

# BEST OF COSTA RICA

March 20 – April 1, 2010



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Resplendent Quetzal

**LEADERS: DAVID WOLF & MIMI WOLF**  
**COMPILED BY: DAVID WOLF**

**VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS, INC.**  
**2525 WALLINGWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 1003**  
**AUSTIN, TX 78746**  
**[WWW.VENTBIRD.COM](http://WWW.VENTBIRD.COM)**

*Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc.*

**BEST OF COSTA RICA**  
**March 10 – April 1, 2010**  
**Leaders: David and Mimi Wolf**

*Costa Rica is simply amazing! There are few other places in the world where such a wide diversity of wildlife can be seen so readily and in such a small area, and our 2010 “Best of Costa Rica Tour” took full advantage of this wealth as we roamed from one side of the country to the other. Ecotourism has become one of Costa Rica’s biggest businesses, and throughout the country people have made it a more friendly place for wildlife. Where else do curassows parade around with dozens of people nearby, or herds of javelina practically stroll along with the observers, or flocks of toucans pour into the trees right by a lodge entrance? Where else does one see a Great Tinamou casually strolling a few feet off a major trail, or stunning male quetzals calmly perched near their nest sites? Consider the pair of Black-and-white Owls in the town plaza that have become local mascots, or the huge American crocodiles that cause daily traffic jams along the coast highway. Such is birding in Costa Rica!*

*This tour covered four very different regions of the country, each producing its own specialties and surprises. We began with an impromptu scenic stop overlooking the Meseta Central, where a pair of Prong-billed Barbets perched not 20 feet away and brilliant Golden-browed Chlorophonias fed almost within touching distance, while an Emerald Toucanet called from a nearby tree. Shortly thereafter, a mixed-flock crossing the road was highlighted by a pair of Buffy Tuftedcheeks that paused to preen each other, the birds puffing out their bizarre cheek feathers to be stroked. The lush garden and forests of Bosque de Paz provided a nice selection of subtropical birds, highlighted by the Black Guans scrambling over the feeders, a ridiculous sight, while at night those same feeders attracted a family of pacas, a rarely seen large rodent that has been widely extirpated by hunting. Unfortunately, the next day a late cold front brought rain to this region, but while sheltering from it we watched a fiesta of hummingbirds, including little-known specialties like the Coppery-headed Emerald, Black-bellied Hummingbird, and White-bellied Mountain-gem.*

*From the wet subtropics we moved to the dry Pacific lowlands. The Scarlet Macaw is the signature species of this region, and here we thrilled to their sheer brilliance and general rowdiness as we watched pairs exploring nest sites, feeding overhead in the canopy, and flying against brilliant skies. As always, the partially deciduous forests of Carara National Park were incredibly birdy. Here we found five species of gorgeous trogons, including the endemic Baird’s, and other colorful gems like Fiery-billed Aracari and Rufous-tailed Jacamar. At times it was hard to tear our eyes away from them to watch the plethora of flycatchers, antbirds, and other forest insectivores foraging in the forest around them. Surprises here included a pair of Little Tinamous stealthily sneaking through the open woodland, a young King Vulture perched low inside the heavy forest, a serendipitous Spectacled Owl by day, and scope views of a singing Streak-chested Antpitta. Perhaps best of all were the manakins, as we observed Orange-collareds snapping and buzzing at the lek, Long-taileds doing their magical syncopated dance, and stunning Red-capped and Blue-crowned males slipping down to splash in a clear forest stream in the quiet of the late afternoon. A delightful afternoon boat trip on the Tarcoles River was a nice break from the intensity of the forest birding and produced closeups of Boat-billed Herons, Bare-throated Tiger-Herons, and small specialties like the Mangrove Hummingbird and Mangrove Vireo.*

*In the wet Caribbean lowlands, our first day at the world-famous La Selva Field Station was almost overwhelming, with birds popping out everywhere. Huge Crested Guans and a female Great Curassow calmly paraded around under the guava trees; both Semiplumbeous Hawk and Laughing Falcon were seen perched in bare trees at close range (great photo ops!); a pair of rarely seen Pied Puffbirds came out into the open; and a Rufous Piha was seen sitting on its tiny and well-camouflaged nest. The afternoon brought long looks at a male curassow feeding in a fruiting laurel tree and Great Tinamous casually standing just off to the side of the trail, while we ended the day with a pair of rare Great Green Macaws flying past in beautiful light. This highly-threatened species seems to be exploring nest sites in the region, where it has not bred for 50 or more years. Not all of the birds seen here were large, and while in this region we also enjoyed the Rufous and Broad-billed motmots hooting and honking; the subtle beauty of forest-dwellers like the Rufous-winged Woodpecker and Black-striped Woodcreeper; Fasciated Antshrikes incubating on two different nests; a tiny Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant in the scopes; and the spectacular songs of the elusive Stripe-breasted, Black-throated, and Bay wrens.*

*After the heat and humidity of the tropical lowlands it was refreshing to end the tour in the delightful Savegre Valley, along a rushing mountain stream amidst the magnificent temperate oak forest. Birds are not as abundant here as in the lowlands, but a very high percentage of them are endemic to these highlands and quite unique. We were extremely successful with the highland birds on this trip and had great looks at such special ones as Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl, Timberline Wren, Flame-throated Warbler, Spangle-cheeked Tanager, Large-footed Finch, Volcano Junco, and Black-thighed Grosbeak, to mention a few, while the endearing Collared Redstarts that landed all around us were clearly a group favorite. Especially noteworthy were the responsive Wrenthrush that was seen well (yes Mimi, they really do exist!), and the Black-and-yellow Silky-flycatcher, a great last-minute find on our way back to San Jose.*

*The outstanding bird of the area, however, is the Resplendent Quetzal. Some would argue that this is the most beautiful bird in the world, and after watching full-plumaged males at close range, repeatedly, we certainly wouldn't disagree! All too soon it was time to leave "the valley of the quetzals" and return to San Jose, our grand tour of the highlights of Costa Rica complete.*

#### **ITINERARY:**

**March 20:** arrival in San Jose, Costa Rica.

**March 21:** morning travel from San Jose and the Meseta Central to Bosque de Paz, with several productive stops, and then afternoon birding around Bosque de Paz Private Reserve.

**March 22:** a rainy day in the Bosque de Paz area as a cold front hit the region.

**March 23:** morning travel from "the wet side" at Bosque de Paz to "the dry side" in the Carara NP region, where we spent the rest of the afternoon birding the grounds at Villa Lapas.

**March 24:** morning birding in Carara NP, then an afternoon boat trip on the nearby Tarcoles River.

**March 25:** morning and afternoon hikes inside the forest in Carara NP.

**March 26:** a travel day from the Pacific lowlands to the Caribbean lowlands, birding the Aerial Tram in the foothills en route.

**March 27:** morning and afternoon excursions to the La Selva Field Station of the Organization of Tropical Studies (OTS), with midday breaks at Sueno Azul.

**March 28:** morning and afternoon excursions to the La Selva Field Station of the OTS.

**March 29:** travel to Cerro de la Muerte and the Savegre Valley, on the alternate route via Turrialba (a landslide had closed the main highway).

**March 30:** the beautiful Savegre Valley on Cerro de la Muerte, in the general vicinity of the lodge and nearby forests, and then an afternoon excursion to the high country.

**March 31:** morning hike down from the old-growth oak forest above the lodge and then an afternoon drive back to San Jose

**April 1:** departure for flights home.

**KEY:**

MC = Meseta Central

BP = Bosque de Paz Private Reserve and nearby, in the wet subtropical rainforest at mid-elevations on the Caribbean slope.

PL = the Pacific lowlands in the Carara National Park region.

CS = the wet Caribbean foothills at the Aerial Tram, on the edge of Braulio Carillo NP.

CL = the Caribbean lowlands from Sueno Azul to the La Selva Field Station and nearby.

CM = Cerro de la Muerte area, especially the Savegre Valley and nearby.

**E** = endemic to Costa Rica only

**eh** = endemic to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama

**ec** = endemic to the Caribbean lowlands and foothills centered on Costa Rica but in some cases extending as far as se. Honduras and central Panama.

**ep** = endemic to the moist Pacific lowlands of southern Costa Rica and far western Panama.

**el** = endemic to both the Caribbean and Pacific lowlands and foothills of Costa Rica and Panama.

hd = heard

**BIRDLIST:** Follows *The A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds, Seventh Edition* and supplements. A few of our many highlights are **bolded**.

**Great Tinamou** (*Tinamus major*) – PL, CL (great looks at very calm birds along the trails; in most places tinamous are rarely seen).

**Little Tinamou** (*Crypturellus soui*) – PL, CL (hd) (a wonderful pair sneaking through a patch of open dry forest at Carara gave us great looks).

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) – PL, CL

**Muscovy Duck** (*Cairina moschata*) – PL (5 feeding calmly in a stream inside the forest).

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) - PL

**Crested Guan** (*Penelope purpurascens*) – CL (boldly walking around on the ground under the guava tree, picking up fallen fruit).

**eh** **Black Guan** (*Chamaepetes unicolor*) – BP (clown-like as they scrambled over the feeders at Bosque de Paz).

**Great Curassow** (*Crax rubra*) – PL, CL (remarkably calm birds seen a number of times at La Selva; this species has been hunted to extirpation in most areas).

**Marbled Wood-Quail** (*Odontophorus gujanensis*) – PL (a family group seen by some while at the Long-tailed Manakin lek).

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) – PL

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) – PL, CL

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) – PL, CL

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) - PL

Bare-throated Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma mexicanum*) – PL

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) – PL, CL

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) – PL, CL

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) – PL, CL

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) – PL, CL  
 Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) - PL  
 Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) – MC, PL, CL  
 Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) – PL, CL  
 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) – PL  
**Boat-billed Heron** (*Cochlearius cochlearius*) – PL (comical and unique).  
 White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) – PL, CL  
 Green Ibis (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*) – CL  
 Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*) – PL  
 Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) - PL  
 Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) – all regions (seen daily).  
 Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) – all regions  
**King Vulture** (*Sarcoramphus papa*) – PL, CL (including a curious juvenile perched down low inside the heavy forest – we could smell the reason why it was present).  
 Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) – PL, CL, CM  
 Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) - CM  
 White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) - MC  
 Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*) – PL, CL  
 Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*) – PL  
 Barred Hawk (*Leucopternis princeps*) – CS (quick look for a few).  
**Semiplumbeous Hawk** (*Leucopternis semiplumbeus*) – CL (calmly perched in a bare tree right above us).  
**White Hawk** (*Leucopternis albicollis*) – CS (stunning look at one perched down low in the wet foothill forest).  
 Mangrove Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus subtilis*) - PL  
 Great Black Hawk (*Buteogallus urubitinga*) – BP (heard, glimpsed).  
 Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) - CL  
 Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) – MC, PL, CS, CL, CM  
 Gray Hawk (*Buteo nitidus*) – PL  
 Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) – MC, CL  
 Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) – MC, PL, CL  
 Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*) – PL  
**Laughing Falcon** (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) – CL (seen repeatedly at La Selva).  
 White-throated Crake (*Laterallus albigularis*) - CL (heard only).  
**Gray-necked Wood-Rail** (*Aramides cajanea*) – CL (including one with nesting material flying up into the thick bushes).  
 Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*) – PL, CL  
**Sungrebe** (*Heliornis fulica*) – CL (great looks for part of the group as it drifted down the big river at La Selva).  
 Double-striped Thick-knee (*Burhinus bistriatus*) – PL  
 Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*) - PL  
 Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) – PL  
**Collared Plover** (*Charadrius collaris*) – PL (a family group along the Rio Tarcoles was a last-minute surprise).  
 Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) – PL  
 Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) - PL  
 Northern Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*) – PL, CL  
 Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) – PL, CL  
 Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) – PL, CL  
 Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*) - PL  
 Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) - PL  
 Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) - PL

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*) – PL (perhaps leader only)  
Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) - PL  
Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) - CL  
Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) - PL  
**Gull-billed Tern** (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) – PL (rare and unexpected here; nice breeding-plumaged adult).

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) - feral birds in cities and towns

Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) - CL

Red-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas flavirostris*) - MC, PL, CL

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*) - CM

Ruddy Pigeon (*Patagioenas subvinacea*) - CM

Short-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas nigrirostris*) – PL, CS, CL

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) – MC, PL

Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*) – MC, PL

Ruddy Ground\_Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) – PL, CL

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) – BP, PL, CL

Gray-chested Dove (*Leptotila cassini*) - PL

eh Sulphur-winged Parakeet (*Pyrrhura hoffmanni*) – CM

el Crimson-fronted Parakeet (*Aratinga finschi*) – PL (in flight only).

Olive-throated Parakeet (*Aratinga nana*) – CL

Orange-fronted Parakeet (*Aratinga canicularis*) – MC, PL

**Great Green Macaw** (*Ara ambiguus*) – CL (spectacular pair in the late afternoon in an area where they have been exploring the remnant trees for potential nest sites; this endangered species has not bred in this region for more than 50 years).

**Scarlet Macaw** (*Ara macao*) – PL (spectacular and seen repeatedly).

Orange-chinned Parakeet (*Brotogeris jugularis*) – PL, CL

Brown-hooded Parrot (*Pyrilia haematotis*) – PL, CL

White-crowned Parrot (*Pionus senilis*) – CL

**White-fronted Parrot** (*Amazona albifrons*) – PL (especially lovely in the perfect late afternoon light as we drifted down the Rio Tarcoles).

Red-lore Parrot (*Amazona autumnalis*) – PL, CL

Mealy Parrot (*Amazona farinosa*) – PL, CL

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) – PL, CL

Mangrove Cuckoo (*Coccyzus minor*) – PL

**Striped Cuckoo** (*Tapera naevia*) – CL (raising and lowering its crest as it called).

Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) – PL, CL

Spectacled Owl (*Pulsatrix perspicillata*) - PL

eh **Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl** (*Glaucidium costaricanum*) – CM (in the nest hole and then perched nearby).

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) – PL

**Black-and-white Owl** (*Ciccaba nigrolineata*) – PL (the town mascot of Orotina).

Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) - PL

Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) – PL, CL

eh Dusky Nightjar (*Caprimulgus saturatus*) - CM

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) – MC, CS, CL, CM

Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*) – CM

Costa Rican Swift (*Chaetura fumosa*) - PL

Gray-rumped Swift (*Chaetura cinereiventris*) – CL

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift (*Panyptila cayennensis*) – CL

Bronzy Hermit (*Glaucis aeneus*) – MC, CL

Green Hermit (*Phaethornis guy*) – BP, CS

Long-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis longirostris*) – PL, CL (formerly considered a race of Long-tailed Hermit).

- Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis striigularis*) - PL (formerly lumped with Little Hermit).  
 Scaly-breasted Hummingbird (*Phaeochroa cuvierii*) – PL  
 Violet Sabrewing (*Campylopterus hemileucurus*) – BP, PL, CM  
 White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*) - CL  
 Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*) - CM  
 Green-breasted Mango (*Anthracothorax prevostii*) – PL, CL  
 Green Thorntail (*Discosura conversii*) - BP  
 Violet-crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*) - CS  
eh **Fiery-throated Hummingbird** (*Panterpe insignis*) - CM (stunning endemic of the highest elevations, but it takes a while to see all of the colors light up).  
 Blue-throated Goldentail (*Hylocharis eliciae*) - PL  
 Blue-chested Hummingbird (*Amazilia amabilis*) – CL  
E Mangrove Hummingbird (*Amazilia boucardi*) – PL  
 Steely-vented Hummingbird (*Amazilia saucerrottei*) - PL  
 Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*) – MC, BP, PL, CL  
 Stripe-tailed Hummingbird (*Eupherusa eximia*) – CM  
eh **Black-bellied Hummingbird** (*Eupherusa nigriventris*) – BP (an uncommon specialty of the wet mid elevations of the Caribbean slope).  
E **Coppery-headed Emerald** (*Elvira cupreiceps*) – BP (a true Costa Rican endemic, known from no other country).  
 Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer (*Chalybura urochrysis*) – CL  
eh White-bellied Mountain-gem (*Lampornis hemileucus*) – BP  
eh Purple-throated Mountain-gem (*Lampornis calolaemus*) - BP  
eh White-throated (Gray-tailed) Mountain-gem (*Lampornis castaneiventris*) – CM  
 Green-crowned Brilliant (*Heliodoxa jacula*) - BP  
 Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*) – BP, CM  
 Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliothryx barroti*) – CL  
eh Magenta-throated Woodstar (*Calliphlox bryantae*) - BP  
eh Volcano Hummingbird (*Selasphorus flammula*) - CM  
eh Scintillant Hummingbird (*Selasphorus scintilla*) – BP, CM  
 Black-headed Trogon (*Trogon melanocephalus*) – PL  
ep **Baird's Trogon** (*Trogon bairdii*) – PL (it's hard to pick a favorite trogon, but this is the scarcest and most range-restricted that we saw).  
 Violaceous Trogon (*Trogon violaceus*) - PL  
 Collared Trogon (*Trogon collaris*) – BP  
eh Orange-bellied Trogon (*Trogon aurantiiventris*) - BP  
 Black-throated Trogon (*Trogon rufus*) – PL, CL  
 Slaty-tailed Trogon (*Trogon massena*) – PL, CL  
**Resplendent Quetzal** (*Pharomachrus mocinno*) – CM (who could even get enough of this spectacular bird? We observed them at several nest sites and in nearby fruiting trees).  
 Blue-crowned Motmot (*Momotus momota*) - PL  
 Rufous Motmot (*Baryphthengus martii*) - CL  
 Broad-billed Motmot (*Electron platyrhynchum*) – CL  
 Turquoise-browed Motmot (*Eumomota superciliosa*) – PL  
 Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquatus*) – PL, CL  
 Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*) – PL, CL  
 Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) – PL, CL  
**Pied Puffbird** (*Notharchus tectus*) – CL (good looks at this uncommon species).  
 White-whiskered Puffbird (*Malacoptila panamensis*) – PL, CS, CL  
**Rufous-tailed Jacamar** (*Galbula ruficauda*) – PL, CL (a sparkling gem).  
eh **Prong-billed Barbet** (*Semnornis frantzii*) – BP (strange birds called up to within 20 feet of the group).

- Emerald Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus prasinus*) – BP, CM (the endemic “Blue-throated” race, sometimes split as a separate species (*Aulacorhynchus caeruleogularis*)).
- Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) - CS, CL
- ep** Fiery-billed Aracari (*Pteroglossus frantzii*) - PL
- Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) - CL
- Chestnut-mandibled Toucan** (*Ramphastos swainsoni*) – PL, CS, CL (colorful, common and conspicuous; sometimes lumped with Black-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos ambiguus*)).
- Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) – CM
- Golden-naped Woodpecker (*Melanerpes chrysauchen*) – PL (heard only).
- Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*) - CS, CL
- eh** Hoffmann’s Woodpecker (*Melanerpes hoffmannii*) – MC, PL
- Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*) - CM
- el** **Rufous-winged Woodpecker** (*Piculus simplex*) – CL (long studies of one perched in a tree in the Sueno Azul parking lot).
- Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Piculus rubiginosus*) – BP, CM (hd)
- Chestnut-colored Woodpecker (*Celeus castaneus*) – CL
- Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) – CL
- Pale-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus guatemalensis*) – PL, CL
- Red-faced Spinetail (*Cranioleuca erythropis*) - BP
- Spotted Barbtail (*Premnoplex brunnescens*) - BP
- eh** Ruddy Treerunner (*Magarornis rubiginosus*) - CM
- Buffy Tuftedcheek** (*Pseudocolaptes lawrencii*) – BP (a pair sitting side-by-side and preening each other as they fluffed out the cheek feathers).
- Lineated Foliage-gleaner (*Syndactyla subalaris*) – BP
- Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner (*Automolus ochrolaemus*) – PL
- Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*) – PL
- Streaked Xenops (*Xenops rutilans*) – CM (by a few).
- Plain-brown Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*) - PL
- Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) - CS
- Northern Barred-Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*) - CL
- Cocoa Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*) – PL, CL
- Black-striped Woodcreeper** (*Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*) – CL (the most beautiful of its family in Costa Rica).
- Spotted Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*) - CS
- Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*) – PL, CL
- Spot-crowned Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes affinis*) – BP, CM
- Fasciated Antshrike** (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*) – CL (two nests with males incubating plus a foraging pair, all in one morning at La Selva!).
- Great Antshrike (*Taraba major*) - CL
- Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) – PL, CL
- ep** Black-hooded Antshrike (*Thamnophilus bridgesi*) – PL
- Western Slaty-Antshrike (*Thamnophilus atrinucha*) - CL
- Russet Antshrike (*Thamnistes anabatinus*) – CS
- Slaty Antwren (*Myrmotherula schisticolor*) – BP (by a few).
- Dot-winged Antwren (*Microrhophias quixensis*) – PL
- Dusky Antbird (*Cercomacra tyrannina*) – PL, CL (hd)
- Chestnut-backed Antbird (*Myrmeciza exsul*) – PL, CL
- Bicolored Antbird (*Gymnopithys leucaspis*) – PL
- Black-faced Antthrush** (*Formicivorus analis*) – PL (slowly parading around us on the forest floor like a miniature hen).
- Streak-chested Antpitta** (*Hylopezus perspicillatus*) – PL (scope views of this “egg with legs”, a magical experience).



- eh** Silvery-fronted Tapaculo (*Scytalopus argentifrons*) – CM (this notorious skulker was actually seen by some of the group).  
 Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma obsoletum*) – PL  
 Yellow Tyrannulet (*Capsiempis flaveola*) – CL  
 Greenish Elaenia (*Myiopagis viridicata*) - PL  
 Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*) – MC, CL (hd)  
 Mountain Elaenia (*Elaenia frantzii*) – BP, CM  
 Torrent Tyrannulet (*Serpophaga cinerea*) – CM (by a few).  
 Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (*Mionectes oleagineus*) - PL  
 Paltry (Mistletoe) Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius villissimus*) - CL, CM  
**Northern Scrub-Flycatcher** (*Sublegatus arenarum*) – PL (this obscure flycatcher was seen very well in the mangrove forest).  
**Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant** (*Myiornis atricapillus*) – CL (scope studies of this tiniest of New World passerines).  
 Northern Bentbill (*Oncostoma cinereigulare*) – PL, CL (hd)  
**Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher** (*Poecilatriccus sylvia*) – PL (an uncommon and skulking small flycatcher of the vine tangles and thickets that we saw remarkably well).  
 Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*) – PL, CL  
 Black-headed Tody\_Flycatcher (*Todirostrum nigriceps*) - CL  
 Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*) – PL, CL  
 Stub-tailed Spadebill (*Platyrinchus cancrominus*) – PL (by a few).  
**Royal Flycatcher** (*Onychorhynchus coronatus*) – PL (nest-building right over the trail).  
 Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher (*Myiobius sulphureipygius*) – PL  
 Black-tailed Flycatcher (*Myiobius atricaudus*) - PL  
 Tufted Flycatcher (*Mitrephanes phaenocercus*) – BP, CM  
 Tropical Pewee (*Contopus cinereus*) – CL  
 Willow/Alder flycatcher sp? (*Empidonax traillii/alnorum*) – CL (unidentifiable migrant).  
 Yellowish Flycatcher (*Empidonax flavescens*) – BP, CM
- eh** Black-capped Flycatcher (*Empidonax atriceps*) - CM  
 Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) – BP, CL  
 Long-tailed Tyrant (*Colonia colonus*) - CL  
 Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*) – PL (hd), CL  
 Rufous Mourner (*Rhytipterna holerythra*) - CL  
 Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) – PL, CL  
 Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) – PL, CL  
 Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) – MC, PL, CL  
 Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*) – BP, PL, CL  
 Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) – PL, CL  
 Gray-capped Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes granadensis*) – PL, CL  
 White-ringed Flycatcher (*Conopias albobittatus*) - CL
- eh** **Golden-bellied Flycatcher** (*Myiodynastes hemichrysus*) – BP, CM (bold and colorful).  
 Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculates*) – PL  
 Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*) – PL, CL  
 Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*) – PL, CL  
 Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) – MC, PL, CL, CM  
**Rufous Piha** (*Lipaugus unirufus*) - CL (a bird incubating on its well-concealed nest).  
 Barred Becard (*Pachyramphus versicolor*) - CM  
 Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*) – CL  
 Rose-throated Becard (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*) - PL  
 Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) – PL, CL  
 Black-crowned Tityra (*Tityra inquisitor*) – PL, CL

- White-collared Manakin (*Manacus candei*) – CL
- ep** **Orange-collared Manakin** (*Manacus aurantiacus*) – PL (males snapping and buzzing at their lek in the forest understory).
- Long-tailed Manakin** (*Chiroxiphia linearis*) – PL (Mimi led two afternoon expeditions to watch the males doing the fabulous dance).
- Blue-crowned Manakin (*Pipra coronata*) – PL
- Red-capped Manakin** (*Pipra mentalis*) – PL (gorgeous males splashing in the bathing pool).
- Mangrove Vireo** (*Vireo pallens*) – PL (great looks at this obscure and rarely-found bird).
- Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) - PL
- eh** Yellow-winged Vireo (*Vireo carmioli*) – BP, CM
- Brown-capped Vireo (*Vireo leucophrys*) - CM
- Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) – PL
- Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) – PL
- Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*) – MC, PL
- Lesser Greenlet (*Hylophilus decurtatus*) - PL, CS (hd), CL
- Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) – BP
- Brown Jay (*Cyanocorax morio*) – BP, PL, CS
- Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) – PL, CL
- Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*) – PL, CL
- Blue-and-white Swallow (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*) – MC, BP, CS, CM
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) – BP, PL
- Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) – CL
- Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) – PL (by a few).
- Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) - PL
- Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) - CL
- Band-backed Wren (*Campylorhynchus zonatus*) - CL
- Rufous-naped Wren (*Campylorhynchus rufinucha*) – MC, PL
- ec** Black-throated Wren (*Thryothorus atrogularis*) – CL
- Black-bellied Wren (*Thryothorus fasciatoventris*) – PL (heard only).
- Bay Wren (*Thryothorus nigricapillus*) – CL
- ep** **Riverside Wren** (*Thryothorus semibadius*) – PL (an especially responsive pair with a deafening song).
- ec** Stripe-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus thoracicus*) – CS, CL
- Rufous-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus rutilus*) – PL
- Rufous-and-white Wren (*Thryothorus rufalbus*) - PL
- Plain Wren (*Thryothorus modestus*) - CL
- House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) – PL, CL
- eh** Ochraceous Wren (*Troglodytes ochraceus*) – BP, CM
- eh** **Timberline Wren** (*Thryorchilus browni*) – CM (a high-country specialty eventually lured out of the bamboo for great looks).
- White-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) - CS
- Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*) – BP, CM
- Scaly-breasted Wren (*Microcerculus marginatus*) – PL (heard only).
- American Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*) – CM (by a few).
- Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) - CS
- Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila plumbea*) – PL, CL
- eh** **Black-faced Solitaire** (*Myadestes melanops*) – BP, CM (the music of the mountain forests).
- eh** Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus gracilirostris*) – CM
- Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus fuscater*) – BP (Jean’s bird).
- Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus frantzii*) – BP, CM
- Swainson’s Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) - CM
- Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) - CL
- eh** Sooty Thrush (*Turdus nigrescens*) - CM

- Mountain Thrush (*Turdus plebejus*) - CM
- Clay-colored Thrush** (*Turdus grayi*) – all regions (the national bird of Costa Rica, seen and heard daily, sometimes singing a bit too early in the morning).
- Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) – CL
- eh** **Black-and-yellow Silky-Flycatcher** (*Phainoptila melanoxantha*) – CM (great looks at this last-minute find).
- eh** **Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher** (*Ptilogonys caudatus*) - CM (sleek, elegant birds reminiscent of waxwings).
- Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) - MC, PL, CL, CM
- eh** **Flame-throated Warbler** (*Parula gutturalis*) – BP, CM (oh what a beauty!).
- Tropical Parula (*Parula pitiayumi*) - BP
- Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) - MC, PL, CL (including the “Mangrove” Warbler race, in the mangrove forest of the Tarcoles River).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) – BP, PL, CS, CL
- Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) - BP, CM
- Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) – CS, CL (seen by a few).
- Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) – BP, CS
- American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) – PL
- Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) - PL
- Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) – PL
- Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) - BP
- Olive-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis semiflava*) – CL
- Gray-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis poliocephala*) – PL (Gabe’s bird).
- Wilson=s Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) – BP, CM
- Slate-throated Redstart (*Myioborus miniatus*) - BP
- eh** **Collared Redstart** (*Myioborus torquatus*) – BP, CM (the incredibly tame and confiding “amigo de hombre”).
- eh** Black-cheeked Warbler (*Basileuterus melanogenys*) – CM
- Three-striped Warbler (*Basileuterus tristriatus*) - BP
- Buff-rumped Warbler (*Basileuterus fulvicauda*) – PL, CS, CL
- eh** **Wrenthrush** (*Zeledonia coronata*) – CM (a responsive bird that jumped around us in circles, eventually yielding great looks; one of the toughest of the highland specialties to see and quite unique).
- Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) – BP, CS, CL
- Common Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*) – BP, CM
- eh** Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus pileatus*) - CM
- Carmioli=s Tanager (*Chlorothraupis carmioli*) – CS
- Gray-headed Tanager (*Eucometis penicillata*) – PL
- White-shouldered Tanager (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*) – PL, CS
- Red-throated Ant\_Tanager (*Habia fuscicauda*) – CL (heard only).
- Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) – BP, PL, CS, CL
- Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) – CL, CM
- Flame-colored Tanager (*Piranga bidentata*) – BP, CM
- Crimson-collared Tanager** (*Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*) - CL (stunning in color).
- Passerini=s Tanager** (*Ramphocelus passerinii*) - CL, CS (not too shabby either).
- ep** Cherrie’s Tanager (*Ramphocelus costaricensis*) - PL
- Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) – all regions (one of three birds seen daily).
- Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) – PL, CL
- Plain-colored Tanager (*Tangara inornata*) - CL
- Emerald Tanager (*Tangara florida*) - CS
- Silver-throated Tanager (*Tangara icterocephala*) – BP, CS, CM
- Speckled Tanager (*Tangara guttata*) – CS (glimpsed in poor light).
- Golden-hooded Tanager (*Tangara larvata*) – PL, CL

- eh** **Spangle-cheeked Tanager** (*Tangara dowii*) – BP, CM (beautiful highland endemic seen more often than usual in the Savegre area).  
 Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*) - CL  
 Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) – PL, CS, CL  
**Shining Honeycreeper** (*Cyanerpes lucidus*) – CL (this sprite, normally in the high canopy, was coming out to a low fruiting bush by the La Selva pation).  
 Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) - PL  
 Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) – PL, CL  
 Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila corvina*) – PL, CL
- ec** **Nicaraguan Seed-Finch** (*Oryzoborus nuttingi*) - CL (males of this very range-restricted endemic sitting up in the open marsh).  
 Thick-billed Seed-Finch (*Oryzoborus funereus*) - CL  
 Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivacea*) - CM
- eh** Slaty Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa plumbea*) – BP, CM  
**eh** Yellow-thighed Finch (*Psellophorus tibialis*) – BP, CM  
**eh** **Large-footed Finch** (*Pezopetes capitalis*) - CM (lurking in the bamboo thickets at high elevations).  
 White-naped Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes albinucha*) - BP  
 Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch (*Arremon brunneinucha*) – BP, CM (hd)  
 Orange-billed Sparrow (*Arremon aurantirostris*) – PL, CL (hd)  
 Black-striped Sparrow (*Arremonops conirostris*) - CL  
 Stripe-headed Sparrow (*Aimophila ruficauda*) - PL  
 Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*) - MC, BP, CS, CM
- eh** **Volcano Junco** (*Junco vulcani*) – CM (fierce-eyed specialty of the paramo thickets at the highest elevations).  
 Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*) – PL, CL  
 Black-headed Saltator (*Saltator atriceps*) - CL  
 Black-faced Grosbeak (*Caryothraustes poliogaster*) - CS, CL
- eh** **Black-thighed Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus tibialis*) – CM (delightful song from this specialty).  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) – PL, CL, CM  
 Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa cyanooides*) – PL, CL (hd)  
 Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) - CL  
 Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) – PL, MC  
 Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) – MC, BP, PL, CL, CS  
 Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*) – MC, PL, CL  
 Black-cowled Oriole (*Icterus prothemelas*) - CL  
 Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) - CL  
 Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) – MC, PL, CL, CM (seen every day except one).  
**Yellow-billed Caciue** (*Amblycercus holosericeus*) – CL (seen especially well; a skulker, unlike its close relatives).  
 Scarlet-rumped Caciue (*Cacicus uropygialis*) - CL  
**Montezuma Oropendola** (*Gymnostinops montezuma*) – BP, PL, CL, CS (always entertaining, this species takes the prize for the most-interesting sound effects).  
 Scrub Euphonia (*Euphonia affinis*) - PL
- el** Yellow-crowned Euphonia (*Euphonia luteicapilla*) – PL, CL  
 Yellow-throated Euphonia (*Euphonia hirundinacea*) – MC, PL
- ep** **Spot-crowned Euphonia** (*Euphonia imitans*) – PL (a flock inside the heavy forest).  
 Olive-backed Euphonia (*Euphonia gouldi*) - CS, CL  
 Tawny-capped Euphonia (*Euphonia anaeae*) – CS
- eh** **Golden-browed Chlorophonia** (*Chlorophonia callophrys*) – BP (stunning in color).  
 Yellow-bellied Siskin (*Carduelis xanthogastra*) - CM  
 House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) - CL (introduced).

**MAMMALS:** follows the nomenclature in *A Field Guide to the Mammals of Central America and Southeastern Mexico* by Fiona Reid.

Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth (*Choloepus hoffmanni*) – PL, CS, CL  
Nine-banded Armadillo (*Dasybus novemcinctus*) - CL  
insectivorous bats (several sizes) – PL, CL  
Mantled Howler (*Alouatta palliata*) – BP (hd), PL (hd), CL (seen).  
Red-tailed Squirrel (*Sciurus granatensis*) - CL, CM (widespread inside moister forests, including at higher elevations).  
Variegated Squirrel (*Sciurus variegatoides*) – MC, PL, CL  
“jumping mouse” – CM (around the parking area; possibly Alston's Singing Mouse (*Scotinomys teguina*)).  
Central American Agouti (*Dasyprocta punctata*) – BP, PL  
Paca (*Agouti paca*) – BP  
White-nosed Coati (*Nasua narica*) – BP, PL, CS  
Collared Peccary (*Tayassu tajacu*) - CL

**AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES:**

Cane (Giant) Toad (*Bufo marinus*) - CL  
Green-and-black Poison-dart Frog (*Dendrobates auratus*) - CL  
Strawberry Poison-dart (“blue jeans”) Frog – CL  
Red-eyed Leaf Frog (*Agalychnis callidryas*) - PL  
“viper-head frog” - PL  
“small glass frog” - PL  
“large glass frog” – PL (on wall of open building at JD's Watersports).  
“big-voiced frog” – PL  
“small leaf-litter frog” - CS  
American Crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) - PL  
House Gecko (*Hemidactylus frenatus*) – PL, CL  
gecko sp? – CS (seen by a few on restroom building at Aerial Tram).  
Common Basilisk (*Basiliscus basiliscus*) - PL  
Green Basilisk (*Basiliscus plumifrons*) – CL  
Black Spiny-tailed Iguana (“ctenosaur” or “false iguana”) - PL  
Green (Common) Iguana (*Iguana iguana*) – PL, CL  
small anole sp? – PL, CL  
Green Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus malachiticus*) - CM  
Central American Whip-tailed Lizard (*Ameiva festiva*) – PL, CL

**(And many other fascinating butterflies, small creatures and plants)**