



This was a Tropical Birding Tours **custom** tour

**COSTA RICA “Target Tour”:**

9<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2018



**Snowcap**, at the ‘Home of the Snowcap’, Rancho Naturalista

Tour leaders: Fito Downs and Jose Illanes  
Report by Fito Downs, Photos by Jose Illanes

*During our Comprehensive Costa Rica Tour (border to border) we witnessed why this country is sometimes called the “Birding Republic” among hardcore birders, nature lovers and wildlife photographers.*

*This was a very different tour compared to most other regular Tropical Birding Tours here in Costa Rica. We covered most of the country from the southern rainforest lowlands to some of the most impressive habitats such as the Paramo at more than eleven thousand feet at Cerro de la Muerte, and then continued moving into the Turrialba Volcano foothills, and from there all the way to the north region of the country near Nicaraguan border. We ended up in the lush cloud forest of Monteverde and the dry forest in the southern tip of Guanacaste province.*

*Basically, our plan for this tour was focus on finding some of the most difficult bird species throughout the country, for example the localized and endemic Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager, the elusive Yellow-billed Cotinga, and highland specialties such as Ochraceous Pewee, Dusky Nightjar, Bare-shanked Screech-Owl and the so-called “ghost” the rarely seen Unspotted Saw-whet Owl. We also tracked down Tawny-chested Flycatcher, Blue-and-Gold Tanager, Yellow-eared Toucanet, Nicaraguan Grackle, Keel-billed Motmot, Tawny-winged Woodcreeper, Thicket Tinamou and the bird of the trip, the spectacular Bare-necked Umbrellabird.*

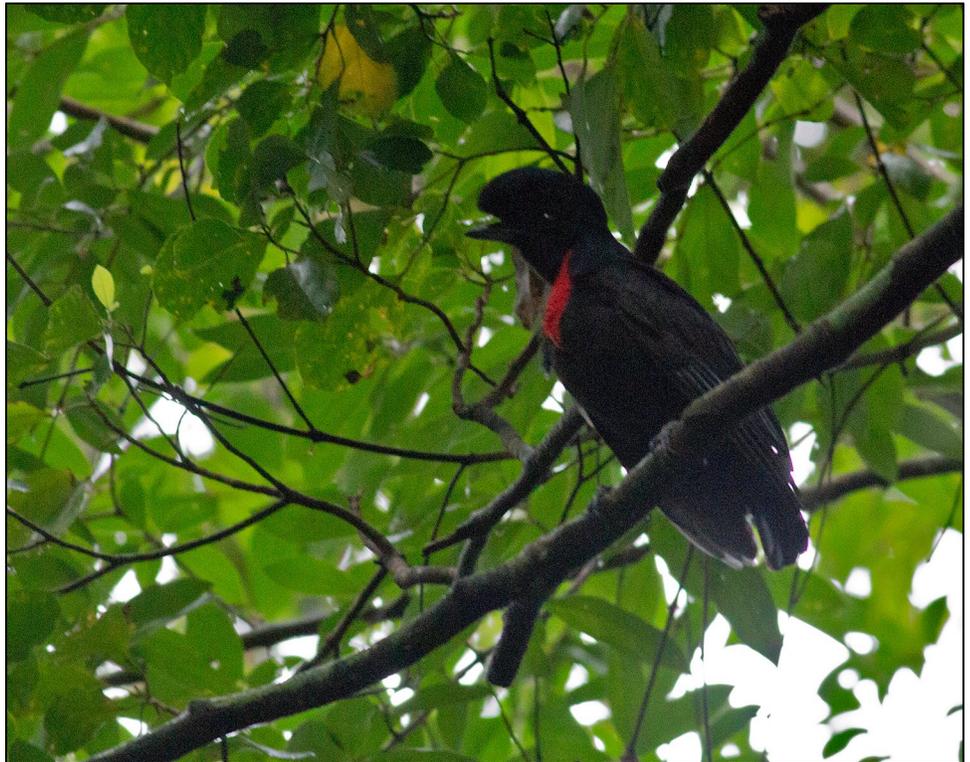
*That is why the final trip list is not so long as can usually be. We concentrated our energies into specific targets outlined by the clients on the tour, and this being a Custom Tour was run according to the client’s explicit needs. At the end of the tour we finished our list with the incredible amount of 34 species of hummingbirds, 9 species of trogons, all the toucans of the country (6 total), 16 species of wrens and an amazing amount of 13 species of woodpeckers.*

**The birds TOP THREE BIRDS  
of the trip were:**

**Bare-necked Umbrellabird**

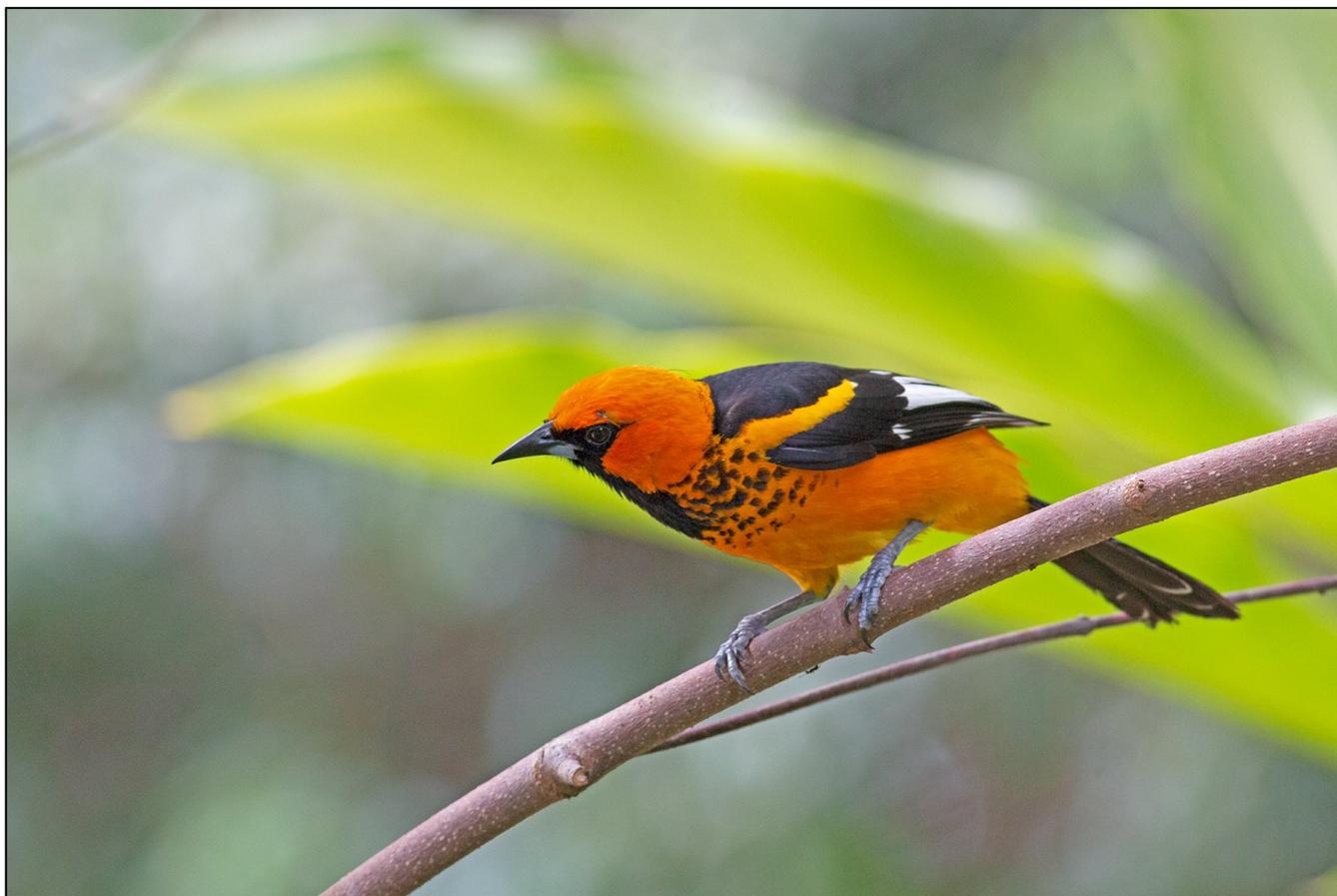
**Unspotted Saw-whet Owl**

**Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl**



**TOUR SUMMARY:****Day 1 (May 9<sup>th</sup>) Arrival to Costa Rica/Night Alajuela**

There was much planned for this day, being an arrival day of the tour, with no birding scheduled. We spent a couple of hours [birdwatching](#) the grounds of the hotel and sharing some of the information for the next days. However, our hotel is an excellent place to see **Spot-breasted Oriole (below)**, **Cinnamon Hummingbird** and **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl**, which we managed during our few hours there.

**Day 2 (May 10<sup>th</sup>) To Carara National Park/Night near Carara**

Our pre-breakfast birding was a bit quiet in *San Jose*, with some widespread species like **Blue-gray Tanager**, **Clay-colored Thrush**, **Cattle Egrets**, **Great-tailed Grackles** and **Crimson-fronted Parakeets** flying over being the highlights. A nice look at a **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** was a delight. After breakfast we immediately moved towards *Carara National Park*.

We made a short stop on a track before the Tarcoles River to look for a *Yellow-billed Cotinga* that was reported a few days back in the area. No success there, but we thankfully got the bird later on the trip. Then we entered the national park, and on a new trail got the first target for that morning, **Tawny-winged Woodcreeper**.

Although this is a widespread species, they wander widely, often in company with army ants, and so can be easy to miss in many areas that it occurs. Strangely, on this occasion, there were no ants in attendance. It was a cooperative bird that showed for ten continuous minutes.

Along the “loop trail” we also found **Northern Bentbill**, **Eye-ringed Flatbill**, **Golden-crowned Spadebill**, **Royal Flycatcher** and a nice male **Red-capped Manakin**. A **Streaked-chested Antpitta** called from far off, but remained there. Other birds of great importance were **Scarlet Macaws** (of course) **Rufous-and-white Wren**, **White-shouldered Tanager**, **Greenish Elaenia**, **Black-striped Woodcreeper**, **Plain Xenops**, and a **Black-faced Antthrush** which gave us a real show this time! **Chestnut-backed Antbird**, **Black-hooded Antshrike** and **Dusky Antbird** were also present.

We did birdwatch the grounds of the hotel for a while too, with nice species like **Rufous-naped Wren**, **Boat-billed Flycatcher**, **White-tipped Dove**, **Inca Dove**, **Scaly-breasted Hummingbird**, **Yellow-throated Toucan** and **Squirrel Cuckoo**. At night, we got amazing views of the always fabulous **Spectacled Owl**.

### Day 3 (May 11<sup>th</sup>) **Carara National Park to Esquinas Rainforest Lodge (via Rincon)**

A long driving day was ahead of us. So, we only spent few hours in the areas nearby the hotel finding **Bare-throated Tiger-Heron**, **Magnificent Frigatebird**, **White Ibis**, **Common Black-Hawk**, **Roadside Hawk**, **Purple Gallinule** and others.

We then headed to the southern part of the country. We had no plans to stop until being far away from the towns of *Quepos* and *Palmar Norte*, which are basically surrounded by African Palm Oil plantations. A quick stop for lunch was required and we continued driving south, by the midafternoon we arrived to the town of *Chacarita*, from where we detour for a location named *Rincon*, probably the best location in the country for the much-wanted *Yellow-billed Cotinga*. While waiting for the *Cotinga* to show itself we found **Amazon Kingfisher**, **Fiery-billed Aracari**, **Red-crowned Woodpecker**, **White-crowned Parrot**, **Paltry Tyrannulet**, **Piratic Flycatcher** and others.

We spent most of the time searching the treetops of the mangrove forest around us, because the *cotinga* typically likes to be up high, but we were also ready for any fly-by individuals near the main bridge at *Rincon River* another good place for them. And, there is was! A single bird was passing flying high in canopy and perched on a fruiting tree along the river. Later on, we found another one in the same area. That was very good because there was a big chance of rain to come. May in Costa Rica is a “transition” time, moving from the “dry season” to the “rainy season” but due all different micro habitats these conditions can change anytime! However, it is a great time to search for the local resident species.

With the **Yellow-billed Cotinga** in our pockets we decided to continue our journey towards *Esquinas Rainforest Lodge*. Just before the lodge we stopped in the grasslands near *La Gamba* finding a good selection of open country species such as **Blue-headed Parrot** (which you can only get in the southern part of the country), **Yellow Tyrannulet**, **Red-breasted Blackbird**, **Cherrie's Tanager**, and **Riverside and Isthmian Wrens**.

## Day 4 (May 12<sup>th</sup>) Esquinas Rainforest Lodge

Undoubtedly, *Esquinas Lodge* is a top birdwatching destination. It is located right next to *Piedras Blancas National Park* where pristine rainforest can still be found. Some other important habitats here are open grasslands, rivers, mangroves, secondary forest and wetlands. With an entire full day to explore *Esquinas Rainforest Lodge* we made our plan for the day with our main target being the endemic *Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager*.

The grounds of the lodge are home to a wide range of specialties. As we moved into the forest edge we heard the call of the **Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager**, and this time was not so difficult as it sometimes can be. We really had great views of a pair eating fruit from and *Araceae* plants in the understory. The *Golfo Dulce* region is the only place in all Costa Rica where the tanager is found.

After being very lucky with the tanager it was time to keep searching for more specialties and target species. We explored the small swamp near the entrance road for *Uniform Crake*, the bird was calling from the dense bushes behind, but we tried hard without success this time. A little further in the same track we got another target for the trip, the always hard to see **Black-bellied Wren**. The grounds of the lodge provided **Baird's Trogon** and **Golden-naped Woodpecker** (two more specialties) **Great Tinamou** (heard only), **Gray-cowled Wood-Quail**, **Band-tailed Barbthroat**, **Long-billed Hermit**, **Stripe-throated Hermit**, **Purple-crowned Fairy** (always beautiful), **Blue-throated Goldentail**, **Violet-headed Hummingbird** and the *Heliconia* flowers were often visited by **Charming Hummingbird**, (not bad for hummers today)!

Walking the main entrance road too, we got **Red-breasted Blackbird**, **Costa Rican Swift**, **Rusty-margined Flycatcher**, **Pale-breasted Spinetail**, **Orange-collared Manakin**, **Scrub Greenlet**, and more. A heavy rain came down, when was over it was time to continue exploring the open country near *La Gamba*. At the end of the day we encountered **Rufous-winged Woodpecker**, **Yellow-headed Caracara**, **Lineated Woodpecker**, **Olivaceous Piculet**, **White-necked Puffbird**, **Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift**, **Smooth-billed Ani** and **Red-lored Parrot**.

## Day 5 (May 13<sup>th</sup>) Esquinas Rainforest Lodge to Savegre

Our final morning at *Esquinas* was excellent, with **Great Curassow** foraging by the pond near the restaurant. It is always nice to see this group of birds, they have gone through intensive hunting during many years being basically extirpated in vast regions in Central and South America. Sadly, this species are has already become extremely rare or gone extinct in many areas. Costa Rica is one of the few countries where we can still regularly see and enjoy *Curassows* in their natural habitat. We left *Esquinas* shortly after breakfast. We did some "coffee" stops along the way and a few hours later started climbing up (by car) towards the famous *Cerro de la Muerte* mountains.

Our first birding stop was in the foothills near the town of *Division* where we spent a few minutes waiting by the "verbena" flowers for the uncommon **Garden Emerald**. We were successful with the hummingbird and other notable birds were **Green-crowned Brilliant**, **White-throated Mountain-Gem**, **Violet Sabrewing**, **Cherrie's Tanager**, **Silver-throated Tanager**, and others.

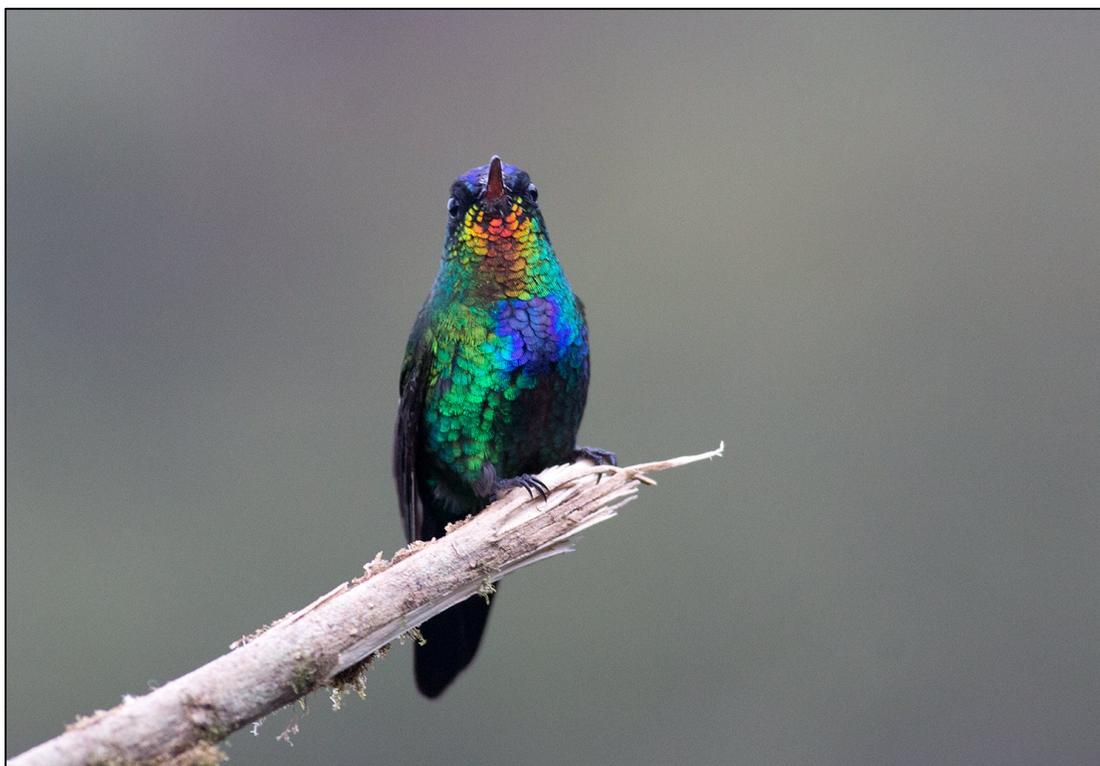
The *Talamanca Mountain Range* is the official name for the mountains, but this one is also known as *Cerro de la Muerte* ("mountain of death"). During colonial times local people used to travel by horses along these mountains, normally camping over the top which is always "cold" or very "chilly" for Costa Ricans coming from the lowlands.

It was so cold that it is said that they wished to die! Nowadays, *Cerro de la Muerte* is known for its exquisite birding, with a large number of regional endemics (Chiriqui endemics) only found in this forest. We spent two nights at *Savegre Lodge* located in the heart of *San Gerardo de Dota Valley*. In the forest patch just behind our rooms, we were lucky to find a whole family of **Spotted Wood-Quails**. Normally, Wood-quails are very elusive birds, you hear them more often than see them. The forest track near the lodge is basically the best place (so far) where you have a chance to see this wonderful species. More birds found today were a large flock of at least 15 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, very many **Volcano Hummingbirds**, **Lesser Violetear**, **Talamanca Hummingbird** (formerly *Magnificent Hummingbird*) and the stunning **Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher**.

### Day 6 (May 14<sup>th</sup>) Talamanca Mountains

It was a strange feeling for me not to have the spectacular *Resplendent Quetzal* as a target bird for the trip. However, these woodlands are home to this mythical species and the newest national park was named in honor of this bird. We focused on our list today. In the pre-breakfast walk we got a wonderful individual of **Buff-fronted Quail-Dove** sitting quietly just few feet away from the forest trail. A very cooperative bird that gave us a good performance.

Later in the morning, we ventured deeper along a deep oak forest trail looking for more specialties. Once there, we had **Streak-breasted Treehunter**, **Yellow-thighed Finch**, **Black-cheeked Warbler**, **Acorn Woodpecker**, **Yellowish Flycatcher**, **Yellow-winged Vireo** and **Collared Trogon**. The fog and rain were present too, making our birding a bit difficult, but we continued along the *Quebrada Trail* until lunch time.



I forgot to mention that the tricky *Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl* was heard calling a few times along the "rotonda" trail but we failed after many attempts to see it. We actually tried more times in other locations for this bird without success at all. But our day was not over yet. Having tried several times for this and *Ochraceous Pewee* we visited another location within the national park to continue our searching for these two fantastic species. Not too long after we walked into a bamboo patch we started hearing a **Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl**

calling close! After some persistence, we managed to find one being mob by **Fiery-throated Hummingbird** (above), **Ruddy Treerunner** and **Black-capped Flycatcher**.



However, the inconspicuous *Ochraceous Pewee* was still on our hit list, and currently unseen. Fito was a bit worried that by this time it was too late to find it. This species “moves” locally in these mountains and it is always very tough to find. As the day was finishing we drove down a different track inside the park for our last hour of light before returning to our lodge. There was a moment when we almost decided to leave but just before then the mist suddenly disappeared and so we kept walking down the track until suddenly Fito saw a flycatcher perched atop of a snap in the forest edge; there it was, **Ochraceous Pewee (above)** giving us a full

show! Definitely, patience and persistence were the key to finding this rare species on this occasion.

However, the day was not over yet, as after dinner we had planned to go owling! Owling can be hard in the Neotropics, sometimes frustrating due to the climatic conditions and their naturally low density near the top of the food chain. But, it can be extremely rewarding too. We had 2 species in mind, the local *Dusky Nightjar* and the very rare **Unspotted Saw-whet Owl, (below)** one of the most enigmatic and rare of all Central American owls as well!



We were mentally prepared for a long night. Local knowledge was used too. With the help of a local friend of mine, we started out the night traveling far from the lodge near the top of the mountain. Just above the tree line where our stakeout was, the rain began, bad news for sure when looking for owls in general. We waited a while, but the rain merely got harder. We knew that our chances to see the owl were small. However, we decided to carry on and merely drive a few miles from where it had been raining, and were surprised to find no rain at this spot. So, we kept going, driven by foolishness, perhaps, and unbeatable enthusiasm to see one of Costa Rica’s “Ghost Birds”. Although it was already late at night, we knew well that this was allegedly the best strategy for the saw-whet owl. We started descending a trail into bamboo forest framed with large ancient oak

trees, which led to a specific spot known for the owl. During our first minutes there we only heard a lonely **Bare-shanked Screech-Owl**, but it was not raining and suddenly we heard what apparently was a strange call of the **Unspotted Saw-whet Owl**, I will never forget that moment. The owl was responding to our playback, and then it was just a matter of patience and luck. We then heard it at very close range, and there it was, the stunning, rare, enigmatic bird came into a wonderful short distance from us allowing us to take some very good pictures! After this extreme high point, we left it behind and drove back to the lodge in the middle of the night.



### Day 7 (May 15<sup>th</sup>) **Savegre to Paraiso Quetzal Lodge**

With fresh memories from last night we had another great day to come. These mountains are home to great bird species only found in this region and extreme western Panama usually called “Chiriqui endemics” We already saw many of them, but there were plenty more to come. Our last morning in *Savegre* was very productive with large flocks of **Sulphur-winged Parakeets**, two **Ruddy Pigeons** and **Red-tailed Hawk** soaring over the fields.

Later in the morning, near *Paraiso Quetzal Lodge* we also got the beautiful **Black-faced Solitaire**, **Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush**, **Black-and-yellow Silky-Flycatcher**, **Hairy Woodpecker**, **Flame-colored Tanager** (above), **Large-footed Finch**, **Lesser Violetear**, **Mountain Elaenia**, **Collared Restart**, **Yellow-thighed Finch**, and an out-of-season **Wilson's Warbler**.

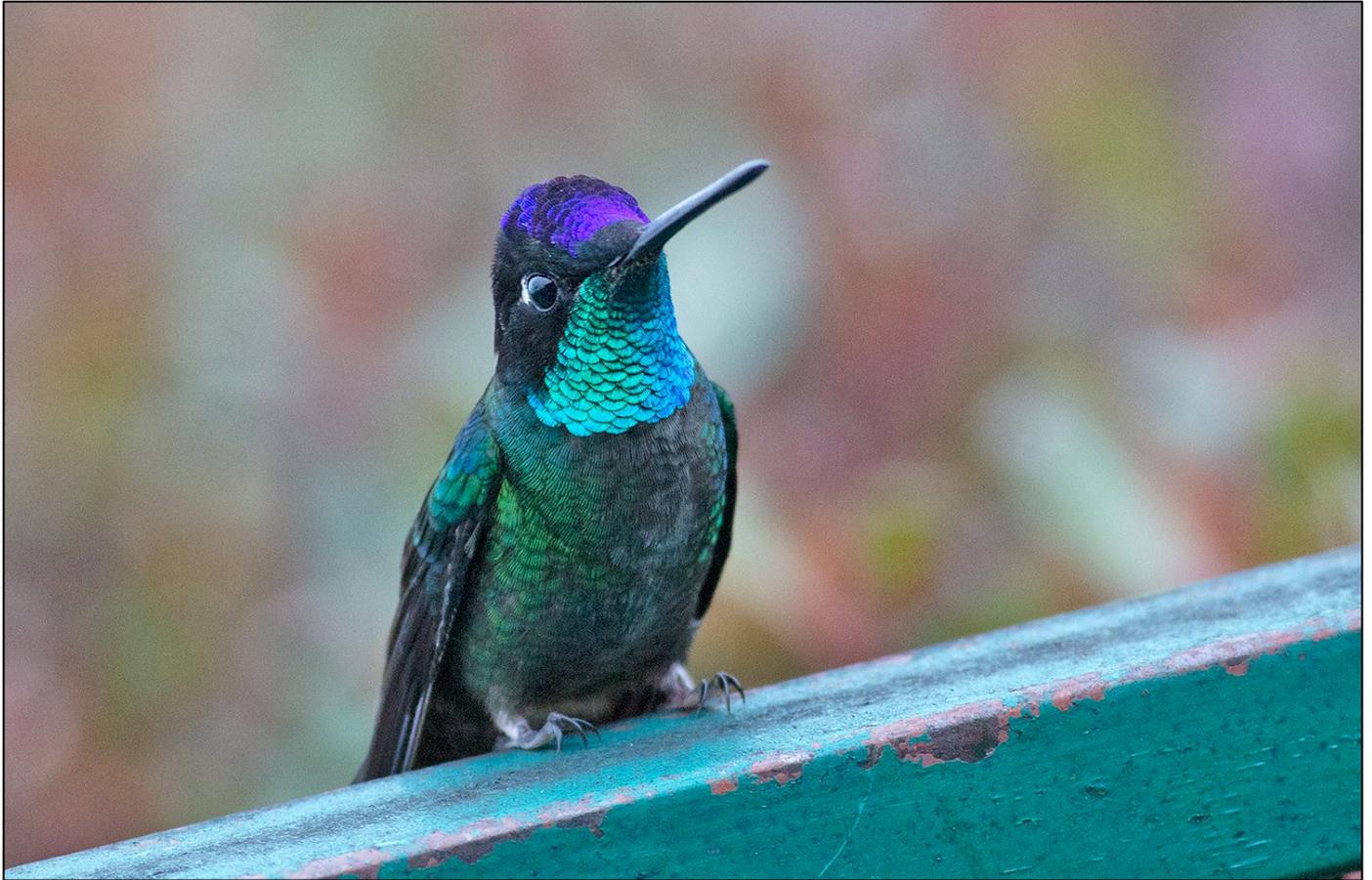
Birding at the lodge was very pleasant and easy. The hummingbird feeders were always active with **Fiery-throated Hummingbird**, **Talamanca Hummingbird** (next page) and **Volcano Hummingbird**. After a short break, we went to the areas around the lodge where we got **Rufous-browed Peppershrike**, **Sooty-capped Chlorospingus**, **Ruddy Treerunner**, **Spangle-cheeked Tanager**, **Yellow-bellied Siskin** and of course, the **Resplendent Quetzal** (below). We cannot miss this one. We spent the night at the good and very comfortable *Paraiso del Quetzal Lodge*.



### Day 8 (May 16<sup>th</sup>) Los Quetzales National Park to Rancho Naturalista

After a delicious Costa Rican breakfast, we packed our suitcases and left the lodge. We stopped off at a small bamboo patch for the local **Timberline Wren** and we got it very quickly. As we moved down the road we also saw **Swallow-tailed Kites**, **Sooty-capped Chlorospingus**, **Ochraceous Wren**, **Ruddy Treerunner** and we heard **Highland Tinamou** and **Silvery-fronted Tapaculo** near the road. We did not try to see either of them however, because these were not within our targets for this tour (which usually are for most trips).

During our last hour in these wonderful mountains we really enjoyed some of the birds we saw on previous days, including another male **Resplendent Quetzal**. It was time to leave this amazing mountain scenery and birds and then go to another wonderful location, *Rancho Naturalista*. With a long driving morning ahead, we just enjoyed the ride down into the hills below.



Later, we finally arrived to the world's best location for *Snowcap*, *Rancho Naturalista*. It is amazing how fast you can go from a high elevation system to a much lower ecosystem in Costa Rica in relatively few miles. *Rancho Naturalista* has a great reputation for being a “real” birdwatchers lodge, with exceptional fruit and hummingbird feeders as well as excellent service staff willing to do their best to give you a wonderful experience. Some of the first birds we saw at **Rancho Naturalista** were **Gray-headed Chachalaca**, **Montezuma Oropendola**, **Black-striped Sparrow**, **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird**, **Passerini's Tanager**, **Blue-gray Tanager** and **Buff-throated Saltator**, all of which were often visiting the fruit feeders. And that is not to mention the hummingbirds, which included the common **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird**, **Long-billed Hermit**, **Crowned Woodnymph**, **Green-crowned Brilliant**, and **Green-breasted Mango**. This is also a fantastic location for the local **Tawny-chested Flycatcher**, which we saw in the following days. On the trails we found a pair of **Dull-mantled Antbird**, **Checker-throated Antwren**, **Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher**, **Brown Jay**, **Red-throated Ant-Tanager** and **Scarlet-rumped Cacique**.

### Day 9 (May 17<sup>th</sup>) **Rancho Naturalista and El Copal**

We started early but right up on the front balcony of the main building. A nice and very vocal **Mottled Owl** was just outside in the garden. With an excellent coffee we began to find the first birds of the day like, **Montezuma Oropendola**, **Brown Jay**, **Great Kiskadee**, **Orange-billed Sparrow**, **Melodious Blackbird**, **White-crowned Parrot** and the common **Collared Aracari**

as well. The hummingbird feeders were busy too, with the common **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** being the most dominant species. Other hummingbirds there were **Green-breasted Mango**, **Green Hermit**, **Long-billed Hermit**, **White-necked Jacobin** and **Snowcap** of course, which was not visiting the feeders but foraging in the flowering plants nearby.

After we got our targets from the balcony, it was time to continue with our plans for the morning which was to visit the *El Copal Reserve*. This reserve is an amazing area to look for tanagers like **White-shoulder Tanager**, **Common Chlorospingus**, **Golden-hooded Tanager**, **Black-and-yellow Tanager**, **Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager**, **White-throated Shrike-Tanager** and species of *Dacnis* like **Scarlet-thighed Dacnis** and **Blue Dacnis**. Our main target here though was the stunning *Blue-and-Gold Tanager*, and so we tried very hard as soon as we arrived to *El Copal* scouring every single mixed species flock we encountered.

A little further inside the forest trail, we heard two of the most localized birds in Costa Rica, *Ochre-breasted Antpitta* and *Black-headed Antthrush*, and also encountered a huge mixed species flock with **Green and Shining Honeycreepers**, **Silver-throated and Carmiol's Tanagers**, **Slaty-capped Flycatcher**, **Bananaquit**, **Rufous-browed Tyrannulet**, **Black-and-yellow Tanager**, **Common Chlorospingus**, **Paltry Tyrannulet**, **Scarlet-thighed Dacnis**, and... **Blue-and-gold tanager!** The tanager quickly appeared in the treetop, but was soon gone before everyone saw it as well as hoped. We kept trying for it, in spite of the sunny weather indicating that flock activity may not be at the best from then on.

Later in the morning, we heard the rare **Gray-headed Piprites** calling along a different trail several times, but oddly this very rarely seen species was not a target for the tour! As we walked up the hill we continued to find birds that we had already seen earlier that morning until near the top of the hill we found a fruiting tree. Looking carefully at this tree we found a stunning **Yellow-eared Toucanet** sitting quietly with a beak full of fruit. We had great views of this rare toucanet, and the bird remained firmly in the same spot, and did not swallow the fruit, making us wonder if it had a chick nearby. We let it be, and returned to the main headquarters. On reaching the main lodge we decided to scan the treetops from a vantage point, in the hope of upgraded views of the **Blue-and-gold Tanager**. Amazingly, a lone tanager of this species flew in, without the presence of any other flock members and gave us a good look, before departing and leaving us feeling we were in tanager heaven!

### Day 10 (May 18<sup>th</sup>) **Rancho Naturalista to the Aerial Tram**

We woke up very early again on the porch of the lodge for a cup of coffee where the **Mottled Owl** was again calling nearby! After that, we visited the popular "moth light" set right next to the forest trail to attract insects for the birds. It is a real experience, if you go there just before dawn you can hear the birds approaching to the light doing their morning sounds. As soon as we arrived there was a beautiful and impressive **Rufous Motmot** already eating a huge insect. A little bit later a **Golden-crowned Warbler** showed up too. Some other notable species visiting the light included **Northern Barred Woodcreeper**, **Buff-throated Foliage-Gleaner**, **White-breasted Wood-Wren** along with **Orange-billed Sparrow**, **Spotted Woodcreeper**, **Slaty-capped Flycatcher** and the interesting **Plain-brown Woodcreeper**.

With another big target in mind, we went back to the trail shortly after breakfast. This time the very local *Tawny-chested Flycatcher* was the intended star of the show. We actually had heard it earlier near the feeder but it did not come into view at that time. I was very positive we would find it at any time. Walking the main trail of the lodge we heard **Dull-mantled Antbird**, **Golden-crowned Warbler**, **Spotted Woodcreeper** and others.

Minutes later on the trail we heard the flycatcher calling, and found it perched low near the ground beside a small creek. We got great views before the bird left, and we were happy enough with our views. Next! A common expression on birding tours especially after seeing rarities, we then continued walking the trail up the hill searching for any kind of *quail-dove* or any other specialties. Moving along the trail we saw **Collared Trogon**, **Plain Xenops**, **Checker-throated Antwren**, **Gartered Trogon**, **Keel-billed Toucan (below)**, **Brown-hooded Parrot**, **Russet Antshrike**, **White-flanked Antwren**, **Lesser Greenlet**, **Rufous-capped Warbler** and **Chestnut-headed Oropendola**. After a splendid experience at *Rancho Naturalista* we left after lunch towards *Braulio Carrillo National Park*.



Before the check-in at the lodge we decided to visit a place called “*El Tapir*” which is basically an abandoned butterfly garden that we knew was a great spot for hummingbirds. Located just 1 mile away from the *Quebrada Gonzalez Ranger Station* we got **Green Hermit**, **Violet-headed Hummingbird**, **Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer**, **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** and our main target, the amazing **Black-crested Coquette**.

### Day 11 (May 19<sup>th</sup>) Braulio Carrillo National Park and the Aerial Tram

We arrived in the rainforest again following a night of torrential rain. *Braulio Carrillo National Park* and the surrounding areas within the region with highest volume of rainfall in all of Costa Rica. The reason to be at this lodge was simple, to try and find the rare, but much wanted *Bare-necked Umbrellabird*. This became our main goal for almost the rest of the trip.

There were other important species of course, but we focused our energies and knowledge on trying to see this amazing bird. There was a large number of species to target in *Braulio Carrillo National Park* but the umbrellabird was ranked at number one on that list. At this point of our trip, we were less focused on numbers of species, but were more selective than in previous days, with an ever narrowing target list. We spent the entire morning on site principally searching for the umbrellabird. In spite of this, we just couldn't find it at one of the nest areas for the species. As we searched though, we found plenty of other interesting species, like **Semiplumbeous Hawk**, **King Vulture**, **Blue-throated Goldentail**, **Short-billed Pigeon**, **White-whiskered Puffbird**, **Stripe-breasted Wren**, **Dot-winged Antwren**, **Yellow-margined Flycatcher** and **Black-capped Antshrike**.

Our plan for the afternoon was to visit the renowned *Quebarada Gonzalez Ranger Station* at *Braulio Carrillo National Park*. Once there, we continued our search for target species. By late in the afternoon we saw rain clouds starting to build up quickly, and as we retreated ahead of the rain, we got a good mixed flock with **Black-faced Grosbeak**, **Tawny-faced Gnatwren**, **Speckled Tanager**, and **Olive-backed Euphonia**. While we looked at the flock, we heard the sound of two hummingbirds chasing each other, and swung around to see a **Green Hermit** chasing the very uncommon **White-tipped Sicklebill**, the latter was only the second time I had seen the species in this much visited area!



### Day 12 (May 20<sup>th</sup>)

#### Aerial Tram to La Selva Station

There was a very loud **Common Pauraque** calling from just outside our rooms this morning, perhaps happy that the rain had cleared following another all night downpour! We also heard **Great Tinamou (left)** which became a common bird to see in the following days, and **Scaled Pigeon** which has surprisingly declined in the Caribbean lowlands of Costa Rica, for no apparent reason.

Other birds that morning included **Squirrel Cuckoo**, **Clay-colored Thrush**, **Green Hermit**, **Chestnut-backed Antbird**, **Green Ibis** and best of all, as we walked inside the forest

along the trails, we got a lonely and shy **Olive-backed Quail-Dove** which was a big target for the trip too. We then left this nice place to go to an even deeper rainforest region, *La Selva Biological Station* a short drive away. *La Selva Biological Station* is owned and operated by the OTS (Organization for Tropical Studies) that has three field research stations in the country. *La Selva* is the largest of them and is located in the lowlands of the *Sarapiquí* region on the Caribbean side of the mountains. It is known for an abundance of birds, and easy birding. We had few targets here but there was also a potentially good stakeout for the *Bare-necked Umbrellabird* there as well. However, that was put on hold, for as soon as we arrived in the afternoon we

went down a road to look for another target species, the *Great Green Macaw*. Not far from the cabins we stayed in, we got 6 **Great Green Macaws** that came into view and gave a nice show. They were really loud as always and continued flying around us for a while. Sadly, there are only few pairs known to be resident in the region, and the estimated population is no more than 40 pairs in total. We took a short break after lunch and then continued searching for our principal targets. One of the new hummingbirds of the trip was the local **Blue-chested Hummingbird** foraging near the main entrance road. Another important target was the **Plain-colored Tanager**, of which we saw 6 individuals flying into a "Cecropia" tree and managed to get good views of them. Other species seen on this day were **Broad-billed Motmot**, **Rufous-winged Woodpecker**, **Tropical Pewee**, **Long-tailed Tyrant**, **Scarlet-rumped Cacique** and **Rufous Mourner**.

### Day 13 (May 21<sup>st</sup>) **La Selva Station to Caño Negro Refuge**

While we were staying at the *Rainforest Aerial Tram* we had encountered very heavy rains at night. At that same time, they had received huge rains too, plus high winds, which are very unusual in the region. What this produced was an exceptional number of treefalls, some 510 trees felled by the storm in total, which led to many trails being closed and impeded our plans to look for the *Umbrellabird* along one of these.

Thus, we left for *Canó Negro* a little sooner than planned, but not before enjoying a six woodpecker morning, which included **Rufous-winged**, **Black-cheeked**, **Cinnamon**, **Chestnut-colored**, **Lineated** and **Pale-billed Woodpeckers!** During this



amazing, though short, period of birding before we departed La Selva we also saw Slaty-tailed Trogon, two more Great Green Macaws, White-collared Swift, Rufous Motmot and Broad-billed Motmot. Usually, people spend two to three nights at La Selva, compared with our one, and it was easy to understand why.

Along the way, we planned to stop off near Arenal in order to try for *Keel-billed Motmot* and **Bare-crowned Antbird** (next page). The motmot was not apparent,

but we quickly got a male antbird to come right to us. Having got the antbird, we moved to another spot for a **Keel-billed Motmot** (above), and were this time rewarded with views of a bird sat beside the road consuming a Long-horned Grasshopper!

We arrived in *Caño Negro* late in the day, but with still enough time to go for a short boat ride. Although we had little time, and rain had started to fall, we pushed on anyway, in the hope of finding the local *Nicaraguan Grackle*.



Some of the abundant species we encountered in *Caño Negro* were **Anhinga**, **Neotropic Cormorant**, **Green Heron**, **Amazon Kingfisher**, **Buff-rumped Warbler**, **Bay Wren**, **Bare-throated Tiger-Heron**, **Cattle Egret**, **Green Ibis**, **Mangrove Swallow** and others. Little by little the rain was stronger, and so we stopped by the river bank for a while. At this time of year rains can be heavy but they the showers typically do not last too long. After a few minutes we drove back to the docking area. However, as we approached the main this area, we talked the captain into going a little further down river where to our surprise a **Nicaraguan Grackle** was found sitting in a top of a small tree. A wonderful way to finish a great day.

#### **Day 14 (May 22<sup>nd</sup>) Caño Negro Refuge to Tenorio Volcano National Park**

We started this day with a short walk around the semi-open fields and the lagoon in the town of *Caño Negro*. There was a little rain, but not bad enough to stop us birdwatching until breakfast time. Our target was the uncommon **Gray-headed Dove**. As we moved into a forest edge near the water we could heard one bird singing. This one was not difficult to find and we had great views as it was displaying in the bushes. Having found the dove, we went to the main entrance of the reserve to see the skulking **Spot-breasted Wren**. This is the only location in Costa Rica to get it. Thankfully, the forest patch near the water held at least 3 individuals that were foraging in the middle understory. *Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge* is a fantastic protected area located in the northern part of the country near the Nicaraguan border. The Rio Frio River floods into the San Juan River right at the border between the countries. During the dry season (January – April) there are huge nesting colonies of **Neotropic Cormorant**, **Anhingas**, **herons** and **kingfishers**.

As the water level descends it creates small ponds where fish get trapped, concentrating a large amount of **Wood Storks**, **Great Egrets**, **Green Herons**, **Snowy Egrets** and the Majestic **Jabiru**, all of them hunting for fish.

It was soon time to leave this excellent birding destination and move to another one, *Tenorio Volcano National Park*. Our list of target species took us to one of the most beautiful national parks in the country, with an average altitude between two thousand and four thousand feet above sea level, and we were all keen to be there as soon as possible. The next activity was to have lunch and we planned to go out in the middle of the afternoon when it would be cooler. The rain was present for a while and there was a bit of mist as well, not good for birdwatching but we managed to be on the road as we originally proposed. The track down from the lodge was amazing. We did suffer a little bit with the rain and mist, but even with that we got a soaring **Black-Hawk Eagle** that was calling continually, a few **Lovely Cotingas** flying across the valley in what must be the best place to get this rare bird in Costa Rica. We also got **Double-toothed Kite**, **Plain Antvireo**, **White Hawk**, **Swallow-tailed Kites**, **Rufous-winged Tanager** and we heard **Central American Pygmy-Owl** calling far from the road. The rain then started again and quickly became heavier, so we returned to the lodge.



## Day 15 (May 23<sup>rd</sup>) Volcan Tenorio National Park

While we had already struck a decent number of target species off of our list thus far, there was one prominently remaining there, *Bare-necked Umbrellabird*. In my experience, during recent years, this species has become increasingly difficult to find. There used to be an active lek in the *San Gerardo Station near Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve*, but sadly the birds seemed to have gone from there. Our goal was still trying to get it at the base and foothills of *Tenorio Volcano National Park* where it is still occasionally found.

The morning was slow due the weather conditions, as we had what people here in Costa Rica call a “cold front”, bad weather coming from the Caribbean coast. Although the coast is far away from the park, the winds bring in the rain clouds from there, accumulating little by little at the base of the volcano area. We had a bit of rain and lot of mist early this morning so, we basically watched the fruit feeders of the lodge where we saw **Passerini’s Tanager**, **Buff-throated Saltator**, **Yellow-throated Euphonia**, **Palm Tanager**, and **Blue-gray Tanager**. On the grassy, more open areas we also saw **Variable Seedeater** and **Black-striped Sparrow**.



Once the weather changed a bit, we ventured onto a forest trail on the lodge property. Almost immediately there we got a **Nightingale Wren** singing for us, which was another target for the trip. We saw it very well. We then continued walking within the forest interior, and heard **Dull-mantled Antbird** (*we saw this one earlier at Rancho Naturalista*), and saw **Carniol’s Tanager**, **Wedge-billed Woodcreeper**, **Buff-rumped Warbler** and **Gartered Trogon**.

Trails inside primary forest are often quiet, but most birds here are unique and rare. There was a *Tody Motmot* vocalizing up the hill, and knowing the trail was heading in the right direction we continued along the path. Then we tried for *quail-doves* or *wood-quails* without success. No *umbrellabird* (*unsurprisingly*) either. Finally, we were able to see the **Tody Motmot (above)**, this bird was perched right along the main trail, quietly sitting on a mossy branch making the composition of a perfect picture. As we approached, but still at some distance, the bird took off, which was a bit of a mystery until we noticed a mammal nearby, a **Tayra**, which was a highly unusual moment to have a **Tody Motmot** and this mammal in view at the same time! Minutes later on this trail we also got a nice looking **Lattice-tailed Trogon**, **White Hawk**, **Black-throated Trogon (page before)**, **Buff-throated Foliage-Gleaner**, and a **White-fronted Nunbird** was singing from a forest gap as well.

The latter is a species that has been in serious decline in Costa Rica, and so was good to know was still lingering on there. We also saw more **Tody Motmots** and a female **Black-crested Coquette**.

### Day 16 (May 24<sup>th</sup>) Tenorio Volcano National Park to Monteverde Reserve

Encountering the same difficult weather conditions as the day before, we decided to leave this area early. Before that though, we returned to the stakeout for **Central American Pygmy-Owl** to try for it one more time. Unfortunately, in spite of hearing the bird far off, it could not be brought into viewing range. After few minutes we left the spot, but also managed more **Lovely Cotingas** on the way out of the park.



The rest of the morning was used traveling towards *Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve*, with no important stops planned for the rest of the morning. We had a Costa Rican lunch along the way until we started climbing up the mountains towards the famous *Monteverde Reserve*. We arrived in the picturesque town of *Santa Elena*, (the main town of the region, where people stay when visiting this reserve), by midafternoon.

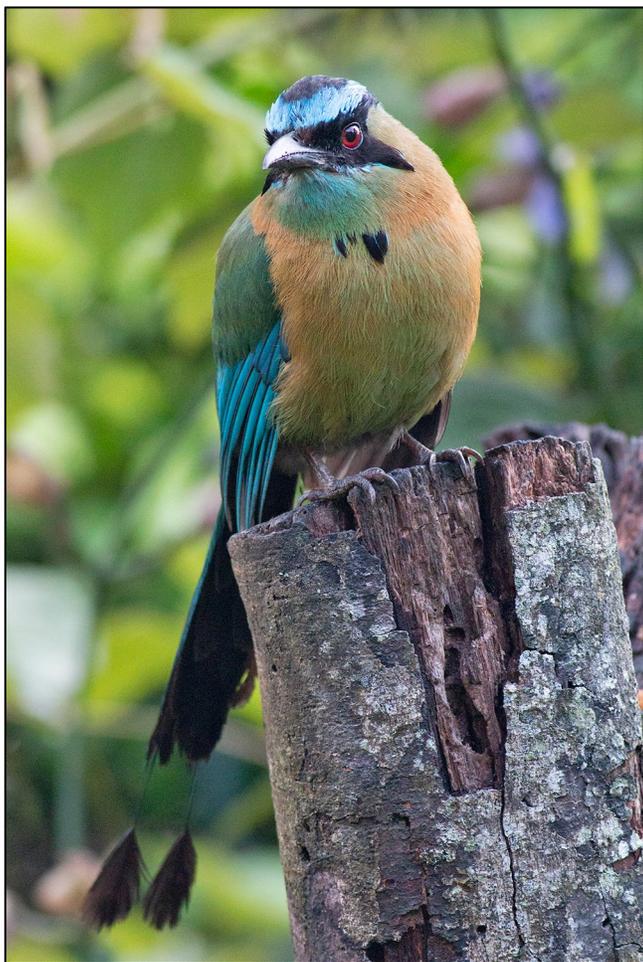
After checking into our lodge, we needed to wait out the rain again for a little while before heading to the Ecological Farm of Monteverde to search for some of our remaining

targets. The secondary forest trails and old coffee plantations are home to a good number of specialties. Our main target there was the beautiful *Chiriqui Quail-Dove* that we had heard days back in *Rancho Naturalista* but had not seen. After some more rain we headed into the forest, hearing a **Long-tailed Manakin** and finding a cooperative **Orange-bellied Trogon**. On the same track later on, we also found **White-eared Ground-Sparrow** (above), another one chalked off of our target list. The rain continued to play with us, and so after returning to shelter again, we headed back into the forest and were rewarded with another key species on our list, a furtive covey of **Black-breasted Wood-Quails**. However, that was not the end of the day. In spite of light beginning to wane, we took a short trail near the entrance and were ecstatic to find a pair of **Chiriqui Quail-Doves** quietly feeding on the forest floor. It was a great close to the day.

### Day 17 (May 25<sup>th</sup>) Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve

As always, we met early in the morning hoping for better weather. Right at the porch of the restaurant we got **Cabanis's Wren**, **Northern Emerald Toucanet**, **Lesson's Motmot** and **White-fronted Parrot**. A good way to start the day for sure. After an excellent breakfast, we visited another nearby local reserve, *Curi Cancha*. As we were departing the lodge, we saw a male **Canivet's Emerald** attending the purple flowers in the hotel garden.

We arrived shortly after at *Curi Cancha*, our main site for the day, and once again our reason for visiting was the elusive and rare *umbrellabird*. Although not normally found at this location, we had received information that a single bird was spotted a few days before. Thus, we had a plan in mind. Not to leave the Monteverde area until we saw the bird! We had been trying already for more than five days without success, but we all knew this was a major task and the challenge was huge, and it was accepted that in recent years at least, this was a very missable bird indeed. Our time at the preserve was very productive, we got other targets for the trip such as **White-throated Thrush** and the amazing **Three-wattled Bellbird**. From the clearing we could hear and see at least 3 male bellbirds singing from an exposed perch way up in the top of the trees.



The trail provided us with **Rufous-browed Peppershrike**, **Golden-crowned Warbler**, **Common Chlorospingus**, **Streak-breasted Treehunter**, **Purple-throated Mountain-Gem**, **Azure-hooded Jay**, **Ochraceous Wren**, **Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush** and **Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch** too. However, sadly again, and predictably, no *umbrellabird* for us!

### Day 18 (May 26<sup>th</sup>) **Monteverde to La Ensenada Lodge**

This was a tough morning, as we knew we had to leave without all of our targets, and most frustrating of all, without the *umbrellabird*. While it was always a missable bird, to have gotten so close at *Curi Cancha* was a little galling. We also knew that there were no remaining chances of the bird. We met on the porch of our *Monteverde* lodge for our now traditional coffee and birding before breakfast. The common birds were at the feeders again, like **Lesson's Motmot (left)**, **Brown Jay** and **Northern Emerald Toucanet**. We had breakfast and brought our bags down to our vehicle in preparation to leave.

Our time in *Monteverde* was gone, when suddenly, I received a text message revealing that the *umbrellabird* was spotted by local fields workers just ten minutes earlier! Everyone there knew what I was looking for of course. Our lodge was only ten minutes from the reserve and so we did not think twice about returning there. We arrived at the private reserve and walked as fast as possible to the area where they had seen the bird not long before. *Umbrellabirds* are poorly-known, unpredictable birds, sometimes they can stay in

a fruiting tree for long periods of time or they can travel fast through the forest canopy. We started searching and hoping for a miracle...After a few minutes and no sign, I started thinking the worst. But, we had enough time to be invested in that place if we needed to. We walked a few trails here and there, but nothing happened. We then split our group (including one of the local field workers that kindly helped us), and covered a larger area.

When I decided to return and look for the rest of the group on a loop trail I heard the bird, and we located it! We knew it was there. This was a joyous moment full of palpable relief after such time was invested in this bird over many days. The bird was quite cooperative, gave a short but very good view and flew away. Everyone was more than happy and excited. It was now time to return to our original plan, and travel to the *Gulf of Nicoya* near the town of *Abangaritos*. We had another traveling day ahead of us but this time, with a big smile on our faces.

When we arrived in the proximity of the next lodge we tried for our last target left of the trip, *Thicket Tinamou*. It was raining during that afternoon as well and the forest was a bit quiet. We stopped at a lush forest fragment where I had seen the bird on previous trips. We heard the bird after a few minutes of waiting there. However, as many experience birders know, it is one thing to *hear* a tinamou but another to actually see it. We waited and waited, but no success at this time. It was already getting late in the day so we opted to continue on towards our final lodge and rest up for the night.



### Day 19 (May 27<sup>th</sup>) [Ensenada Lodge to San Jose](#)

Having gotten the umbrellabird now, we felt like we should be able to handle a tinamou! However, the habitat of the Thicket Tinamou is not open understory in primary forest, (like many other tinamous). This habitat is as described in the bird's name, thickets within forest, where plentiful tangles and dense vegetation help to hide a tinamou. This habitat is only found in the dry northwest of the country. We only had a precious couple of hours for the bird before we needed to start our way back to San Jose.

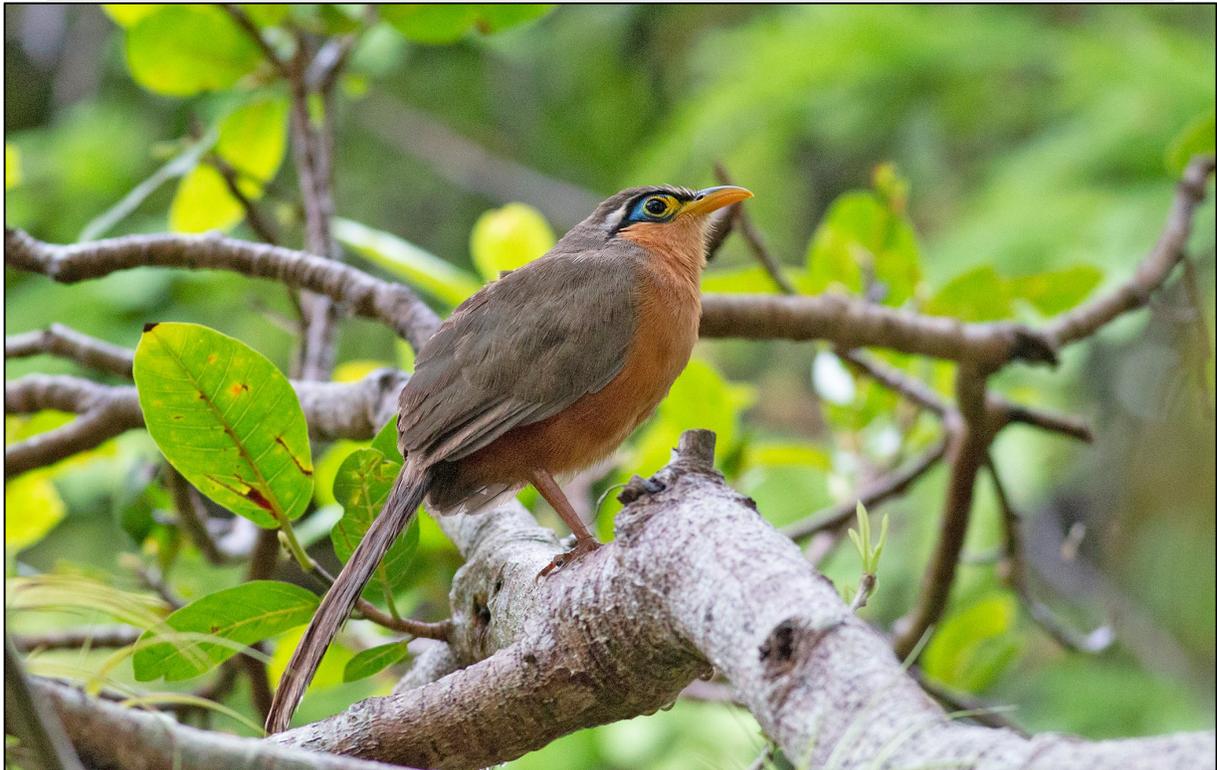
The tinamou search involved leaving the road, crossing fences, and walking inside a forest trail while trying to avoid mosquitoes! And yet, even after this, we still could not see the bird. One single bird responded strongly vocally to our playback, but we could not see it as it circled around us just out sight. We moved deeper into the undergrowth, and finally we caught sight of not one, but two different tinamous creeping slowly along the forest floor. Other birds we saw during the part of the morning we birded there were, **Yellow-olive Flycatcher**, **Yellow-green Vireo**, **Black-headed Trogon**, **Banded Wren**, **White-tipped Dove**, **Melodious Blackbird**, **Rufous-naped Wren**, **White-throated Magpie-Jay** (page before) and **Spot-breasted Oriole**. Then it was time to return to San Jose for a final night after what had been a trip full of not only many birds, but multiple rare and difficult species, which this tour was focused on.

Thanks to everyone for the wonderful energy and company. Remember that such a small country like Costa Rica is full of wonderful places still to be discover. Your visit will also support all the conservation efforts that are taking place today and the future, PURA VIDA!!



**Red-headed Barbet** from earlier on the tour

Next page: **White-whiskered Puffbird** (top); and **Lesser Ground-Cuckoo**



**BIRD LIST:****TINAMOUS: TINAMIDAE**

Highland Tinamou	<i>Nothocercus bonapartei</i>	H
Great Tinamou	<i>Tinamus major</i>	
Little Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus soui</i>	H
Thicket Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus cinnamomeus</i>	

**DUCKS, GEESE, AND WATERFOWL: ANATIDAE**

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>
Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>

**GUANS, CHACHALACAS, AND CURASSOWS: CRACIDAE**

Gray-headed Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis cinereiceps</i>
Crested Guan	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>
Black Guan (E)	<i>Chamaepetes unicolor</i>
Great Curassow	<i>Crax rubra</i>

**NEW WORLD QUAIL: ODONTOPHORIDAE**

Black-breasted Wood-Quail (E)	<i>Odontophorus leucolaemus</i>
Spotted Wood-Quail	<i>Odontophorus guttatus</i>

**STORKS: CICONIIDAE**

Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>
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**FRIGATEBIRDS: FREGATIDAE**

Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>
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**CORMORANTS AND SHAGS: PHALACROCORACIDAE**

Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>
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**ANHINGAS: ANHINGIDAE**

Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>
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**HERONS, EGRETS, AND BITTERNES: ARDEIDAE**

Bare-throated Tiger-Heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>
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Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>

**IBISES AND SPOONBILLS: THRESKIORNITHIDAE**

White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>
Green Ibis	<i>Mesembrinibis c.</i>

**NEW WORLD VULTURES: CATHARTIDAE**

Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
King Vulture	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>

**HAWKS, EAGLES, AND KITES: ACCIPITRIDAE**

Gray-headed Kite	<i>Leptodon cayanensis</i>
Swallow-tailed Kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>
Black Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus tyrannus</i>
Double-toothed Kite	<i>Harpagus bidentatus</i>
Common Black-Hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>
Roadside Hawk	<i>Rupornis magnirostris</i>
White Hawk	<i>Pseudastur albicollis</i>
Semiplumbeous Hawk	<i>Leucopternis semiplumbea</i>
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>

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

White-throated Crake	<i>Laterallus albigularis</i>	H
Gray-cowled Wood-Rail	<i>Aramides cajaneus</i>	
Uniform Crake	<i>Amaurolimnas concolor</i>	H

**LIMPKIN: ARAMIDAE**

Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	GO
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**THICK-KNEES: BURHINIDAE**

Double-striped Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus bistriatus</i>
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**JACANAS: JACANIDAE**

Northern Jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>	
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**PIGEONS AND DOVES: COLUMBIDAE**

Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	
Scaled Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas speciosa</i>	
Red-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i>	
Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	
Ruddy Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas subvinacea</i>	
Short-billed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas nigrirostris</i>	
Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>	
Ruddy Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	
Blue Ground-Dove	<i>Claravis pretiosa</i>	
Olive-backed Quail-Dove	<i>Geotrygon veraguensis</i>	
White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	
Gray-chested Dove	<i>Leptotila cassini</i>	
Gray-headed Dove	<i>Leptotila plumbeiceps</i>	
Buff-fronted Quail-Dove (E)	<i>Zentrygon costaricensis</i>	
Purplish-backed Quail-Dove	<i>Zentrygon lawrencii</i>	H
Chiriqui Quail-Dove (E)	<i>Zentrygon chiriquensis</i>	
White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	

**CUCKOOS: CUCULIDAE**

Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	
Striped Cuckoo	<i>Tapera naevia</i>	
Lesser Ground-Cuckoo	<i>Morococcyx erythropygus</i>	
Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>	

**OWLS: STRIGIDAE**

Pacific Screech-Owl	<i>Megascops cooperi</i>	
Bare-shanked Screech-Owl (E)	<i>Megascops clarkii</i>	
Spectacled Owl	<i>Pulsatrix perspicillata</i>	
Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl (E)	<i>Glaucidium costaricanum</i>	
Central American Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium griseiceps</i>	H
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>	
Mottled Owl	<i>Ciccaba virgata</i>	

Unspotted Saw-whet Owl *Aegolius ridgwayi*

### **NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES: CAPRIMULGIDAE**

Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*  
 Dusky Nightjar (E) *Antrostomus saturatus*

### **SWIFTS: APODIDAE**

Chestnut-collared Swift *Streptoprocne rutila*  
 White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*  
 Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi*  
 Costa Rican Swift (E) *Chaetura fumosa*  
 Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift *Panyptila cayennensis*

### **HUMMINGBIRDS: TROCHILIDAE**

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora*  
 Band-tailed Barbthroat *Threnetes ruckeri* GO  
 Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy*  
 Long-billed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris*  
 Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis*  
 Brown Violetear *Colibri delphinae*  
 Lesser Violetear *Colibri cyanotus*  
 Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliophryx barroti*  
 Green-breasted Mango *Anthracothorax prevostii*  
 Green Thorntail *Discosura conversii*  
 Black-crested Coquette *Lophornis helenae*  
 Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula*  
 Magnificent Hummingbird *Eugenes fulgens*  
 Fiery-throated Hummingbird (E) *Panterpe insignis*  
 Purple-throated Mountain-gem (E) *Lampornis calolaemus*  
 White-throated Mountain-gem *Lampornis c.*  
 Volcano Hummingbird (E) *Selasphorus flammula*  
 Scintillant Hummingbird (E) *Selasphorus scintilla*  
 Canivet's Emerald *Chlorostilbon canivetii*  
 Violet-headed Hummingbird *Klais guimeti*  
 White-tipped Sicklebill *Eutoxeres aquila*  
 Scaly-breasted Hummingbird *Phaeochroa cuvierii*

Violet Sabrewing	<i>Campylopterus h.</i>	
Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer	<i>Chalybura urochrysis</i>	GO
Crowned Woodnymph	<i>Thalurania colombica</i>	
Stripe-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Eupherusa eximia</i>	
Garden Emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon</i>	
Snowcap (E)	<i>Microchera albocoronata</i>	
Blue-chested Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia amabilis</i>	
Charming Hummingbird (E)	<i>Amazilia decora</i>	
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>	
Cinnamon Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia rutila</i>	
Blue-throated Goldentail	<i>Hylocharis eliciae</i>	

**TROGONS: TROGONIDAE**

Resplendent Quetzal	<i>Pharomachrus mocinno</i>
Lattice-tailed Trogon (E)	<i>Trogon clathratus</i>
Slaty-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon massena</i>
Black-headed Trogon	<i>Trogon melanocephalus</i>
Baird's Trogon (E)	<i>Trogon bairdii</i>
Gartered Trogon	<i>Trogon caligatus</i>
Black-throated Trogon	<i>Trogon rufus</i>
Orange-bellied Trogon (E)	<i>Trogon aurantiiventris</i>
Collared Trogon	<i>Trogon collaris</i>

**MOTMOTS: MOMOTIDAE**

Lesson's Motmot	<i>Momotus lessonii</i>
Rufous Motmot	<i>Baryphthengus martii</i>
Broad-billed Motmot	<i>Electron platyrhynchum</i>
Keel-billed Motmot	<i>Electron carinatum</i>
Tody Motmot	<i>Hylomanes momotula</i>

**KINGFISHERS: ALCEDINIDAE**

Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>
Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>
American Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>

**PUFFBIRDS: BUCCONIDAE**

White-necked Puffbird	<i>Notharchus h.</i>
White-whiskered Puffbird	<i>Malacoptila panamensis</i>
White-fronted Nunbird	<i>Monasa morphoeus</i>

**JACAMARS: GALBULIDAE**

Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>
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**NEW WORLD BARBETS: CAPTONIDAE**

Red-headed Barbet	<i>Eubucco bourcierii</i>
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**TOUCANS: RAMPHASTIDAE**

Emerald Toucanet	<i>Aulacorhynchus prasinus</i>
Collared Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus torquatus</i>
Fiery-billed Aracari (E)	<i>Pteroglossus frantzii</i>
Yellow-eared Toucanet (E)	<i>Selenidera spectabilis</i>
Yellow-throated Toucan	<i>Ramphastos ambiguu</i>
Keel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos sulfuratus</i>

**WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE**

Olivaceous Piculet	<i>Picumnus olivaceus</i>
Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>
Golden-naped Woodpecker (E)	<i>Melanerpes chrysauchen</i>
Black-cheeked Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes pucherani</i>
Red-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes rubricapillus</i>
Hoffmann's Woodpecker (E)	<i>Melanerpes hoffmannii</i>
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>
Rufous-winged Woodpecker (E)	<i>Piculus simplex</i>
Golden-olive Woodpecker	<i>Colaptes rubiginosus</i>
Cinnamon Woodpecker	<i>Celeus loricatus</i>
Chestnut-colored Woodpecker	<i>Celeus castaneus</i>
Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>
Pale-billed Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus g.</i>

**FALCONS AND CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE**

Barred Forest-Falcon	<i>Micrastur ruficollis</i>	H
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Collared Forest-Falcon	<i>Micrastur semitorquatus</i>
Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>
Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>
Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres c.</i>

**NEW WORLD & AFRICAN PARROTS: PSITTACIDAE**

Barred Parakeet	<i>Bolborhynchus lineola</i>
Orange-chinned Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris jugularis</i>
Brown-hooded Parrot	<i>Pyrilia haematotis</i>
White-crowned Parrot	<i>Pionus senilis</i>
Blue-headed Parrot	<i>Pionus menstruus</i>
Red-lore Parrot	<i>Amazona autumnalis</i>
White-fronted Parrot	<i>Amazona albifrons</i>
Mealy Parrot	<i>Amazona farinosa</i>
Sulphur-winged Parakeet (E)	<i>Pyrrhura hoffmanni</i>
Great Green Macaw	<i>Ara ambiguus</i>
Scarlet Macaw	<i>Ara macao</i>
Crimson-fronted Parakeet (E)	<i>Psittacara finschi</i>

**TYPICAL ANTbirds: THAMNOPHILIDAE**

Barred Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>	
Black-crowned Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus atrinucha</i>	
Black-hooded Antshrike (E)	<i>Thamnophilus bridgesi</i>	
Russet Antshrike	<i>Thamnistes anabatinus</i>	
Plain Antwreos	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>	
Checker-throated Antwren	<i>Epinecrophylla f.</i>	
White-flanked Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula axillaris</i>	H
Dot-winged Antwren	<i>Microrhophias quixensis</i>	
Dusky Antbird	<i>Cercomacra tyrannina</i>	
Bare-crowned Antbird	<i>Gymnocichla nudiceps</i>	
Chestnut-backed Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza exsul</i>	
Dull-mantled Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza laemosticta</i>	
Zeledon's Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza zeledoni</i>	
Bicolored Antbird	<i>Gymnopathys bicolor</i>	
Spotted Antbird	<i>Hylophylax naevioides</i>	

**ANTPITTAS: GRALLARIIDAE**

Thicket Antpitta	<i>Hylopezus fulviventris</i>	H
Ochre-breasted Antpitta	<i>Grallaricula flavirostris</i>	H
Streak-chested Antpitta	<i>Hylopezus perspicillatus</i>	H

**TAPACULOS: RHINOCRYPTIDAE**

Silvery-fronted Tapaculo (E)	<i>Scytalopus argentifrons</i>	H
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**ANTTHRUSHES: FORMICARIIDAE**

Black-faced Antthrush	<i>Formicarius analis</i>	
Black-headed Antthrush	<i>Formicarius nigricapillus</i>	H

**OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS: FURNARIIDAE**

Tawny-winged Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla anabatina</i>	
Plain-brown Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla fuliginosa</i>	
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>	
Northern Barred-Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocolaptes s</i>	
Cocoa Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus susurrans</i>	
Black-striped Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus</i>	
Spotted Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus erythropygius</i>	
Brown-billed Scythebill	<i>Campylorhamphus pusillus</i>	GO
Streak-headed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>	
Spot-crowned Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes affinis</i>	
Plain Xenops	<i>Xenops minutus</i>	
Buffy Tuftedcheek	<i>Pseudocolaptes lawrencii</i>	
Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner	<i>Automolus ochrolaemus</i>	
Streak-breasted Treehunter (E)	<i>Thripadectes rufobrunneus</i>	
Striped Woodhaunter	<i>Hyloctistes subulatus</i>	
Spotted Barbtail	<i>Premnoplex brunnescens</i>	
Ruddy Treerunner (E)	<i>Margaromis rubiginosus</i>	
Pale-breasted Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis albescens</i>	
Slaty Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis brachyura</i>	

**TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE**

Yellow Tyrannulet	<i>Capsiempis flaveola</i>	
Greenish Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis viridicata</i>	

<b>Yellow-bellied Elaenia</b>	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>	
<b>Tawny-chested Flycatcher</b>	<i>Aphanotriccus capitalis</i>	
<b>Mountain Elaenia</b>	<i>Elaenia frantzii</i>	
<b>Torrent Tyrannulet</b>	<i>Serpophaga cinerea</i>	
<b>Olive-striped Flycatcher</b>	<i>Mionectes olivaceus</i>	
<b>Ochre-bellied Flycatcher</b>	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>	
<b>Slaty-capped Flycatcher</b>	<i>Leptopogon superciliaris</i>	
<b>Paltry Tyrannulet</b>	<i>Zimmerius vilissimus</i>	
<b>Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant</b>	<i>Myiornis atricapillus</i>	H
<b>Northern Bentbill</b>	<i>Oncostoma cinereigulare</i>	
<b>Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher</b>	<i>Poecilotriccus sylvia</i>	
<b>Common Tody-Flycatcher</b>	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>	
<b>Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher</b>	<i>Todirostrum nigriceps</i>	
<b>Eye-ringed Flatbill</b>	<i>Rhynchocyclus brevirostris</i>	
<b>Yellow-olive Flycatcher</b>	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>	
<b>Yellow-margined Flycatcher</b>	<i>Tolmomyias assimilis</i>	
<b>Golden-crowned Spadebill</b>	<i>Platyrinchus coronatus</i>	
<b>Royal Flycatcher</b>	<i>Onychorhynchus coronatus</i>	
<b>Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher</b>	<i>Terenotriccus erythrurus</i>	
<b>Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiobius sulphureipygius</i>	
<b>Black-tailed Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiobius atricaudus</i>	
<b>Tufted Flycatcher</b>	<i>Mitrephanes phaeocercus</i>	
<b>Ochraceous Pewee (E)</b>	<i>Contopus ochraceus</i>	
<b>Western Wood-Pewee</b>	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	
<b>Tropical Pewee</b>	<i>Contopus cinereus</i>	
<b>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</b>	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	
<b>Yellowish Flycatcher</b>	<i>Empidonax flavescens</i>	
<b>Long-tailed Tyrant</b>	<i>Colonia colonus</i>	
<b>Bright-rumped Attila</b>	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>	H
<b>Rufous Mourner</b>	<i>Rhytipterna holerythra</i>	
<b>Dusky-capped Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>	
<b>Great Kiskadee</b>	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	
<b>Boat-billed Flycatcher</b>	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>	
<b>Social Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	
<b>Gray-capped Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiozetetes granadensis</i>	
<b>Rusty-margined Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>	

Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>	
Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>	
Rufous-browed Tyrannulet	<i>Phylloscater superciliaris</i>	
<b><u>COTINGAS: COTINGIDAE</u></b>		
Yellow-billed Cotinga	<i>Carpodectes antoniae</i>	
Bare-necked Umbrellabird (E)	<i>Cephalopterus glabricollis</i>	
Lovely Cotinga	<i>Cotinga amabilis</i>	
Rufous Piha	<i>Lipaugus unirufus</i>	
Three-wattled Bellbird (E)	<i>Procnias tricarunculatus</i>	
Snowy Cotinga (E)	<i>Carpodectes nitidus</i>	
<b><u>MANAKINS: PIPRIDAE</u></b>		
Long-tailed Manakin	<i>Chiroxiphia linearis</i>	
White-ruffed Manakin	<i>Corapipo altera</i>	
White-collared Manakin	<i>Manacus candei</i>	
Orange-collared Manakin (E)	<i>Manacus aurantiacus</i>	
Red-capped Manakin	<i>Ceratopipra mentalis</i>	
Gray-headed Piprites (E)	<i>Piprites griseiceps</i>	H
<b><u>TITYRAS AND ALLIES: TITYRIDAE</u></b>		
Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>	
Northern (Thrush-like) Schiffornis	<i>Schiffornis veraepacis</i>	
Barred Becard	<i>Pachyramphus versicolor</i>	GO
Cinnamon Becard	<i>Pachyramphus cinnamomeus</i>	
White-winged Becard	<i>Pachyramphus polychopterus</i>	
<b><u>VIREOS, SHRIKE-BABLERS &amp; ERPORNIS: VIREONIDAE</u></b>		
Yellow-winged Vireo (E)	<i>Vireo carmioli</i>	
Yellow-green Vireo	<i>Vireo flavoviridis</i>	
Scrub Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus flavipes</i>	H
Tawny-crowned Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus ochraceiceps</i>	H
Lesser Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus decurtatus</i>	
Green Shrike-Vireo	<i>Vireolanius pulchellus</i>	H
Rufous-browed Peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>	H

**CROWS, JAYS, AND MAGPIES: CORVIDAE**

Azure-hooded Jay	<i>Cyanolyca cucullata</i>
White-throated Magpie-Jay	<i>Calocitta formosa</i>
Brown Jay	<i>Psilorhinus morio</i>

**SWALLOWS: HIRUNDINIDAE**

Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Pygochelidon cyanoleuca</i>
Northern R.-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>
Southern R.-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>
Gray-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>
Mangrove Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>

**WRENS: TROGLODYTIDAE**

Nightingale Wren	<i>Microcerculus philomela</i>	
Scaly-breasted Wren	<i>Microcerculus marginatus</i>	
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	
Ochraceous Wren (E)	<i>Troglodytes ochraceus</i>	
Timberline Wren (E)	<i>Thryorchilus browni</i>	
Rufous-naped Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus rufinucha</i>	
Black-bellied Wren (E)	<i>Pheugopedius fasciatoventris</i>	
Rufous-breasted Wren	<i>Pheugopedius rutilus</i>	H
Black-throated Wren (E)	<i>Pheugopedius atrogularis</i>	GO
Rufous-and-white Wren	<i>Thryophilus rufalbus</i>	
Stripe-breasted Wren (E)	<i>Cantorchilus thoracicus</i>	
Cabanis's Wren	<i>Cantorchilus modestus</i>	
Isthmian Wren	<i>Cantorchilus elutus</i>	
Riverside Wren (E)	<i>Cantorchilus semibadius</i>	
Bay Wren	<i>Cantorchilus nigricapillus</i>	
White-breasted Wood-Wren	<i>Henicorhina leucosticta</i>	
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren	<i>Henicorhina leucophrys</i>	

**GNATCATCHERS: POLIOPTILIDAE**

Tawny-faced Gnatwren	<i>Microbates cinereiventris</i>
Long-billed Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>
White-lored Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila albiloris</i>
Tropical Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila plumbea</i>

**THRUSHES AND ALLIES: TURDIDAE**

Black-faced Solitaire (E)	<i>Myadestes melanops</i>	
Black-billed N.-Thrush (E)	<i>Catharus gracilirostris</i>	
Orange-billed N.-Thrush	<i>Catharus aurantiirostris</i>	GO
Slaty-backed N.-Thrush	<i>Catharus fuscater</i>	
Ruddy-capped N.-Thrush	<i>Catharus frantzii</i>	
Black-headed N.-Thrush	<i>Catharus mexicanus</i>	
Sooty Thrush (Robin) E	<i>Turdus nigrescens</i>	
Mountain Thrush (Robin)	<i>Turdus plebejus</i>	
Clay-colored Thrush (Robin)	<i>Turdus grayi</i>	
White-throated Thrush (Robin)	<i>Turdus assimilis</i>	

**SILKY-FLYCATCHERS: PTILOGONATIDAE**

Black-yellow Silky-flycatcher (E)	<i>Phainoptila melanoxantha</i>
Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher (E)	<i>Ptilogonys caudatus</i>

**NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE**

Olive-crowned Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis semiflava</i>	
Tropical Parula	<i>Setophaga pitiayumi</i>	
Rufous-capped Warbler	<i>Basileuterus rufifrons</i>	
Black-cheeked Warbler (E)	<i>Basileuterus melanogenys</i>	GO
Golden-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>	
Buff-rumped Warbler	<i>Myiothlypis fulvicauda</i>	
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	
Collared Redstart €	<i>Myioborus torquatus</i>	

**TANAGERS AND ALLIES: THRAUPIDAE**

White-shouldered Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus luctuosus</i>
Tawny-crested Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus delatrii</i>
White-throated Shrike-Tanager (E)	<i>Lanio leucothorax</i>
Crimson-collared Tanager	<i>Phlogothraupis sanguinolenta</i>
Passerini's Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus passerinii</i>
Cherrie's Tanager (E)	<i>Ramphocelus cherriae</i>
Blue-and-gold Tanager (E)	<i>Bangsia arcaei</i>
Blue-gray Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>
Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>

Golden-hooded Tanager	<i>Tangara larvata</i>
Speckled Tanager	<i>Tangara guttata</i>
Spangle-cheeked Tanager (E)	<i>Tangara dowii</i>
Plain-colored Tanager (E)	<i>Tangara inornata</i>
Rufous-winged Tanager	<i>Tangara lavinia</i>
Bay-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>
Emerald Tanager	<i>Tangara florida</i>
Scarlet-thighed Dacnis	<i>Dacnis venusta</i>
Blue Dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>
Shining Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes lucidus</i>
Red-legged Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>
Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>
Black-and-yellow Tanager (E)	<i>Chrysothlypis chrysomelas</i>
Thick-billed Seed-Finch	<i>Sporophila funerea</i>
Variable Seedeater (Carib)	<i>Sporophila corvina</i>
Variable Seedeater (Pacific)	<i>Sporophila corvina</i>
White-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila torqueola</i>
Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>
Yellow-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris olivaceus</i>
Buff-throated Saltator	<i>Saltator maximus</i>
Grayish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>

#### **BUNTINGS AND NEW WORLD SPARROWS: EMBERIZIDAE**

Ashy-throated Chlorospingus	<i>Chlorospingus canigularis</i>
Sooty-capped Chlorospingus (E)	<i>Chlorospingus pileatus</i>
Common Chlorospingus	<i>Chlorospingus ophthalmicus</i>
Black-striped Sparrow	<i>Arremonops conirostris</i>
Orange-billed Sparrow	<i>Arremon aurantirostris</i>
Chestnut-capped Brushfinch	<i>Arremon brunneinucha</i>
Volcano Junco (E)	<i>Junco vulcani</i>
Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>
Large-footed Finch (E)	<i>Pezopetes capitalis</i>
White-eared Ground-Sparrow	<i>Melospiza leucotis</i>
Yellow-thighed Finch (E)	<i>Pselliophorus tibialis</i>

**CARDINALS AND ALLIES: CARDINALIDAE**

Hepatic Tanager	<i>Piranga flava</i>
Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager	<i>Habia atrimaxillaris</i>
Flame-colored Tanager	<i>Piranga bidentata</i>
Red-throated Ant-Tanager	<i>Habia fuscicauda</i>
Carmioli's (Olive) Tanager	<i>Chlorothraupis carmioli</i>
Black-faced Grosbeak	<i>Caryothraustes p.</i>

**TROUPIALS AND ALLIES: ICTERIDAE**

Red-breasted Blackbird	<i>Sturnella militaris</i>	
Melodious Blackbird	<i>Dives dives</i>	
Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	
Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>	
Giant Cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>	GO
Spot-breasted Oriole	<i>Icterus pectoralis</i>	
Yellow-billed Cacique	<i>Amblycercus h.</i>	H
Scarlet-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus uropygialis</i>	
Chestnut-headed Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius wagleri</i>	
Montezuma Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius montezuma</i>	

**FINCHES, EUPHONIAS & ALLIES: FRINGILLIDAE**

Yellow-crowned Euphonia (E)	<i>Euphonia luteicapilla</i>
Yellow-throated Euphonia	<i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>
Spot-crowned Euphonia (E)	<i>Euphonia imitans</i>
Olive-backed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia gouldi</i>
Tawny-capped Euphonia (E)	<i>Euphonia anaeae</i>
Golden-browed Chlorophonia (E)	<i>Chlorophonia callophrys</i>
Yellow-bellied Siskin	<i>Spinus xanthogastrus</i>