A Tropical Birding set departure tour

COSTA RICA: The Introtour

15th – 25th February 2020

This Sunbittern, in Carara National Park, narrowly beat Resplendent Quetzal to bird of the tour (Bill Compton)

Tour Leader: Sam Woods

All of the photographs in this report were taken by some of the participants on this tour. Thanks to Bill Compton, Peter Rigsbee, and John Wilkinson for making them available!

Introduction:

Costa Rica is consistently one of the most popular destinations for overseas birding, the country is small but packed with birds, with distinctive bioregions offering different suites of birds. We covered most of these, including the foothills and lowlands on the Caribbean slope, lower mountains and upper highlands too, plus some time in the lowlands on the Pacific side of the mountains that cut horizontally through the middle of the country. The tour started out with rain causing some problems as we visited several sites in the lower foothills of the Caribbean slope near La Union. However, by the day’s end we had seen three species of owl (including Crested and Spectacled), a roosting Great Potoo, and watched feeders packed with tanagers, toucans, hummingbirds and honeycreepers, and a Russet-naped Wood-Rail stomping around below them as more than ample compensation!
A rainy morning was compensated by feeders bursting with tanagers and toucans, while this **Russet-naped Wood-Rail** stood below (Peter Rigsbee)

Continuing into the lowlands on the same side of the mountains, we visited the legendary La Selva Biological Station, where highlights included **Snowy Cotinga**, **Purple-throated Fruitcrow**, **Rufous-tailed Jacamar**, **Keel-billed Toucan**, three species of trogon, two species of motmot, five species of woodpecker, including Pale-billed, Cinnamon and Chestnut-colored Woodpeckers, and absurdly tame **Semiplumbeous Hawk** and **Great Tinamou**, as well as a sloth and several **Strawberry Poison Frogs**. From there, we moved uphill to the highlands around Savegre, where feeders were bursting with **Fiery-throated** and **Talamanca Hummingbirds**, and plentiful montane specialties were found, such as **Long-tailed and Black-and-yellow Silky-Flycatchers**, **Yellow-thighed Finch**, **Flame-colored and Spangle-cheeked Tanagers**, **Collared Redstart**, **Flame-throated Warbler**, the elusive **Wrenthrush**, and a **Volcano Junco** at the upper extremity of the tour, at nearly over 9,800ft (3,000m). However, all of these were arguably overshadowed by the area’s star avian attraction, the must see **Resplendent Quetzal**, a gorgeous bird daubed in emerald green and vermilion red. From there, we headed downslope again, but this time into the Pacific lowlands around Carara. On the way there, we spent a quality few hours in open country near Orotina, where local guide Alvaro led us from one great bird to another, starting out with a daytime **Pacific Screech-Owl** (one of 6 owls seen, all during the daytime), the jaw-droppingly beautiful **Turquoise-browed Motmot**, several statuesque **Double-striped Thick-knees**, and a late show from a **Lesser Ground-Cuckoo**, not long after we added **Black-headed Trogon** to the list there too. Once in Carara, we enjoyed **Scarlet Macaws**, **Collared Forest-Falcon**, a cooperative **Black-faced Ant thrush**, a long, long time with an extremely popular **Sunbittern**, and **American Pygmy-Kingfisher**, **Bare-throated Tiger-Herons** and **Boat-billed Herons** on a boat trip that also included **Roseate Spoonbill** and **Black Skimmer**. Mammals in that area included **capuchins** and **spider-monkeys**, and a surprise **Green-and-black Poison Frog** was also popular, as was an ivory white **Northern Ghost Bat** hanging from an overhead palm.
Our last stop came in the lower mountains, in the area around the world famous cloudforest of Monteverde. As we arrived there, the striking White-throated Magpie-Jay blocked our way to the lodge, as did a nearby White-fronted Parrot perches at eye level; while our time in the forests featured Prong-billed Barbet, Collared Trogon, extreme close ups of Lesson’s Motmots around our lodge, Long-tailed Manakin, and a wonderful collection of hummingbirds, like Magenta-throated Woodstar, Purple-throated Mountain-Gem, Violet Sabrewing, and Coppery-headed Emerald. We did well for warblers on this trip, with more than 20 warbler species, and our final one being added there in the shape of Costa Rican Warbler, which was seen nearby a few Golden-winged Warblers too. Special mention should also go to our driver, come secret bird guide of the tour, Luis, whose good humor constantly entertained us, navigation around the complex city of San Jose impressed us, and eyes found us more than a few key birds, like a pair of Black-and-white Owls roosting in the Tarcoles area, and the rare Ochraceous Pewee in the highlands.

At the tour end, we took the usual vote to try and narrow down our bird list to a simple top five birds of the tour, and as is very normal for this tour, there were many contenders put forward by the group. 24 species were highlighted by the group, most already mentioned above, but also others like Purple Gallinule, Gartered Trogon, Yellow-throated Toucan, Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush and Orange-billed Sparrow. After all the votes were in, the premier birds of the tour were decided to be…

Turquoise-browed Motmot, Orotina (John Wilkinson)

TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE TOUR:

1 SUNBITTERN, Carara National Park
2 RESPLENDENT QUETZAL, Savegre Valley
3 TURQUOISE-BROWED MOTMOT, Orotina
4 BLACK-AND-WHITE OWL, Tarcoles
5 SLATY-BACKED NIGHTINGALE-THRUSH, Monteverde
Tour Summary:

Day 1 (of birding): La Union area to La Selva Biological Station.

The tour started right in the garden of our hotel near San Jose airport. While the property may be small, it is still easy to get the tour off to a good start there, with interesting species always present. Star among them was a smashing, bright orange Spot-breasted Oriole (left Bill Compton), a perched Crimson-fronted Parakeet, several Hoffman’s Woodpeckers, and right near the end, a wonderful Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl glaring at us. Our itinerary then had to undergo some unexpected changes. We had planned to visit Braulio Carrillo NP first, and then visit the hummingbird garden of El Tapir. Sadly, persistent rain prevented us from making it on to the trail at the park, and El Tapir had very recently been closed with a sale of the property! However, in spite of such obstacles, we had a great day. Our first stop north of San Jose was a small new reserve in La Union, where our host, “Yuyin” happily led us around his birdy property. As rain continued on and off, we were grateful to a set of feeders with plentiful cover for us, which were underwent a constant procession of birds; Yellow-throated Toucan, Collared Aracari, Yellow-crowned and Olive-backed Euphonias, Orange-chinned Parakeet, Red-legged Honeycreepers (right, Peter Rigsbee), both Chestnut-headed and Montezuma Oropendolas, and Russet-naped Wood-Rail were just some of the visitors during our time there! Away from the feeders, a car park side Blue-black Grosbeak, Keel-billed Toucan, and both Black-cheeked and Lineated Woodpeckers kept us entertained between continuing bouts of rain.

Following lunch nearby, we swapped one private reserve for another, “Cope’s Place”. Once there, we were led around to a steady stream of top quality birds, making the rain and frustrations of the morning all seem like a distant memory!
Three owls were seen on our first day: *Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl* (above) at our hotel and *Spectacled Owl* later (John Wilkinson).
However, one of the first highlights was not avian, but mammalian, with a small group of tiny White Tent Bats showed to us within their self-constructed “tent”, which comprised of a large green leaf bitten by them to ensure it hung tightly around them. A couple of walks into the forest were needed to first looks at a bold Spectacled Owl at a day roost, which was arguably then upstaged by the roosting Crested Owl (left Bill Compton) found within an hour of that too! In between the owls was a popular Stripe-throated Hermit scoped at length as it sang from a forest perch. Then, the last roosting nightbird of the afternoon was a cryptic Great Potoo sitting high in the trees. We finished our time in La Union, and Cope’s Place, at his feeders, watching another veritable parade of birds; the hummingbird feeders drew in Crowned Woodnymph, White-necked Jacobin, and Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer, while fruit feeders attracted the attentions of more oropendolas, plus Crimson-collared, Silver-throated and Scarlet-rumped Tanagers, while another Russet-naped Wood-Rail lurked in the background. At the end of a day that was bursting with tropical color, at two very active feeding stations, we drove on to La Selva Biological Station, our base for the next two nights.
Chestnut-headed Oropendolas (above, Bill Compton) and Collared Aracaris (below John Wilkinson) also fed at the feeders in La Union.
During the rain at La Union we watched Red-legged Honeycreeper (above, John Wilkinson) and Black-cowled Oriole (Bill Compton)
Day 2: La Selva Biological Station.

We awoke with some excitement, with a full day in the legendary forest of La Selva awaiting us. I had warned the group that the Caribbean lowlands, where we were, was one of the wettest areas of the country with rain possible at any time. And so it proved prophetic, with a day with rain scattered regularly throughout causing us frustration. However, La Selva being what it is, this did not stop us from seeing some great birds all the same, in spite of the challenging conditions. This was due to a great team effort in finding the birds, and persistence in the face of unwelcoming conditions!

In the morning, we were joined by one of the station’s expert guides, Joel. We spent some time in the morning around the famous clearing around the station itself, in the more open forest on the near side of the river and then in the afternoon crossed over to the other side and explored further forest there. This day ended up being quite similar to the one before; in spite of seemingly difficult wet conditions for birding, the birds came up all the same. During the day we were able to find Chestnut-colored, Rufous-winged and Pale-billed Woodpeckers, several male Snowy Cotingas, three species of toucan (including Keel-billed), three species of trogon (Slaty-tailed, Gartered, and Black-throated, latter above John Wilkinson), Broad-billed and Rufous Motmots, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Purple-crowned Fairy, Northern Barred Woodcreeper, the tiny Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, a striking Band-backed Wren, some no less striking Long-tailed Tyrants, Rufous Mourner, Black-faced Grosbeak and Golden-hooded Tanager (left Peter Rigsbee). Not to mention some bold Crested Guans, a furtive Fasciated Antshrike, and a regular dose of wintering boreal birds in the form of Baltimore Oriole and multiple Chestnut-sided Warblers.

Thanks to Joel, we also had an absurdly close encounter with a Semiplumbeous Hawk that chose to land right beside us for no apparent reason! It was a bad weather day, with large spells of inactivity, but at the end of it all we had all these birds, plus a Hoffman’s Two-toed Sloth curled into a ball, and some Strawberry Poison Frogs hopping amongst the wet leaf litter.
Day 3: La Selva Biological Station to Savegre.

We had a final morning in La Selva, before we took a long drive east into the highlands of the Talamanca Mountain Range. Early success came with a pair of noisy Great Green Macaws that overflew our accommodations first thing. Then a Cocoa Woodpecker and Cinnamon Woodpecker, all preceded breakfast. After breakfast the rain that had been a near constant companion since arriving on the Caribbean side, hit us again. We birded in bouts between the rain, which allowed us to bring a steady flow of birds to us, as it had been the day before. If you have to be based anywhere, when rain hits, the clearing at La Selva is one such place to choose. There is rarely nothing happening. Perhaps our most savored moment that morning was time with an absurdly confiding Great Tinamou. Having first twisted and turn to see a “normal” one, we then encountered a much more cooperative individual, which lingered with us for some time. This was the hands down highlight of the morning, but other birds were around too, like Crested Guan, the same Semiplumbeous Hawk that had featured the day previous, Rufous-winged Woodpecker, Slaty-tailed Trogon, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Collared Aracari, Yellow-throated and Keel-billed Toucans, and both Band-backed and Stripe-breasted Wrens. We also located the same two-toed sloth from the day before, which at times revealed his head to some, though mostly remained in a tight ball! Mantled Howler Monkeys were also encountered for the first time that morning.

After the long drive circumnavigating San Jose’s overloaded traffic system, we made it into the highlands, where we ventured into Los Quetzales NP, and drove down into the Savegre Valley. Our birding time there was very quiet in truth, although we did get our first gorgeous Collared Redstarts and Flame-colored Tanager, the block-headed Black-capped Flycatcher, a bold Large-footed Finch prowling a local garden, and several Sooty Thrushes graced various mountain yards. In the evening, we enjoyed a sprawling buffet at the legendary Savegre Hotel, where the walls were decked out with photos of local birds by professional photographers, and the bar comes adorned with a stained-glass window with a quetzal design on it!
Crested Guan (above, Bill Compton) and Great Tinamou (below Peter Rigsbee) were tame at La Selva.
Day 4: Savegre and Cerro de la Muerte.

Staying near the base of the Savegre Valley, with rich montane oak forest carpeting the valley, gave us plenty to see right near where we stayed. In the morning, we concentrated on areas locally, then took a drive uphill to some higher elevation sites around Cerro de la Muerte then. With a Resplendent Quetzal, one of the most highly-desired, and spectacular, Costa Rican birds, recently having started nesting close to our hotel, this was our first natural port of call. Having left at dawn, we got there in time to see the male a few times, before he disappeared into his nest cavity. Now being in the highlands, with a totally different avifauna, loaded with regional specialties, this day was our birdlist jump considerably, with a steady stream of new birds through the day. At this first stop, the quetzal was not the only attraction, the ever-popular Yellow-thighed Finch also made a roadside appearance, and the much more dowdy, but also much rarer, was a Streak-breasted Treehunter, which crept around the mossy branches of a towering tree for long enough that all got to see it. A Black Guan stood sentry in a tree there too, and with many people out admiring the quetzal, news quickly spread of these other birds too. After our brief “quetzal run”, we returned to the hotel for a substantial buffet breakfast, and to check the garden. Around the well-manicured flowerbeds were Lesser Violetear, White-throated Mountain-Gem, and Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, as well as the amazing Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher. After that, we headed up to some higher old growth forests on the property, finding Ruddy Pigeon, Yellow-winged Vireo and several Northern Emerald Toucanets while up there. Just before lunch, we ventured on to a trail below the lodge that leads to a waterfall. The waterfall was far too far for us to venture to, but we were there knowing that the start of the trail can be a highly productive birding area, especially if a passing flock comes through. And so it proved; Ruddy Treerunner appeared early on, as did Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush. Spot-crowned Woodcreeper crept up a trunk, Brown-capped and Yellow-winged Vireos passed through with the procession of flock birds, as did Flame-throated, Black-throated Green, and Golden-winged Warblers.
Ochraceous Wren was also present, and helpfully posed completely in the open for some time. After some time sifting through the flock for our main quarry, it suddenly appeared, a pair of stunning Spangle-cheeked Tanagers, speckled with glorious electric blue, and washed with orange, it much be one of the country's most beautiful tanagers, and was our cue to return to the lodge for lunch.

Spangle-cheeked Tanager made a welcome appearance near our wonderful hotel at Savegre (John Wilkinson)

Following lunch, we drove up to the top of the valley, and then drive higher still to the highest point of the tour, at Cerro de la Muerte, situated at around 9840ft (3000m). Here, the forested slopes were replaced by paramo, a combination of stunted shrubs and short stands of bamboo, above the treeline. Our main quarry here was not too difficult to find, Volcano Junco, a very local species, with this being the only readily accessible for the species on Earth. Nearby, we upgraded our views of Timberline Wren, but also enjoyed a Flame-throated Warbler and several Slaty Flowerpiercers, and got close ups of a charming Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush. One of our final stops of the day was sort of random, we stopped, at a likely spot for Wrenthrush, not hearing a peep out of that, but use of a pygmy-owl call brought in a veritable siege of birds, which included a pair of Black-and-yellow Silky-Flycatcher, as well as another ten or so Long-tailed Silky-Flycatchers too. Our final pause was made as we descended the Savegre Valley back towards our lodging, making one final try for Wrenthrush, at a recent spot. The undergrowth was already shady by this time of day, but this worked in our favor, as the bird hopped on and off several open perches. Just across the road, a sterling performance from a pair of Black-cheeked Warblers rounded off a day with many new birds added in the scenic highlands of Costa Rica, where we were in sight of both Pacific and Caribbean slopes from the highest point.
Volcano Junco was found at Cerro de la Muerte, the highest point of the tour at over 9000ft (above, John Wilkinson)

Lesser Violetears were abundant at the feeders in the cloudforest (above, John Wilkinson)
Day 5: Savegre and Paraiso Quetzal to Carara via Orotina.

Another varied day lay ahead of us; we started out birding montane forest, first near our lodge in the Savegre Valley, then higher up at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge, and then drive southwest into the lowlands of the Pacific for the final birding of the day. Most could not resist returning to the Resplendent Quetzal (right, Bill Compton) nest site, and in spite of greater numbers of people present, we enjoyed several amazing, long looks at the male, with his famous long bright green feathers flailing along below him, occasionally moved by small breaths of wind. Moving upslope after breakfast, we spent some final time birding the forested slopes beside the road within the valley, with tens of Long-tailed Silky-Flycatchers, and several Flame-throated Warblers and Sooty-capped Chlorospinguses being upstaged by a find from our driver Luis, the rare Ochraceous Pewee, sitting in full view of the road for some time. A Barred Becard in the same area was the only one seen on the tour. We were greeted by hummingbird-packed feeders on arrival at Paraiso Quetzal, our main reason for visiting, which held one of the country’s most striking hummingbirds, Fiery-throated, as well as the local Talamanca Hummingbird, Volcano Hummingbird and Lesser Violetear. In nearby trees a Golden-browed Chlorophonia made a brief appearance, but quickly disappeared. After taking lunch en-route, with Swallow-tailed Kites soaring around the restaurant, we drove on to Orotina, where local guide Alvaro worked some magic in just a few hours in his area. Shortly after arriving we were scoping a wonderful Striped Cuckoo, which was swiftly forgotten, when he pointed out a Pacific Screech-Owl dozing by his house! Brief appearances by a pair of Scrub Euphonias were quickly forgotten once we set eyes on Turquoise-browed Motmots for the first time, with several outstanding views of this spectacular bird enjoyed over our few hours there. This must surely be one of the country’s most stunning birds, ranking even alongside the legendary quetzal?! Certainly this group seemed to be on my side on this one! Next up was a roosting Barn Owl, suitably in a large barn, an area that also held Eastern Meadowlark, Streak-backed Oriole and Gray-crowned Yellowthroat, before nearby birding led to Alvaro gesturing again, this time at a sharp Pearl Kite sitting over the road. Moments later, he turned our attentions to the fields nearby, where several Double-striped Thick-knee stood calmly by. Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl was our third owl of the afternoon there, while an American Kestrel sat in the distance. Black-headed Trogon was also added, and became our sixth trogon of the tour. The roadsides nearby held our first flock of Stripe-headed Sparrows foraging in the same area as a few Blue Grosbeaks. Then, Sam and Alvaro set off for our final hope—Lesser Ground-Cuckoo. Having heard one distantly, they both quickly rejoined the rest of the group and drove up the road in the direction of the call. While we waited to see if the ground-cuckoo would respond to Alvaro’s efforts, a Cinnamon Hummingbird buzzed around some nearby shrubs. Not long after Alvaro noticed the Lesser Ground-Cuckoo had crept quietly up to a low branch, where it remained for everyone to gorge on. After only several hours with Alvaro, we bade him farewell, still in disbelief at the long list of excellent birds that had been “given” to us by him, and drove on to our hotel on the edge of Carara National Park for the night.
Another 3-owl day, at Orotina, with this Pacific Screech-Owl (above, John Wilkinson), this Barn Owl (Bill Compton), and a Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl…
Day 6: Carara NP and Tarcoles River.

This is always a day of contrasts on this long running, classic itinerary. We started out by birding the extensive grounds of our hotel, before taking the earliest breakfast we could and heading into Carara National Park, virtually next door. Returning to the hotel for lunch, this was followed by a boat trip from Tarcoles, for a very relaxing close to the day. Starting around the hotel, a Yellow-olive Flycatcher was identified correctly after closer inspection, and then a Bare-throated Tiger-Heron (next page Bill Compton) near our breakfast spread was very popular, a species that also featured heavily on the later boat cruise that would encounter ten species of heron in a few hours! A short drive after breakfast brought us to the main entrance of the national park at Carara. Around the ticket booth the group set about finding birds, and quickly latched on to a Blue-throated Goldentail plundering the flowers by the parking lot. Then we took a short drive to the beginning of one of the park’s most famous trails that leads to Meandrica Lagoon. As usual, we did not make it that far though. Near the trailhead, the local guard revealed the location of a hanging Northern Ghost Bat, our second, (much larger), white bat of the trip. As with all tropical forest trails, we had some hits and misses, with periods of high activity, punctuated with long spells of quiet within this hot rainforest. Early on, Black-hooded Antshrike showed up, as did White-shouldered Tanager, and Rufous-breasted Wren. Further down the trail, some got decent looks at the notoriously elusive Black-bellied Wren, and all got good looks at a striking Barred Antshrikes. One of the highlights during early spells on the trail was tracking down a male Baird’s Trogon, a species we had expected to need much more work to find. We also had super looks at several more Slaty-tailed Trogons. Late additions further along the trail included Slaty-headed Tody-Flycatcher, Charming Hummingbird, and a cooperative White-whiskered Puffbird. White-fronted Capuchins also gave their best looks of the tour. However, arguably John had the sighting of the morning when he found a gorgeous male Orange-collared Manakin, which promptly disappeared from view.
Returning to the our trusty, bird-friendly, local driver, Luis he informed us that he had managed to locate a pair of Black-and-white Owls (right Peter Rigsbee), that morning at a roost site. We could not resist going straight there, where we were most impressed with this pair of striking owls sitting in the shade of a giant roadside tree. After lunch, a short stop in some mangroves produced a Panama Flycatcher, and our first anis, before we headed to the dock in Tarcoles for our boat. Soon after we left the dock, the usual accompaniment of Mangrove Swallows appeared, and would be with us throughout. We started out in the mangroves, and quickly picked up Little Blue and Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, then once inside the mangrove tributary, had several observations of Boat-billed Herons, sleeping within the mangroves themselves. Songbirds included residents like Mangrove Vireo and the mangrove form of Yellow Warbler, as well as migratory visitors, such as Prothonotary Warbler. Standing alongside this wide creek several Common Black-Hawks were noted too. Other birds included a series of shorebirds, like Collared and Semipalmated Plovers, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, and Double-stripped Thick-knee. Purple Gallinule, Black Skimmer and Royal Tern, Anhinga, Magnificent Frigatebird, and Wood Stork. Raptors were also represented by Yellow-headed and Crested Caracaras, and Osprey. Any boat trip has the group hoping for kingfishers, and while they were few and far between, we managed to find Ringed Kingfisher and Green Kingfisher, and best of all, due to some quite phenomenal spotting from several group members, a pair of American Pygmy-Kingfishers that afforded the best views of them all. Some surprise migrants found in the Riverside shrubbery included Orchard Oriole and a party of Dickcissels. The birds did not stop when we alighted from the boat back on dry land, our driver, not for the first time, led us to another great bird, with a Laughing Falcon that had been keeping him company. As dusk fell dozens of Lesser Nighthawks also took to the air and were visible from the extensive gift shop that some thought was an even higher priority!!!
In the morning, we saw White-fronted Capuchin Monkeys in the forest, and in the afternoon American Pygmy-Kingfisher from a boat (Bill Compton)
Day 7: Carara NP to Monteverde via Punta Morales.

A final session was spent along another set of lowland forest trails within Carara NP. We chose to walk in from the far end, making for a longer walk, but a quieter one away from some of the crowds within the main areas of the park on this weekend. This started well, with a Black-faced Antthrush pacing around in the open for everyone to enjoy. An antswarm was encountered in a very difficult position for group viewing, meaning that most only got to see a Gray-headed Tanager amongst the attendees. What followed was a long, and quiet period of time in the rainforest, with few birds seen until the end of the walk, which made it extremely worthwhile. A chance encounter with a nature lover taking a break, led us to first a stunning Sunbittern standing along a tranquil forest stream, and then a Collared Forest-Falcon sitting in a large hollow! Other birds seen that morning, included Dot-winged Antwren, Golden-crowned Spadebill, Long-billed Gnatwren, Plain Xenops, Riverside Wren, and Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher. Another highlight was chancing upon a Green-and-black Poison Frog, a striking species that we do not encounter frequently on this tour. Mammals also featured during in Carara, with White-faced Capuchin, Geoffroy’s Spider-Monkeys and Central American Agouti.

After lunch back at our hotel, we checked out and visited a coastal area with tropical dry forest, which led us to our only White-lood Gnatcatchers of the trip, along with another Cinnamon Hummingbird, and a pair of more confiding Scrub Euphonias than the previous brief ones. The saltpans alongside can be teeming with birds on the right tide, but judging by the paucity of birds there, we had come at just the wrong time, a flock of Whimbrel, some distant dowitchers, and a few Little Blue Herons being all we could locate there.
Then we undertook the uphill drive to Monteverde, one of the most famous cloudforest locations in the world. However, the journey up took us through tropical dry forest, and just before we arrived at our lodge, we were stopped in our tracks with a small group of White-throated Magpie-Jays, mixed in with some local Brown Jays, while an absurdly close White-fronted Parrot watched alongside, a nice welcome to the lodge. Later in the afternoon, we were toyed with by several Orange-billed local Nightingale-Thrushes, which eventually showed to most.

This White-fronted Parrot was perched near a White-throated Magpie-Jay near our lodge in the mountains at Monteverde (John Wilkinson)
Brown Jays (above Bill Compton) and Lessons Motmots (John Wilkinson) were seen around the lodge in Monteverde.
Day 8: Curi-Cancha and Monteverde.

The Monteverde area is famed for its cloudforest, but it is a lot more varied than that reputation suggest, with drier forest around town too, meaning that a variety of forest types can be visited in one morning, with all the sites close by. We began our day on the doorstep of our hotel, Cala Lodge, taking in birds within the flower laden garden and surrounding forest, like White-eared Ground-Sparrow, Canivet's Emerald coming to the local verbena blooms, and some spritely Rufous-capped Warblers. However, the most conspicuous birds were arguably a collection of gorgeous Lesson’s Motmots waiting for fruit to be laid out for them! Moving on from there, we visited the nearby Curi-Cancha Reserve, an interesting place with a different mix of species on the higher trails that cut through cloudforest from the slightly lower, and drier forest along the lower trails. Along the latter we located a plump Gray-throated Leaffogger, and within the upper part of the reserve we tracked down a calling Prong-billed Barbet, one of our most wanted birds at the site. Other interesting species found in Curi-Cancha were Gray-crowned Yellowthroat, Slate-throated Redstart, and Yellowish Flycatcher. An area with abundant mistletoe by the hummingbird feeders brought is a swathe of new hummingbirds, plus Elegant Euphonia (next page Bill Compton) and Golden-browed Chlorophonia. This site and the hummingbird feeders we visited after at the entrance to Monteverde reserve, produced Coppery-headed Emerald (a country endemic), some spectacular Purple-throated Mountain-Gems (right Bill Compton), striking Violet Sabrewings, tiny
Magenta-throated Woodstars hovering instead of perching on the feeders, plus Green-crowned Brilliant, Lesser Violetear, and Stripe-tailed Hummingbird. After visiting Curi-Cancha, and taking in the hummers at the entrance to Monteverde, we took lunch there, and then did some easy trail walking after that.

We saved the main reserve of Monteverde until the afternoon, as the reputation of this beautiful park is such that mornings can get overcrowded in this, the most popular, season. This worked well, with only small numbers of people seen during our afternoon saunter. Things started slowly, but eventually, due to a combined group effort, birds showed up as we encountered a few small flocks. In the understorey, we found some boisterous Costa Rican Warbler, and the bird parties held Spangle-cheeked Tanagers, Golden-winged Warblers, and a series of fascinating ovenbird species: Streak-breasted Treehunter, Spotted Barbtail, Red-faced Spinetail and Ruddy Treerunner. Northern Emerald Toucanet also showed up again, this time way up in the canopy of the beautiful, tall cloudforest, and plenty of Black-faced Solitaires had us wondering why we’d worried about missing this species up until recently! Perhaps the performance of the afternoon though was a Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush, (below Bill Compton) which ended up by hopping out right in front of us, bringing much joy to all!

Day 9 (of birding): Monteverde to San Jose.

A final period in the morning was spent around Monteverde, firstly around Cala Lodge, and then at the nearby Ecological Sanctuary, before we departed after lunch for San Jose. Highlights of this final session included Northern Emerald Toucanet, a couple of Orange-bellied Trogon (a form that is currently now considered a subspecies of Collared Trogon), a few more conspicuous Lesson’s Motmots, Olivaceous Woodcreeper, Golden-olive and Hoffman’s Woodpeckers, some final Keel-billed Toucans, and some more White-eared Ground-Sparrows. However, the highlight for some was probably the male Long-tailed Manakin, which showed following an epic search, where it eluded most of us for some time. That night, we took final dinner together, and voted for our best birds of the trip. The list of birds in contention was typically extensive, numbering 24 species! However, after final counts were in, the final top five were: Sunbittern, Resplendent Quetzal, Turquoise-browed Motmot, Black-and-white Owl, and a very popular Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush.
Our first day featured Orange-chinned Parakeet (above Bill Compton) and Black-cheeked Woodpeckers (John Wilkinson) at some fantastic feeders.
Colorful tropical birds were the name of the game with **Yellow-throated Toucan** and **Gartered Trogon** featuring in lowland rainforest (Bill Compton)
Hoffman’s Woodpeckers were around our hotel near San Jose airport (John Wilkinson) and the Talamanca Mountains in Savegre (Bill Compton)
La Selva Biological Station in the lowlands of the Caribbean brought us many exciting tropical birds, like toucans, trogons, orioles, hummingbirds, cotingas and oropendolas, along with monkeys, sloths and poison dart frogs (Bill Compton)

This list is up to date with the major changes published by Cornell up until August 2019.

H indicates a species that was HEARD, but not seen.

**BIRDS:**

**TINAMOUS: TINAMIDAE**
- Great Tinamou, *Tinamus major*
- Little Tinamou, *Crypturellus soui*

**GUANS, CHACHALACAS, AND CURASSOWS: CRACIDAE**
- Gray-headed Chachalaca, *Ortalis cinereiceps*
- Crested Guan, *Penelope purpurascens*
- Black Guan, *Chamaepetes unicolor*

**NEW WORLD QUAIL: ODONTOPHORIDAE**
- Black-breasted Wood-Quail, *Odontophorus leucolaemus*
- Spotted Wood-Quail, *Odontophorus guttatus*

**PIGEONS AND DOVES: COLUMBIDAE**
- Rock Pigeon, *Columba livia*
- Pale-vented Pigeon, *Patagioenas cayennensis*
- Red-billed Pigeon, *Patagioenas flavirostris*
- Band-tailed Pigeon, *Patagioenas fasciata*
- Ruddy Pigeon, *Patagioenas subvinacea*
- Short-billed Pigeon, *Patagioenas nigrirostris*
- Inca Dove, *Columbina inca*
- Common Ground-Dove, *Columbina passerina*
- Ruddy Ground-Dove, *Columbina talpacoti*
- White-tipped Dove, *Leptotila verreauxi*
- Gray-chested Dove, *Leptotila cassini*
- White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica*

**CUCKOOS: CUCULIDAE**
- Squirrel Cuckoo, *Piaya cayana*
- Striped Cuckoo, *Tapera naevia*
- Lesser Ground-Cuckoo, *Morococcyx erythropygus*
- Smooth-billed Ani, *Crotaphaga ani*
- Groove-billed Ani, *Crotaphaga sulcirostris*

**NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES: CAPRIMULGIDAE**
- Lesser Nighthawk, *Chordeiles acutipennis*
Common Pauraque

**POTOOS: NYCTIBIIDAE**

Great Potoo

**SWIFTS: APODIDAE**

White-collared Swift
Gray-rumped Swift

**HUMMINGBIRDS: TROCHILIDAE**

White-necked Jacobin
Green Hermit
Long-billed Hermit
Stripe-throated Hermit
Lesser Violetear
Purple-crowned Fairy
Green-crowned Brilliant
Talamanca Hummingbird
Fiery-throated Hummingbird
Purple-throated Mountain-gem
White-throated Mountain-gem
Magenta-throated Woodstar
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Volcano Hummingbird
Canivet’s Emerald
Scaly-breasted Hummingbird
Violet Sabrewing
Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer
Crowned Woodnymph
Stripe-tailed Hummingbird
Coppery-headed Emerald
Blue-chested Hummingbird
Charming Hummingbird
Blue-vented Hummingbird
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird
Cinnamon Hummingbird
Blue-throated Goldentail

**RAILS, GALLINULES, AND COOTS: RALLIDAE**

Russet-naped Wood-Rail
Purple Gallinule

**THICK-KNEES: BURHINIDAE**

Double-striped Thick-knee

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Nyctidromus albicollis
Nyctibius grandis
Streptoprocne zonaris
Chaetura cinereiventeris
Florisuga mellivora
Phaethornis guy
Phaethornis longirostris
Phaethornis striigularis
Colibri cyanotus
Heliothryx baroti
Heliodoxa jacula
Eugenes spectabilis
Panterpe insignis
Lampornis calolaemus
Lampornis castaneoventris
Calliphlox bryantae
Archilochus colubris
Selasphorus flammula
Chlorostilbon canivetii
Phaeochroa cuvierii
Campylopterus hemileucus
Chalybura urochrysa
Thalurania colombica
Eupherusa eximia
Elvira cupreiceps
Amazilia amabilis
Amazilia decora
Amazilia hoffmanni
Amazilia tzacatl
Amazilia rutila
Hylocharis eliciae
Aramides albibventris
Porphyrio martinicus
Burhinus bistriatus
STILTS AND AVOCETS: RECURIROSTRIDAE
  Black-necked Stilt  Himantopus mexicanus

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: CHARADRIIDAE
  Collared Plover  Charadrius collaris
  Semipalmated Plover  Charadrius semipalmatus

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: SCOLOPACIDAE
  Spotted Sandpiper  Actitis macularius
  Willet  Tringa semipalmata
  Whimbrel  Numenius phaeopus
  Ruddy Turnstone  Arenaria interpres
  Sanderling  Calidris alba
  Dowitcher species  Limnodromus sp.

GULLS, TERNs, AND SKIMMERS: LARIDAE
  Laughing Gull  Leucophaeus atricilla
  Royal Tern  Thalasseus maximus
  Black Skimmer  Rynchops niger

SUNBITTERN: EURYPYGIDAE
  Sunbittern  Eurypyga helias

STORKS: CICONIIDAE
  Wood Stork  Mycteria americana

FRIGATEBIRDS: FREGATIDAE
  Magnificent Frigatebird  Fregata magnificens

ANHINGAS: ANHINGIDAE
  Anhinga  Anhinga anhinga

CORMORANTS AND SHAGS: PHALACROCORACIDAE
  Neotropic Cormorant  Phalacrocorax brasilianus

PELICANS: PELECANIDAE
  Brown Pelican  Pelecanus occidentalis

HERONS, EGRETS, AND BITTERNs: ARDEIDAE
  Bare-throated Tiger-Heron  Tigrisoma mexicanum
  Great Blue Heron  Ardea herodias
  Great Egret  Ardea alba
  Snowy Egret  Egretta thula
  Little Blue Heron  Egretta caerulea
  Tricolored Heron  Egretta tricolor
  Cattle Egret  Bubulcus ibis
  Green Heron  Butorides virescens
  Black-crowned Night-Heron  Nycticorax nycticorax
  Yellow-crowned Night-Heron  Nyctanassa violacea
  Boat-billed Heron  Cochlearius cochlearius
IBISES AND SPOONBILLS: THRESKIORNITHIDAE
- White Ibis
- Green Ibis
- Roseate Spoonbill

NEW WORLD VULTURES: CATHARTIDAE
- Black Vulture
- Turkey Vulture

OSPREY: PANDIONIDAE
- Osprey

HAWKS, EAGLES, AND KITES: ACCIPITRIDAE
- Pearl Kite
- White-tailed Kite
- Swallow-tailed Kite
- Plumbeous Kite
- Common Black-Hawk
- Semiplumbeous Hawk
- Gray Hawk
- Broad-winged Hawk
- Short-tailed Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk

BARN-OWLS: TYTONIDAE
- Barn Owl

OWLS: STRIGIDAE
- Pacific Screech-Owl
- Crested Owl
- Spectacled Owl
- Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl
- Black-and-white Owl

TROGONS: TROGONIDAE
- Resplendent Quetzal
- Slaty-tailed Trogon
- Black-headed Trogon
- Baird’s Trogon
- Gartered Trogon
- Black-throated Trogon
- Collared Trogon

MOTMOTS: MOMOTIDAE
- Lesson’s Motmot
- Rufous Motmot
- Broad-billed Motmot
Turquoise-browed Motmot  

**KINGFISHERS: ALCEDINIDAE**
- Ringed Kingfisher
- Green Kingfisher
- American Pygmy Kingfisher

**PUFFBIRDS: BUCCONIDAE**
- White-whiskered Puffbird

**JACAMARS: GALBULIDAE**
- Rufous-tailed Jacamar

**TOUCANS-BARBETS: SEMNORNITHIDAE**
- Prong-billed Barbet

**TOUCANS: RAMPHASTIDAE**
- Northern Emerald-Toucanet
- Collared Aracari
- Yellow-throated (Chestnut-mandibled) Toucan
- Keel-billed Toucan

**WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE**
- Acorn Woodpecker
- Black-cheeked Woodpecker
- Red-crowned x Hoffman's Woodpecker hybrid
- Hoffmann's Woodpecker
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Hairy Woodpecker
- Rufous-winged Woodpecker
- Golden-olive Woodpecker
- Cinnamon Woodpecker
- Chestnut-colored Woodpecker
- Lineated Woodpecker
- Pale-billed Woodpecker

**FALCONS AND CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE**
- Collared Forest-Falcon
- Crested Caracara
- Yellow-headed Caracara
- Laughing Falcon
- American Kestrel
- Peregrine Falcon

**NEW WORLD & AFRICAN PARROTS: PSITTACIDAE**
- Orange-chinned Parakeet
- White-crowned Parrot
- Red-lored Parrot

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Turquoise-browed Motmot  

**Eumomota superciliosa**

**Megaceryle torquata**

**Chloroceryle americana**

**Chloroceryle aenea**

**Malacoptila panamensis**

**Galbula ruficauda**

**Semnomis frantzii**

**Aulacorhynchus prasinus maxillaris**

**Pteroglossus torquatus torquatus**

**Ramphastos ambiguus swainsonii**

**Ramphastos sulfuratus**

**Melanerpes formicivorus**

**Melanerpes pucherani**

**Melanerpes rubicapillus x hoffmannii**

**Melanerpes hoffmannii**

**Sphyrapicus varius**

**Dryobates villosus**

**Piculus simplex**

**Colaptes rubiginosus**

**Celeus loricatus**

**Celeus castaneus**

**Dryocopus lineatus**

**Campephilus guatemalensis**

**Micrastur semitorquatus**

**Caracara cheriway**

**Milvago chimachima**

**Herpetotheres cachinnans**

**Falco sparverius**

**Falco peregrinus**

**Brotogeris jugularis**

**Pionus senilis**

**Amazona autumnalis**
# Tropical Birding Trip Report
## Costa Rica: The Introtour February 2020 (Group 2)

- **Yellow-naped Parrot**
- **Amazona auropalliata**
- **White-fronted Parrot**
- **Amazona albifrons**
- **Mealy Parrot**
- **Amazona farinosa**
- **Sulphur-winged Parakeet**
- **Pyrrhura hoffmanni**
- **Olive-throated Parakeet**
- **Eupsittula nana**
- **Great Green Macaw**
- **Ara ambiguus**
- **Scarlet Macaw**
- **Ara macao**
- **Crimson-fronted Parakeet**
- **Psittacara finschi**

### TYPICAL ANTBIRDS: THAMNOPHILIDAE
- **Fasciated Antshrike**
- **Cymbilaimus lineatus**
- **Barred Antshrike**
- **Thamnophilus doliatus**
- **Black-hooded Antshrike**
- **Thamnophilus bridgesi**
- **Dot-winged Antwren**
- **Microrhopias quixensis**
- **Dusky Antbird**
- **Cercomacra tyrannina**
- **Chestnut-backed Antbird**
- **Myrmeciza exsul**
- **Bicolored Antbird**
- **Gymnophithys bicolor**

### ANTTHRUSHES: FORMICARIIDAE
- **Black-faced Anthrushed**
- **Formicarius analis**

### OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS: FURNARIIDAE
- **Gray-throated Leafloster**
- **Sclerurus albicularis**
- **Olivaceous Woodcreeper**
- **Sittasomus griseicapillus**
- **Plain-brown Woodcreeper**
- **Dendrocincla fuliginosa**
- **Wedge-billed Woodcreeper**
- **Glyphorynchus spirurus**
- **Northern Barred-Woodcreeper**
- **Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae**
- **Cocoa Woodcreeper**
- **Xiphorhynchus susurrans**
- **Streak-headed Woodcreeper**
- **Lepidocolaptes souleyetii**
- **Spot-crowned Woodcreeper**
- **Lepidocolaptes affinis**
- **Plain Xenops**
- **Xenops minutus**
- **Streaked Xenops**
- **Xenops rutilans**
- **Buffy Tuftedcheek**
- **Pseudocolaptes lawrencii lawrencii**
- **Streak-breasted Treehunter**
- **Thripadectes rufobrunneus**
- **Spotted Barbtail**
- **Premnoplex brunnescens**
- **Ruddy Treerunner**
- **Margarornis rubiginosus**
- **Red-faced Spinetail**
- **Cranioleuca erythrops**

### MANAKINS: PIPRIDAE
- **Long-tailed Manakin**
- **Chiroxiphia linearis**
- **White-collared Manakin**
- **Manacus candei**
- **Orange-collared Manakin**
- **Manacus aurantiacus**

### COTINGAS: COTINGIDAE
- **Purple-throated Fruitcrow**
- **Querula purpurata**
Tropical Birding Trip Report  
Costa Rica: The Introtour February 2020 (Group 2)

Snowy Cotinga  
*Carpodectes nitidus*

**TITYRAS AND ALLIES: TITYRIDAE**

- Black-crowned Tityra  
  *Tityra inquisitor*
- Masked Tityra  
  *Tityra semifasciata*
- Barred Becard  
  *Pachyramphus versicolor*
- Cinnamon Becard  
  *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*
- White-winged Becard  
  *Pachyramphus polychopterus*
- Rose-throated Becard  
  *Pachyramphus aglaiae*

**SHARBILL, ROYAL FLYCATCHER AND ALLIES: OXYRUNCIDAE**

- Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher  
  *Myiobius sulphureipygius*

**TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE**

- Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet  
  *Camptostoma obsoletum*
- Greenish Elaenia  
  *Myiopagis viridicata*
- Yellow-bellied Elaenia  
  *Elaenia flavogaster*
- Mountain Elaenia  
  *Elaenia frantzii*
- Olive-striped Flycatcher  
  *Mionectes olivaceus*
- Mistletoe (Paltry) Tyrannulet  
  *Zimmerius parvus*
- Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher  
  *Poecilotriccus sylvia*
- Common Tody-Flycatcher  
  *Todirostrum cinereum*
- Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher  
  *Todirostrum nigriceps*
- Yellow-olive Flycatcher  
  *Tolmomyias sulphurescens cinereiceps*
- Yellow-margined Flycatcher  
  *Tolmomyias assimilis flavotectus*
- Golden-crowned Spadebill  
  *Platyrinchus coronatus*
- Tufted Flycatcher  
  *Mitrephanes phaeocercus*
- Ochraceous Pewee  
  *Contopus ochraceus*
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher  
  *Empidonax flaviventris*
- Yellowish Flycatcher  
  *Empidonax flavescent*
- Black-capped Flycatcher  
  *Empidonax atriceps*
- Black Phoebe  
  *Sayornis nigricans*
- Long-tailed Tyrant  
  *Colonia colonus*
- Bright-rumped Attila  
  *Attila spadiceus*
- Rufous Mourner  
  *Rhytipterna holerythra*
- Dusky-capped Flycatcher  
  *Myiarchus tuberculifer*
- Panama Flycatcher  
  *Myiarchus panamensis*
- Great Crested Flycatcher  
  *Myiarchus crinitus*
- Brown-crested Flycatcher  
  *Myiarchus tyrannulus*
- Great Kiskadee  
  *Pitangus sulphuratus*
- Boat-billed Flycatcher  
  *Megarynchus pitangua*
- Social Flycatcher  
  *Myiozetetes similis*
- Gray-capped Flycatcher  
  *Myiozetetes granadensis*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White-ringled Flycatcher</td>
<td>Conopias albovittatus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Streaked Flycatcher</td>
<td>Myiodynastes maculatus</td>
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<td>Piratic Flycatcher</td>
<td>Legatus leucomelasious</td>
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<td>Tropical Kingbird</td>
<td>Tyrannus melancholicus</td>
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<td><strong>VIREOS, SHRIKE-BABBLERS &amp; ERPORNIS: VIREONIDAE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mangrove Vireo</td>
<td>Vireo pallens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow-throated Vireo</td>
<td>Vireo flavifrons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow-winged Vireo</td>
<td>Vireo carmioli</td>
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<td>Brown-capped Vireo</td>
<td>Vireo leucophrys</td>
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<td>Tawny-crowned Greenlet</td>
<td>Hylophilus ochraceiceps</td>
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<td>Lesser Greenlet</td>
<td>Hylophilus decurtatus</td>
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<td><strong>H</strong> Rufous-browed Peppershrike</td>
<td>Cyclarhis gujanensis</td>
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<td><strong>CROWS, JAYS, AND MAGPIES: CORVIDAE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>White-throated Magpie-Jay</td>
<td>Calocitta formosa</td>
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<td>Brown Jay</td>
<td>Psilorhinus morio</td>
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<td><strong>SWALLOWS: HIRUNDINIDAE</strong></td>
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<td>Blue-and-white Swallow</td>
<td>Pygochelidon cyanoleuca</td>
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<td>Southern Rough-winged Swallow</td>
<td>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</td>
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<td>Gray-breasted Martin</td>
<td>Progne chalybea</td>
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<td>Mangrove Swallow</td>
<td>Tachycineta albilinea</td>
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<td><strong>GNATCATCHERS: POLIOPTILIDAE</strong></td>
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<td>Long-billed Gnatwren</td>
<td>Ramphocaenus melanurus</td>
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<td>White-lored Gnatcatcher</td>
<td>Polioptila albilis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tropical Gnatcatcher</td>
<td>Polioptila plumbea</td>
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<td><strong>WRENS: TROGLODYTIDAE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>H</strong> Scaly-breasted Wren</td>
<td>Microcerculus marginatus</td>
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<td>House Wren</td>
<td>Troglodytes aedon</td>
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<td>Ochraceous Wren</td>
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<td>Timberline Wren</td>
<td>Thryorchilus browni</td>
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<td>Band-backed Wren</td>
<td>Campylorhynchus zonatus</td>
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<td>Rufous-naped Wren</td>
<td>Campylorhynchus rufinucha</td>
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<td>Black-bellied Wren</td>
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<td>Rufous-breasted Wren</td>
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<td>Black-throated Wren</td>
<td>Pheugopedius atrogularis</td>
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<td><strong>H</strong> Rufous-and-white Wren</td>
<td>Thryophilus rufalbus</td>
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<td>Stripe-breasted Wren</td>
<td>Cantorchilus thoracicus</td>
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<td>Cabanis's Wren</td>
<td>Cantorchilus modestus</td>
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<td>Riverside Wren</td>
<td>Cantorchilus semibadius</td>
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<td><strong>H</strong> Bay Wren</td>
<td>Cantorchilus nigricapillus</td>
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<tr>
<td>White-breasted Wood-Wren</td>
<td>Henicorhina leucosticta</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren

**MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: MIMIDAE**

Tropical Mockingbird

**THRUSHES AND ALLIES: TURDIDAE**

Black-faced Solitaire
Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush
Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush
Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush
Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Swainson's Thrush
Wood Thrush
Sooty Thrush (Robin)
Mountain Thrush (Robin)

H Pale-vented Thrush
Clay-colored Thrush (Robin)

**SILKY-FLYCATCHERS: PTILOGONATIDAE**

Black-and-yellow Silky-flycatcher
Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher

**FINCHES, EUPHONIAS & ALLIES: FRINGILLIDAE**

Scrub Euphonia
Yellow-crowned Euphonia
Yellow-throated Euphonia
Elegant Euphonia
Olive-backed Euphonia
Golden-browed Chlorophonia
Yellow-bellied Siskin

**BUNTINGS AND NEW WORLD SPARROWS: EMBERIZIDAE**

Sooty-capped Chlorospingus
Common Chlorospingus
Stripe-headed Sparrow
Black-striped Sparrow
Orange-billed Sparrow
Chestnut-capped Brushfinch
Volcano Junco
Rufous-collared Sparrow
Large-footed Finch
White-eared Ground-Sparrow
Yellow-thighed Finch

Henicorhina leucophrys

Mimus gilvus

Myadestes melanops

Catharus gracilirostris

Catharus aurantiirostris

Catharus fuscater

Catharus frantzii

Catharus minimus

Catharus ustulatus

Hylocichla mustelina

Turdus nigrescens

Turdus plebejus

Turdus obsoletus

Turdus grayi

Phainoptila melanoxantha

Ptilogonys caudatus

Euphonia affinis

Euphonia luteicapilla

Euphonia hirundinacea

Euphonia elegantissima

Euphonia gouldi

Chlorophonia callophrys

Spinus xanthogastrus

Chlorospingus pileatus

Chlorospingus flavopectus

Peucaea ruficauda

Arremonops conirostris

Arremon aurantiirostris

Arremon brunneinucha

Junco vulcani

Zonotrichia capensis

Pezopetes capitalis

Melozone leucotis

Pselliophorus tibialis
ZELEDONIIDAE: WRENNTHRUSH
Wrenthrush (Zeledonia) Zeledonia coronata

TROUPIALS AND ALLIES: ICTERIDAE
Red-winged Blackbird Agelaius phoeniceus
Eastern Meadowlark Sturnella magna
Melodious Blackbird Dives dives
Great-tailed Grackle Quiscalus mexicanus
Shiny Cowbird Molothrus bonariensis
Black-cowled Oriole Icterus prosthemelas
Orchard Oriole Icterus spurius
Streak-backed Oriole Icterus pustulatus
Spot-breasted Oriole Icterus pectoralis
Baltimore Oriole Icterus galbula
Chestnut-headed Oropendola Psarocolius wagleri
Montezuma Oropendola Psarocolius montezuma

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE
Ovenbird Seiurus aurocapilla
Worm-eating Warbler Helmitheros vermivorum
Louisiana Waterthrush Parkesia motacilla
Northern Waterthrush Parkesia noveboracensis
Golden-winged Warbler Vermivora chrysoptera
Black-and-white Warbler Mniotilta varia
Prothonotary Warbler Protonotaria citrea
Flame-throated Warbler Oreothlypis gutturalis
Tennessee Warbler Oreothlypis peregrina
Gray-crowned Yellowthroat Geothlypis poliocephala
Bay-breasted Warbler Setophaga castanea
Yellow Warbler Setophaga petechia
Yellow (Mangrove) Warbler Setophaga petechia bryanti
Chestnut-sided Warbler Setophaga pensylvanica
Black-throated Green Warbler Setophaga virens
Rufous-capped Warbler Basileuterus rufifrons
Black-cheeked Warbler Basileuterus melanogenys
Golden-crowned Warbler Basileuterus culicivorus
Costa Rican Warbler Basileuterus melanotis
Buff-rumped Warbler Myioborus miniatus
Wilson’s Warbler Myioborus torquatus
Slate-throated Redstart (Whitestart) Cardellina pusilla
Collared Redstart (Whitestart) Myioborus miniatus
## CARDINALS AND ALLIES: CARDINALIDAE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bird Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hepatic Tanager</td>
<td>P. flava</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Tanager</td>
<td>P. rubra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flame-colored Tanager</td>
<td>P. bidentata</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red-throated Ant-Tanager</td>
<td>H. fuscicauda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black-faced Grosbeak</td>
<td>C. poliogaster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</td>
<td>P. ludovicianus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue-black Grosbeak</td>
<td>C. cyanoides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Grosbeak</td>
<td>P. caerulea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Painted Bunting</td>
<td>P. ciris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dickcissel</td>
<td>S. americana</td>
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</table>

## TANAGERS AND ALLIES: THRAUPIDAE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bird Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gray-headed Tanager</td>
<td>E. penicillata</td>
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<tr>
<td>White-shouldered Tanager</td>
<td>T. luctuosus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crimson-collared Tanager</td>
<td>R. sanguinolentus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scarlet-rumped Tanager</td>
<td>R. passerinii</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue-gray Tanager</td>
<td>T. episcopus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palm Tanager</td>
<td>T. palmarum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden-hooded Tanager</td>
<td>T. larvata</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spangle-cheeked Tanager</td>
<td>T. dowii</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plain-colored Tanager</td>
<td>T. inornata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver-throated Tanager</td>
<td>T. icterocephala</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scarlet-thighed Dacnis</td>
<td>D. venusta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Dacnis</td>
<td>D. cayana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shining Honeycreeper</td>
<td>C. lucidus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red-legged Honeycreeper</td>
<td>C. cyaneus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green Honeycreeper</td>
<td>C. spiza</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slaty Flowerpiercer</td>
<td>D. plumbea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue-black Grassquit</td>
<td>V. jacarina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Variable Seedeater</td>
<td>S. corvina</td>
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<td>Morelet's (White-collared) Seedeater</td>
<td>S. moreletti</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bananaquit</td>
<td>C. flaveola</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow-faced Grassquit</td>
<td>T. olivaceus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buff-throated Saltator</td>
<td>S. maximus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tropical Birding Trip Report  
Costa Rica: The Introtour February 2020 (Group 2)

**MAMMALS:**
- Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth: *Choloepus hoffmanni*
- Brazilian Long-nosed (Proboscis) Bat: *Rhynchonycteris naso*
- Northern Ghost Bat: *Diclidurus albus*
- White Tent Bat: *Ectophylla alba*
- White-throated Capuchin Monkey: *Cebus capucinus*
- Mantled Howler Monkey: *Alouatta palliata*
- Central American (Geoffroy's) Spider Monkey: *Ateles geoffroyi*
- Red-tailed Squirrel: *Sciurus granatensis*
- Variegated Squirrel: *Sciurus variegatoides*
- Central American Agouti: *Dasyprocta punctata*
- Tapiti (Brazilian Rabbit): *Sylvilagus brasiliensis*
- White-nosed Coati: *Nasua narica*
- Collared Peccary: *Tayassu tajacu*

**AMPHIBIANS:**
- Marine Toad: *Rhinella (Bufo) marina*
- Green and Black Poison Frog: *Dendrobates auratus*
- Strawberry Poison Frog: *Oophaga (Dendrobates) pumilio*

**REPTILES:**
- Black River Turtle: *Rhinoclemmys funerea*
- Brown Basilisk: *Basiliscus vittatus*
- Slender Anole: *Anolis limifrons*
- Spinytail Iguana (Ctenosaur): *Ctenosaura similis*
- Green Iguana: *Iguana iguana*
- Common House Gecko: *Hemidactylus frenatus*
- American Crocodile: *Crocodylus acutus*

**INSECTS:**
- Common/Peleides (Blue) Morpho: *Morpho peleides*
- Monarch Butterfly: *Danaus plexippus*
- Owl Butterfly sp.: *Caligo sp.*
- Leafcutter Ant: *Atta cephalotes*
- Army Ant: *Eciton burchelli*