 47

A short drive down the hill from Casa Vista Linda, these rice fields and wetlands are good for several seasonal birds. I saw **Veraguan Mango** here; <https://goo.gl/maps/wd5zJ5UaVmmsQPmo9> with lots of effort and I was kindly shown where the regular **Sapphire-throated Hummingbird** was by some local birders here; <https://goo.gl/maps/xMYA7kbXUMk3Vbdk8>. The whole area is great for waterbirds and rarities for Costa Rica with recent information on E-bird.

SANTA ELENA/ MONTEVERDE

A new tarmac road all the way to Santa Elena! Stayed at Pension **Santa Elena \$40 BF**. I found out that Chiriqui Quail Dove hadn't been seen there for several months so decided to leave early for Heliconias Lodge.

LAS HELICONIAS

A site for a few tricky species, and having been here before for a few hours in 2014 we went back again as this was still the best site for Black-eared Wood-Quail. The Booking.com price was £149 but on arrival the price had gone down to **\$92 USD** so after a bit of persuasion we got the next room up for the same price. This also included free access to the trails which were normally **\$14 each/day**. The weather was fine on the first late afternoon but was blowing a gale and raining the next day which, even with a guide was an almost a complete washout.

RANCHO NATURALISTA

We stayed at **Siloe Lodge \$100/2 nights BF** as Rancho Naturalista was \$320/night (inc all meals and discounted) for the two of us. I went in on my own for \$40 (inc lunch at 12 midday) and found the required **Grey-headed Piprites** on my own rather than take a guide in for an extra \$80/morning. The guides were very friendly and informative pointing out where to look on the trail map which is where I connected eventually. A 4x4 was required for the mile long drive up off the main road to the Lodge.

BRAULLIO CARILLO <https://goo.gl/maps/ogiDT8fsBqz5pxiq9>

I managed a few hours here in the early afternoon walking the Las Palmas Trail twice at the Quebrada Bonita HQ. I didn't get a sniff of Yellow-eared Toucanet but did locate a mixed flock with 2 responsive **Western Woodhaunters**.

ITINERARY

Dec 2nd First day out of the National Lockdown and parked the car at the near empty Purple Park & Ride at c8am. Check in at T5 was rather tense as Iberia couldn't check us in for an hour and a half while one woman tried to sort out a variety of issues out including ours. This "technical" issue (couldn't find us on their system) resulted in us being issued boarding passes 25 minutes before departure and a sprint through to the departure gate. No issues in transit at Madrid, and on to the half-full flight to San Jose on time. Masks compulsory on all flights. **Arrived at 19.40 in San Jose and, as instructed, took a free taxi to Hotel La Guaría Inn and Suites in Alajuela.**

3rd Up at dawn and collected by Wild Riders and taken to their office to sort the paperwork for the car (4x4). All as instructed and then drove up to the **Galería De Colibri Y Chinchona Mirador** where we stayed for a few hours while birds whizzed around us at breath taking speed. A fantastic place to start off! Rain started and became torrential as we tried **along the road up to Volcan Poas unsuccessfully for the simoni ssp of Volcano Hummingbird**. Drove down to **Tarcoles** to negotiate a sea front room at the **Carara Hotel**.

4th Away at 05.15 birding the forest edge at **Carara till c07.30**. Breakfast, then did the **Jaco to Forest Adventures road till c 12**. Back for lunch with the wife then walked the **beach till 3.30pm**. Did a short drive to **Potreros De Ceiba near Orotina till dusk** then drove back via an atm in Orotina.

5th Out after breakfast and into Carara by 7.30am walking the loop trail but only getting as far as the start of **Quebrada Bonita due to an ant swarm 100m in from the HQ Ticket Office. Walked the road to the Tarcoles River from the Hotel in the afternoon.**

6th Up early and away to get into Carara as it opened at 7am. Went straight to the **Sendero Quebrada Bonita** and walked the circuit till c 11.30am. **Pretty quiet but located a good flock at the junction with the Sendero Areceas which eventually contained a Long-Tailed Woodcreeper**. Not as busy as the day before but still very good. Picked Helen up and drove to Cartago to stay at the **Cabanas Vista Verde** taking c 2hrs.

7th Up early and drove to **Casa Tangara Dowii** for 6am as arranged with Serge the previous night. Stayed there till c 2.30pm when we had to leave as I had to meet Ernesto up Volcan Irazu at 4.30pm. Dropped Helen off at the apartment and **met Ernesto at 4.40pm** late due to slow moving traffic. We walked through farmland to try a few different territories of **Unspotted Saw-Whet Owls** hearing a few before attracting a close bird for walk away views.



8th Up at 6am and away by 7.30 driving on to Savegre where we decided to stay at the **Cabinas El Quetzal**. I walked the **Los Robles Trail for a few hours then tried around the Batsu Garden till dusk**. Ate at the Lauraceas and did a bit of thermal scoping around the hotel.

9th Up at 5am and staked out the Batsu Seed Eater feeding station for an hour. Tried another path then went for breakfast. Straight out again where I thrashed the **small wood at Savegre Lodge eventually seeing 3 Spotted Wood Quails and a Scaled Antpitta**. Drove on to Ciudad Neily (via a flat tyre stop) staying at the **Casa Vista Linda** and winding down.

10th Up at Dawn to a singing Isthmian Wren from the balcony and drove down to do the **rice fields south of Ciudad Neily and also Coto 47**. Mixed success returning for breakfast and then on to **The Las Cruces Biological Station in the Wilson Botanical Gardens** where I walked all the trails..very quiet with few birds.

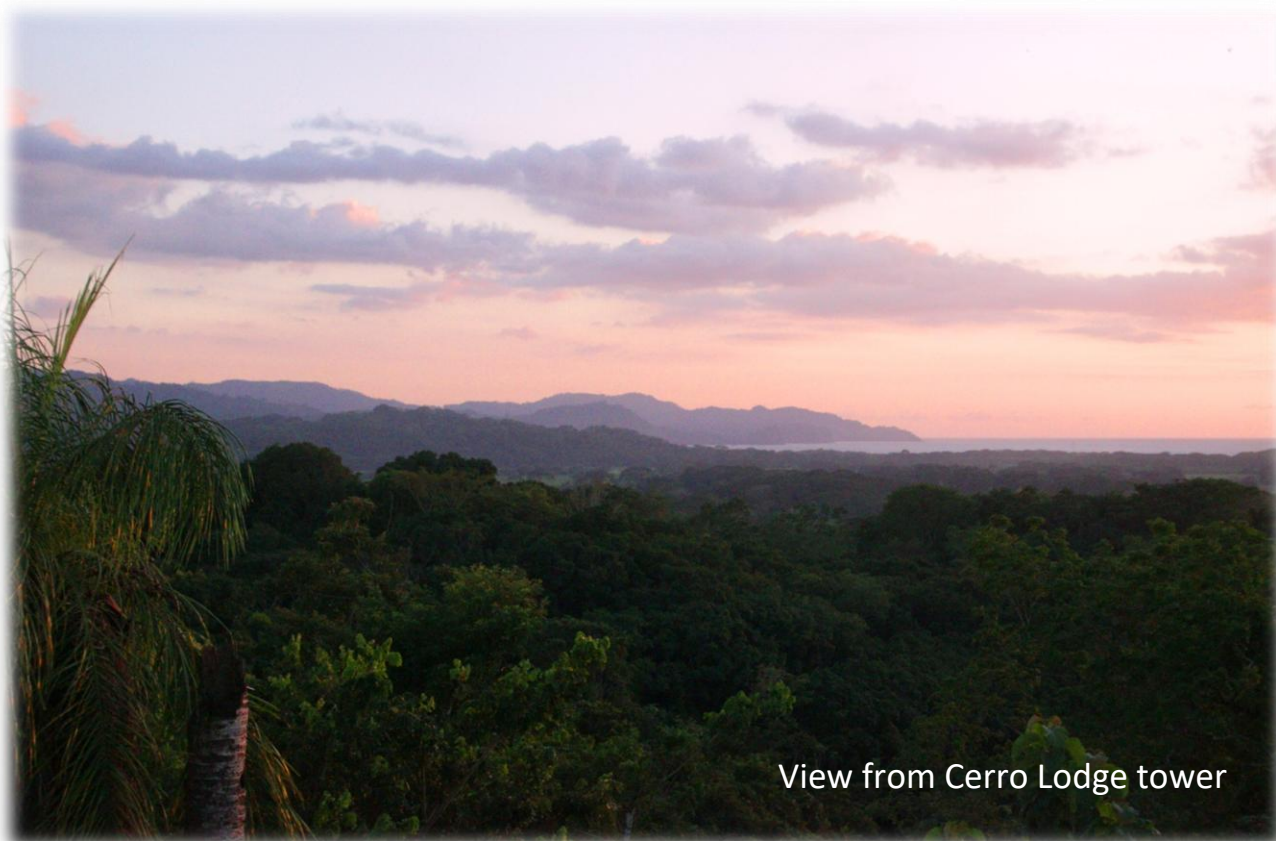
11th Up at dawn walking the gardens before breakfast. **Jeisson arrived at 07.30 unaware of my itinerary!** He swiftly planned an alternative itinerary and delivered the required species at very short notice and back at the Wilson Biological Station by 11am packed up and cleared off to stay at the **Perruja Lodge \$34**. Dropped Helen off and went back to look unsuccessfully for Veraguan Mango.

12th Up and away to the **rice fields again** spending all morning along the track south of the hospital, and at **Coto 47**. **Afternoon off with Helen walking the Golfito area.**



Cerro Lodge

13th Up and away at dawn going to a different site for Veraguan Mango. Patrolled the area for an hour before giving up and heading for the bridge area again. Spotted a Mango in an Inga tree and bingo! Watched and photod for an hour before driving back to collect the wife and drive on to **Cerro Lodge \$27** by 4.30pm.



View from Cerro Lodge tower

14th Up early and onto the **Quebrada Bonita** trail again till 1pm.



15th Away to the **Quebrada Bonita** Trail again for the morning. Drove on to Santa Elena along the new tarmac road and eventually settled at the **Pension Santa Elena \$40**. Had the last hour of light along the access road to **Curri Cancha** and then had a meal out at the Coati Restaurant.

16th Up after a hot and mozy-filled night and drove to the Curri Cancha Reserve where a local guide told me it was the Xmas count and lots of birders started arriving. He also said he hadn't seen a Chiriqui Quail dove since March. Decided to move on to **Heliconias Lodge** c 2hrs away and booked in for the night. Went on the trail to the 2nd bridge and booked a guide for the next morning.



17th Wind and rain all night and all morning! **Went out with Jorge (above left)** from 6am despite the appalling weather and saw mostly fuck all due to the weather. Drove on to stay at Atenas at **Vista Atenas B&B for \$49**.



18th **Drove on to Rancho Naturalista** in good weather being stopped in our tracks by the very expensive prices there, so stayed just west of La Suiza at **Siloe Lodge \$100/2 nights**. This was close enough to drive to both Rancho Naturalista and Silent Mountain whilst being able to eat and have a drink at nearby La Suiza.

19th Up early and spent the **morning at Rancho Naturalista in the rain and mist walking round and round the Manikin Trail until I finally saw the Piprites**. After lunch I went up for one more attempt at photographing the Grey-headed Piprites before spending the **afternoon at Silent Mountain**.



20th **At dawn at Silent Mountain till c 07.30** when I drove back to collect Helen and then drove back to **Vista Atenas B&B**. Tried locally at a few places for Buffy-crowned Wood-Quail with no luck till dusk.

21st Up early and drove on to Casa **Tangara Dowii** for the **morning before taking the diversion home to Braulio Carillo for the afternoon on the Las Palmas Trail**.

22nd Up late and packed. Got sun burnt and took the car back to Wild Riders and went to the airport.

23rd Home on time and drove back by 9pm. Great to be back in miserable UK awaiting lockdown .. wonderful!!

SYSTEMATIC LIST (IOC WILDLIFE RECORDER 4)

1. **Grey-headed Chachalaca** (*Ortalis cinereiceps*) 1 at the Wilson Botanical Gardens and about 12 on roadside wires when driving back from La Suiza to Cartago.
2. **Crested Guan** (*Penelope purpurascens*) 1 bird roosting at the Wilson Botanical Gardens and 2 at Rancho Naturalista.



Photo Helen Simpson ©

3. **Black Guan** (*Chamaepetes unicolor*) 2 birds at Galeria De Colibri Y Chinchona Mirador where photod, and 1 at Casa Tangara.



4. **BUFFY-CROWNED WOOD PARTRIDGE** (*Dendrortyx leucophrys*) 3, Dec 21st Casa Tangara Dowii. Seen on the second attempt when the family group were feeding on the seeds right outside Serge's window at c7am. The birds reappeared several times before 9am and even jumped up onto the fruit feeding area c 6ft off the ground. Superb views.



5. **SPOT-BELLIED BOBWHITE** (*Colinus leucopogon*) 15+ Dec 4th near Orotina crossing an area of short grass in dry farmland in the evening. They were quite skittish and crossed the gap quickly in pairs. <https://goo.gl/maps/nEwzEp6DNMUUpQSA9>
 A recent split from Crested Bobwhite



6. **SPOTTED WOOD QUAIL** (*Odontophorus guttatus*)
 3 birds, Dec 9th Savegre Lodge feeding quietly in the leaf-litter in the small wood accessed from cabin 144 here; <https://goo.gl/maps/a6BpeCy1fRAMnJt7A>
 The birds were very confiding and exceptionally well camouflaged and the thermal monocular worked well at locating them without flushing.



Male



Male

7. **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) fairly commonly noted in the wet areas often with lots of juvenile birds.
8. **Blue-winged Teal** (*Spatula discors*) C40 Coto 47.
9. **Lesser Nighthawk** (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) about 15 birds watched distantly from Cerro Lodge tower were probably this species.
10. **Short-tailed Nighthawk** (*Lurocalis semitorquatus*) 1 Dec 16th tape-lured in at dusk at Las Heliconias and showed fantastically in good light. A large looking and broad-winged bird with warm ginger brown underparts, a short tail and white throat crescent.
11. **Pauraque** (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) a few noted in the Pacific lowlands.
12. **Dusky Nightjar** (*Antrostomus saturatus*) several birds calling at dusk at the Unspotted Saw-whet site on Volcan Irazu.
13. **White-collared Swift** (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) a few noted with at least 40 at Coto 47. More often seen in the mornings.
14. **Stripe-throated Hermit** (*Phaethornis striigularis*) 1, Savegre and 1, Carara.



15. **Green Hermit** (*Phaethornis guy*) 3 at Galeria De Colibri Y Chinchona Mirador (male photo above) and 2 at Rancho Naturalista.
16. **Long-billed Hermit** (*Phaethornis longirostris*) 2 birds noted at Carara.
17. **Brown Violetear** (*Colibri delphinae*) a single bird at Curri Cancha by the car park flowers.
18. **Lesser Violetear** (*Colibri cyanotus*) common at Savegre, Santa Elena and Rancho Naturalista & Silent Mountain.



19. **VERAGUAN MANGO** (*Anthracothorax veraguensis*) 2+ males (and 1 imm assumed this sp by association), Dec 13th Coto 47. All the birds were found feeding at an Inga tree (and nearby) here; <https://goo.gl/maps/NJYVfHsGUSzts5EK6> . Took a while to confirm the lack of black on the males' throat in the field as the throat looked more blueish rather than green.. an effect backed up on the internet by other Veraguan Mango photos.



20. **Green Thorntail** (*Discosura conversii*) 4+ at Galeria De Colibri Y Chinchona Mirador where photod and a male at Rancho Naturalista.



21. **Green-crowned Brilliant** (*Heliodoxa jacula*) 3+ at Galeria De Colibri Y Chinchona Mirador where photod.



22. **Admirable Hummingbird** (*Eugenes spectabilis*)
• A few at Savegre where the male right was photod.

23. *Fiery-throated Hummingbird (Panterpe insignis)* Several heard only at Volcan Irazu.

24. **White-throated Mountaingem (Lampornis castaneiventris)** several birds feeding at the Hummer restaurant at Cabinas El Quetzal. Also a female on a nest just outside the main gate along the road.



25. **Volcano Hummingbird (Selasphorus flammula)** a few identified in the Savegre valley of the ssp *Sf torridus*.



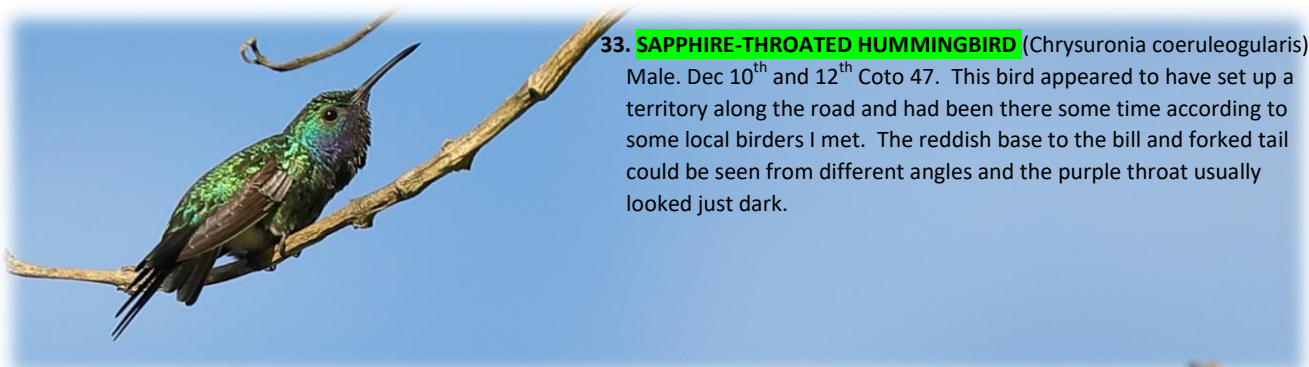
26. **Violet Sabrewing (Campylopterus hemileucurus)** 6+ at Galeria De Colibri Y Chinchona Mirador.



27. **Coppery-headed Emerald** (*Microchera cupreiceps*) fairly common at Galeria De Colibri Y Chinchona Mirador (photo above) and also noted at Santa Elena and Rancho Naturalista.
28. **Black-bellied Hummingbird** (*Eupherusa nigriventris*) a male at Galeria De Colibri Y Chinchona Mirador.
29. **Scaly-breasted Hummingbird** (*Phaeochroa cuvierii*) 1, Tarcoles.



30. **BLUE-VENTED HUMMINGBIRD** (*Saucerottia hoffmanni*) 1-3 birds Dec 4th Carara at the main gate in and the flowers around the car park. Hard to tell how many due to them zipping around. A split from Steely-vented Hummingbird.
31. **Snowy-bellied Hummingbird** (*Saucerottia edward*) a nice view of a bird hanging around the Wilson Botanical Gardens.
32. **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** (*Amazilia tzacatl*) the commonest Hummer.



33. **SAPPHIRE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** (*Chrysuronia coeruleogularis*) Male. Dec 10th and 12th Coto 47. This bird appeared to have set up a territory along the road and had been there some time according to some local birders I met. The reddish base to the bill and forked tail could be seen from different angles and the purple throat usually looked just dark.



- 34. **Smooth-billed Ani** (*Crotophaga ani*) a few family groups around Coto 47.
- 35. **Groove-billed Ani** (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) a few noted in the northern dry Pacific lowlands.
- 36. **Squirrel Cuckoo** (*Piaya cayana*) a few noted at Carara and the Wilson Botanical Gardens.



- 37. **Mangrove Cuckoo** (*Coccyzus minor*) 1 Coto 47 at the same Inga tree as the Veraguan Mangos.
- 38. **Band-tailed Pigeon** (*Patagioenas fasciata*) 1, Savegre.
- 39. **Pale-vented Pigeon** (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) fairly common in the Pacific south.
- 40. **Plain-breasted Ground Dove** (*Columbina minuta*) common around Coto 47.
- 41. **Ruddy Ground Dove** (*Columbina talpacoti*) commonly encountered.
- 42. **White-tipped Dove** (*Leptotila verreauxi*) 2 noted near San Vito.
- 43. **Grey-chested Dove** (*Leptotila cassinii*) a few at Carara.



44. **BUFF-FRONTED QUAIL-DOVE** (*Zentrygon costaricensis*) 1 Ad Dec 3rd at **Galeria De Colibri Y Chinchona Mirador** appearing after about a 2hr wait shuffling underneath the feeders on the left of the veranda. Only there for c 1minute before moving on. Brief views a few minutes later disappearing down the gully.
Up to 3 birds at **Casa Tangara Dowii** Dec 7th and 21st showing almost continuously in the mornings at about 5m range. Occasionally one would fly up to the fruit area and pose for a few seconds or minutes before dropping back down to the ground.

45. **White-winged Dove** (*Zenaida asiatica*) fairly regular along the Pacific roads.

46. **Purple Gallinule** (*Porphyrio martinica*) common at Coto 47.

47. **Black-necked Stilt** (*Himantopus mexicanus*) 30+ at Coto 47.

48. **Southern Lapwing** (*Vanellus chilensis*) often noted in the Pacific lowlands.

- 49. **Grey Plover** (*Pluvialis squatarola*) 1 along the beach at Tarcoles
- 50. **Northern Jacana** (*Jacana spinosa*) fairly common in wet areas.
- 51. **Sanderling** (*Calidris alba*) 20 along Tarcoles beach.
- 52. **Spotted Sandpiper** (*Actitis macularius*) 3 noted in all.
- 53. **Solitary Sandpiper** (*Tringa solitaria*) c10 noted in all.
- 54. **Greater Yellowlegs** (*Tringa melanoleuca*) 2 at Coto 47.
- 55. **Laughing Gull** (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) 3 x 1st years among the Franklin's on Tarcoles Beach.



- 56. **Franklin's Gull** (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) up to 200 on the beach at Tarcoles.
- 57. **Royal Tern** (*Thalasseus maximus*) up to 50 on Tarcoles beach.



- 58. **Elegant Tern** (*Thalasseus elegans*) 10+ Tarcoles Beach in with the Royal Terns and Franklin's Gulls.
- 59. **Sunbittern** (*Eurypyga helias*) 1 along the dirt road at Silent Mountain sneaked back to the river when it saw me approaching.
- 60. **Wood Stork** (*Mycteria americana*) common at Tarcoles and Coto 47.
- 61. **Magnificent Frigatebird** (*Fregata magnificens*) common at the coast.

- 62. **Anhinga** (*Anhinga anhinga*) a few at Coto 47.
- 63. **Neotropic Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) a few at Tarcoles and Coto 47.
- 64. **American White Ibis** (*Eudocimus albus*) a few at Tarcoles and Coto 47.
- 65. **Roseate Spoonbill** (*Platalea ajaja*) 4 at Coto 47.



- 66. **Bare-throated Tiger Heron** (*Tigrisoma mexicanum*) Noted at Tarcoles (photo) Carara and Coto 47.
- 67. **Boat-billed Heron** (*Cochlearius cochlearius*) 1 Tarcoles and 1 Carara.
- 68. **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** (*Nyctanassa violacea*) 6 Tarcoles.
- 69. **Green Heron** (*Butorides virescens*) c6 birds noted in all.
- 70. **Cattle Egret** (*Bubulcus ibis*) common.
- 71. **Great Blue Heron** (*Ardea herodias*) a few at Coto 47.
- 72. **Great White Egret** (*Ardea alba*) a few at Coto 47.
- 73. **Little Blue Heron** (*Egretta caerulea*) several birds at Tarcoles and Coto 47, all dark birds.
- 74. **Snowy Egret** (*Egretta thula*) several birds at Tarcoles and Coto 47.
- 75. **Brown Pelican** (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) common at Tarcoles and along the Pacific coast.
- 76. **King Vulture** (*Sarcoramphus papa*) 3 at Carara.
- 77. **Black Vulture** (*Coragyps atratus*) common.
- 78. **Turkey Vulture** (*Cathartes aura*) common at Tarcoles at least.



- 79. **Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture** (*Cathartes burrovianus*) seemed to be a few at Coto 47 when good views were had.
- 80. **Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*) 4 birds noted in all.
- 81. **White-tailed Kite** (*Elanus leucurus*) 1 bird near Tarcoles.
- 82. **Swallow-tailed Kite** (*Elanoides forficatus*) 4 near Galeria De Colibri Y Chinchona Mirador.
- 83. **Bicolored Hawk** (*Accipiter bicolor*) brief views of what appeared to be an imm making a pass at the feeders at Las Heliconias.
- 84. **Northern Harrier** (*Circus hudsonius*) a ringtail over the farmland near Orotina.
- 85. **Common Black Hawk** (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) Ad Tarcoles.



- 86. **Roadside Hawk** (*Rupornis magnirostris*) up to 10 birds noted in all. Imm left and Ad right.

87. **Grey Hawk** (*Buteo plagiatus*) 4 birds noted.



88. **Grey-lined Hawk** (*Buteo nitidus*) 1 Ad Coto 47.

89. **Red-tailed Hawk** (*Buteo jamaicensis*) a few identified of what was thought to be the migrant race in the Pacific lowlands.



90. **Crested Owl** (*Lophotrix cristata*) a roosting pair at Las Heliconias in the rain

91. **Ferruginous Pygmy Owl** (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) a few heard but only one seen at Cerro Lodge, Carara.



92. **UNSPOTTED SAW-WHET OWL** (*Aegolius ridgwayi*) 1 seen and another 1-2 birds heard, Dec 7th Volcan Irazu on the night out with Ernesto Carmen. Ernesto controlled the playback and torchwork allowing me to practice my first non-flash, night-time photos since the Long-Whiskered Owlet in Peru a few years ago. We watched and recorded the bird for a while with walkaway views. A great experience with fantastic views.



93. **Gartered Trogon** (*Trogon caligatus*) 1 ad males at Carara.



94. **Black-throated Trogon** (*Trogon rufus*) 2 females and the above male at Carara.

95. **Ringed Kingfisher** (*Megaceryle torquata*) 6 birds noted in all.

96. **Belted Kingfisher** (*Megaceryle alcyon*) 3 birds noted in all.



97. **Tody Motmot** (*Hylomanes momotula*) 1 bird at Las Heliconias found with the thermal monocular.

98. **Lesson's Motmot** (*Momotus lessonii*) 7 birds noted in all at Casa Tangara Dowii, Wilson Botanical Gardens and Santa Elena.



99. **Turquoise-browed Motmot** (*Eumomota superciliosa*) 1 at an ant swarm at Carara.

100. **Rufous-tailed Jacamar** (*Galbula ruficauda*) 6 noted at Carara.



101. **White-whiskered Puffbird** (*Malacoptila panamensis*) 13 birds in all at Carara with 6 of those seen on one day when the photos were taken at an ant swarm over 2.5hrs. They were all pre-occupied with the swarm pretty much ignored me.



102. **Prong-billed Barbet** (*Semnornis frantzii*) 4 birds on both visits to Casa Tangara Dowii giving outstanding views both times.



103. **Blue-throated Toucanet** (*Aulacorhynchus caeruleogularis*) 2+ Galeria De Colibri (photo above) 1 at Savegre and San Vito.

104. **Collared Aracari** (*Pteroglossus torquatus*)
5 birds noted Silent Mountain.

105. **Fiery-billed Aracari** (*Pteroglossus frantzii*)
3 at the Wilson Botanical Gardens (photo right)
3 between Golfito and Carara.

106. **Keel-billed Toucan** (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*)
1, Las Heliconias
6 Rancho Naturalista/ Silent Mountain.

107. **Yellow-throated Toucan** (*Ramphastos ambiguus*)
Common in the Pacific Lowlands.



- 108. **Acorn Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) common at Savegre.
- 109. **Red-crowned Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes rubricapillus*) several in the Coto 47 area.
- 110. **Hoffmann's Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes hoffmannii*) fairly common in the Carara area.
- 111. **Hairy Woodpecker** (*Leuconotopicus villosus*) 1 at the feeders at Mirians Comidas along the road down to Savegre.
- 112. **Lineated Woodpecker** (*Dryocopus lineatus*) 2, Carara and 1 Coto 47.
- 113. **Northern Crested Caracara** (*Caracara cheriway*) a few at Carara, Coto 47 and San Vito.
- 114. **Yellow-headed Caracara** (*Milvago chimachima*) common in the lowlands.



- 115. **Laughing Falcon** (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) 1, Tarcoles (photo above) and 4+ in the San Vito area. Several more heard only.
- 116. *Collared Forest Falcon* (*Micrastur semitorquatus*) 1 heard at Carara and also 2 heard from Cerro Lodge observation tower.
- 117. **Merlin** (*Falco columbarius*) imm at Silent Mountain perched up.
- 118. **Peregrine** (*Falco peregrinus*) Ad at Golfito.
- 119. **Orange-chinned Parakeet** (*Brotogeris jugularis*) several small groups noted throughout the Pacific lowlands.
- 120. **Brown-hooded Parrot** (*Pytilia haematotis*) large flocks roosting at the Wilson Botanical Gardens and at least 10 at Rancho Naturalista and Silent Mountain.
- 121. **White-crowned Parrot** (*Pionus senilis*) several birds at the Wilson Botanical Gardens coming in to roost.
- 122. **White-fronted Amazon** (*Amazona albifrons*) 2 at Tarcoles were the only birds identified.
- 123. **Yellow-naped Amazon** (*Amazona auropalliata*) common in the Tarcoles and Carara area with lots of pairs flying past the Cerro Lodge tower in the evening.
- 124. **Sulphur-winged Parakeet** (*Pyrrhura hoffmanni*) 4 birds at Silent Mountain were the only birds definitely identified.
- 125. **Orange-fronted Parakeet** (*Eupsittula canicularis*) several birds at Carara.



126. **Scarlet Macaw** (*Ara macao*) up to 30 a day at Carara where this species seems to have made a comeback in the last few years. Also several pairs and groups of pairs seen on the drive north from Golfito to Carara.
127. **Finsch's Parakeet** (*Psittacara finschi*) commonly encountered in the San Vito area and Coto 47.
128. **Olivaceous Woodcreeper** (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*) 2+ at the Wilson Botanical Gardens.
129. **LONG-TAILED WOODCREEPER** (*Deconychura longicauda*) 1, Dec 6th Carara on the Quebrada Bonita trail at the junction with the Araceas Trail. It was loosely associated with a large mixed flock containing Chiqui Foliage-gleaner, Wedge-billed and Black-striped Woodcreepers, Rufous Piha, White-whiskered Puffbird, Ochre-bellied Fly etc. Looking slimmer and longer than Wedge-billed Woodcreeper but with an obviously buffy spangled breast head and nape and with an obvious buffy supercillium and area around the eye, a bit like a miniature Spotted Woodcreeper with a plain mantle and shorter, less dagger-like bill. I had been using playback but couldn't hear any vocal response. The bird moved on with the flock. This race DI **darienensis** (Little) is a mooted split with the northern races (Northern) and southern races (Southern) but seems unlikely on current knowledge per BOTW which states; *"Some authorities have suggested that the first-named population (darienensis) which is disjunct, smaller sized, and has more distinct spot-like markings below, merits specific status, but this proposal has yet to accrue much support, in part because three song types, each with a geographical basis, are known within the species as whole"*.



130. **Tawny-winged Woodcreeper** (*Dendrocincla anabatina*) 8 birds noted in all with the bird above showing well at an ant swarm at Carara. Also noted at San Vito, Rancho Naturalista and Braulio Carillo.



131. **Wedge-billed Woodcreeper** (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) several at Carara (above left), Rancho Naturalista and Braullio Carillo.

132. **Northern Barred Woodcreeper** (*Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*) 4 birds noted in all at Carara with 2 of those low down at an ant swarm (above right).



133. **Cocoa Woodcreeper** (*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*) 1 identified at Carara (above left).

134. **Spotted Woodcreeper** (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*) 1+, Braullio Carillo (above right).

- 135. **Black-striped Woodcreeper** (*Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*) 2+ at Carara.
- 136. **Streak-headed Woodcreeper** (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*) 4 noted at Carara.
- 137. **Spot-crowned Woodcreeper** (*Lepidocolaptes affinis*) 1, Savegre.
- 138. **Plain Xenops** (*Xenops minutus*) 1, Carara.
- 139. **Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner** (*Anabacerthia variegaticeps*) 1+, west of San Vito out with Jeisson.
- 140. **Lineated Foliage-gleaner** (*Syndactyla subalaris*) 2+, west of San Vito out with Jeisson.
- 141. **RUDDY FOLIAGE-GLEANER** (*Clibanornis rubiginosus*) 1 seen and c6 heard, Dec 11th at a site west of San Vito out with Jeisson. Very difficult to see in the dark dense secondary growth where the birds were calling from but by using the thermal monocular I was able to position myself and concentrate on the exact spot where it was. After several hours of near misses I got a great view of the whole bird sat motionless in the open through a narrow window of vegetation.
Ssp fumosus grouped with the "Rusty" group if split per BOTW.



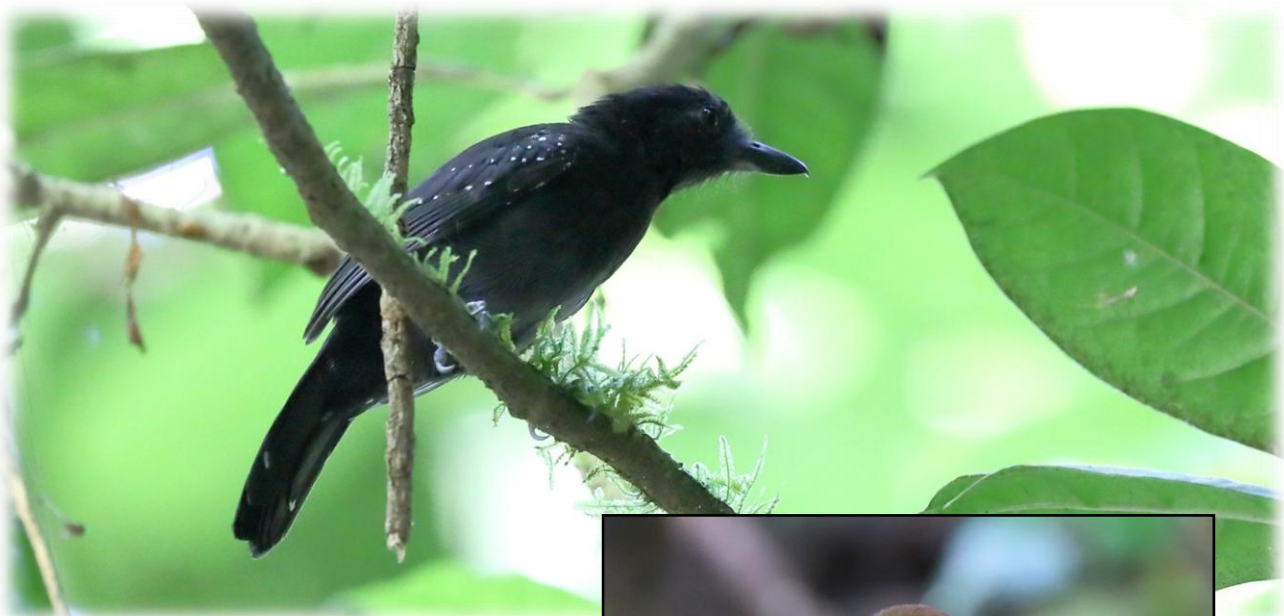
- 142. **Chiriqui Foliage-gleaner** (*Automolus exsertus*) 3+ birds at Carara.
- 143. **WESTERN WOODHAUNTER** (*Automolus virgatus*) 2 (pair?), Dec 21st Braullio Carillo tape lured in from a mixed flock on the Las Palmas Trail in the afternoon. The birds shot in to scald me a few metres away for about 20 seconds before disappearing off with the flock.
- 144. **Spotted Barbtail** (*Premnoplex brunnescens*) 1 west of San Vito out with Jeisson (photo right).



- 145. **Red-faced Spinetail** (*Cranioleuca erythrops*) several in the forest in a mixed flock west of San Vito out with Jeisson.
- 146. **Pale-breasted Spinetail** (*Synallaxis albenscens*) 1 seen at Coto 47 along a bare fence line along the edge of a field.
- 147. **Russet Antshrike** (*Thamnistes anabatinus*) 2, Rancho Naturalista and 1+ Braullio Carillo all in with a mixed species flock.
- 148. **Dot-winged Antwren** (*Microrhopias quixensis*) about 10 birds seen at Carara.



- 149. **Streak-crowned Antwren** (*Dysithamnus striaticeps*) 2 birds at Carara.
- 150. **Barred Antshrike** (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) a single bird at a Carara ant swarm.



- 151. **Black-hooded Antshrike** (*Thamnophilus bridgesi*) c12 birds at Carara often quite low down and usually very approachable.
- 152. **Bicolored Antbird** (*Gymnopithys bicolor*) 2 birds at the ant swarm at Carara. The bird photod (right) showed a lot of dark brown on the central underparts which was puzzling.





153. **Chestnut-backed Antbird** (*Poliocrania exsul*) common at Carara and often singing.



154. **SCALED ANTPITTA** (*Grallaria guatemalensis*) 1, Dec 9th Savegre next to their sewage treatment area. Found with the thermal monocular as a small heat signature of just the head. The bird then hopped up into full view when I lifted my bins and then dropped into a small gully. It was easy to relocate with the monocular and was then watched for about 10 minutes before hopping out of view.....Magic !

155. **Streak-chested Antpitta** (*Hylopezus perspicillatus*) 1, Carara close to the path along the Quebrada Bonita.



156. **GREY-HEADED PIPRITES** (*Piprites griseiceps*) Male, Dec 19th Rancho Naturalista. The bird had been present for several months and was apparently often to be found associating with a mixed flock circulating around the Manakin Trail and the valley it passes through. I started looking at dawn and heard it calling a few times at 08.30 but was unable to locate it. After pacing the trails around the valley in the rain I finally caught up with the same flock again and it was then the second bird I saw. Watched for about 10 seconds at eye level about 15m away. Very distinctive being essentially dull green above and paler more yellowish below. It showed a rounded, contrastingly grey head with a very large, dark round eye and broad, obvious white orbital ring which gave it a cute, almost Trogon or even Broadbill-like expression as it slowly moved its head around. The dark bill was thick and stubby and Manakin-like. When it flew off away from me I got a flash of paler yellowish streaks from the tertials.
157. **Yellow-bellied Elaenia** (*Elaenia flavogaster*) a few at Coto 47.
158. **Mountain Elaenia** (*Elaenia frantzii*) 1-2 birds at Casa Tangara Dowii.
159. **Mistletoe Tyrannulet** (*Zimmerius parvus*) heard frequently at Carara and around San Vito where 2 were watched collecting moss.
160. **Olive-striped Flycatcher** (*Mionectes olivaceus*) 1, Las Heliconias.
161. **Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** (*Mionectes oleagineus*) common at Carara and 1 at Golfito.
162. **Slaty-capped Flycatcher** (*Leptopogon superciliaris*) 1+ Rancho Naturalista along the Manakin Trail with the main feeding flock.



163. **Northern Bentbill** (*Oncostoma cinereigulare*) 3 birds seen at Carara.
164. *Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant (Lophotriccus pileatus)* heard several times but not seen.
165. **Common Tody-flycatcher** (*Todirostrum cinereum*) 2, Carara and 1 Golfito.
166. *Black-headed Tody-flycatcher (Todirostrum nigriceps)* 1 heard up the canopy at Las Heliconias.



167. **Eye-ringed Flatbill** (*Rhynchocyclus brevirostris*) 1, Carara.

168. **Yellow-olive Flatbill** (*Tolmomyias sulphureus*) 2, Carara with 1 at the HQ gate.

169. **Northern Tufted Flycatcher** (*Mitrephanes phaeocercus*) 1, Savegre.



170. **Yellowish Flycatcher** (*Empidonax flavescens*) 2, Savegre.

171. **Social Flycatcher** (*Myiozetetes similis*) common.

172. **Grey-capped Flycatcher** (*Myiozetetes granadensis*) 1, Silent Mountain.

173. **Great Kiskadee** (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) common.



174. **Streaked Flycatcher** (*Myiodynastes maculatus*) 1, Coto 47.

175. **Boat-billed Flycatcher** (*Megarynchus pitangua*) 1 heard near San Vito and commonly heard at Rancho Naturalista.

176. **Tropical Kingbird** (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) very common.

177. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus forficatus*) a few at Jaco rice fields and several groups at Coto 47.

178. **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus savana*) 13 birds noted at Coto 47.



Rufous Mourner



Rufous Piha

179. **Rufous Mourner** (*Rhytipterna holerythra*) 2 birds at Carara (1 above left) on the edge of a large mixed flock. Note slimmer bill with more extensive and pinker bill base. Larger looking and a flatter head profile and shorter primary projection than the Rufous Piha (above right). The birds were also noticeably smaller and less robust looking in the field.

180. **Rufous Piha** (*Lipaugus unirufus*) 1+, Carara (above right) at the same place as the Rufous Mourners above but the day after. This bird was confirmed by tape lure. Note the thicker, more thrush-like bill, proportionately smaller looking, less flat head profile and longer primary projection. This bird appeared noticeably larger and less deep rufous in the field.



181. **Blue-crowned Manakin** (*Lepidothrix coronata*) a few heard but only 2 males seen, 1 at Carara and 1 at the Wilson Botanical Gardens where the photo was taken.

182. **Sulphur-rumped Myiobius** (*Myiobius sulphureipygius*) 2 at Carara.

183. **Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher** (*Terenotriccus erythrurus*) 1, Carara.

184. **Masked Tityra** (*Tityra semifasciata*) several noted.

185. **Barred Becard** (*Pachyrhamphus versicolor*) a colourful female west of San Vito out with Jeisson.



186. **White-winged Becard** (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*) 2, Carara.

187. **Yellow-throated Vireo** (*Vireo flavifrons*) 1, Carara.



188. **Yellow-winged Vireo** (*Vireo carmioli*) 2+, on the Robles Trail at Savegre.

189. **Brown-capped Vireo** (*Vireo leucophrys*) 1, near San Vito.

190. **Philadelphia Vireo** (*Vireo philadelphicus*) 1, Curri Cancha near Santa Elena.

191. **Lesser Greenlet** (*Hylophilus decurtatus*) 5 birds noted in all at Carara.

192. **Black-chested Jay** (*Cyanocorax affinis*) 1, west of San Vito out with Jeisson.

193. **Brown Jay** (*Psilorhinus morio*) noted regularly, usually in small noisy gangs.

194. **White-throated Magpie-jay** (*Calocitta formosa*) 2 birds noted near Santa Elena.

195. **Mangrove Swallow** (*Tachycineta albilinea*) a few birds noted in the Pacific lowlands.

196. **Grey-breasted Martin** (*Progne chalybea*) a few roadside birds at Coto 47.

197. **Blue-and-white Swallow** (*Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*) common throughout.

198. **Cliff Swallow** (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) several noted at Coto 47.



199. **Rufous-backed Wren** (*Campylorhynchus capistratus*) common around Carara, Tarcoles etc. noisy pairs calling loudly in the morning and attacking themselves in the mirror at Cerro Lodge.

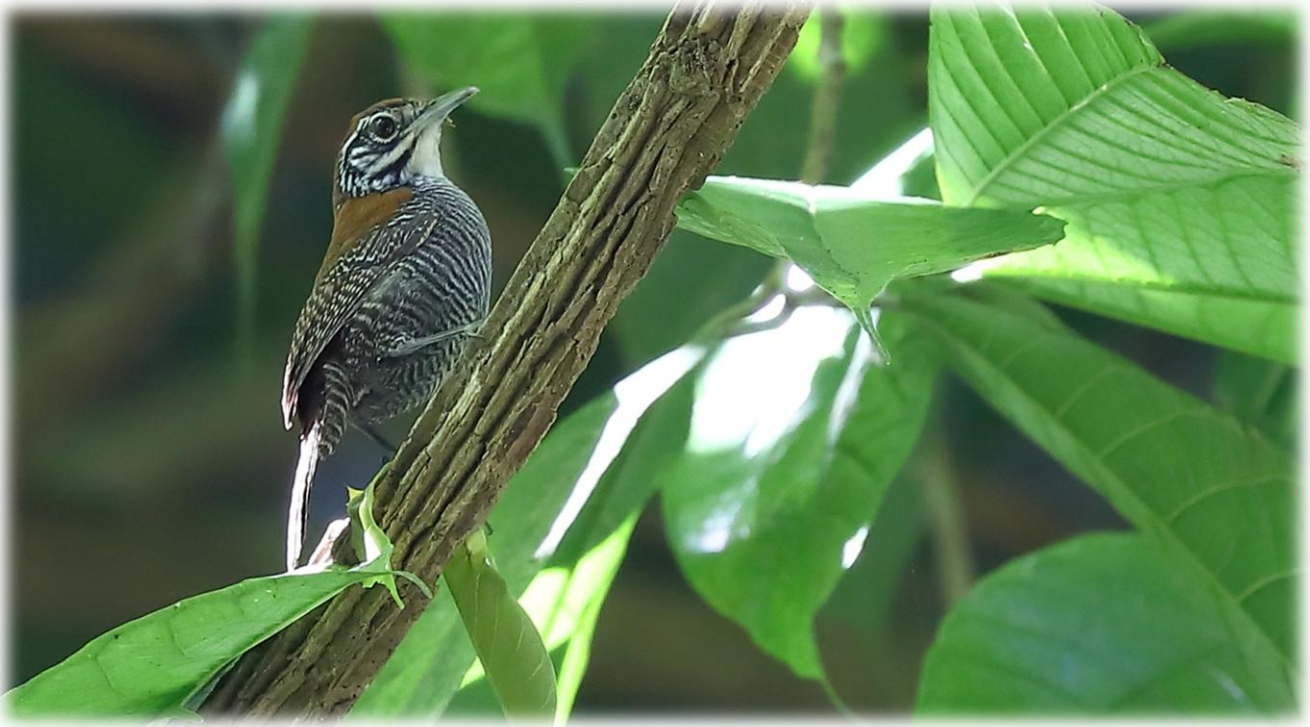
200. **Rufous-breasted Wren** (*Pheugopedius rutilus*) 2 Carara and 6 at the Wilson Botanical Gardens.



201. **Rufous-and-white Wren** (*Thryophilus rufalbus*) 3, Carara.



202. **ISTHMIAN WREN** (*Cantorchilus elutus*) 4, Dec 10th from the balcony of Casa Vista Linda, near Ciudad Neily. Also several more down at Coto 47 in the ditch vegetation.



203. **Riverside Wren** (*Cantorchilus semibadius*) easy to see at Carara and Coto 47 where there were small gangs of scolding birds.

204. **House Wren** (*Troglodytes aedon*) several noted



205. **NORTHERN NIGHTINGALE-WREN** (*Microcerculus philomela*) 1 seen and another 2 heard only. Dec 16th Las Heliconias.

206. **Trilling Gnatwren** (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) 1, Carara.

207. **Tropical Mockingbird** (*Mimus gilvus*) a few noted.

208. **Black-faced Solitaire** (*Myadestes melanops*) 1 Savegre.

209. **Orange-billed Nightingale-thrush** (*Catharus aurantirostris*)
1 dead at Santa Elena outside the supermarket early am
Photo right.

210. **Ruddy-capped Nightingale-thrush** (*Catharus frantzii*)
3, Savegre.



211. **Swainson's Thrush** (*Catharus ustulatus*) 1, Carara.



212. **Wood Thrush** (*Hylocichla mustelina*) 1, Las Heliconias.

213. **Mountain Thrush** (*Turdus plebejus*) 1 Casa Tangara Dowii and 4+ Savegre.



214. **Clay-colored Thrush** (*Turdus grayi*) common.

215. **Lesser Goldfinch** (*Spinus psaltria*)
a few noted at the upper elevations.

216. **Spot-crowned Euphonia** (*Euphonia imitans*)
2 at the Wilson Botanical Gardens (right).

217. **Tawny-capped Euphonia** (*Euphonia anaeae*)
2, Braulio Carillo.





218. **Common Bush Tanager** (*Chlorospingus flavopectus*) common at Casa Tangara Dowii being present almost continually.



219. **Stripe-headed Sparrow** (*Peucaea ruficauda*) 5 birds noted in the dry farmland near Orotina.



220. **Grasshopper Sparrow** (*Ammodramus savannarum*) 1, Dec 10th Coto 47, apparently a rare wintering visitor.

221. **Black-striped Sparrow** (*Arremonops conirostris*) 1, Coto 47 along the dirt road south of Ciudad Neily Hospital.
222. **COSTA RICAN BRUSHFINCH** (*Arremon costaricensis*) 1, Dec 11th west of San Vito out with Jeisson at the same area as the Ruddy Foliage-gleaners. A tiny use of playback brought a responding bird straight into a dense tangle and was then located with the thermal monocular. This really useful bit of kit allowed me to get quickly into a position with a clear view of it singing for a minute or so. We then decided to leave it alone.
223. **Orange-billed Sparrow** (*Arremon aurantirostris*) fairly common by voice and often seen rummaging through the leaf litter at Carara and Rancho Naturalista.



224. **Chestnut-capped Brushfinch** (*Arremon brunneinucha*) several noted at Galeria De Colibri, Casa Tangara Dowii and Savegre.
225. **Rufous-collared Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia capensis*) common.



226. **Large-footed Finch** (*Pezopetes capitalis*) 2 birds at Mirians Comida on the road down to Savegre.
227. **White-naped Brushfinch** (*Atlapetes albinucha*) 1, Casa Tangara Dowii.



228. **Yellow-thighed Finch** (*Atlapetes tibialis*) at least 4 birds usually in attendance at Casa Tangara Dowii and 4 seen at Savegre.



229. **Eastern Meadowlark** (*Sturnella magna*) 2 birds at Jaco (photo) and common in the farmland west of Orotina when looking for Spot-bellied Bobwhites.



230. **Red-breasted Blackbird** (*Leistes militaris*) a few in the farmland on route to Galeria De Colibri and at Coto 47.

- 231. **Chestnut-headed Oropendola** (*Psarocolius wagleri*) several birds noted.
- 232. **Montezuma Oropendola** (*Psarocolius montezuma*) a few birds noted with Rancho Naturalista giving the best views.
- 233. **Scarlet-rumped Cacique** (*Cacicus microrhynchus*) 2 Braullio Carillo on the edge of a mixed species flock.
- 234. **Streak-backed Oriole** (*Icterus pustulatus*) 2 birds at Tarcoles in the Hotel garden.



- 235. **Baltimore Oriole** (*Icterus galbula*) common and often at all the feeding stations such as the ad male above at Galeria De Colibri.
- 236. **Giant Cowbird** (*Molothrus oryzivorus*) several at Coto 47.
- 237. **Great-tailed Grackle** (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) very common.
- 238. **Northern Waterthrush** (*Parkesia noveboracensis*) 2, Carara.
- 239. **Golden-winged Warbler** (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) 3, Wilson Botanical Gardens and 2 birds at Rancho Naturalista.
- 240. **Prothonotary Warbler** (*Protonotaria citrea*) 2 Tarcoles.



- 241. **Tennessee Warbler** (*Leiothlypis peregrina*) fairly common and usually at most feeding stations.
- 242. **Tropical Parula** (*Setophaga pitiayumi*) 2 Silent Mountain.

- 243. **Blackburnian Warbler** (*Setophaga fusca*) several noted west of San Vito.
- 244. **Yellow Warbler** (*Setophaga aestiva*) several birds noted at Carara and Coto 47.
- 245. **Chestnut-sided Warbler** (*Setophaga pensylvanica*) regularly noted.
- 246. **Black-throated Green Warbler** (*Setophaga virens*) 1+ Savegre.
- 247. **Buff-rumped Warbler** (*Myiothlypis fulvicauda*) up to 4 at Carara and 1 at Braullio Carillo.
- 248. **Rufous-capped Warbler** (*Basileuterus rufifrons*) 2 noted.
- 249. **Black-cheeked Warbler** (*Basileuterus melanogenys*) 6 together in a flock at Savegre.
- 250. **Golden-crowned Warbler** (*Basileuterus culicivorus*) 4 at Braullio Carillo.
- 251. **Wilson's Warbler** (*Cardellina pusilla*) 3 males noted in all.
- 252. **Slate-throated Whitestart** (*Myioborus miniatus*) two singles at Casa Tangara Dowii.
- 253. **Collared Whitestart** (*Myioborus torquatus*) common at Savegre.



- 254. **Flame-colored Tanager** (*Piranga bidentata*) fairly regular at feeding stations such as at Casa Tangara Dowii, Savegre area.
- 255. **Summer Tanager** (*Piranga rubra*) a few near San Vito and Las Heliconias.
- 256. **Carmioli's Tanager** (*Chlorothraupis carmioli*) 5 birds at Las Heliconias.



- 257. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) male, Batsu Gardens near Savegre

258. **Blue-black Grosbeak** (*Cyanoloxia cyanoides*) females at Carara and Las Heliconias.



259. **Green Honeycreeper** (*Chlorophanes spiza*) several in the Wilson Botanical Gardens.

260. **Red-legged Honeycreeper** (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) 4 at the Galeria De Colibri Y Chinchona Mirador.

261. **Buff-throated Saltator** (*Saltator maximus*) 5 birds seen in all.

262. **Bananaquit** (*Coereba flaveola*) 1 at Galeria De Colibri and common at the Wilson Botanical Gardens.

263. **Yellow-faced Grassquit** (*Tiaris olivaceus*) 1 Cartago and 2 near San Vito.

264. **Blue-black Grassquit** (*Volatinia jacarina*) abundant.



265. **Grey-headed Tanager** (*Eucometis penicillata*) 2 noted at Carara at an ant swarm.

266. **White-shouldered Tanager** (*Loriotus luctuosus*) common at Carara often in small single species groups.

267. **Tawny-crested Tanager** (*Tachyphonus delatrii*) about 10 birds at Braullio Carillo.

268. **Scarlet-rumped Tanager** (*Ramphocelus passerinii*) commonly noted. A recent lump of Cherrie's and Passerini's Tanager.

269. **Morelet's Seedeater** (*Sporophila moreletii*) 10 birds at Jaco rice fields and common at Coto 47.



270. **Variable Seedeater** (*Sporophila corvina*) common at Coto 47.

271. **Yellow-bellied Seedeater** (*Sporophila nigricollis*) 1 bird noted.



272. **SLATE-COLORED SEEDEATER** (*Sporophila schistacea*) A singing, dark-billed bird, Dec 4th Jaco. I had been told to look in the cut rice fields which I did for several hours with no luck. I heard a bird singing here; <https://goo.gl/maps/QiQ2aPX3Y3QaDcj6> as soon as I stopped the car and found it by the small stream. I assumed the dull greyish colour lacking the blue tone and black bill indicated an immature male.

273. **Slaty Flowerpiercer** (*Diglossa plumbea*) single birds noted at Galeria De Colibri, Casa Tangara Dowii and Savegre.

274. **Speckled Tanager** (*Ixothraupis guttata*) 2 at the Wilson Botanical Gardens.

275. **Blue-grey Tanager** (*Thraupis episcopus*) regular at the feeding stations.

276. **Palm Tanager** (*Thraupis palmarum*) a few at some feeding stations.

- 277. **Golden-hooded Tanager** (*Stilpnia larvata*) several in the Wilson Botanical Gardens.
- 278. **Spangle-cheeked Tanager** (*Tangara dowii*) 1, Casa Tangara Dowii and 1 near the Batsu Garden at Savegre.
- 279. **Bay-headed Tanager** (*Tangara gyrola*) 2 at Carara.
- 280. **Silver-throated Tanager** (*Tangara icterocephala*) lots of birds and usually at feeding stations.

MAMMALS



Hoffmann's two-toed sloth (*Choloepus hoffmanni*) 2, Las Heliconias.

Panamanian white-faced capuchin (*Cebus imitator*) several groups at Carara and Cerro Lodge.



Central American squirrel monkey (*Saimiri oerstedii*) a large group at Perruja Lodge came in to feed on bananas in the evening.

Mantled howler (*Alouatta palliate*) several at Carara and a few other sites.

Geoffroy's spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*) 3 at Carara.

Central American agouti (*Dasyprocta punctata*) common and approachable at Carara and the Wilson Botanical Gardens.

Variegated squirrel (*Sciurus variegatoides*) 2 at Carara.

White-nosed coati (*Nasua narica*) noted in Carara and Curri Cancha access road.

Common raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) 1, Savegre.



Tayra (*Eira Barbara*) 3-4 at Savegre grunting their way up a large tree.

REPTILES



Eyelash Pit Viper (*Bothriechis schlegelii*) 1 Dec 16th Las Heliconias.



Delicate ameiva or Delicate whiptail (*Holcosus leptophrys*) common at Carara.

NEW SPECIES

BOLD UPPERCASE are Central American Endemics.

1. **Buffy-crowned Wood-Partridge** (*Dendrortyx leucophrys*)
2. **Spot-Bellied Bobwhite** (*Colinus leucopogon*)
3. **Spotted Wood-Quail** (*Odontophorus guttatus*)
4. **VERAGUAN MANGO** (*Anthracothorax veraguensis*)
5. **BLUE-VENTED HUMMINGBIRD** (*Saucerottia hoffmanni*)
6. **Sapphire-throated Hummingbird** (*Chrysuronia coeruleogularis*)
7. **BUFF-FRONTED QUAIL-DOVE** (*Zentrygon costaricensis*)
8. **Unspotted Saw-whet Owl** (*Aegolius ridgwayi*)
9. **LONG-TAILED WOODCREEPER** (*Deconychura longicauda* **typica**)
10. **RUDDY FOLIAGE-GLEANER** (*Clibanornis rubiginosus fumosus*) **RUSTY FOLIAGE GLEANER**
11. **WESTERN WOODHAUNTER** (*Automolus virgatus*)
12. **Scaled Antpitta** (*Grallaria guatimalensis princeps*)
13. **GREY-HEADED PIPRITES** (*Piprites griseiceps*)
14. **ISTHMIAN WREN** (*Cantorchilus elutus*)
15. **Northern Nightingale-Wren** (*Microcerculus philomela*)
16. **COSTA RICAN BRUSHFINCH** (*Arremon costaricensis*)
17. **Slate-colored Seedeater** (*Sporophila schistacea*)