

*Victor Emanuel Nature Tours*

# **SUMMER COSTA RICA**

July 7-20, 2010



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Narrow and small in size, Costa Rica is big in birdlife. This incredible country is blessed with four mountain ranges and two faces, one towards the Pacific Ocean and another towards the Caribbean Sea. Our tour started with a drive to Carara where patches of forest and wetlands remain, even near urban areas. This is due to Costa Rican legislation which recognizes the importance of biodiversity as no other Latin American country. For example, lumbering and mining are well-restricted to certain areas; therefore, the main economic activity is nature tourism.



**Green Thorntail**

Our first day found us on an early morning drive to Carara where viable populations of Scarlet Macaws remain. Here we enjoyed Long-tailed Manakin, Streak-chested Antpitta, and Bicolored Antbird. Following Carara, we drove to Fonda Vela with visits to the Finca Ecológica, the Monteverde Reserve, and The Hummingbird Café, the last being a site where 8 species of hummingbirds abound. From this incredible and bird-rich side of Costa Rica we moved towards the Caribbean side.

At Volcán Arenal we were awakened at night by the loud rumbling of volcanic activity, while during the daytime we were delighted with coquettes, oropendolas, tanagers, and a superb walk across a trail with more than 15 suspended bridges!

The excitement continued with two full days at the famous La Selva Biological Station, a place that no visiting birder should miss. Feeding flocks, army ants, tinamous, and curassows are part of this “birder’s paradise.” Here, wildlife abounds and is not afraid of humans.

Our last location visited was Volcán Poás, where we saw Zeledonia, Flame-throated Warbler, a second Collared Redstart, and Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher. I want to express my gratitude to our driver and local guide, Santiago Morales. Also, I appreciate the assistance of the staff in La Selva and Fonda Vela, as well as the time the local artist, Cope, spent with us. Everyone we met in this country was always nice and happy to assist.



**Spectacled Owl**

I hope to see you again on another tour. In the Dominican Republic you can expect to see many endemic species due to island isolation, while on our Venezuela: Casa Maria & Hato Piñero Relaxed & Easy tour you will add many species to your life list and yet birdwatch at a relaxed pace. Should you wish to learn about bird identification and vocalization, our Trinidad & Tobago tour is the perfect choice. Last but not least, there is the adventurous island-hopping Lesser Antilles tour, which promises a lot of endemic species mixed with a rich cuisine and cultural contrast. *Hasta la vista!*



**Snowcap**

Following some species on our list, I have provided a link to see and download the videos taken during the tour. If you would like to see videos that I have taken on other tours, go to Ascanio Birding Tours: <http://www.ascaniobirding.com/>

## BIRDLIST

### *Tinamidae.*

**Great Tinamou.***Tinamus major.* We experienced a very close encounter with a pair in Carara and later saw a male apparently nesting in La Selva. I don't recall any other neotropical destination where one can expect to see Great Tinamou walking so close, and most important, not running away! For enjoying the video taken during the tour please click at the following link <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/great-tinamou-tinamus-major/individual-perched-ground-nesting-shaking-head-deal-mosquitoes>

**Little Tinamou.***Crypturellus soui.* This species was heard in three different days.

### *Anatidae.*

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck.***Dendrocygna autumnalis.* We observed individuals and small groups at various locations.

### *Cracidae.*

**Gray-headed Chachalaca.***Ortalis cinereiceps.* We had nice views of small groups around Hotel Arenal Lodge.

**Crested Guan.** *Penelope purpurascens.* This is another hard-to-see species in the neotropical region and still fairly easy in Costa Rica. We saw about 17 individuals throughout the trip including views in Caraca, Monteverde and Arenal Lodge. The most interesting experiences was one individual flying across the gardens of Hotel Fonda Vela and a family group in La Selva.

**Black Guan.***Chamaepetes unicolor.* We almost missed this species. Luckily we enjoy great views of a single individual in Volcán Poás.

**Great Curassow.***Crax rubra.* What a view! We enjoy a female with a chick wandering around the buildings of La Selva biological station. We need to thank the wathcman Roy, for finding it to us. For enjoying the video taken during the tour please click at the following link <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/great-curassow-crax-rubra/female-chick-searching-fruit-forest-floor>

### *Odontophoridae.*

**Crested Bobwhite.***Colinus cristatus.* Heard near Arenal lodge.

**Black-breasted Wood-Quail.***Odontophorus leucolaemus.* We observed a single individual calling loudly near Fonda Vela.

### *Pelecanidae.*

**Brown Pelican.***Pelecanus occidentalis.* We observed more than 60 individuals when reaching the caribbean coast on route to Arenal.

### *Phalacrocoracidae.*

**Neotropic Cormorant.***Phalacrocorax brasilianus.* Only one individual was seen at the boat trip to Río Tárcoles.

### *Anhingidae.*

**Anhinga.***Anhinga anhinga.* This species was seen at various wetlands in the lowlands of both sides of the country.

### *Fregatidae.*

**Magnificent Frigatebird.***Fregata magnificens.* Many individuals were seen at the caribbean coast on the drive to Arenal.

**Ardeidae.**

**Pinnated Bittern.***Botaurus pinnatus*. We enjoyed a great view of a single individual near La Selva. For seeing the video taken in the trip click on the following link

<http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/south-american-bittern-botaurus-pinnatus/single-individual-was-found-hiding-inside-tall-reed-o>

**Fasciated Tiger-Heron.***Tigrisoma fasciatum*. This one was first seen along the road to Virgen del Socorro and later seen near La Selva.

**Bare-throated Tiger-Heron.***Tigrisoma mexicanum*. A single individual was observed at the Río Tárcoles boat trip. Unlike previous years this time we did not see any individual along the river in front of the dining room in Hotel Villa Lapas.

**Great Blue Heron.***Ardea herodias*. A single individual was observed at the Río Tárcoles boat trip.

**Great Egret.***Ardea alba*. Several individuals were observed throughout the trip.

**Snowy Egret.***Egretta thula*. A single individual was seen near La Selva with yellow on back of the legs.

**Little Blue Heron.***Egretta caerulea*. Three individuals were observed at the Río Tárcoles boat trip.

**Tricolored Heron.***Egretta tricolor*. Five individuals were observed at the Río Tárcoles boat trip.

**Cattle Egret.***Bubulcus ibis*. Several individuals were reported throughout the trip.

**Green Heron.***Butorides virescens*. This species was seen in Carara and later in La Selva.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron.***Nyctanassa violacea*. Three individuals were observed at the Río Tárcoles boat trip.

**Boat-billed Heron.***Cochlearius cochlearius*. We enjoyed a juvenile at the Río Tárcoles and later saw an adult along the Río San Juan boat trip.

**Threskiornithidae.**

**White Ibis.***Eudocimus albus*. Nine individuals were observed in the surroundings of Carara.

**Green Ibis.***Mesembrinibis cayennensis*. Heard at La Selva.

**Roseate Spoonbill.***Platalea ajaja*. Twelve individuals were photographed at the Río Tárcoles boat trip.

**Ciconiidae.**

**Wood Stork.***Mycteria americana*. Three individuals were observed at the Río Tárcoles boat trip.

**Cathartidae.**

**Black Vulture.***Coragyps atratus*. This species was seen on every day but in Monteverde.

**Turkey Vulture.***Cathartes aura*. Ditto!

**Accipitridae.**

**Swallow-tailed Kite.***Elanoides forficatus*. This elegant kite was seen in Monteverde and in Arenal as well as in La Selva.

**Plumbeous Kite.***Ictinia plumbea*. We observed few individuals soaring with Turkey Vultures from the Río Tárcoles boat trip.

**White Hawk.***Leucopternis albicollis*. A couple of individuals were soaring above Virgen del Socorro road.

**Semiplumbeous Hawk.***Leucopternis semiplumbeus*. We enjoyed great views of a single individual catching a prey at the Selva Verde lodge.

**Mangrove Black-Hawk.***Buteogallus subtilis*. Six individuals were observed at the Río Tárcoles boat trip. This species was once considered conspecific with Common Black-Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus*.

**Roadside Hawk.***Buteo magnirostris*. The first individual was calling near Carara and later we observed two additional individuals.

**Gray Hawk.***Buteo nitidus*. This species is fairly common in Costa Rica, way more common than Roadside Hawk! It was seen at various locations.

**Falconidae.**

**Barred Forest-Falcon.***Micrastur mirandollei*. A single individual was heard at Monteverde.

**Crested Caracara.***Caracara cheriway*. This species was seen both days we spent in Carara.

**Yellow-headed Caracara.***Milvago chimachima*. This species was seen in Carara and around Arenal Lodge.

**Laughing Falcon.***Herpetoheres cachinnans*. This species is widespread in the lowlands of Costa Rica. It was heard in Carara and later seen in Arenal and in La Selva.

**Bat Falcon.***Falco ruficularis*. A pair was seen along the road from Monteverde to Arenal.

**Rallidae.**

**White-throated Crake.***Laterallus albigularis*. We enjoyed great views of two adults and two chicks near La Unión. A big thank you goes to the local artist Cope for taking us to this location.

**Gray-necked Wood-Rail.***Aramides cajanea*. This species was fairly common in the lowland locations.

**Purple Gallinule.***Porphyrio martinica*. A juvenile was observed along the Río Tárcoles boat trip and a pair was observed near La Selva.

**Charadriidae.**

**Black-bellied Plover.***Pluvialis squatarola*. Two individuals were observed at the Río Tárcoles.

**Jacanidae.**

**Northern Jacana.***Jacana spinosa*. A pair was observed near Virgen del Socorro.

**Scolopacidae.**

**Willet.***Tringa semipalmata*. Two individuals were observed at the Río Tárcoles.

**Whimbrel.***Numenius phaeopus*. One individual was observed at the Río Tárcoles.

**Ruddy Turnstone.***Arenaria interpres*. Three individuals were observed at the Río Tárcoles boat trip.

**Laridae.**

**Laughing Gull.***Leucophaeus atricilla*. This might have been the gull species flying along the mouth of the Río Tárcoles.

**Columbidae.**

**Rock Pigeon ( I ).***Columba livia*. Seen in urban areas.

**Pale-vented Pigeon.***Patagioenas cayennensis*. This species was fairly common in Arenal.

**Red-billed Pigeon.***Patagioenas flavirostris*. We enjoyed views of this species in Carara and in Arenal.

**Band-tailed Pigeon.***Patagioenas fasciata*. This highland pigeon was observed in Monteverde and in Volcán Poás.

**Ruddy Pigeon.***Patagioenas subvinacea*. A pair was observed taking pebbles along the main trail of Monteverde.

**Short-billed Pigeon.***Patagioenas nigrirostris*. This species was fairly common at both sides of the country, in the lowlands. For seeing the video taken in the trip click on the following link:

<http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/short-billed-pigeon-columba-nigrirostris/various-individuals-getting-ready-roost-small-tree-fa>

**White-winged Dove.***Zenaida asiatica*. Common around the open areas in Carara.

**Inca Dove.***Columbina inca*. Common around the open areas in Carara.

**Plain-breast. Ground-Dove.***Columbina minuta*. A single individual was identified along the road to the Río Tárcoles.

**Ruddy Ground-Dove.***Columbina talpacoti*. Common in open lowland areas.

**White-tipped Dove.***Leptotila verreauxi*. Fairly common in Carara. It was also seen near Arenal Lodge.

**Gray-chested Dove.***Leptotila cassini*. A pair was observed at the entrance of La Selva.

**Ruddy Quail-Dove.***Geotrygon montana*. We enjoyed great views of three individuals while walking the trails in Carara.

**Psittacidae.**

**Crimson-fronted Parakeet.***Aratinga finschi*. This is the commonest parakeet in the lowlands of Costa Rica. It mimics the plumage of Scarlet-fronted Parakeet *Aratinga wagleri* in South America and Hispaniola Parakeet *Aratinga chloroptera* of Hispaniola.

**Olive-throated Parakeet.***Aratinga nana*. More than a dozen individuals were seen on the road between Arenales and La Selva.

**Orange-fronted Parakeet.***Aratinga canicularis*. We enjoyed great views of a small group foraging at Guava fruits (Myrtaceae) below Monteverde.

**Great Green Macaw.***Ara ambiguus*. A total of 16 individuals were reported in our tour. In the afternoon of 17 July we observed a dozen individuals flying to the roost at dusk.

**Scarlet Macaw.***Ara macao*. More than a dozen individuals were seen flying over the Tárcoles river. Additional pairs were reported in Carara and Selva Verde.

**Orange-chinned Parakeet.***Brotogeris jugularis*. This is probably one of the commonest and most widespread parakeets in the lowlands of Costa Rica. We reported daily views.

**Brown-hooded Parrot.***Pyrrhuloxia haematotis*. We missed this species in Monteverde but were rewarded with astonishing views of a large flock feeding on a fruiting tree in Arenal. See the video taken in the trip in <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/brown-hooded-parrot-pionopsitta-haematotis/individual-foraging-berries-tree>

**White-crowned Parrot.** *Pionus senilis*. This species was seen at La Selva.

**White-fronted Parrot.***Amazona albifrons*. A pair was observed near Arenal lodge.

**Red-lored Parrot.***Amazona autumnalis*. Several pairs were observed at La Selva.

**Mealy Parrot.***Amazona farinosa*. The unmistakable call of this species allowed us to identify several pairs flying at various locations. We also observed a pair perched in Arenal lodge.

**Cuculidae.**

**Squirrel Cuckoo.***Piaya cayana*. More than five individuals were reported in the trip. Although this species is usually associated with forest is fond to feed on caterpillar and other arthropods at the forest edge.

**Lesser Ground-Cuckoo.***Morococcyx erythropygus*. We could not ask for a better view of this tricky and hard-to-see species. One individual came almost to Jeff shoes while moving towards us throughout the grasses and scrubby vegetation. We enjoyed great views of it! Notice that the English name should be replaced for Lesser Scrub-Cuckoo, as the ground-cuckoos are forest species in South America. For seeing the video taken in the tour please go to <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/lesser-ground-cuckoo-morococcyx-erythropygus/shy-individual-spent-his-time-skulking-inside-thi>

**Groove-billed Ani.***Crotophaga sulcirostris*. We had daily views of groups varying from 3 to 7 individuals.

**Strigidae.**

**Crested Owl.***Lophotrix cristata*. Despite our efforts to locate the individual singing below Fonda Vela in Monteverde we failed to see it. So, it remained as heard-only.

**Spectacled Owl.***Pulsatrix perspicillata*. We had great views of a sub-adult individual near Selva Verde. Additionally, an adult was seen at the river edge in Selva Verde. See the video at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/spectacled-owl-pulsatrix-perspicillata/video-one-individual-sub-adult-plumage-giving-call-note>

**Mottled Owl.***Ciccaba virgata*. This was another species seen well. We enjoyed a pair calling and hunting katydids and other arthropods in Monteverde. See the video in <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/mottled-owl-strix-virgata/single-individual-singing-after-eat-huge-arthropod-about-0730pm>

**Black-and-white Owl.***Ciccaba nigrolineata*. We enjoyed the same individual seen for the last 5 years in the main square of Orotina. The ice-cream man knows this couple very well and is usually the one to locate it for us. He express his concerns since he only sees one individual since march this year.

**Caprimulgidae.**

**Common Pauraque.***Nyctidromus albicollis*. Several individuals were seen in Arenal lodge road and near La Selva.

**Nyctibiidae.**

**Great Potoo.***Nyctibius grandis*. A pair was seen at the garbage dump near Selva Verde. What a site to be nesting!

**Common Potoo.***Nyctibius griseus*. An individual was found perched from the tram in Braulio Carrillo.

**Apodidae.**

**Chestnut-collared Swift.***Streptoprocne rutila*. This species is considered as part of the *Cypseloides* by the AOU, a genus of swift hard to tell apart in flight and better told by some field marks and the unique voice. We enjoyed views of three individuals flying above the terrace of Arenal Lodge in a rainy afternoon.

**White-collared Swift.***Streptoprocne zonaris*. Dozens of individuals were observed at Arenal Lodge apparently flying back to the roosting site. This species has a preference for waterfalls and steep walls to roost.

**Vaux's Swift.***Chaetura vauxi*. We enjoyed good studies and daily views while in Monteverde.

**Gray-rumped Swift.***Chaetura cinereiventris*. The commonest swift in the Caribbean lowlands. Several individuals were observed in every morning from La Selva. Although we managed to identify this species well I have my doubts about some shorter tail individuals which remained unidentified.

**Trochilidae.**

When naturalists sent the first specimens of hummingbirds to their corresponding clients and museums in Europe the first saying was that such creatures were a cross between an insect and a bird. Furthermore, as a consequence of having an impressive contrast of colors it is not surprising that pressure started for such fantastic creatures and an increasing market pushed a trade that shipped hundreds of thousands of hummingbirds skins into Europe. By then, there were no common names associated with each species. So, how did hummingbirds get such beautiful names? The responsible for naming most of the *Trochilidae* was J. Gould on his memorable five volume *Monograph of Trochilidae* (1849-1861). But, did you know that until the publication of his renowned monograph Gould had never seen a hummingbird alive? Only after finishing such impressive work Gould visited the Americas and saw his first living *Trochilidae*, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird in May 1857. Today, a first edition of Gould's monograph can be purchased at the auction market at US\$260,000 ((the more than 360 plates were all made from stuffed specimens!). In our Summer Costa Rica tour we managed to enjoy and learn about the ecology of 30 species of these magical creatures so despite the small size, Costa Rica is big in hummingbirds! For enjoying the video taken of the hummingbird feeders, please go to [file://localhost/<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHrvy7GjLWM>](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHrvy7GjLWM)

**Band-tailed Barbthroat.***Threnetes ruckeri*. We had great views of a pair singing at the lek in secondary growth in La Selva. See the video taken in the trip at

[file://localhost/<http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video:band-tailed-barbthroat-threnetes-ruckeri:one-individual-singing-previous-dusk-fairly-open-dark>](http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video:band-tailed-barbthroat-threnetes-ruckeri:one-individual-singing-previous-dusk-fairly-open-dark)

**Green Hermit.***Phaethornis guy*. We saw this species mainly around Arenal lodge.

**Long-billed Hermit.***Phaethornis longirostris*. Another hermit in which we saw individuals displaying at the lek. This lek was found inside thick *Heliconia* growth in La Selva.

**Stripe-throated Hermit.***Phaethornis striigularis*. We enjoyed views of individuals in Carara and in the vicinity of Arenal lodge. This species was once considered to be part of Little Hermit.

**Scaly-breasted Hummingbird.***Phaeochroa cuvierii*. We enjoy views of a single individual in Hotel Villa Lapas in Carara.

**Violet Sabrewing.***Campylopterus hemileucurus*. What a hummingbird! We loved this one and figured out that size matters in hummingbirds when the issue is about defending the feeder. Most of the other species left the feeders when this huge sabrewing floated around it to acquire more of the "suit juice". See the video at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/violet-sabrewing-campylopterus-hemileucurus/single-individual-approaching-hummingbird-feeder>

**White-necked Jacobin.***Florisuga mellivora*. This one was first seen around Carara and later around Arenal lodge.

**Green Violetear.***Colibri thalassinus*. A common visitor to the Hummingbird Café, in Monteverde. We enjoyed seeing how it lifted the ear patches when defending the perch against other hummingbird species. To enjoy the video go to <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/green-thorntail-discosura-conversii/male-was-found-perched-atop-bare-limb-fairly-exposed-small>

**Violet-headed Hummingbird.***Klais guimeti*. This species was a common visitor to the vervain flowers in Arenal Lodge. I don't know of any better location in the neotropics to enjoy views of this diminutive but elegant hummingbird.

**Black-crested Coquette.***Lophornis helenae*. One individual was seen at the vervain trail between two buildings at Arenal Lodge. Not a common species!

**Green Thorntail.***Discosura conversii*. This one was seen in two times. First, we enjoyed views of females and juveniles in Arenal lodge, and later we loved seeing a male perched near Braulio Carrillo national park. For enjoying the video of this species go to

**Canivet's Emerald.***Chlorostilbon canivetii*. This species was common in open areas and gardens in Fonda Vela and in Arenal Lodge.

**Violet-crowned Woodnymph.***Thalurania colombica*. This was another common species in La Selva. We had views of adults and juveniles as well.

**Fiery-throated Hummingbird.***Panterpe insignis*. This species was very common around Volcán Poás, and very responsive to the whistle of a pygmy-owl!

**Blue-throated Goldentail.***Hylocharis eliciae*. Unfortunately only heard. It was too dark in the trails at Carara, so we did not managed to see it.

**Blue-chested Hummingbird.***Amazilia amabilis*. We had great views of 4 males near the reception of La Selva biological station. See the video at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/blue-chested-hummingbird-polyerata-amabilis/single-individual-perched-inside-flowering-shrub-g>

**Mangrove Hummingbird (E).***Amazilia boucardi*. We enjoyed views of a single individual perched a bit above eye level in the Rio Tárcoles.

**Steely-vented Hummingbird.***Amazilia saucerrottei*. This species was common but not numerous in Monteverde. We had daily views in Fonda Vela.

**Rufous-tailed Hummingbird.***Amazilia tzacatl*. Many individuals were seen in Carara, in Arenal lodge and along the Virgen del Socorro road.

**Cinnamon Hummingbird.***Amazilia rutila*. We had superb views of an individual at the Orotina square. See the video at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/cinnamon-hummingbird-amazilia-rutila/orotina-square-perched-bare-branch-while-guarding-small-f>

**Stripe-tailed Hummingbird.***Eupherusa eximia*. Several individuals were observed at the Hummingbird Café in Monteverde.

**Coppery-headed Emerald (E).***Elvira cupreiceps*. Despite being a tiny creature this species was remarkably numerous at the Hummingbird Café in Monteverde. A Costa Rica endemic! Enjoy the video at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/coppery-headed-emerald-elvira-cupreiceps/various-individuals-attending-feeders-cafe-located-ne>

**Snowcap.***Microchera albocoronata*. This species can be easily considered the most beautiful hummingbird in Costa Rica. What a color! We loved seeing two adult males, a female and a subadult male. You can access the video at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/snowcap-microchera-albocoronata/male-was-video-taped-area-known-occur-species-near-entrance-ae>

**Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer.***Chalybura urochrysis*. A male was observed at the snowcap site, near Braulio Carrillo. We were able to see its red feet referring to the old name *Red-footed Plumeleteer*. Don't miss the video. Click in the following link <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/bronze-tailed-plumeleteer-chalybura-urochrysis/one-individual-guarding-flowering-bush-house-co>

**Purple-throated Mountain-Gem.***Lampornis castaneiventris*. Another little beauty seen at the hummingbird café in Monteverde. We saw many males and females. This species is sometimes named Variable Mountain-Gem. Enjoy the video of a female perched at a participant fingers clicking at the following link <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/variable-mountain-gem-lampornis-castaneiventris/female-perched-fingers-visitor-hummingbird-caf>

**Green-crowned Brilliant.***Heliodoxa jacula*. This large hummingbird has a diagnostic conical skull, probably an adaptation to reach nectar in large corollas. We saw several males (about 9) and fewer females (about 4) at the Hummingbird Café in Monteverde. The deep fork tail is an additional field mark. Sometimes is named Green-fronted Brilliant and you can enjoy the video at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/green-fronted-brilliant-heliodoxa-jacula/male-perched-closed-feeder>

**Magnificent Hummingbird.***Eugenes fulgens*. They say one is all you need and this was the case for this species! We saw only one individual in Volcán Poás.

**Purple-crowned Fairy.***Heliothryx barroti*. One can argue that *Heliothryx* is among the most elegant hummingbirds. The white flashes given by the outer tail feathers when flying plus the delicate mask on the face was enjoyed several times in Caraca and in La Selva

**Long-billed Starthroat.***Heliomaster longirostris*. We enjoyed a great view of an individual catching small insects in one afternoon near Fonda Vela.

**Volcano Hummingbird.***Selasphorus flammula*. This species was incredibly common below the entrance of Volcán Poás. It seems like a woodstart but the tail colour gave the clues for field identification.

### *Trogonidae.*

**Black-headed Trogon.***Trogon melanocephalus*. Three individuals were seen along the trail above Villa Lapas, in Carara.

**Orange-bellied Trogon.***Trogon aurantiiventris*. We observed a male along the trail in Finca Ecológica. This species is sometimes treated as a race of Collared Trogon. See the video at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/collared-trogon-trogon-collaris/individual-posted-video-refers-one-called-orange-bellied-trogo>

**Black-throated Trogon.***Trogon rufus*. We enjoyed views of a female in Carara and later saw a pair in La Selva at eye level! Enjoy the video of the female at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/black-throated-trogon-trogon-rufus/close-female-perched-edge-forest-notice-inflated-breast-ala>

**Slaty-tailed Trogon.** *Trogon massena*. This is the largest trogon species in La Selva and we saw two pairs in both mornings. Don't miss the video at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/slaty-tailed-trogon-trogon-massena/pair-calling-canopy-emergent-tree>

**Resplendent Quetzal.***Pharomachrus mocinno*. What a bird! Quetzals are always among the favorite species for our participants. We first enjoyed a male entering to a nest in Monteverde and later in the same day we observed the pair foraging at the entrance of the Monteverde reserve. The genus comes from the greek *pharos* meaning a loose mantle and *makros* refers to the long central rectrices (tail feathers).

### *Momotidae.*

**Blue-crowned Motmot.***Momotus momota*. This species is currently treated as five separate species. The one to occur in Costa Rica retains the original name (Blue-crowned Motmot) and the ones occurring in South America have been given new english names. For further information see the SACC website in <http://www.museum.lsu.edu/~Remsen/SACCBaseline05.html>

**Rufous Motmot.***Baryphthengus martii*. A pair was observed nesting in La Selva. Notice the serrated bill at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/rufous-motmot-baryphthengus-martii/individual-perched-next-nest-entrance>

**Keel-billed Motmot.***Electron carinatum*. This is the least common species of motmot for our trip. We had great views of a pair near Arenal Lodge. The resemblance of the voice of this species with the voice of Broad-billed Motmot *Electron platyrhynchum* is remarkable. In fact, when calling one species one usually listen responses of both species! Don't miss the first video ever posted of this species at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/keel-billed-motmot-electron-carinatum/single-individual-calling-playback-song-was-perched-vine>

**Broad-billed Motmot.***Electron platyrhynchum*. Several pairs were observed in Arenal and in La Selva. Both pairs were observed bringing prey to the nest. Don't miss this impressive video at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/broad-billed-motmot-electron-platyrhynchum/individual-killing-moth-while-perched-exposed-vine>

**Turquoise-browed Motmot.***Eumomota superciliosa*. This was Jeff favorite bird in Costa Rica. We enjoyed views of it in Orotina and on the drive to Monteverde.

*Alcedinidae.*

**Ringed Kingfisher.***Megaceryle torquatus.* We had sporadic views of this species in various rivers at both sides of the country.

**Amazon Kingfisher.***Chloroceryle amazona.* A couple of individuals were seen along the Rio San Juan, near La Selva.

**Green Kingfisher.***Chloroceryle americana.* We enjoyed views of this small kingfisher at Carara and in La Selva.

*Bucconidae.*

**White-necked Puffbird.***Notharchus hyperrhynchus.* A perched individual was observed in La Selva.

**White-fronted Nunbird.***Monasa morphoeus.* We owe a big thank you to Cope for taking us to a nesting site near La Unión. We enjoyed three individuals calling and displaying from a branch high in the canopy. See the video of this rare species in Costa Rica at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/white-fronted-nunbird-monasa-morphoeus/three-individuals-were-video-taped-mountain-some-20-min>

*Galbulidae.*

**Rufous-tailed Jacamar.***Galbula ruficauda.* This species was heard several times and observed near Arenal Lodge. A second sight was of a pair in La Selva.

*Ramphastidae.*

**Red-headed Barbet.***Eubucco bourcierii.* We observed a pair in a loose feeding flock at the remnants of cloud forest along the road to Virgen del Socorro.

**Prong-billed Barbet.***Semnornis frantzii.* We enjoyed views of a pair nesting and assisted by the nest helpers. Enjoy seeing the nest at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/prong-billed-barbet-semnornis-frantzii/pair-nesting-tree-hole>

**Emerald (Blue-throated) Toucanet.***Aulacorhynchus prasinus.* We had great views of this active species while in Monteverde and vicinity.

**Collared Aracari.***Pteroglossus torquatus.* Several groups were observed at the Caribbean side of Costa Rica from Arenal to La Selva. The genus *Pteroglossus* refers to the long feather-like tongue of these species and not to the size of the bill (Common believe). See the video at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/collared-aracari-pteroglossus-torquatus/small-group-was-moving-across-canopy-making-short-sall>

**Keel-billed (Rainbow-billed) Toucan.***Ramphastos sulfuratus.* Large *Ramphastidae* are a trademark of the tropics and this species matches anyone dream about seeing a beautiful toucan. We enjoyed views of this species almost daily. Simply enjoy this awesome toucan at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/rainbow-billed-toucan-ramphastos-sulfuratus/single-individual-looking-berries-canopy-tree>

**Chestnut-mandibled Toucan.***Ramphastos swainsonii.* We enjoyed seeing this yelper at many locations in the Caribbean side of the country.

*Picidae.*

**Black-cheeked Woodpecker.***Melanerpes pucherani.* We enjoyed daily views at the caribbean side of the country. Enjoy a video of an individual inside the nest at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/black-cheeked-woodpecker-melanerpes-pucherani/one-individual-showing-head-nest>

**Hoffmann's Woodpecker.***Melanerpes hoffmannii.* This species was seen regularly from Carara to Arenal and Monteverde. It was sympatric with Black-cheeked Woodpecker in Arenal.

**Hairy Woodpecker.***Picoides villosus.* This species was seen while we searched for Red-faced Spinetail at the bridge below Volcan Poás. Enjoy a short clip in <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/hairy-woodpecker-picoides-villosus/one-individual-foraging>

**Rufous-winged Woodpecker.***Piculus simplex.* A pair was observed twice at La Selva biological station.

**Golden-olive Woodpecker.***Colaptes rubiginosus.* We observed this species while birding at Fonda Vela, near Monteverde.

**Chestnut-colored Woodpecker.***Celeus castaneus.* A pair was seen near the entrance of La Selva Biological Station.

**Lineated Woodpecker.***Dryocopus lineatus.* We saw this species only once in Arenal.

**Pale-billed Woodpecker.***Campephilus guatemalensis*. This one was seen a couple of times and heard in the last day at La Selva.

***Furnariidae*.**

What is known today as the *Furnariidae* involved two families: The Ovenbirds (*Furnariidae*) and the woodcreepers (*Dendrocolaptidae*). Although there have been a historic controversy (For almost 100 years!) whether if they should be treated as one or two separate groups, DNA sequence published in 2002 have revealed that both families had to be lumped as one family thus reverting all the species into the *Furnariidae*. The proposal was accepted in September 2004 (SACC committee).

**Slaty Spinetail.***Synallaxis brachyura*. A single individual was observed in a pasture contiguous to the entrance of La Selva.

**Red-faced Spinetail.***Cranioleuca erythropis*. What a view! We enjoyed a pair of this species nesting in Monteverde.

**Spotted Barbtail.***Premnoplex brunnescens*. A pair was observed searching for arthropods at eye level in Monteverde.

**Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner.***Philydor rufum*. A single individual was seen with a feeding flock near Monteverde.

**Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner.***Automolus ochrolaemus*. A single individual was observed in the understory at the terra firme forest in Carara.

**Plain Xenops.***Xenops minutus*. This species was seen twice in Carara.

**Plain-brown Woodcreeper.***Dendrocincla fuliginosa*. Three individuals were observed with army ants in La Selva.

**Ruddy Woodcreeper.***Dendrocincla homochroa*. This is another species found with army ants. We saw a pair feeding on arthropods that were escaping from the ants (Finca Ecológica).

**Olivaceous Woodcreeper.***Sittasomus griseicapillus*. A single individual was seen at midstory in Finca Ecológica.

**Wedge-billed Woodcreeper.***Glyphorhynchus spirurus*. Several individuals were observed in lowland humid forest in Carara and La Selva.

**Northern Barred-Woodcreeper.***Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*. This is by default the most common large woodcreeper in the trip. We saw more than 12 individuals in our journey. Some were following army ants while other were by their own.

**Cocoa Woodcreeper.***Xiphorhynchus susurrans*. Common voice at dawn and dusk. We saw about 5 individuals in Carara and La Selva.

**Black-striped Woodcreeper.***Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*. Heard in Carara. Unfortunately not seen.

**Spotted Woodcreeper.***Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*. A single individual was observed in Monteverde. This species is replaced by Olive-backed Woodcreeper in northern South America.

**Streak-headed Woodcreeper.***Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*. This species is widespread in Costa Rica and its voice is commonly heard. We enjoyed views of at least 4 individuals.

***Thamnophilidae*.**

*Thamnophilidae*, along with *Formicariidae* and *Grallaridae* comprised once a single family. Nowadays *Thamnophilidae* comprises only the small antbirds while the other two families comprises the antthrushes and the antpittas.

**Fasciated Antshrike.***Cymbilaimus lineatus*. A male was enjoyed at the entrance of La Selva and another male was seen later with a feeding flock in La Selva.

**Great Antshrike.***Taraba major*. Only heard. Unfortunately this one was across the Sarapiquí river so we could not see it!

**Barred Antshrike.***Thamnophilus doliatus*. A pair was observed in Carara.

**Black-hooded Antshrike.***Thamnophilus bridgesi*. Various pairs were seen in Carara. A common voice in the Pacific side of Costa Rica.

**Western Slaty-Antshrike.***Thamnophilus atrinucha*. We got great views of a male singing while shaking the tail at midstory in La Selva. See the male shaking the tail while singing at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/western-slaty-antshrike-thamnophilus-atrinucha/male-was-singing-some-15-meters-ground-fairly-o>

**Russet Antshrike.***Thamnistes anabatinus*. A single individual was observed following a feeding flock in Virgen del Socorro.

**Slaty Antwren.***Myrmotherula schisticolor*. We had great views of a pair in Carara.

**Dot-winged Antwren.***Microrhopias quixensis*. This is one of the species with a weird distribution pattern in the neotropical region. It is found in Central America and in the Guianas, but not in the Caribbean face of South America. We observed two pairs foraging at midstrata in Carara.

**Dusky Antbird.***Cercomacra tyrannina*. A common species in Carara. Also seen in La Selva.

**Chestnut-backed Antbird.***Myrmeciza exsul*. This is the commonest antbird in the lowlands of Costa Rica. It was observed every day in Carara and La Selva.

**Spotted Antbird.***Hylophylax naevioides*. Only heard. Despite our efforts we never saw the individual singing in Arenal.

**Bicolored Antbird.***Gymnopithys leucaspis*. What a bird! We had to put a bit of extra effort to see this one in Carara. Great views!

#### **Formicariidae.**

**Black-faced Antthrush.***Formicarius analis*. A single individual was seen walking while inspecting the forest floor in Carara.

#### **Grallariidae.**

**Streak-chested Antpitta.***Hylopezus perspicillatus*. We had amazing views of this species at dusk in Carara.

**Thicket Antpitta.***Hylopezus dives*. This species is always tricky to see and although we were very close to it we failed to see it. So, it goes as only heard.

#### **Tyrannidae.**

**Yellow-bellied Elaenia.***Elaenia flavogaster*. Few individuals were seen in Arenal.

**Mountain Elaenia.***Elaenia frantzii*. This species was very common in Monteverde and in Volcán Poás.

**Torrent Tyrannulet.***Serpophaga cinerea*. Great views of a single individual close to the waterfall in Virgen del Socorro.

**Olive-striped Flycatcher.***Mionectes olivaceus*. Heard in Monteverde.

**Ochre-bellied Flycatcher.***Mionectes oleagineus*. This one was seen or heard at various locations. The song of this species in Central America is significantly different to the populations in South America.

**Slaty-capped Flycatcher.***Leptopogon superciliaris*. A single individual was observed in Virgen del Socorro road.

**Paltry Tyrannulet.***Zimmerius vilissimus*. This common species of the cloud forest was once considered to be found in northern South America. Today, Paltry Tyrannulet remains for Central America while Venezuelan Tyrannulet (a split from Paltry Tyrannulet) occurs in Northern South America. We saw this species in most locations.

**Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant.***Myiornis atricapillus*. We had great views of this species while along the trail in La Selva biological station. Notice that this genus involve the smallest passerine in the world! Enjoy the video at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/black-capped-pygmy-tyrant-myiornis-atricapillus/one-individual-was-video-taped-while-perched-b>

**Northern Bentbill.***Oncostoma cinereigulare*. This one was heard regularly in Carara and seen later while visiting the suspending bridges near the hotel. This species prefers areas rich in vine tangle.

**Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher.***Poecilatriccus sylvia*. We enjoyed a pair building a nest in Carara reserve. See the video of the individual carrying nesting material at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/slate-headed-tody-flycatcher-poecilatriccus-sylvia/individual-carrying-nesting-material-0>

**Common Tody-Flycatcher.***Todirostrum cinereum*. This species was seen almost daily.

**Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher.***Todirostrum nigriceps*. This canopy species was found on one of the trails in La Selva. We found it after looking for the "bumble bee" flying across the canopy of the trees!

**Eye-ringed Flatbill.***Rhynchocyclus brevirostris*. A midstory species seen twice in Monteverde. The genus *Tolmomyias* comprises a group of similar *Tyrannidae* that can be hard to identify in the field. Most species are better told by voice and by the presence of a flat and wide bill. This group of birds were once called *Flatbills* and although attempts were made to resurrect this common name (Hilty, S. *Birds of Venezuela*, 2003) it has remained as *flycatchers*.

**Yellow-olive Flycatcher.***Tolmomyias sulphureus*. We had great views in Carara. Notice that this species may comprises more than 5 species. Keep an eye on it!

**Yellow-margined Flycatcher.***Tolmomyias assimilis*. A single individual was seen in La Selva biological station. The voice of the Central America populations differs from the ones in South America, so expect a split in the future.

**White-throated Spadebill.***Platyrinchus mystaceus*. Two individuals were seen calling at the understory in Monteverde.

**Golden-crowned Spadebill.** *Platyrinchus coronatus*. A single individual was observed perched on a bare limb at lower midstory in a semi-open area in the Carara reserve.

**Royal Flycatcher.***Onychorhynchus coronatus*. We enjoyed great views of a female in La Selva biological station. Although it can be found with understorey feeding flocks we saw it very close to the ground, calling from a dark area of the forest.

**Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher.***Terenotriccus erythrurus*. One individual was observed at midstory in Carara.

**Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher.** *Myiobius sulphureipygius*. A pair was observed moving along with a feeding flock in Carara. See the video of this active passerine in <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/sulphur-rumped-flycatcher-myiobius-sulphureipygius/single-individual-foraging-dark-midstory-al>

**Tufted Flycatcher.***Mitrephanes phaeocercus*. A pair was observed nesting near La Cascada in la Virgen del Socorro road. The nest had two chicks.

**Dark Pewee.***Contopus lugubris*. This was another species seen in La Cascada along the road in Virgen del Socorro.

**Tropical Pewee.***Contopus cinereus*. This species was first seen in Fonda Vela and later observed in Arenal and near Braulio Carrillo national park.

**Yellowish Flycatcher.***Empidonax flavescens*. An individual was observed from the bridge of La Selva biological station.

**Long-tailed Tyrant.***Colonia colonus*. We enjoyed views of three individuals perched atop bare branches of a dead tree in La Selva.

**Bright-rumped Attila.***Attila spadiceus*. This polymorphic species was seen in various locations including Arenal and La Selva.

**Rufous Mourner.***Rhytipterna holerythra*. This uniform species was seen first in Carara and later in Fonda Vela and Arenal.

The genus *Myiarchus* comprises species hard to tell apart in the field. One must pay attention to the song, habitat, color at the edge of the primaries and tail feathers. This word *Myiarchus* means *the lord of flying*.

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher.***Myiarchus tuberculifer*. Pairs were seen or heard frequently during our tour. This is the most widespread *Myiarchus* in Costa Rica. Best told by the dark cap and the parakeet-like chattering vocalization.

**Panama Flycatcher.***Myiarchus panamensis*. A pair was seen in Carara. Best told by size and voice.

**Great Kiskadee.***Pitangus sulphuratus*. This is one of the trademarks of the tropics of America. The Great Kiskadee was seen almost everyday in our tour!

**Boat-billed Flycatcher.***Megarynchus pitangua*. This species can be misidentified as Great Kiskadee except for the size of the bill (very broad!) and the lack of rufous in the flight feathers. Also, the voice is rough, like a complaint.

**Social Flycatcher.** *Myiozetetes similis*. This species is also widespread in Costa Rica. It was seen at various locations of the tour. Bear in mind that what is today known as Social Flycatcher might involve more than three species in the future.

**Gray-capped Flycatcher.***Myiozetetes granadensis*. This one is fairly common in Costa Rica, becoming uncommon in northern South America. We observed scattered pairs along the tour. The color of the eyes, voice and habits are the best way to tell apart from Tropical Kingbird. See the video at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/grey-capped-flycatcher-myiozetetes-granadensis/single-individual-perched-wire-hotel-villa-lapa>

**White-ringed Flycatcher.***Conopias albovittatus*. This species is almost invariably found in the canopy. We observed a pair in La Selva. The lack of white on the throat and the voice are the best field marks.

**Golden-bellied Flycatcher.***Myiodynastes hemichrysus*. Two pairs were seen in Monteverde.

**Streaked Flycatcher.***Myiodynastes maculatus*. A single individual was observed in Carara.

**Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher.***Myiodynastes luteiventris*. Few individuals were seen in Arenal and in La Selva. It is similar to the previous species differing in having a distinctive malar stripe and more yellowish belly.

**Piratic Flycatcher.***Legatus leucophaius*. We saw three individuals in our trip. This is a migratory species in Costa Rica and should be gone during the time of our visit.

**Tropical Kingbird.***Tyrannus melancholicus*. This species was seen literally every day with several individuals per day.

### **Genera Incertae Sedis.**

Species with an uncertain taxonomic position and sharing a historic controversy to about which family they belong to.

**Rufous Piha.***Lipaugus unirufus*. We enjoyed great views of this species while looking for the White-fronted Nunbird.

**Cinnamon Becard.***Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*. Two pairs were seen in Arenal and La Selva. The latter was building a nest that I described in my note book as an “odd looking strip of fibers”. Don’t miss the video at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/cinnamon-becard-pachyramphus-cinnamomeus/single-individual-was-video-taped-perched-bare-branch>

**White-winged Becard.***Pachyramphus polychopterus*. A pair was observed in Carara.

**Rose-throated Becard.***Pachyramphus aglaiae*. We had several encounters with this species while birding in Carara and its surroundings.

**Masked Tityra.***Tityra semifasciata*. There is a broad overlapping between this species and the next one. In total we observed more than 16 individuals of this species. Usually found in pairs.

**Black-crowned Tityra.***Tityra inquisitor*. Scattered pairs were seen in Carara and Arenal.

### **Cotingidae.**

**Lovely Cotinga.***Cotinga amabilis*. A female was observed at the Hotel Fonda Vela. Unfortunately flew away before we could see it with the scope.

**Snowy Cotinga.***Carpodectes nitidus*. A female was observed perched atop a dead branch from the bridge of La Selva. Later, a male was enjoyed in the same area.

**Bare-necked Umbrellabird.***Cephalopterus glabricollis*. We had great views of a female perched at canopy level in the cloud forest of Braulio Carrillo national park. We had great views from the tram!

**Three-wattled Bellbird.***Procnias tricarunculatus*. This was one of the favorite species of the trip as it was enjoyed lengthly. In our first morning in Fonda Vela we saw a juvenile male, a sub-adult male and a female. Only two days after our first sight we saw up to five individuals including two adult male singing! Don’t miss the video taken from the terrace of Hotel Fonda Vela at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/three-wattled-bellbird-procnias-tricarunculatus/male-singing-side-female>

### **Pipridae.**

Manakins are the quintessence of neotropical birds. Arranged with wonderful plumages, several males of this family display in selected arenas (technically named *lek*) to attract the females, which usually have duller plumage.

**White-collared Manakin.***Manacus candei*. We enjoyed various males at a lek in La Selva.

**Orange-collared Manakin.***Manacus aurantiacus*. We had great views of a male and two females in Carara.

**White-ruffed Manakin.***Corapipo altera*. We saw a female near Arenal and later saw a male in Virgen del Socorro.

**Long-tailed Manakin.***Chiroxiphia linearis*. What a great species! In Carara we were lucky to observed two males displaying.

**Red-capped Manakin.***Pipra mentalis*. This was the most widespread *Piripidae* in our trip. We saw about seven individuals.

**Vireonidae.**

**Mangrove Vireo.***Vireo pallens*. We enjoyed great views of a single individual in the Mangroves of the Río Tarcoles.

**Yellow-winged Vireo.***Vireo carmioli*. A pair was observed at the entrance of the Volcan Poás.

**Brown-capped Vireo.***Vireo leucophrys*. This species was seen foraging with a feeding flock in Virgen del Socorro road.

**Yellow-green Vireo.***Vireo flavoviridis*. This species was common in Carara.

**Lesser Greenlet.***Hylophilus decurtatus*. This is the most widespread greenlet in Costa Rica. We reported it almost daily.

**Green Shrike-Vireo.***Vireolanius pulchellus*. Heard in Carara.

**Rufous-browed Peppershrike.***Cyclarhis gujanensis*. A pair was seen in Carara.

**Corvidae.**

**White-throated Magpie-Jay.***Calocitta formosa*. A pair was observed along the road from Carara to Monteverde.

**Brown Jay.***Cyanocorax morio*. Daily views.

**Hirundinidae.**

**Gray-breasted Martin.***Progne chalybea*. A single individual was seen near La Selva.

**Mangrove Swallow.***Tachycineta albilinea*. This species was seen first in Rio Tracoles and later close to La Selva.

**Blue-and-white Swallow.***Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*. This species was fairly common in mountains and slopes.

**Northern Rough-wing. Swallow.***Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. Few individuals were seen in Carara and in La Selva.

**Troglodytidae.**

Wrens are usually noticed because of their wonderful and distinctive vocalization. As in other passerine families several genera of the family have been subject to genetic studies driving to some taxonomic changes. One of the most relevant cases took place in 2006 when Mann *et al.* indicated that *Thryothorus* is polyphyletic and announced that true *Thryothorus* wrens are not found in South America. Furthermore, he resurrected two old genera (*Pheugopedius* and *Thryophilus*) and described *Cantorchilus*. Here we follow the traditional taxonomy keeping *Thryothorus* since such changes have not been accepted by the AOU as yet.

**Band-backed Wren.***Campylorhynchus zonatus*. This species was fairly common in La Selva. We saw three individuals.

**Rufous-naped Wren.***Campylorhynchus rufinucha*. This one was common in Carara.

**Black-throated Wren.***Thryothorus atrogularis*. We had great views of this loud-calling wren while in Arenal.

**Black-bellied Wren.***Thryothorus fasciatoventris*. Heard in Carara.

**Bay Wren.***Thryothorus nigricapillus*. We observed this one in Finca Ecológica, below Monteverde. It might have been nesting as we only saw one individual.

**Riverside Wren.***Thryothorus semibadius*. A pair was observed in Carara.

**Stripe-breasted Wren.***Thryothorus thoracicus*. Common around Arenal area.

**Rufous-breasted Wren.***Thryothorus rutilus*. Common around Carara.

**Rufous-and-white Wren.***Thryothorus rufalbus*. This species was seen in Caraca. It was always observed foraging in pairs.

**Plain Wren.** *Thryothorus modestus*. We observed this one in La Selva. It might have been nesting as we only saw one individual.

**House Wren.** *Troglodytes aedon*. This one was seen in most locations.

**Ochraceous Wren.** *Troglodytes ochraceus*. This canopy species was found near Monteverde.

**White-breasted Wood-Wren.** *Henicorhina leucosticta*. Common in La Selva. Several pairs were seen.

**Gray-breasted Wood-Wren.** *Henicorhina leucophrys*. Two pairs were observed in Monteverde.

**Nightingale Wren.** *Microcerculus philomela*. We enjoyed great views of this species in Arenal.

**Scaly-breasted Wren.** *Microcerculus marginatus*. We had superb views in Carara of two individuals coming to us while calling sporadically.

### *Sylviidae.*

**Long-billed Gnatwren.** *Ramphocaenus melanurus*. Pairs were seen in Carara and later heard in La Selva.

**Tropical Gnatcatcher.** *Poliophtila plumbea*. A pair was observed in La Selva.

### *Turdidae.*

**Black-faced Solitaire.** *Myadestes melanops*. What a bird! We enjoyed seeing this species singing from inside the forest in Monteverde.

**Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush.** *Catharus gracilirostris*. A single individual was enjoyed while in the trail of Volcán Poás.

**Orange-billed Nightingale -Thrush.** *Catharus aurantiirostris*. We saw this one around Fonda Vela, near Monteverde. In one morning we saw three individuals.

**Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush.** *Catharus fuscater*. Heard only in Monteverde.

**Sooty Thrush.** *Turdus nigrescens*. This species was seen near Monteverde and seen again in Volcán Poás.

**Mountain Thrush.** *Turdus plebejus*. Common around Monteverde.

**Pale-vented Thrush.** *Turdus obsoletus*. We had great views of this thrush near the waterfall in the Virgen del Socorro road.

**Clay-colored Thrush.** *Turdus grayi*. This species was seen at every day of the tour. This is the national bird of Costa Rica.

**White-throated Thrush.** *Turdus assimilis*. The best location to enjoy this species was Finca Ecológica with several individuals attending an ant swarm.

### *Ptilonotidae.*

The silky-flycatchers are not related with the tyrant flycatchers but are called this way because of their silky-looking plumage and of the foraging techniques, very much like the one used by true flycatchers. Most species are found in Central America and southern North America. This family of birds is related with the Waxwings.

**Black & yellow Silky-flycatcher.** *Phainoptila melanoxantha*. We observed a pair in Monteverde but enjoyed better views of another pair in Volcán Poás. This species is so robust that seems like a fruiteater of South America.

**Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher.** *Ptilonotus caudatus*. What a view! We loved seeing about 5 individuals on route to Volcan Poás. See the video at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/long-tailed-silky-flycatcher-ptilonotus-caudatus/pair-responding-playback-voice>

### *Parulidae.*

**Flame-throated Warbler.** *Parula gutturalis*. Five individuals were seen near Volcán Poás. What a beautiful bird! Notice that is placed in the same genus as the Northern Parula.

**Tropical Parula.** *Parula pitiayumi*. A pair was observed while walking across the hanging bridges near Arenal.

**Yellow Warbler.** *Dendroica petechia*. We observed the resident race of this species while on the boat trip at the Río Tárcoles. This race is sometimes named *Golden Warbler*.

**Gray-crowned Yellowthroat.** *Geothlypis poliocephala*. One individual was observed along the Río Tárcoles.

**Slate-throated Redstart.** *Myioborus miniatus*. This species was common in Monteverde.

**Collared Redstart (Whitestart).***Myioborus torquatus*. What a great view of a pair in Monteverde! Another pair was observed on route to Volcán Poás. See the amazing video taken in our tour at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/collared-redstart-myioborus-torquatus/individual-preening-fairly-open-branch-some-6-meters-gro>

**Golden-crowned Warbler.***Basileuterus culicivorus*. This species was fairly common below Monteverde.

**Rufous-capped Warbler.***Basileuterus rufifrons*. This one was seen in Monteverde and in Finca Ecológica.

**Black-cheeked Warbler.***Basileuterus melanogenys*. A pair was observed in the Zeledonia trail, in Volcán Poás.

**Three-striped Warbler.***Basileuterus tristriatus*. Several individuals were observed near Monteverde.

**Buff-rumped Warbler.***Phaeothlypis fulvicauda*. This species occurs close to water courses and was seen at several locations. We saw more than 23 individuals in our trip.

**Wrenthrush.***Zeledonia coronata*. This was another highlight of the tour. We had amazing views of a single individual coming very close to our feet in Volcán Poás.

#### **Genus Incertae Sedis.**

**Bananaquit.***Coereba flaveola*. Daily views of various individuals in fairly open habitats.

#### **Thraupidae.**

**Common Bush-Tanager.***Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*. We saw several individuals in Monteverde and other mountain areas.

**Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager.***Chlorospingus pileatus*. More than a dozen were seen in Volcán Poás.

**Black-and-yellow Tanager.***Chrysothlypis chrysomelas*. A small flock of 5 individuals was seen at the Snowcap site.

**Dusky-faced Tanager.***Mitrospingus cassinii*. A single individual was seen near La Selva.

**Gray-headed Tanager.***Eucometis penicillata*. This army ant specialist was observed in Carara.

**White-shouldered Tanager.***Tachyphonus luctuosus*. This species is mainly amazonian and radiates to Central and South America. We saw a pair in Carara.

**Tawny-crested Tanager.***Tachyphonus delatrii*. A pair was observed near Selva Verde lodge.

**Crimson-collared Tanager.***Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*. We enjoyed great views of three pairs while birding at the caribbean coast of Costa Rica.

**Passerini's Tanager.***Ramphocelus passerinii*. Daily views at the caribbean side of Costa Rica.

**Cherrie's Tanager.***Ramphocelus costaricensis*. A pair was observed in Carara.

**Olive Tanager.***Chlorothraupis carmioli*. A flock of about 16 individuals flew across the road at the entrance of the aerial tram to Braulio Carrillo.

**Blue-gray Tanager.***Thraupis episcopus*. Daily views.

**Palm Tanager.***Thraupis palmarum*. This species was fairly common at the caribbean side.

**Plain-colored Tanager.***Tangara inornata*. A single individual was observed at the aerial tram.

**Emerald Tanager.***Tangara florida*. A single individual was found by Geoff in Arenal.

**Silver-throated Tanager.***Tangara icterocephala*. We saw this one in about four times. Usually found in loose pairs or with feeding flocks.

**Speckled Tanager.***Tangara guttata*. A pair was observed at the aerial tram.

**Bay-headed Tanager.***Tangara gyrola*. This one was seen first in Carara and later in Arenal.

**Rufous-winged Tanager.***Tangara lavinia*. A pair was observed only in Arenal.

**Golden-hooded Tanager.***Tangara larvata*. This species turned out to be common at both sides of the country. Several individuals were seen.

**Spangle-cheeked Tanager.***Tangara dowii*. A pair was observed in Monteverde and later three pairs were seen in Volcán Poás.

**Scarlet-thighed Dacnis.***Dacnis venusta*. We enjoyed outstanding views of several individuals next to the reception of Hotel Fonda Vela where a tree packed with small berries worked as a magneto for several small passerine.

**Blue Dacnis.***Dacnis cayana*. A pair was seen twice in Monteverde.

**Green Honeycreeper.***Chlorophanes spiza*. Daily views in La Selva.

**Shining Honeycreeper.***Cyanerpes lucidus*. This one was also seen well in La Selva. This species is replaced by Purple Honeycreeper in South America.

**Red-legged Honeycreeper.***Cyanerpes cyaneus*. Daily views. Widespread in Costa Rica.

**Genus Incertae Sedis.**

**Grayish Saltator.***Saltator coerulescens*. We found this species at the Caribbean side of Costa Rica including a single one at the entrance of La Selva.

**Buff-throated Saltator.** *Saltator maximus*. We enjoyed daily views. We managed to pile more than 16 views in the whole trip.

**Emberizidae.**

**Blue-black Grassquit.***Volatinia jacarina*. Males were seen while in Carara.

**Variable Seedeater.***Sporophila americana (corvina)*. We enjoyed daily views mainly in the lowlands.

**White-collared Seedeater.***Sporophila torqueola*. A pair was seen near Arenal lodge.

**Nicaraguan Seed-Finch.***Oryzoborus nuttingi*. A single individual was heard in a grassland near Selva Verde lodge. Unfortunately it remained hidden far away in a scrub across a fence.

**Thick-billed Seed-Finch.***Oryzoborus funereus*. A female was scoped near Selva Verde lodge.

**Yellow-faced Grassquit.***Tiaris olivaceus*. We saw this species while birding the Pacific side of Costa Rica. Also seen near La Selva.

**Peg-billed Finch.***Acanthidops bairdii*. This large finch was observed in the trail of Volcán Poás.

**Slaty Flowerpiercer.***Diglossa plumbea*. This was another species seen only in Volcán Poás. We enjoyed views of more than 20 individuals.

**Yellow-thighed Finch.***Pselliophorus tibialis*. A conspicuous finch singing much like saltators dueting in South America. A pair was seen in Volcán Poás.

**Large-footed Finch.***Pezopetes capitalis*. About eight individuals were observed in Volcán Poás.

**White-naped Brush-Finch.***Atlapetes albinucha*. We enjoyed great views of this species while in Fonda Vela, near Monteverde. Enjoy the video of an individual singing at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/white-naped-brush-finch-atlapetes-albinucha/single-individual-singing-dawn-gardens-hotel-fonda>

**Sooty-faced Finch.***Arremon crassirostris*. A single individual was observed in Volcán Poás.

**Orange-billed Sparrow.** *Arremon aurantirostris*. This beautiful sparrow was seen well in Carara and later in Selva Verde lodge and La Selva biological station.

**Black-striped Sparrow.***Arremonops conirostris*. Various individuals were observed near Arenal.

**White-eared Ground-Sparrow.***Melospiza leucotis*. We enjoyed this one while in Fonda Vela, near Monteverde. The contrasting white ears were diagnostic.

**Stripe-headed Sparrow.***Aimophila ruficauda*. A very interesting sparrow occurring in open habitat (secondary growth and farmland) thus perching in the open. We enjoy views of it in Carara. See the video at <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/striped-headed-sparrow-aimophila-ruficauda/single-individual-perched-fairly-open-area-secondary>

**Rufous-collared Sparrow.** *Zonotrichia capensis*. A widespread species in Central and South America. It was seen in mountain areas.

**Cardinalidae.**

This family was described in 1901 (Ridgway) and have been recently in the scope of north american birders due to the recent place of some species previously thought to belong to the *Thraupidae* (Tanagers). In Costa Rica this affects the “tanagers” in the genus *Piranga* as well as the “ant-tanagers”.

**Red-throated Ant-Tanager.***Habia fuscicauda*. We observed this species while in the trail of La Selva lodge. It was seen in a small family group.

**Black-faced Grosbeak.***Caryothraustes poliogaster*. A group of about 5 individuals was observed at the edge of the forest in La Selva. Until few years ago the populations of Central America and South America were considered the same species but nowadays the one found south of Venezuela is named Yellow-green Grosbeak *Caryothraustes canadensis*. Did you noticed that the specific epithet makes reference to Canada? Join me in South Eastern Venezuela to find out more about this mistake!

**Blue-black Grosbeak.***Cyanocompsa cyanooides*. A pair was observed in dark understory in Carara.

**Icteridae.**

**Red-winged Blackbird.***Agelaius phoeniceus*. We saw this species while we drove across farmlands and partially opened areas near La Selva.

**Eastern Meadowlark.***Sturnella magna*. One individual was observed between Fonda Vela and Arenal lodge.

**Melodious Blackbird.***Dives dives*. We only heard this species while in La Selva.

**Great-tailed Grackle.***Quiscalus mexicanus*. This species was seen almost every day of the tour.

**Bronzed Cowbird.***Molothrus aeneus*. A large number was found near the pig farm down the road from Fonda Vela.

**Black-cowled Oriole.***Icterus prosthemelas*. We found this species in various times from Arenal lodge to La Selva, either in pairs or alone.

**Yellow-billed Cacique.***Amblycercus holosericeus*. A pair was observed along the dirt road heading from Arenal lodge out to the main road. It was heard first calling from inside a scrubby vegetation and later seen when flying across the road giving its diagnostic fast cocking of the tail in flight.

**Scarlet-rumped Cacique.***Cacicus uropygialis*. More than eight individuals were seen in La Selva.

**Chestnut-headed Oropendola.***Psarocolius wagleri*. This interesting oropendola was seen in Fonda Vela where we managed to see a pair. Later, in Arenal lodge we saw a group of 6 individuals inspecting the bark of bare branches. Don't miss the video of this uncommon oropendola in <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/chestnut-headed-oropendola-psarocolius-wagleri/small-flock-foraging-canopy-quite-active-inspec>

**Montezuma Oropendola.***Psarocolius montezuma*. This oropendola was very common in the Caribbean side of Costa Rica. We saw it several times in La Selva and in Arenal lodge.

**Fringillidae.**

**Scrub Euphonia.***Euphonia affinis*. Several pairs were observed in Carara.

**Yellow-crowned Euphonia.***Euphonia luteicapilla*. A pair was seen in La Selva.

**Yellow-throated Euphonia.***Euphonia hirundinacea*. This was the most common euphonia at the Pacific side of the country. We counted up to 16 individuals in six days.

**Spot-crowned Euphonia.***Euphonia imitans*. A female was glimpsed in the terra firme trail in Carara.

**Olive-backed Euphonia.***Euphonia gouldi*. This species was seen at the Caribbean side of the country with 22 individuals seen in four days.

**Tawny-capped Euphonia.***Euphonia anaeae*. This one was observed foraging along with feeding flocks. 8 individuals were seen.

**Elegant Euphonia.***Euphonia elegantissima*. A pair was seen from the terrace of Fonda Vela.

**Golden-browed Chlorophonia.***Chlorophonia callophrys*. This wonderful species was seen in Monteverde (more than 10 individuals in one day!) and near Volcán Poás.

## OTHER SPECIES LIST

### Mammals.

**Common Opossum.** *Didelphis massupialis*.  
**Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth.** *Bradypus variegatus*.  
**Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth.** *Choloepus hoffmanni*.  
**White-faced Capuchin Monkey.** *Cebus capuchinus*.  
**Mantled Howler Monkey.** *Alouatta palliata*.  
**Deppe's Squirrel.** *Sciurus deppei*.  
**Montane or Poas Squirrel.** *Syntheosciurus brochus*.  
**Variiegated Squirrel.** *Sciurus variegatoides*.  
**Unidentified Rat Species.**  
**Mexican Hairy Pocupine.** *Coendou mexicanus*.  
**Central America Agouti.** *Dasyprocta punctata*.  
**Paca.** *Agouti paca*.  
**White-nosed Coati.** *Nasua nasua*.  
**Olingo.** *Bassaricyon gabbii*.  
**Collared Peccary.** *Tayassu pecari*.

### Amphibians & Reptiles.

**Marine Toad.** *Bufo marinus*.  
**Green & black Poison Dart Frog.** *Dendrobates auratus*.  
**Sstrawberry Poison Dart Frog.** *Dendrobates pumilio*.  
**Red-eyed Leaf Frog.** *Agalychnis callidryas*.  
**Common Tink Frog.** *Eleutherodactylus diastema*.  
**Spectacled Caiman.** *Caiman crocodilus*.  
**Black Wood Turtle.** *Rhinoclemmys funerea*.  
**House Gecko.** *Hemidactylus frenatus*.  
**Jesus Christ Lizard.** *Basiliscus basiliscus*.  
**Green Basilisk.** *Basiliscus plumifrons*.  
**Black Spiny-tailed Iguana.** *Ctenosaura similis*.  
**Green Iguana.** *Iguana iguana*.  
**Stream Anole.** *Anolis oxylophus*.  
**Central America Whip-tailed Lizard.** *Ameiva ameiva*.  
**False Coral Snake.** *Colubridae*.

### Invertebrates.

**Golden Orb-Weaver.** *Nephila clavipes*.  
**Spider species.**  
**Leaf-cutting Ants.** *Atta cephalotes*.  
**Army Ants.** *Aciton burcheli*.  
**Bullet Ants.** *Paraponera clavata*.  
**Sundown Cicadas.** *Fidicina mannifera*.  
**Ant Lion.** *Mermeleon sp.*  
**Paper Wasp.** *Vespidae*.  
**Grasshopper species.**  
**Katydid species.**  
**Moth species.**  
**Caligo Butterfly.** *Caligo memmon*.  
**Morpho.** *Morpho peleides*.  
**Caterpillar species.**  
**Helicopter Damselfly.** *Megaloprepus caerulatus*.  
**Dragonfly species.**  
**Arboreal Termite.** *Nasutitermes sp.*  
**Mangrove Crabs.**  
**Cockroach species.**  
**Beetle species.**  
**Parasitic Phorid Flies.** *Diptera*.

**Mosquito sp.**

**Firefly sp.**

**Sandfly sp.**

**Hummingbird Hawk-Moth. *Macroglossum stellatarum***