

**TROPICAL BIRDING** 

A [Tropical Birding](#) SET DEPARTURE tour

# Costa Rica: The Introtour

July 15 - 25, 2018

**Tour Leader: Scott Olmstead**



Our incredible **Sunbittern** sighting at La Selva was one of the top highlights of the trip. (Photo: Scott Olmstead)

## INTRODUCTION

Our July 2018 departure of the Costa Rica Introtour was another successful trip, but not without some unexpected surprises! We once again did well with many of the most sought-after birds in Central America, including Three-wattled Bellbird, Resplendent Quetzal, Great Green and Scarlet Macaws, Keel-billed Toucan, Pale-billed Woodpecker, and Lesser Ground-Cuckoo. Excellent sightings of rarely-seen species like Chiriquí Quail-Dove, Collared Forest-

Falcon, and Spotted Wood-Quail added daily excitement. And we had great success with dozens of Costa Rican-Panamanian shared endemics such as Baird's Trogon, Fiery-throated Hummingbird, Riverside Wren, Dusky Nightjar, Black-and-yellow Silky-flycatcher, and even the newly split Chiriquí Foliage-gleaner.

Unusually heavy rains falling on the Caribbean half of the country meant we got to experience a true rainforest downpour firsthand, and weather-related damage to the roads caused us to improvise with birding sites and travel routes during the first few days of the trip. However our positive and good-natured group was unfazed by these minor hiccups, which were easily offset by the continuous parade of lifers. Of course the superb Costa Rica cuisine and welcome company of our knowledgeable and friendly driver Luis didn't hurt! Finally, the non-bird wildlife was brilliant as well: we had close encounters with three monkey species, both sloth species, White-nosed Coati, and Collared Peccary, among other mammals, and the frogging was sensational in and around Carara National Park.

#### **TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE TOUR** (as voted by the group)

- 1. Three-wattled Bellbird – Monteverde**
- 2. Sunbittern – La Selva**
- 3. Great Tinamou – Carara**
- 4. Chiriquí Quail-Dove – Monteverde**
- 5. Spotted Wood-Quail – Savegre**

Lightning struck twice when we had not one but two sightings of the elegant and elusive **Chiriquí Quail-Dove** at the Curi-Cancha Reserve in Monteverde. (Photo: Alex Cardona.)

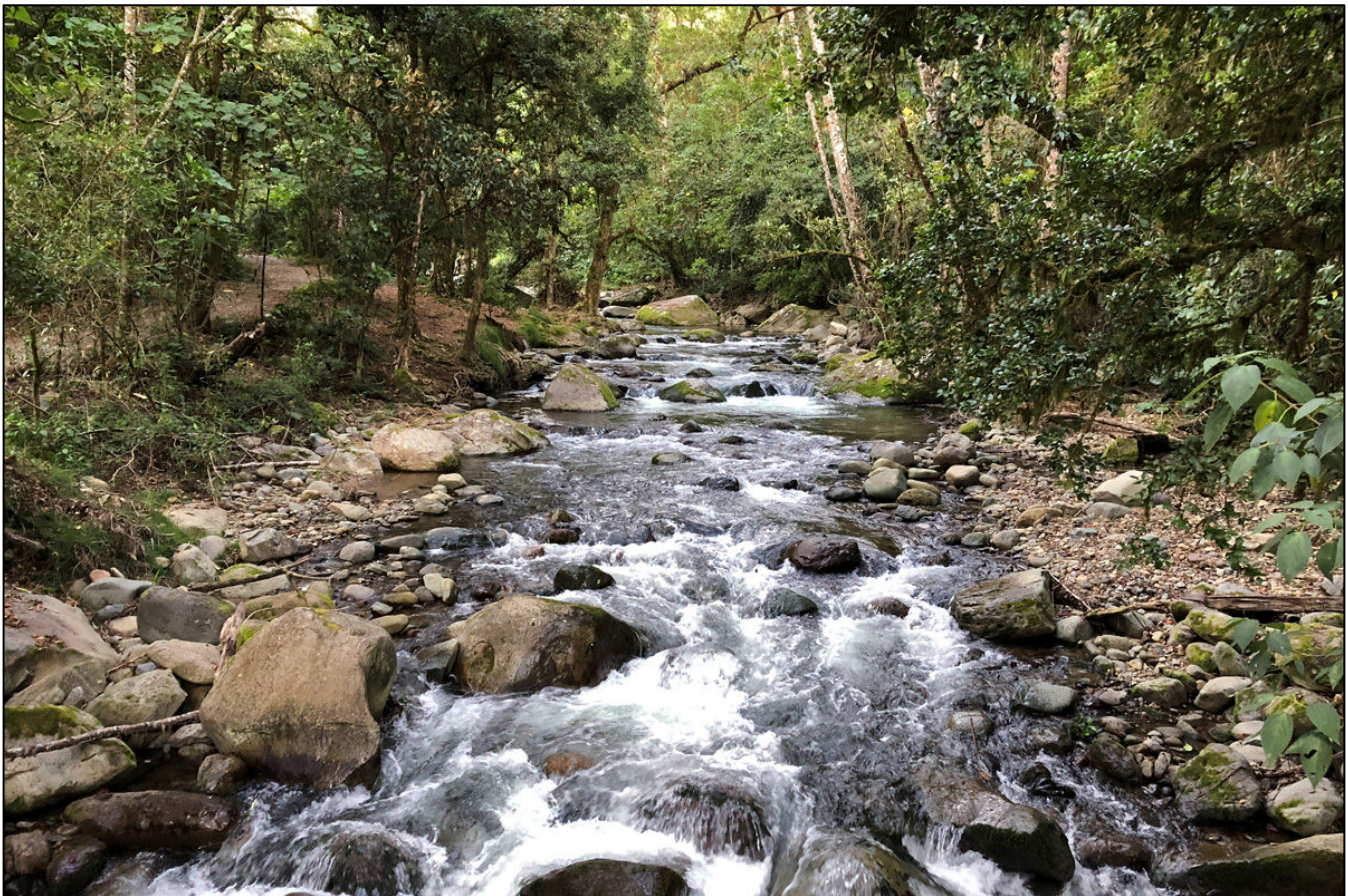




**ITINERARY**

- July 15      Arrival / Optional birding around Hotel Robledal
- July 16      Braulio Carrillo National Park, Reserva El Tapir, La Selva Biological Station
- July 17      La Selva Biological Station
- July 18      La Selva Biological Station, travel to San Gerardo de Dota
- July 19      Savegre
- July 20      Cerro de la Muerte, San Isidro, travel to Tárcoles
- July 21      Carara National Park, Tárcoles River
- July 22      Carara National Park, Punta Morales, travel to Monteverde
- July 23      Monteverde Cloudforest Reserve
- July 24      Refugio Curi-Cancha, return to San José
- July 25      Departure

Arrestingly beautiful river vistas like this one at Savegre are common in the mountains. (Photo: Scott Olmstead)



All photos in this report were taken on the tour by participant Alex Cardona and guide Scott Olmstead.



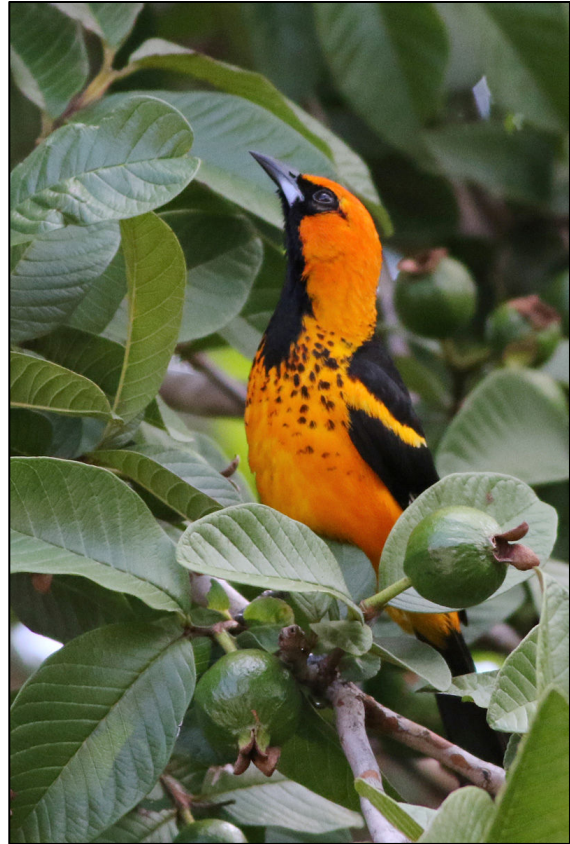
## BIRDING SUMMARY

### Day 1:

Those that arrived early arranged an afternoon excursion for some birding near the hotel. The local Spot-breasted Orioles put on a show around the hotel grounds, and the group met for dinner. (Photo right, Scott Olmstead) We learned that due to recent heavy rains, the main highway down to the northern Caribbean region had been damaged by mudslides and was closed. So we would have to improvise for the first segment our the trip.

### Day 2:

We started with pre-breakfast birding on the hotel grounds. It was dreary and dark, with some light drizzle, but we managed to see a few key birds. Here in Alajuela there is a distinct influence from the northern Pacific bioregion in the avifauna, and accordingly we found birds like Rufous-naped Wren and Hoffmann's Woodpecker. Our most notable targets performed well; in addition to the Spot-breasted Orioles, which most of the group had already seen well the day before, the Yellow-naped Parrots perched up in a tall snag, while Cinnamon Hummingbird sat for nice views in the back garden. After breakfast we loaded up and headed out of the Central Valley, driving up and over the mountains near Poás Volcano and down the old road to Sarapiquí. This route changed our birding plans for the morning but we took advantage of the opportunity to visit some sites rarely visited on this tour. Mid-morning we stopped in at the Mirador La Cascada café at La Cinchona, which maintains a series of fruit and hummingbird feeders. The feeders were very busy with birds taking advantage of a short break in the rain, and even if we were elbow-to-elbow with many other tourists, it was great birding. Violet Sabrewing and Coppery-headed Emerald headlined a modest cast of eight hummingbird species, while the stars of the fruit feeders were without a doubt the Northern Emerald-Toucanets and Prong-billed Barbets. The Prong-billed Barbet, one of only two representatives of the toucan-barbet family, can be a challenge to see well and it was a treat to see them up close. (Photo next page, Scott Olmstead) This location gave us our first observations of common species like Passerini's (Scarlet-rumped) Tanager and Rufous-tailed Hummingbird as well.



Farther on we stopped for some birding at Virgen del Socorro, where we had multiple sightings of a pair of White Hawks, first sitting up in the treetops across the valley and then soaring overhead. This foothill site delivered us some species we were not likely to find elsewhere on our itinerary. For example, one of the highlights of this stop was a large group of Scarlet-thighed Dacnises that sat up in a treetop for scope views, showing off their sharp



black and electric blue plumage. Some small mixed flocks had Silver-throated Tanager, Common Chlorospingus, Tropical Parula, and others. As we admired a family of Tufted Flycatchers perched on a vine, a pair of Sooty-faced Finches inadvertently clambered into view and we were able to get a nice look at this prized species hopping through low mossy branches on a steep hillside. This drab, hard-to-see skulker is found only in Costa Rica and Panama. We stopped for a typical Costa Rica lunch and then continued down into the lowlands. Our final stop of the afternoon was in the dirt roads through open pastures near La Selva biological station, where raptors or parrots can sometimes be seen perched up in the

treetops of the giant remnant rainforest trees. We found a Bat Falcon and some Red-lored Parrots to look at in the treetops; down closer to ground level Barred Antshrike, Paltry (Mistletoe) Tyrannulet, and Tropical Pewee showed well. As the rain started up again we finished our journey to Hacienda Sueño Azul, arriving in time to use the fading light for some birding on the grounds. Fortunately we found a Fasciated Tiger-Heron almost right away, foraging amid the rapids in the river. As dusk approached we watched a few volleys of Scarlet-rumped Caciques as they hurtled across the river and disappeared into a stand of tall grass to roost, and in the fading light a Short-tailed Nighthawk flitted overhead. Our after-dinner walk around the grounds produced a Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth, a Brown Basilisk, and several frogs, but no owls.

### Day 3:

The main event today was our visit to La Selva, a world-famous biological research station that also receives a healthy number of tourists looking to get to know the rainforest. We started out early from Sueño Azul and began the day birding the entrance road to La Selva, where we found our first Broad-billed Motmot and Keel-billed Toucan, a couple of quintessentially Neotropical bird families. Along this stretch we turned up several good birds, including Fasciated Antshrike, Green Ibis, Rufous-winged Woodpecker, Bright-rumped Attila, Red-throated Ant-Tanager, Black-faced Grosbeak, and Rufous Mourner. The new birds were coming fast and furious! One of the most challenging things about birding La Selva can be stopping to eat, especially in the early morning hours when activity peaks, but you can't skip breakfast, that's for sure! After enjoying pancakes and traditional *gallo pinto* in the cafeteria, we met up with our local guide Joel and birded around the clearing for a while, seeing some new birds like Shining Honeycreeper, Masked and Black-crowned Tityras, Pied Puffbird, and Rufous Motmot. A group of Central American Spider Monkeys amazed us by gracefully



moving through the branches right beside us as we stood on the suspension bridge over the Río Puerto Viejo. A Gray-headed Kite ([photo right, Scott Olmstead](#)) was actively perch hunting near the dining hall, seemingly oblivious to the group of birders watching it intently, and throughout the day we had several observations of this large kite crashing into the foliage here and there, attempting to catch we know not what, possibly lizards or large insects. And our first Great Curassow sighting came when a male strolled out of the forest briefly behind one of the laboratory buildings. Although it is easy to miss, this large cracid is refreshingly common at La Selva, where there is no human hunting pressure on its population. Next we went for a walk in the forest on the opposite side of the river, where we saw ample evidence of the tornado-like winds that struck this area during a storm in late May. Hundreds of trees were knocked down all around the research station and the reserve, and the result is many small gaps and clearings in the early stages of regeneration scattered through the forest. While the many treefalls will likely affect the bird species composition, it's too soon to say for sure what the effects will be. However, an immediate result for birders is better visibility to the canopy in many places, and it was through one of those treefall gaps that we spotted a Snowy Cotinga perched high above the forest floor. While in the forest we found several Crested Guans and came across another family of curassows. ([Photo next page, Scott Olmstead](#)) A Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant sat still for a moment at eye level. Joel whistled in a Black-throated Trogon and later a pair of Stripe-throated Wrens. Returning from our walk we had the amazing fortune to find a Sunbittern preening beside one of the little streams that run through the forest. As we watched, the bird seemed to show off every inch of its plumage, including the startling spots on its wings. Despite threatening gray clouds that dropped a few brief showers, we were fortunate to stay mostly dry during our very productive morning.



After lunch and a little down time around the station, we went out for another walk on another trail and continued to log new birds, with White-necked Puffbirds and White-ringed Flycatchers in the canopy and a glorious Pale-billed Woodpecker foraging at eye level in the understory. Dusky-faced Tanagers chattered and flitted in the understory. However, it seems we pushed our luck too far, and before long more rain rolled in; we were caught in a true



tropical downpour! We trudged back to the dining hall, water squishing between our toes, as the river level rose. Of course even as we waited out the rain we continued to bird, and we found Band-tailed Barbthroat and Olive-backed Euphonia perched closeby in clear view, then a White-collared Manakin darted into view, and then an Orange-billed Sparrow hopped right across the lawn below the heliconias. There are always birds around La Selva! After waiting out the rain, we ventured back out to the bridge for a while and finally called it a day.

Returning to Sueño Azul, our streak of luck continued when we spotted a Collared Forest-Falcon perched up in a treetop on a semi-exposed branch, and it sat for extended scope views while giving its sad "cao" calls. Like all of the forest-falcons, birders hear this species 10-20 times for every time it is seen, and it was a real treat to see it sitting out in the open, showing off its svelte, long-legged physique and exceptionally long tail. Down by the river, we relocated the Fasciated-Tiger-Heron for those that missed it yesterday, and called it a day. By dinner time we had easily tallied over 100 species on our full day in the Caribbean lowlands, despite the taking time out due to rain. It was truly an outstanding day.



Day 4:

Today turned out to be a fairly long travel day, as we learned the main highway through Braulio Carrillo National Park had not been reopened, meaning we would need to take the longer route through Alajuela to return to the Central Valley. Nonetheless we still had some time for birding in the morning at Sueño Azul. A morning walk along the river track gave us some nice upgrades: birds we had only heard yesterday were seen well, such as Cinnamon Woodpecker, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Gray-chested Dove, Bay Wren, and Buff-rumped Warbler. And we finally got to see Brown-hooded Parrot through the scope after multiple flyovers yesterday at La Selva. We found a pair of shaggy-looking White-whiskered Puffbirds at the edge of the forest, and a pair of Yellow Tyrannulets giving their staccato song nearby. Next, going for a short spin on the waterfall track we saw a cooperative Black-crowned Antshrike, though the local Uniform Crake was a no-show. Along the river we found Ringed and Amazon Kingfishers, while the waterbird roost behind the lodge gave us a pair of Anhingas amid the many Neotropic Cormorants and Cattle Egrets.



Olive-backed Euphonias were common around La Selva and Sueño Azul (Photo: Scott Olmstead)

Departing Sueño Azul, our main target bird was Great Green Macaw, considering we had only seen a distant flyby the day before at La Selva. We made a couple brief stops near Puerto Viejo to search for the *lapas*, as they are called in Costa Rica, without success. Then finally as we drove through the outskirts of the town we happened upon a pair of these huge gaudy yet majestic parrots perched up in a small tree beside the road. What luck! As it turned out, that



wasn't the end of it, as at the next stop for gas and *baños*, Jonathan spotted a King Vulture soaring with a group of Black Vultures. The rest of the day consisted of a lunch stop, and traveling to Savegre, our destination for the next two nights. Driving across the whole Central Valley from Alajuela to Cartago was certainly not ideal, but there wasn't much that could be done about it, so we settled for spotting birds from the bus and people-watching. As we climbed up into the Talamanca Highlands, the clouds closed in and rain began to fall. We arrived at Savegre for dinner.



#### Day 5:

The first order of business when visiting San Gerardo de Dota is to try to locate the Resplendent Quetzal, and we set out before breakfast to try to do just that. Improving one's chances to see the quetzal is a matter of knowing where they are feeding; this time around we needed to drive up the valley and hike up a short but steep trail into an orchard where a local farmer had cut a terrace into the hillside to serve as an overlook beside an *aguacatillo* tree. The tree was in fruit and we didn't have to wait long before the quetzals made an appearance. (Photo left, Alex Cardona) We saw at least three individuals, including a handsome adult male that sat in plain view for several minutes, providing views from all angles as it moved from perch to perch, evidently inspecting several fruits before finding the one that suited its appetite, plucking it in a flurry of emerald green feathers, and plummeting away down the hillside with its prize. Not bad before breakfast! Quetzal quest completed, we returned for a victory breakfast and prepared to head up to the old growth forest behind the lodge.

Our group rode up the steep track in an open-backed jeep and as we arrived at the highest trailhead we immediately began to find bird activity. Ruddy Pigeons were picking up pebbles for grist on the ground and a mixed flock drifted through the treetops. In the flock Jim picked out our first Flame-throated Warbler up in the treetops, its orange throat glowing even from a distance. We walked up the Robles trail a short way into the tall cloud forest dominated by stately oaks endemic to the Talamanca highlands such as *Quercus copeyensis*, and found more mixed flocks containing Sooty-capped Chlorospingus, Ruddy Treerunner, and Collared

Whitestart (Redstart!). A responsive pair of Lineated Foliage-gleaners approached us for good views, while a Silvery-fronted Tapaculo provided less-satisfying glimpses as it flitted through the understory. Retracing our steps, we spent the last couple hours of the morning birding the La Quebrada loop trail, a delightful romp up and down through a steep ravine with a rushing creek and lush cloud forest on all sides. Mixed flocks continued to come fast and furious and we added Buffy Tuftedcheek, Yellow-winged Vireo, and Spangle-cheeked Tanager, among others. As we walked back down the road toward lunch, a Red-tailed Hawk glided overhead. Our day to explore the highland cloud forest around Savegre had turned out to be a productive day, with beautiful weather, just a couple of brief showers around lunchtime.

In the afternoon we birded around the lodge, with the highlight being a lengthy observation of the resident covey of Spotted Wood-Quail, scratching in the leaf litter, and blending into the forest floor marvelously. We tried our best to spot a dipper along the river, but came up empty. Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, Yellowish Flycatcher, and Black-faced Solitaire were all new additions to the list. Finally, to finish the day we drove up the valley to a stakeout for Dusky Nightjar. After waiting around in the fading light for 20-30 minutes, the nightjar finally made an appearance, eventually perching up on the wires where we could watch it hunting for insects in the light of a street lamp. The last bird of the day was a good one!



#### Day 6:

We began our second morning in the highlands with some easy birding around the gardens at Savegre, picking up a couple of new birds like Yellow-bellied Siskin and Golden-bellied Flycatcher and enjoying further study of the common garden birds like Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher, Flame-colored Tanager, Slaty Flowerpiercer, and Lesser Violetear ([photo above](#), [Alex Cardona](#)). Then after another marvelous buffet breakfast we departed for higher



elevations. The Providencia Road made for a productive stop, yielding great views of the fruiteater-like Black-and-yellow Silky-Flycatcher, endemic to the Talamanca-Chiriquí highlands. We found the bamboo-dominated forest to be full of Wrenthrushes, of course very difficult to see as is typical of this species, but we managed a few fleeting glimpses of this understory skulker. A pair of Timberline Wrens showed reasonably well as they chattered in the bamboo. From there we continued up to the highest elevation of our tour, over 3400m (1200ft) where we searched the páramo vegetation at treeline on Cerro de la Muerte for the endemic Volcano Junco. It was fairly cold and foggy, but the evil-looking junco with its staring yellow eye turned out to be easy to locate and then easy to observe too, as one hopped unconcernedly right under our bus. Next we stopped in at a nearby café to study the numerous Fiery-throated, Talamanca, and Volcano Hummingbirds at the feeders, and we added Large-footed Finch in the adjacent garden, scratching on the ground like a towhee. And then we set off down the Panamerican Highway for the city of San Isidro, leaving behind the highlands. Road construction slowed us down a bit, but after lunch we still had a short while to stop in a neighborhood of San Isidro and look for the Turquoise Cotinga. Our driver Luis soon spotted the cotinga perched up in a tall tree with a fruiting vine; however unfortunately it disappeared almost right away, leaving us without a good look. Despite a strong effort of scanning the treetops we could not relocate it. Tropical Mockingbird, Red-crowned Woodpecker, and Yellow-bellied Elaenia were among the new birds. We continued down to the coast and turned northwest on the coast highway as the weather deteriorated. Between showers, a roadside birding stop at a marshy spot produced a few new species such as Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Southern Lapwing, and Crested Caracara; and then it was time to continue onward to the Tárcoles/Carara area where we would spend the next two nights at Hotel Villa Lapas. After dinner those who were interested put in a little time looking for herps around our hotel, and turned up Masked Treefrog, Northern Cat-eyed Snake, and the iconic Red-eyed Tree Frog.

#### Day 7:

Some of the group were awakened before dawn by the eerie calls of a Spectacled Owl, or *Oropopo*, as it is appropriately called in Costa Rica. However, the bird remained unseen. After the whole group gathered we took a pre-breakfast walk near Villa Lapas, and found the activity in the forest to be excellent, even if the lighting was challenging. First we got onto a vocal Black-hooded Antshrike, and then we were treated to trailside views of the normally secretive Chestnut-backed Antbird. A Lesson's Motmot showed well inside the forest, and out in the clearing by the hotel we found a pair of Yellow-throated Euphonias attending a nest. However, the main event of the morning was a visit to Carara National Park, so we took our breakfast and headed for the park. This extremely important protected area lies at the northern extreme of the Pacific rainforest, near where it meets the tropical dry forest and savanna habitat of the Guanacaste region, and its location results in a rich diversity of species from both bioregions. We started out birding around the headquarters of the park, and sorted through a fruiting tree attracting Green Honeycreepers, Golden-hooded Tanagers, Short-billed Pigeons, Yellow-green Vireos, and a Piratic Flycatcher. Next our hike for the morning took us through beautiful, tall rainforest and across the Quebrada Bonita creek, with Green-and-black Poison Arrow Frogs tucked away here and there between the huge buttress roots

of canopy trees and Yellow-throated Toucans calling from above. It was steamy and humid; we struggled to find mixed flocks, and the ones we found seemed to be mostly in the canopy, birds silhouetted against the cloudy sky. It was rainforest birding at its hardest. But there were some great rewards. A Baird's Trogon, endemic to the Pacific rainforest of Costa Rica and Panama, posed for great scope views, showing off its handsome white undertail, red belly, and blue eye ring. A pair of Golden-crowned Spadebills allowed themselves to be seen reasonably well in the understory, flitting from branch to branch. And a group of White-fronted Capuchin monkeys passed over the trail completely unconcerned by our presence, walking on taut, stringy vines like a tightrope. But the top highlight for most of the group was a Great Tinamou that we found strolling along the forest floor; the bird crossed the path right in front of us, so close it was impossible to use binoculars. It was quite a thrill, and the show wasn't over, as the tinamou proceeded to amble down a small slope to have a drink from a stream in plain view. (Photo below, Alex Cardona) Don't ask for a better view of a tinamou than we had! After an unsuccessful attempt to see a singing Streak-chested Antpitta, we headed back to the headquarters, and on the way we bumped into a Royal Flycatcher, which delighted those that that happened to be looking when it raised its flashy crest for an instant just before it yawned! We left the flycatcher behind and returned, sweaty and spent, to the hotel for lunch and some rejuvenation.



For the afternoon our boat trip on the Tárcoles River was timed perfectly to coincide with low tide, which we presumed would work to our advantage as we searched for waterbirds. However, the weather was more difficult to arrange. We started off with dry skies and first headed downstream to the river mouth to check the mudflats. Dozens of Brown Pelicans,



Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, and a variety of herons and egrets were joined by a few Wood Storks and a modest assortment of early migrant shorebirds. Magnificent Frigatebirds drifted overhead, while pairs of noisy, bright red Scarlet Macaws, perhaps the most emblematic bird of the Carara/Tárcoles region, commuted over the river. We spotted a healthy crocodile resting near the shore. Next we motored up the main mangrove channel to look for some of the mangrove specialties. We did well with Mangrove Vireo, Mangrove (Yellow) Warbler, Panama Flycatcher, and the strange Boat-billed Heron; however the difficult-to-get Mangrove Hummingbird did not grace us with an appearance. During our cruise through the mangroves the clouds became ever darkening, signaling rain was on the way, and sure enough the skies soon opened up and unleashed a strong but fortunately brief *aguacero* (downpour) that saw us covering up our gear and donning our ponchos, fearing for the worst! But the boat's roof kept us sufficiently protected and we went on with the business of looking for American Pygmy Kingfisher by carefully inspecting the mangrove branches and other vegetation hanging over the water. This unfortunately did not turn out to be a fruitful search, although we did find Amazon, Green, and Ringed Kingfishers perched beside the channel and a large gathering of White Ibis and Little Blue Herons preparing to roost in the mangroves. More Scarlet Macaws were landing in the treetops, joined by some Yellow-naped Parrots (Yellow-naped Amazons) and our only Lineated Woodpecker of the entire trip. As we returned to the main river channel, the rain had subsided and we set a course upstream on a quest for the strange Double-striped Thick-knee, a large-eyed, nocturnal shorebird usually found amid moregrassy riverside habitat. However, the flaw in this plan became evident when we entered a shallow riffle and ran aground. Our skipper Santiago was determined to make it happen, and as the sun set and twilight took hold of the landscape, he instructed our group moved to the back of the boat to adjust the trim as he manipulated the motor and attempted to unstick the boat. This achieved exactly zero success, as the water was just too shallow for the propeller, and soon the skipper and your faithful Tropical Birding tour leader were in the river up to their knees, hauling the boat through the river by hand. This is the sort of adventure we sometimes need to have in order to get a chance at the birds! Unstuck from the rocks, we continued upstream in the fading light, enjoying a flock of Lesser Nighthawks zooming over the river. Finally we found two Double-striped Thick-knees in the beam of our spotlight; mission accomplished! Our return downstream was made uneventful by the river current and rising tide. On the way back to the hotel we tried without success to find a Pacific Screech-Owl, and then returned for dinner and some more frogging, for those who were keen. Frog activity was exceptional, and in addition to the species seen previously, Yellow Treefrog and Harlequin Treefrog were among the prizes of the night.

#### Day 8:

This morning we started with more forest birding near the hotel, targeting antbirds and other skulkers. After some work, we coaxed a Black-faced Antthrush across the trail, and found some other new birds like Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher and Greenish Elaenia. A Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner was an exciting find, especially considering the local form found in the Pacific rainforests of southern Costa Rica will soon be split as a full species: Chiriquí Foliage-gleaner. The birding was good enough that we found ourselves late for breakfast, generally not the worst kind of problem you can have on a birding tour! We returned to Carara National Park for

the rest of the morning, birding some different areas from yesterday, and continuing to turn up more new birds such as Northern Bentbill, Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Gray-headed Tanager, and the regional endemic Spot-crowned Euphonia. Black-hooded Antshrikes seemed to be everywhere, giving great studies as they wagged their tails in synch with their song. A pair of Cocoa Woodcreepers was building a nest high up in a palm tree. We found yet another Royal Flycatcher, this one even more obliging than yesterday's individual. The elegant Turquoise-browed Motmot put in an appearance, making it our fourth motmot species seen on the trip. A pair of Riverside Wrens showed off all of their markings as they flitted around near a nest. And we enjoyed yet another long observation of Central American Spider Monkeys, this time a mother nursing a young one.

We returned to the hotel for lunch and checkout and then hit the road for Monteverde, of course with a couple of birding stops planned! Our first stop in the seaside town of Caldera gave us a cooperative Gray Hawk, a pair of gorgeous Blue Grosbeaks, and our first sighting of the gaudy White-throated Magpie-Jay, but failed to produce the hoped-for Lesser Ground-Cuckoo. Later in the afternoon we put in an hour at the Punta Morales salt evaporation ponds. Here we found a few migratory shorebirds and Black-necked Stilts as well as some new birds associated with the tropical dry forest of northwestern Costa Rica. White-lored Gnatcatcher, Streak-backed Oriole, Black-headed Trogon, Stripe-headed Sparrow, and Orange-fronted Sparrow were seen here and only here on our trip. Then we finished the trip to Monteverde



and checked into our hotel for the night. Dinner at a local restaurant was a hit, not only for the food but also because of the availability of some good local craft beer, still a relative novelty in Costa Rica.

#### Day 9:

Strong rains overnight became strong wind in the morning, but we still put in a half-hour of birding before breakfast. Cabanis's Wren and Brown Jays were new for the list, but the Lesson's Motmot lurking around the fruit feeder probably stole the spotlight. (Photo left, Alex Cardona) The main event this morning was a

visit to the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, a private protected area operated by the Tropical Science Center. The wind continued for the first couple hours of our hike, and this seemed to dampen bird activity. However, you could argue that the forest itself is the primary attraction at this site, every tree sporting its own extravagant collection of mosses,



bromeliads, orchids, and other epiphytes covering its surface. And as the morning continued we did find more and more mixed flocks. The dominant species were Common Chlorospingus and the somewhat recently-split Costa Rican Warbler, but we saw lesser numbers of some new birds like Spotted Barbtail, Golden-crowned Warbler, Slaty Antwren, and Spotted Woodcreeper. We enjoyed a walk across the hanging suspension bridge, and were greeted by a pair of Collared Whitestarts, here right at the lowest part of their elevational range. And perhaps the star bird of the morning was a Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush flitting around beside the trail while carrying food in its bill, apparently on its way to a nearby nest. After working hard (in vain) to try to see this bird on our first day in the field, it was a refreshing contrast to see this skulker so effortlessly! Next we had lunch at the reserve and paid a short visit to the hummingbird feeders at Café Colibrí, finding dozens of individuals of eight species of *colibrí* providing dazzling closeup views as they vied for spots at the feeders. It's always hard to pick a favorite, but the impressive Violet Sabrewing is hard to beat. (Photo right, Alex Cardona) Distractions were everywhere; over our heads an Orange-bellied Trogon was staying busy feeding a couple of fledglings, while a group of White-nosed Coatis scampered past our feet.

After a short siesta, it was time for some afternoon birding, with the notoriously unpredictable Monteverde weather still holding up. Sunshine mixed with sprinkles passes for good weather here on the Continental Divide, where it seems the forecast changes every five minutes. We set out for the Santuario Ecológico, a private reserve near our hotel, but made a stop en route to look for a Three-wattled Bellbird at a fruiting aguacatillo tree. The bellbird did not disappoint, showing well and sitting for scope views, before flying away and out of sight. This bizarre cotinga, one of only four species of bellbirds, is endemic to Central America, and is a top target bird on the July departure of the Costa Rica Introtour. Once the bellbird was in the bag so to speak, the rest of the afternoon was low-pressure, but we still had target birds, with the Long-tailed Manakin being the most wanted. The Santuario Ecológico, oriented more toward the Pacific slope than the cloud forest reserve, has a drier, viner forest with a different avifauna. A couple of Black Guans were spotted in the treetops and pair of White-eared Ground-Sparrows popped up from the forest floor. Red-crowned Ant-Tanagers remained elusive as they chattered from the understory. We tried with very limited success to see an Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush. The bird with top billing, Long-tailed Manakin, did finally



show; after a lengthy search and multiple brief encounters, two males perched together long enough to be seen but everyone. And it was getting dark in the forest, so we started back up the slope. We paused when a Ruddy Woodcreeper sang and flew into view at dusk. Later in the evening after dinner a few of the group ventured back out for some owling and were rewarded with a very vocal Mottled Owl.

#### Day 10:

It was another windy morning in Monteverde and as the treetops danced and swayed we started with a little birding around the hotel. Nothing new was seen, but no one was disappointed to see tropical beauties like Lesson's Motmot, Masked Tityra, and Squirrel Cuckoo yet again. After breakfast and checkout we headed to the private Curi-Cancha Reserve for a walk in the forest. At Curi-Cancha we found large numbers of fruiting trees full of fruit-eating birds like Scarlet-thighed Dacnis, Red-legged Honeycreeper, and Mountain Thrush. We even had another sighting of Resplendent Quetzal in a fruiting *aguacatillo* tree. And it was while we were watching one of these fruiting trees at the forest edge that we were attacked by an aggressive and unfriendly Rufous-browed Peppershrike! This was quite an unusual experience; evidently we were too close to this bird's territory and it pursued us for what seemed like a half-hour, singing loudly and occasionally striking at us! We later learned that the "peppershark" had been harassing other groups as well; it seems we weren't especially threatening, but rather this bird has taken a stand against any and all visitors to his turf! Needless to say, this fascinating behavior became one of the main conversation topics for the rest of the day. In the forest interior, and out of range of the "peppershark" we found Olivaceous and Wedge-billed Woodcreepers in mixed flocks, while a vocal Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush frustrated our attempts to see it. Bruce found the group a Gray-throated Leaf-tosser foraging inconspicuously on the forest floor, and we watched it flinging leaves this way and that with its bill as it poked around in the litter. Toward the end of the morning as we walked on the Manga Trail we had one of our best sightings of the day when Alex pointed out a Chiriquí Quail-Dove strutting along the forest floor. Sightings of quail-doves can be disappointingly brief, but this bird stayed in view for minutes and allowed everyone a good view of its rich reddish coloration, contrasting bluish detail on the head, and crisp dark lines on the neck. Aside from being a highly-desirable regional endemic, this quail-dove is certainly a handsome bird. And not much later, on the same trail, we found another *two* Chiriquí Quail-Doves, just an incredible stroke of luck. Nearby we enjoyed finding a Yellowish Flycatcher sitting on its nest, a tiny cup draped with lush green moss and stuck to a tree trunk.

After another productive morning, we lunched in Monteverde and then set out down the slope on our return to the Central Valley. However, one more stop was planned, as we couldn't finish the trip without making another try at Lesser Ground-Cuckoo. Unlike two days before, this time we succeeded in seeing two ground-cuckoos sitting up, their striking face pattern standing out from dense brushy vegetation beside the road. From there we returned to San José, enjoying Swallow-tailed Kites soaring above the patchy agricultural and forested landscapes we passed. For once traffic was relatively light and we returned with plenty of time for birding before dinner. A Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl on the grounds of the hotel was the last new bird of the trip. At dinner we ran through the daily checklist one last time and voted



on the top birds of the trip, with the Three-wattled Bellbird seen in Monteverde barely beating out the Sunbittern we found at La Selva, just two of the spectacular sightings from this tour.

### Day 11

#### Departure



Birding the cloud forest at Savegre. (Photo: Scott Olmstead)

### **BIRD LIST**

The taxonomy and nomenclature of this list follow: Clements, J. F., T. S. Schulenberg, M. J. Iliff, D. Roberson, T. A. Fredericks, B. L. Sullivan, and C. L. Wood. 2017. The eBird/Clements checklist of birds of the world: v2017, updated with the major relevant changes published by Cornell in August 2018.

**Key to Locations:** **HR** = Hotel Robledal & nearby finca, **VS** = Virgen del Socorro (includes Café Mirador la Cascada), **SA** = Sueño Azul, **LS** = La Selva (includes birding along nearby access road), **Sav** = Savegre Valley, **CdM** = Cerro de la Muerte (including La Georgina rest stop and Providencia Road), **SI** = San Isidro, **VL** = Hotel Villa Lapas, **Car** = Carara National Park, **RT** = Río Tárcoles, **PM** = Punta Morales, **Mon** = Monteverde, **Hwy** = birds seen while traveling

**Other Codes:** **(E)** = Regional endemic, **H** = Heard only, **L** = Seen by leader only

	<u>Species</u>	<u>Site(s)</u>
<b>TINAMOUS</b>	<b>TINAMIDAE</b>	
Great Tinamou	<i>Tinamus major</i>	Car
Little Tinamou <b>H</b>	<i>Crypturellus soui</i>	Car
<b>DUCKS, GEESE, AND WATERFOWL</b>	<b>ANATIDAE</b>	
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	RT, Hwy
Muscovy Duck	<b>Cairina moschata</b>	SA, RT
<b>GUANS, CHACHALACAS, CURASSOWS</b>	<b>CRACIDAE</b>	
Gray-headed Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis cinereiceps</i>	LS
Crested Guan	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>	LS, Mon
Black Guan	<i>Chamaepetes unicolor</i>	Mon
Great Curassow	<i>Crax rubra</i>	LS
<b>NEW WORLD QUAIL</b>	<b>ODONTOPHORIDAE</b>	
Spotted Wood-Quail	<i>Odontophorus guttatus</i>	Sav
<b>STORKS</b>	<b>CICONIIDAE</b>	
Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	LS, RT
<b>FRIGATEBIRDS</b>	<b>FREGATIDAE</b>	
Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	RT, PM
<b>CORMORANTS AND SHAGS</b>	<b>PHALACROCORACIDAE</b>	
Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	SA, RT, PM
<b>ANHINGAS</b>	<b>ANHINGIDAE</b>	
Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	SA, RT
<b>PELICANS</b>	<b>PELECANIDAE</b>	
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	RT, Hwy
<b>HERONS, EGRETS, AND BITTERNs</b>	<b>ARDEIDAE</b>	
Fasciated Tiger-Heron	<i>Tigrisoma fasciatum</i>	SA
Bare-throated Tiger-Heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>	SA, RT, Hwy
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	RT, Hwy
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	RT
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	RT
Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	RT
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Various
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	RT, Hwy
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	RT
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	RT
Boat-billed Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>	RT
<b>IBISES AND SPOONBILLS</b>	<b>THRESKIORNITHIDAE</b>	
White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	RT, PM, Hwy
Green Ibis	<i>Mesembrinibis cayennensis</i>	LS, SA
Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>	RT
<b>NEW WORLD VULTURES</b>	<b>CATHARTIDAE</b>	
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	Various
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Various
King Vulture	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>	Hwy
<b>HAWKS, EAGLES, AND KITES</b>	<b>ACCIPITRIDAE</b>	
White-tailed Kite <b>L</b>	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	Hwy
Swallow-tailed Kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	Hwy, Car, Mon
Gray-headed Kite	<i>Leptodon cayanensis</i>	LS
Plumbeous Kite	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>	LS, Car, RT



Common Black-Hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>	RT
Roadside Hawk	<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>	Various
White Hawk	<i>Pseudastur albicollis</i>	VS
Semiplumbeous Hawk	<i>Leucopternis semiplumbeus</i>	LS
Gray Hawk	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>	SA, Hwy
Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>	VS, LS
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jaimacensis</i>	Sav
<b>SUNBITTERN</b>	<b>EURYPYGIDAE</b>	
Sunbittern	<i>Eurypyga helias</i>	LS
<b>RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS</b>	<b>RALLIDAE</b>	
Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinicus</i>	RT
<b>THICK-KNEES</b>	<b>BURHINIDAE</b>	
Double-striped Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus bistriatus</i>	RT
<b>PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS</b>	<b>CHARADRIIDAE</b>	
Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>	Hwy
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	RT
<b>STILTS AND AVOCETS</b>	<b>RECURVIROSTRIDAE</b>	
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus m. mexicanus</i>	PM
<b>JACANAS</b>	<b>JACANIDAE</b>	
Northern Jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>	Hwy
<b>SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES</b>	<b>SCOLOPACIDAE</b>	
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	RT, PM
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	RT
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	RT
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	PM
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	PM
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	PM
<b>GULLS AND TERNS</b>	<b>LARIDAE</b>	
Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>	PM
Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	RT
<b>PIGEONS AND DOVES</b>	<b>COLUMBIDAE</b>	
Rock Pigeon (I)	<i>Columba livia</i>	Hwy
Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>	Hwy
Red-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i>	HR, Mon
Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	Sav, Mon
Ruddy Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas subvinacea</i>	Sav, Mon
Short-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas nigrirostris</i>	LS, Car
Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>	Various
Common Ground-Dove <b>L</b>	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	Hwy
Ruddy Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	Various
Blue Ground-Dove <b>H</b>	<i>Claravis pretiosa</i>	VL
White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	SA, Car, Mon
Gray-chested Dove	<i>Leptotila cassini</i>	SA, VL, Car
Chiriquí Quail-Dove (E)	<i>Zentrygon chiriquensis</i>	Mon
White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	Various
<b>CUCKOOS</b>	<b>CUCULIDAE</b>	
Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	Various
Striped Cuckoo <b>H</b>	<i>Tapera naevia</i>	Car
Lesser Ground-Cuckoo	<i>Morococcyx erythropygus</i>	Mon
Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	Hwy

Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>	LS, PM, Hwy
<b>OWLS</b>	<b>STRIGIDAE</b>	
Spetacled Owl <b>H</b>	<i>Pulsatrix perspicillata</i>	VL
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>	HR
Mottled Owl	<i>Ciccaba virgata</i>	Mon
<b>NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES</b>	<b>CAPRIMULGIDAE</b>	
Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>	RT
Short-tailed Nighthawk	<i>Lurocalis semitorquatus</i>	SA
Pauraque <b>H</b>	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>	RT
Dusky Nightjar (E)	<i>Androstomus saturatus</i>	Sav
<b>SWIFTS</b>	<b>APODIDAE</b>	
White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>	VS, LS, Car
Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	Hwy
Costa Rican Swift	<i>Chaetura fumosa</i>	Hwy
Gray-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura cineiventris</i>	LS, SA
Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift		LS
<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>	<b>TROCHILIDAE</b>	
Band-tailed Barbthroat	<i>Threnetes ruckeri</i>	LS
Green Hermit	<i>Phaethornis guy</i>	Mon
Long-billed Hermit	<i>Phaethornis longirostris cephalus</i>	SA, VL
Stripe-throated Hermit	<i>Phaethornis striigularis</i>	LS, Car
Green-fronted Lancebill	<i>Doryfera ludovicae</i>	Sav
Brown Violetear	<i>Colibri delphinae</i>	MonVS, Mon
Lesser Violetear	<i>Colibri cyanotus</i>	VS, Sav, Mon
Purple-crowned Fairy	<i>Heliiothryx barroti</i>	LS, Car
Green Thorntail	<i>Discosura conversii</i>	VS
Green-crowned Brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa jacula</i>	VS, Mon
Talamanca Hummingbird (E)	<i>Eugenes spectabilis</i>	Sav, CdM
Long-billed Starthroat	<i>Heliomaster longirostris</i>	VS
Fiery-throated Hummingbird (E)	<i>Panterpe insignis</i>	Sav, CdM
White-bellied Mountain-gem (E)	<i>Lampornis hemileucus</i>	VS
Purple-throated Mountain-gem (E)	<i>Lampornis calolaemus</i>	VS, Mon
White-throated Mountain-gem	<i>Lampornis castaneoventris cinereicauda</i>	Sav
Volcano Hummingbird (E)	<i>Selasphorus flammula</i>	Sav, CdM
Scintillant Hummingbird (E)	<i>Selasphorus scintilla</i>	Sav
Scaly-breasted Hummingbird	<i>Phaeochroa cuvierii</i>	SA
Violet-headed Hummingbird	<i>Klais guimeti</i>	LS
Violet Sabrewing	<i>Campylopterus hemileucurus</i>	VS, Mon
Crowned Woodnymph	<i>Thalurania colombica</i>	VS, LS
Stripe-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Eupherusa eximia</i>	Sav, Mon
Coppery-headed Emerald (E)	<i>Elvira cupreiceps</i>	VS, Mon
Charming Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia decora</i>	VL
Steely-vented Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia saucerrottei</i>	Car
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>	Various
Cinnamon Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia rutila</i>	HR, PM
<b>TROGONS</b>	<b>TROGONIDAE</b>	
Black-headed Trogon	<i>Trogon melanocephalus</i>	PM
Baird's Trogon	<i>Trogon bairdii</i>	Car
Gartered Trogon	<i>Trogon caligatus</i>	LS, SA, Car
Collared Trogon	<i>Trogon collaris</i>	Sav



Orange-bellied Trogon (E)	<i>Trogon aurantiiventris</i>	Mon
Black-throated Trogon	<i>Trogon rufus</i>	LS
Slaty-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon massena</i>	LS, Car
Resplendent Quetzal	<i>Pharomachrus mocinno</i>	Sav, Mon
<b>MOTMOTS</b>	<b>MOMOTIDAE</b>	
Lesson's Motmot	<i>Momotus lessonii</i>	VL, Mon
Rufous Motmot	<i>Baryphthengus martii</i>	LS
Broad-billed Motmot	<i>Electron platyrhynchum</i>	LS, SA
Turquoise-browed Motmot	<i>Eumomota superciliosa</i>	Car, PM
<b>KINGFISHERS</b>	<b>ALCEDINIDAE</b>	
Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>	SA, RT
Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>	SA, RT
Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	SA, RT, VL
<b>PUFFBIRDS</b>	<b>BUCCONIDAE</b>	
White-necked Puffbird	<i>Notharcus hyperrhynchus</i>	LS
Pied Puffbird	<i>Notharcus tectus</i>	LS
White-whiskered Puffbird	<i>Malacoptila panamensis</i>	SA
<b>JACAMARS</b>	<b>GALBULIDAE</b>	
Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>	SA, Car
<b>TOUCAN-BARBETS</b>	<b>SEMNORNITHIDAE</b>	
Prong-billed Barbet (E)	<i>Semnornis frantzii</i>	VS, Mon
<b>TOUCANS</b>	<b>RAMPHASTIDAE</b>	
Northern Emerald-Toucanet	<i>Aulacorhynchus prasinus maxillaris</i>	VS, Mon
Collared Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus t. torquatus</i>	LS, SA
Yellow-throated (Chestnut-mandibled) Toucan	<i>Ramphastos swainsonii</i>	LS, SA, Car
Keel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos sulfuratus</i>	LS, SA, Mon
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>	<b>PICIDAE</b>	
Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	Sav, CdM
Black-cheeked Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes pucherani</i>	LS, SA
Red-crowned Woodpecker H	<i>Melanerpes rubricapillus</i>	SI
Hoffmann's Woodpecker (E)	<i>Melanerpes hoffmannii</i>	HR, PM
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Sav
Rufous-winged Woodpecker	<i>Piculus simplex</i>	LS
Cinnamon Woodpecker	<i>Celeus loricatus</i>	LS, SA
Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	RT, Car
Pale-billed Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i>	LS, Car
<b>FALCONS AND CARACARAS</b>	<b>FALCONIDAE</b>	
Collared Forest-Falcon	<i>Micrastur semitorquatus</i>	SA
Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>	Hwy, RT
Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>	HR, RT
Bat Falcon	<i>Falco ruficularis</i>	Hwy, RT
<b>PARROTS</b>	<b>PSITTACIDAE</b>	
Barred Parakeet H	<i>Bolborhynchus lineola</i>	Sav
Orange-chinned Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris jugularis</i>	LS, SI, PM
Brown-hooded Parrot	<i>Pyrilia haematotis</i>	LS, Mon
White-crowned Parrot	<i>Pionus senilis</i>	LS, SI
White-fronted Parrot L	<i>Amazona albifrons</i>	Hwy
Red-lored Parrot	<i>Amazona autumnalis</i>	LS
Mealy Parrot	<i>Amazona farinosa</i>	LS
Yellow-naped Parrot	<i>Amazona auropalliata</i>	HR, RT

Sulphur-winged Parakeet (E)	<i>Pyrrhura hoffmanni</i>	Sav
Olive-throated Parakeet	<i>Eupsittula nana</i>	LS
Orange-fronted Parakeet	<i>Eupsittula canicularis</i>	PM
Great Green Macaw	<i>Ara ambiguus</i>	LS, Hwy
Scarlet Macaw	<i>Ara macao</i>	VL, Car, RT
Crimson-fronted Parakeet (E)	<i>Psittacara finschi</i>	LS, SI, Hwy
<b>TYPICAL ANT BIRDS</b>	<b>THAMNOPHILIDAE</b>	
Fasciated Antshrike	<i>Cymbilaimus lineatus</i>	LS
Great Antshrike <b>H</b>	<i>Taraba major</i>	LS
Barred Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>	LS
Black-crowned Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus atrinucha</i>	SA
Black-hooded Antshrike (E)	<i>Thamnophilus bridgesi</i>	VL, Car
Plain Antwreio	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>	Mon
Slaty Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula schisticolor</i>	Mon
Dusky Antbird	<i>Cercomacra tyrannina</i>	LS, VL
Chestnut-backed Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza exsul</i>	VL, Car
<b>ANTPITTAS</b>	<b>GRALLARIIDAE</b>	
Streak-chested Antpitta <b>H</b>	<i>Hylopezus perspicillatus</i>	Car
<b>TAPACULOS</b>	<b>RHINOCRYPTIDAE</b>	
Silvery-fronted Tapaculo (E)	<i>Scytalopus argentifrons</i>	Sav, CdM
<b>ANTTHRUSHES</b>	<b>FORMICARIIDAE</b>	
Black-faced Antthrush	<i>Formicarius analis</i>	VL, Car
<b>OVENBIRDS</b>	<b>FURNARIIDAE: FURNARIINAE</b>	
Pale-breasted Spinetail <b>H</b>	<i>Synallaxis albescens</i>	Hwy, RT
Red-faced Spinetail	<i>Cranioleuca erythrops</i>	VS, Mon
Spotted Barbtail	<i>Premnoplex brunnescens</i>	Mon
Ruddy Treerunner (E)	<i>Margarornis rubiginosus</i>	Sav, CdM, Mon
Buffy Tuftedcheek	<i>Pseudocolaptes l. lawrencii</i>	Sav
Lineated Foliage-gleaner	<i>Syndactyla subalaris</i>	Sav
Chiriquí (Buff-throated) Foliage-gleaner	<i>Automolus exsertus</i>	VL
Plain Xenops	<i>Xenops minutus</i>	Car
<b>WOODCREEPERS</b>	<b>FURNARIIDAE: DENDROCOLAPTINAE</b>	
Gray-throated Leaf-tosser	<i>Sclerurus albigularis</i>	Mon
Ruddy Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla homochroa</i>	Mon
Plain-brown Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla fuliginosa</i>	LS
Olivaceous Woodcreeper	<i>Sittasomus griseicapillus sylvioides</i>	Mon
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>	Mon
Northern Barred-Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae</i>	Mon
Cocoa Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus susurrans</i>	LS, SA, Car
Black-striped Woodcreeper <b>H</b>	<i>Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus</i>	Car
Spotted Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus erythropygius</i>	Mon
Streak-headed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>	Various
Spot-crowned Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes affinis</i>	Sav
<b>TYRANT FLYCATCHERS</b>	<b>TYRANNIDAE</b>	
Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet	<i>Ornithion semiflavum</i>	Car
Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>	VL
Yellow Tyrannulet	<i>Capsiempis flaveola</i>	SA
Greenish Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis viridicata</i>	VL
Yellow-bellied Elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>	SI
Mountain Elaenia	<i>Elaenia frantzii</i>	Sav, Mon



Torrent Tyrannulet	<i>Serpophaga cinerea</i>	VS, Sav
Olive-striped Flycatcher <b>H</b>	<i>Mionectes olivaceus</i>	Mon
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher <b>H</b>	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>	Car
Slaty-capped Flycatcher	<i>Leptopogon superciliaris</i>	VS
Paltry (Mistletoe) Tyrannulet	<i>Zimmerius parvus</i>	Various
Northern Scrub-Flycatcher	<i>Sublegatus arenarum</i>	RT, PM
Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Myiornis atricapillus</i>	LS
Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Lophotriccus pileatus</i>	VS, Mon
Northern Bentbill	<i>Oncostoma cinereigulare</i>	Car
Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher <b>H</b>	<i>Poecilotriccus sylvia</i>	Car
Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>	Various
Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum nigriceps</i>	VS, LS
Eye-ringed Flatbill	<i>Rhynchocyclus brevirostris</i>	LS, Car, Mon
Yellow-olive Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens cinereiceps</i>	Various
Stub-tailed Spadebill	<i>Platyrinchus cancrominus</i>	VL
Golden-crowned Spadebill	<i>Platyrinchus coronatus</i>	Car
Royal Flycatcher	<i>Onychorhynchus coronatus mexicanus</i>	Car
Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Terenotriccus erythrurus</i>	Car, VL
Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher	<i>Myiobius sulphureipygius aureatus</i>	Car
Tufted Flycatcher	<i>Mitrephanes phaeocercus aurantiiventris</i>	VS, Sav, Mon
Tropical Pewee	<i>Contopus cinereus brachytarsus/rhizophorus</i>	LS, RT
Yellowish Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flavescens</i>	Sav, Mon
Black-capped Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax atriceps</i>	Sav
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	VS, SA, Sav
Bright-rumped Attila	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>	LS, SA
Rufous Mourner	<i>Phytipterna holerythra</i>	LA, Mon
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>	LS, SA, Mon
Panama Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus panamensis</i>	RT
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	Various
Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>	Various
Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	Various
Gray-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes granadensis</i>	LS, SI, VL
White-ringed Flycatcher	<i>Conopias albobittatus</i>	LS
Golden-bellied Flycatcher (E)	<i>Myiodynastes hemichrysus</i>	Sav
Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>	Car
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes luteiventris</i>	Mon
Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>	VL, Car
Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	Various
Fork-tailed Flycatcher <b>L</b>	<i>Tyrannus savanna</i>	SI
<b>COTINGAS</b>	<b>COTINGIDAE</b>	
Turquoise Cotinga (E)	<i>Cotinga ridgwayi</i>	SI
Three-wattled Bellbird (E)	<i>Procnias tricarunculatus</i>	Mon
Snowy Cotinga	<i>Carpodectes nitidus</i>	LS
<b>MANAKINS</b>	<b>PIPRIDAE</b>	
Blue-crowned Manakin	<i>Lepidothrix coronata</i>	VL, Car
White-collared Manakin	<i>Manacus candei</i>	LS
Orange-collared Manakin (E)	<i>Manacus aurantiacus</i>	Car
Long-tailed Manakin	<i>Chiroxiphia linearis</i>	Mon, VL
<b>TITYRAS AND ALLIES</b>	<b>TITYRIDAE</b>	
Black-crowned Tityra	<i>Tityra inquisitor</i>	LS

Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>	LS, Mon
Barred Becard	<i>Pachyramphus versicolor</i>	Sav
Cinnamon Becard	<i>Pachyramphus cinnamomeus</i>	LS, Car
White-winged Becard	<i>Pachyramphus polychopterus similis</i>	SA, Car
Rose-throated Becard	<i>Pachyramphus aglaiae</i>	Car, PM
<b>VIREOS</b>	<b>VIREONIDAE</b>	
Rufous-browed Peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>	RT, Mon
Green Shrike-Vireo <b>H</b>	<i>Vireolanius pulchellus</i>	Car
Lesser Greenlet	<i>Pachysylvia decurtata</i>	Various
Yellow-green Vireo	<i>Vireo flavipes</i>	Car
Mangrove Vireo	<i>Vireo pallens</i>	RT
Brown-capped Vireo	<i>Vireo leucophrys</i>	Sav
Yellow-winged Vireo (E)	<i>Vireo carmioli</i>	Sav, CdM
<b>CROWS, JAYS, AND MAGPIES</b>	<b>CORVIDAE</b>	
White-throated Magpie-Jay	<i>Calocitta formosa</i>	Hwy
Brown Jay	<i>Cyanocorax morio</i>	Mon
<b>SWALLOWS</b>	<b>HIRUNDINIDAE</b>	
Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Pygochelidon cyanoleuca</i>	HR, Sav, Mon
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	PM
Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>	SA
Gray-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>	LS, RT
Mangrove Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>	SA, RT
<b>WRENS</b>	<b>TROGLODYTIDAE</b>	
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon intermedius</i>	Various
Ochraceous Wren (E)	<i>Troglodytes ochraceus</i>	Sav, Mon
Timberline Wren (E)	<i>Thryorchilus browni</i>	CdM
Rufous-naped Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus rufinucha capistratus</i>	Various
Black-throated Wren (E)	<i>Pheugopedius atrogularis</i>	VS, LS
Rufous-breasted Wren <b>H</b>	<i>Pheugopedius rutilus</i>	SI, Car
Rufous-and-white Wren	<i>Thryophilus rufalbus</i>	VL, Car, Mon
Canebrake Wren (E) <b>L</b>	<i>Cantorchilus zeledoni</i>	SA
Cabanis's Wren	<i>Cantorchilus modestus</i>	Mon
Riverside Wren (E)	<i>Cantorchilus semibadius</i>	VL, Car
Bay Wren	<i>Cantorchilus nigricapillus</i>	LS, SA
Stripe-breasted Wren (E)	<i>Cantorchilus thoracicus</i>	LS, SA
White-breasted Wood-Wren	<i>Henicorhina leucosticta</i>	LS, SA, Mon
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren	<i>Henicorhina leucophrys collina</i>	Sav, CdM, Mon
<b>GNATCATCHERS</b>	<b>POLIOPTILIDAE</b>	
Long-billed Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>	LS, Car
Tropical Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptil plumbea</i>	LS
White-lored Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila albiloris</i>	PM
<b>THRUSHES AND ALLIES</b>	<b>TURDIDAE</b>	
Black-faced Solitaire (E)	<i>Myadestes melanops</i>	Sav, Mon
Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush (E)	<i>Catharus gracilirostris</i>	CdM
Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush <b>H</b>	<i>Catharus aurantiirostris</i>	Mon
Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush	<i>Catharus fuscater</i>	VS, Mon
Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush	<i>Catharus frantzii</i>	Sav
Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush <b>H</b>	<i>Catharus mexicanus</i>	Mon
Sooty Thrush (Robin) (E)	<i>Turdus nigrescens</i>	CdM
Mountain Thrush (Robin)	<i>Turdus plebejus</i>	Mon



Clay-colored Thrush (Robin)	<i>Turdus grayi</i>	Various
<b>MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS</b>	<b>MIMIDAE</b>	
Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	SI
<b>SILKY-FLYCATCHERS</b>	<b>PTILOGONATIDAE</b>	
Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher (E)	<i>Ptilogonys caudatus</i>	Prov, Sav
<b>NEW WORLD WARBLERS</b>	<b>PARULIDAE</b>	
Flame-throated Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis gutturalis</i>	Sav, CdM
Olive-crowned Yellowthroat <b>H</b>	<i>Geothlypis semiflava</i>	SA
Tropical Parula	<i>Setophaga pitiayumi</i>	VS
Yellow (Mangrove) Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia bryanti</i>	RT
Rufous-capped Tanager	<i>Basileuterus rufifrons</i>	Mon
Black-cheeked Warbler (E)	<i>Basileuterus melanogenys</i>	Sav, CdM
Golden-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>	Mon
Costa Rican Warbler (E)	<i>Basileuterus melanotis</i>	Mon
Buff-rumped Warbler	<i>Myiothlypis fulvicauda</i>	LS, SA, Car
Slate-throated Redstart/Whitestart	<i>Myioborus miniatus comptus/aurantiacus</i>	VS, Mon
Collared Redstart/Whitestart (E)	<i>Myioborus torquatus</i>	Sav, CdM, Mon
Wrenthrush (E)	<i>Zeledonia coronata</i>	CdM
<b>TANAGERS AND ALLIES</b>	<b>THRAUPIDAE</b>	
Gray-headed Tanager	<i>Eucometis penicillata</i>	Car
White-shouldered Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus luctuosus</i>	LS, Car
Scarlet-rumped Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus p. passerinii / costaricensis</i>	LS, SA, SI, VL
Blue-gray Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus cana</i>	Various
Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	Various
Silver-throated Tanager	<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>	Mon
Golden-hooded Tanager	<i>Tangara larvata</i>	Various
Plain-colored Tanager (E)	<i>Tangara inornata</i>	LS
Spangle-cheeked Tanager (E)	<i>Tangara dowii</i>	Sav
Scarlet-thighed Dacnis	<i>Dacnis venusta</i>	VS, Mon
Shining Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes lucidus</i>	LS, SA
Red-legged Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>	Car, Mon
Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>	VS, LS, Car
Slaty Flowerpiercer (E)	<i>Diglossa plumbea</i>	Sav
Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>	Hwy
Variable Seedeater	<i>Sporophila corvina corvina</i>	LS, SA, SI
White-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila torqueola</i>	LS, PM
Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola mexicana</i>	VS, LS, Mon
Yellow-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris olivaceus</i>	Various
Dusky-faced Tanager	<i>Mitrospingus cassinii</i>	LS
Black-headed Saltator	<i>Saltator atriceps</i>	VS
Buff-throated Saltator	<i>Saltator maximus</i>	LS, SI, VL
<b>BUNTINGS, SPARROWS, SEEDEATERS</b>	<b>EMBERIZIDAE</b>	
Common Chlorospingus	<i>Chlorospingus ophthalmicus regionalis/novicius</i>	VS, Mon
Sooty-capped Chlorospingus (E)	<i>Chlorospingus pileatus</i>	Sav, CdM
Stripe-headed Sparrow	<i>Peucaea ruficauda</i>	PM
Black-striped Sparrow <b>H</b>	<i>Arremonops conirostris</i>	LS
Orange-billed Sparrow	<i>Arremon aurantirostris</i>	Various
Chestnut-capped Brushfinch	<i>Arremon brunneinucha</i>	Sav, Mon
Sooty-faced Finch (E)	<i>Arremon crassirostris</i>	VS
Volcano Junco (E)	<i>Junco vulcani</i>	CdM

Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>	Sav, CdM
Large-footed Finch (E)	<i>Pezopetes capitalis</i>	CdM
White-eared Ground-Sparrow	<i>Melospiza leucotis</i>	Mon
Yellow-thighed Finch (E)	<i>Pseliophorus tibialis</i>	Sav
White-naped Brushfinch	<i>Atlapetes albinuch</i>	VS, Mon
<b>CARDINALS AND ALLIES</b>	<b>CARDINALIDAE</b>	
Hepatic Tanager	<i>Piranga flava testacea</i>	Mon
Flame-colored Tanager	<i>Piranga bidentata</i>	Sav, CdM
Red-crowned Ant-Tanager	<i>Habia rubica</i>	VL, Mon
Red-throated Ant-Tanager	<i>Habia fuscicauda</i>	LS, SA
Black-faced Grosbeak	<i>Caryothraustes poliogaster</i>	LS, SA
Blue-black Grosbeak	<i>Cyanocompsa cyanooides</i>	Car
Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	Hwy
<b>TROUPIALS AND ALLIES</b>	<b>ICTERIDAE</b>	
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	RT, Hwy
Melodious Blackbird	<i>Dives dives</i>	Various
Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	Various
Black-cowled Oriole	<i>Icterus prosthemelas</i>	LS
Streak-backed Oriole	<i>Icterus pustulatus</i>	PM
Spot-breasted Oriole	<i>Icterus pectoralis</i>	HR
Scarlet-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus uropygialis</i>	SA, LS
Montezuma Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius montezuma</i>	VS, LS, SA
<b>SISKINS, CROSSBILLS, AND ALLIES</b>	<b>FRINGILLIDAE</b>	
Yellow-crowned Euphonia (E) H	<i>Euphonia luteicapilla</i>	LS, SI
Yellow-throated Euphonia	<i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>	VL
Elegant Euphonia	<i>Euphonia elegantissima</i>	Sav
Spot-crowned Euphonia (E)	<i>Euphonia imitans</i>	Car
Olive-backed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia gouldi</i>	LS, SA
Tawny-capped Euphonia (E)	<i>Euphonia anae</i>	VS
Golden-browed Chlorophonia (E)	<i>Chlorophonia callophrys</i>	Sav, Mon
<b>OLD WORLD SPARROWS</b>	<b>PASSERIDAE</b>	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Hwy



Cloud forest at Monteverde (Photo: Scott Olmstead)



**Mammals**

	<u>Species</u>	<u>Site(s)</u>
Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth	<i>Bradypus variegatus</i>	VS, LS
Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth	<i>Choloepus hoffmanni</i>	LS, SA
Nine-banded Long-nosed Armadillo	<i>Dasypus novemcinctus</i>	Mon
White-throated Capuchin Monkey	<i>Cebus capucinus</i>	Car
Mantled Howler Monkey	<i>Alouatta palliate</i>	LS, SA, Car
Central American Spider Monkey	<i>Ateles geoffroyi</i>	LS, SA, Mon
Red-tailed Squirrel	<i>Sciurus granatensis</i>	Various
Variiegated Squirrel	<i>Sciurus variegatoides</i>	Various
Mexican (Dwarf) Hairy Porcupine	<i>Coendou mexicanus</i>	Mon
Central American Agouti	<i>Dasyprocta punctate</i>	Various
Northern (Common) Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	RT
White-nosed Coati	<i>Nasua narica</i>	Various
Collared Peccary	<i>Tayassu tajacu</i>	LS



The strange **Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth** was seen at both Sueño Azul and La Selva. (Photo: Scott Olmstead)

**Amphibians**

	<u>Species</u>	<u>Site(s)</u>
Marine (Cane) Toad	<i>Rhinella (Bufo) marina</i>	SA, VL
Litter Toad	<i>Rhaebo (Bufo) haematiticus</i>	SA
Savage's Thin-toed Frog (Savage's Bull Frog)	<i>Leptodactylus savageii</i>	VL
Red-eyed Treefrog (Red-eyed Leaf Frog)	<i>Agalychnis callidryas</i>	VL
Masked Treefrog	<i>Smilisca phaeota</i>	VL
Harlequin Treefrog	<i>Dendropsophus ebraccatus</i>	VL
Yellow Treefrog	<i>Dendropsophus microcephalus</i>	VL
Green-and-black Poison Frog	<i>Dendrobates auratus</i>	Car
Strawberry Poison Frog	<i>Oophaga (Dendrobates) pumilio</i>	SA, LS



Green-and-black Poison Frog, fairly common at Carara, is always a crowd favorite. (Photo: Scott Olmstead)

**Reptiles**

	<u>Species</u>	<u>Site(s)</u>
Common Basilisk	<i>Basiliscus basiliscus</i>	Car
Emerald Basilisk	<i>Basiliscus plumifrons</i>	LS
Brown Basilisk	<i>Basiliscus vittatus</i>	HR, LS, SA
Spinytail Iguana	<i>Ctenosaura similis</i>	VL, Car
Green Iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>	LS, RT, VL
Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	Various
Central American Ameiva	<i>Ameiva festiva</i>	LS
Reticulated Ameiva (*needs confirmation)	<i>Ameiva leptophrys</i>	Car
Northern Cat-eyed Snake	<i>Leptodeira annulata</i>	VL
Green (Side-striped) Palm Pitviper	<i>Bothriechis lateralis</i>	Mon
Terciopelo (Fer-de-lance)	<i>Bothrops asper</i>	VL
Spectacled Caiman	<i>Caiman crocodilus</i>	SA
American Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>	RT