

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc.

BEST OF COSTA RICA
March 20 – April 1, 2005

Leaders: David and Mimi Wolf

Simply put, there is nowhere like Costa Rica for easily viewing an incredible array of Neotropical wildlife. Eco-tourism has become one of their biggest businesses and throughout the country people have made it a more-friendly place for the wildlife. Where else do troops of coatimundis and javelina practically stroll along with the observers, or flocks of toucans troop into isolated trees right overhead, or monkeys lazily lie in the shade oblivious to humans? Where else does one see a tinamou slowly strolling a few feet from the group, or hummingbirds vying with tanagers at incredibly active feeding stations, or quetzals carrying on right beside the road? 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, or the pair of Scarlet Macaws tussling and preening in a dead tree beside a highway. We experienced all of this and much, much more on our 2005 Best of Costa Rica Tour, as we roamed from the lush Caribbean slope and lowlands to the Pacific dry forests and the temperate forests at high elevations. Each different region and habitat brought its highlights.

Who would have imagined that our very first stop, for a scenic view and a stretch, would produce a male Quetzal, pair of Prong-billed Barbets duetting, and a Streak-chested Treehunter foraging in the open? At tranquil Bosque de Paz we found the feeding station endlessly fascinating, with hummers galore, as many as 8 Black Guans mobbing the trays, and a rarely-seen pair of Pacas coming in by night. In the lush forests of the Caribbean foothills we found an ethereal pair of perched White Hawks, and 10 species of hummingbirds in one day, most of them seen over and over. The La Selva Field Station in the wet lowlands was as active as always, and at times the birds came so fast it was almost overwhelming. Highlights of our first day were a Great Tinamou strolling in the shadows of the forest understory, a magnificent and bold female Great Curassow parading around out in the open, and a surprise Agami Heron close at hand along a forest stream, while further exploration the next day produced Crested Guans feeding overhead, multiple views of Snowy Cotingas, and a host of flycatchers to be sorted out, ranging in size from the tiny Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant to the huge Boat-billed. Perhaps the best was watching a foraging Vested Tamandua (anteater) at close range.

Carara National Park, in the moist Pacific lowlands, was as birdy as ever. Our first impromptu stop was for a pair of Scarlet Macaws tussling and preening in perfect morning light, the thrill of watching these magnificent birds interrupted momentarily by a trio of endemic Fiery-billed Aracaris that flew into their tree. Later we prowled a wide forest trail and had great looks at Baird's Trogon, gorgeous male Orange-collared Manakins displaying at their lek, and a host of small forest insectivores. The following morning's hike produced a Black-faced Antthrush that walked right past us, 15 minute scope looks at a singing Streak-chested Antpitta, and delightful Stripe-throated Hermits carrying on at their lek. An unseasonably drizzly afternoon excursion to the beach produced a surprise pair of Double-striped Thick-knees, one bird cryptically crouched in the grass with only its head showing. Our final days afield were spent in the cool, and very different, temperate forests of Cerro de la Muerte. Birds are not as abundant here, but a very high percentage of them are endemic to these highlands and quite unique. Large-footed Finches could hardly be missed as they hopped around in the open, but it took a bit of searching to find other specialties like the Volcano Junco and Timberline Wren. The undisputed highlight here - and perhaps of the trip - was the phenomenal number of Resplendent Quetzals observed, including a wild chase with two males pursuing one female. It just doesn't get better than this!

Itinerary:

- March 20: group arrival in San Jose, Costa Rica.
- March 21: Morning travel from the Meseta Central to Bosque de Paz.
- March 22: Bosque de Paz and nearby areas, in the wet subtropical zone.
- March 23: The upper tropical and subtropical zones of the wet and lush Caribbean slope, at Virgen del Socorro and then La Paz Waterfall Garden and Cinchona “hummingbird house”; late PM drive to Sueno Azul.
- March 24: La Selva Field Station of the OTS, in the wet Caribbean lowlands.
- March 25: La Selva Field Station of the OTS; PM Sueno Azul.
- March 26: AM: Braulio Carillo National Park and nearby in the wet Caribbean foothills; PM: drive to Villa Lapas.
- March 27: AM: Carara Reserve; PM: road to the estuary of the Tarcoles River.
- March 28: AM: forest trail at Carara Reserve; PM: rain mid-pm and then drizzly trip to the beach at Playa Aguhas.
- March 29: stops at the Tarcoles River bridge and Orotina before travelling up to the Meseta Central and then on to Cerro de la Muerte and the valley of San Gerardo de Dota, after birding the highest zone of the mountains.
- March 30: All day in the temperate zone forests in the Trogon Lodge area and down the road in the valley of San Gerardo de Dota.
- March 31: AM excursion to the top of “the Road”; PM drive back to San Jose area.
- April 1: departure for home.

Key:

- MC = Meseta Central region
- BP = Bosque de Paz and nearby (at subtropical elevations)
- CS = Caribbean slope (at foothill and lower subtropical elevations, including Virgen del Socorro sideroad, La Paz Waterfall Garden, the feeding station at Cinchona, and the Quebrada Gonzalez area of Braulio Carillo National Park).
- CL = Caribbean lowlands (the Sarapiquí region, especially at the La Selva Field Station of the OTS, around Sueno Azul Lodge, and along the roads in-between).
- PL = Pacific lowlands in the Carara National Park region (tropical moist forest).
- CM = Cerro de la Muerte, especially the temperate forests, orchards and gardens of the valley of San Gerardo de Dota.
- hd = heard

Bird List: Revised to follow the names and taxonomic order presented in “Birds of the World: A Check-list (Fifth Ed)”, and subsequent revisions, by Jim Clements. Some of our favorite sightings are underscored and commented upon.

Great Tinamou (*Tinamus major*) - CL (magical looks at one parading around on the dark forest floor).
Little Tinamou (*Crypturellus soui*) - CL (heard only)
Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) - PL
Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) - CL
Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) - PL
Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) - PL
Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) - CL, PL
Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) - CL, PL
Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) - PL

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) - CL, PL
Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) - CL, PL
Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) - BP, CS, CL, PL
Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) - CL, PL
Agami Heron (*Agamia agami*) - CL (wonderful surprise and a magnificent study of one patiently stalking prey along a rainforest stream).
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) - PL
Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*) - PL
Bare-throated Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma mexicanum*) - PL
Fasciated Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma fasciatum*) - CS, CL (multiple looks at birds fishing the clear riffles of the foothill rivers and streams).
Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) - PL
Green Ibis (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*) - CL (heard only)
White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) - PL
Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*) - PL
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) - CL, PL
Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*) - CL, PL
Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) - all regions and seen every day.
Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) - MC, CS, CL, PL, CM (almost daily).
Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) - BP, CL, PL
Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) - CS, CM
White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) - CL (by a few).
Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*) - CL
Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*) - PL
White Hawk (*Leucopternis albicollis*) - CS (fabulous looks at ethereal adults perched in the foothill forest in a steep canyon).
Mangrove Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus subtilis*) - PL (not always split from the Common Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*)).
Gray Hawk (*Asturina nitida*) - CL, PL
Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) - CS (from the bus).
Broad winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) - BP, CS, PL
Short tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) - CS
Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) - CS, CL (a few migrating with Turkey Vultures).
Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) - CM
Black Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus tyrannus*) - CS (incredible views of an adult circling right overhead).
Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) - PL
Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*) - PL
Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) - CL, PL (hd)
Gray headed Chachalaca (*Ortalis cinereiceps*) - CL
Crested Guan (*Penelope purpurascens*) - CL, PL (calmly feeding right overhead in a giant rainforest tree).
Black Guan (*Chamaepetes unicolor*) - BP, CM (what an incredible "feeder bird").
Great Curassow (*Crax rubra*) - CL (female calmly foraging out-in-the-open at La Selva).
Black-breasted Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus leucolaemus*) - BP (hd), CS (hd) (heard only).
Gray-necked Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajanea*) - PL (heard only)
Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*) - CL, PL
Northern Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*) - CL, PL
Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) - PL
Double-striped Thick-knee (*Burhinus bistriatus*) - PL (nice surprise on our drizzly afternoon excursion to the beach; one bird crouched and well-hidden and probably on eggs).
Collared Plover (*Charadrius collaris*) - PL
Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) - CL, PL
Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) - PL (distant)
Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) - PL

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) - PL
Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) - PL
Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*) - PL
Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) - cities and town (feral birds).
Scaled Pigeon (*Patagioenas speciosa*) - CL (scope views of a species we don't often see on this trip, the 4th species of pigeon present at Sueno Azul).
Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*) - CM
Pale vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) - CL
Red-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas flavirostris*) - MC, BP, CS, CL
Short-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas nigrirostris*) - CL, PL (hd)
Ruddy Pigeon (*Patagioenas subvinacea*) - CM
White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) - PL
Ruddy Ground Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) - CL, PL
Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*) - MC, PL
Blue Ground-Dove (*Claravis pretiosa*) - CL (heard only)
White tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) - BP, PL
Gray-chested Dove (*Leptotila cassini*) - CL, PL
Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao*) - PL (especially the pair in tussling and preening near their nestbox in the dead snag, and the pair peering out of the natural cavity in a huge forest tree).
Crimson-fronted Parakeet (*Aratinga finschi*) - CL, PL, MC
Olive-throated Parakeet (*Aratinga nana*) - CL
Sulphur-winged Parakeet (*Pyrrhura hoffmanni*) - CM (heard only)
Orange chinned Parakeet (*Brotogeris jugularis*) - CL, PL
White-crowned Parrot (*Pionus senilis*) - CS, CL
White-fronted Parrot (*Amazona albifrons*) - PL
Red lored Parrot (*Amazona autumnalis*) - CL
Yellow-naped Parrot (*Amazona auropalliata*) - PL (great looks at a pair clinging to dead palm fronds (a potential nest or roost site?).
Mealy Parrot (*Amazona farinosa*) - CL, PL (especially the pair feeding on the woody sandbox fruit along the lane at La Selva).
Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) - CL, PL
Groove billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) - CS, CL, PL
Striped Cuckoo (*Tapera naevia*) - CL
Black-and-white Owl (*Ciccaba nigrolineata*) - PL (the town "mascots" at their day roost in the plaza in the middle of Orotina village).
Spectacled Owl (*Pulsatrix perspicillata*) - CL
Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium costaricanum*) - CM (split from Andean Pygmy-Owl; a gorgeous dark-red morph that came down right in front of us).
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) - PL
Short-tailed Nighthawk (*Lurocalis semitorquatus*) - PL
Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) - PL
Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) - CL, PL (hd)
White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) - MC, CS, CL, PL, CM
Costa Rican Swift (*Chaetura fumosa*) - PL (a recent split from Band-rumped Swift (*Chaetura spinicauda*)).
Gray-rumped Swift (*Chaetura cinereiventris*) - CL
Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) - PL
Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift (*Panyptila cayennensis*) - CL
Long-billed (Western Long tailed) Hermit (*Phaethornis longirostris*) - CL, PL (formerly considered a race of Long-tailed Hermit).
Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis striigularis*) - CL, PL (watching the singing males at a lek inside the forest at Carara was a highlight; formerly considered a race of Little Hermit).
Green-fronted Lancebill (*Doryfera ludovicae*) - CS
Scaly-breasted Hummingbird (*Phaeochroa cuvierii*) - PL

Violet Sabrewing (*Campylopterus hemileucurus*) - BP, CS (huge and colorful males dominated the feeders at several sites).

White necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*) - CL

Brown Violet-ear (*Colibri delphinae*) - CS

Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*) - BP, CS, CM

Green-breasted Mango (*Anthracothorax prevostii*) - CL

Violet-headed Hummingbird (*Klais guimeti*) - CL, CS

Black-crested Coquette (*Lophornis helenae*) - CS

Green Thorntail (*Discosura conversii*) - CS (adults males at feeders and in the wild).

Fiery-throated Hummingbird (*Panterpe insignis*) - CM (inches from us as they mobbed the feeders at the restaurant on the crest of Cerro de la Muerte).

Coppery-headed Emerald (*Elvira cupreiceps*) - CS (a true Costa Rican endemic).

Black-bellied Hummingbird (*Eupherusa nigriventris*) - BP, CS (surprisingly good looks at this scarce specialty).

Violet-crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*) - CS

Rufous tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*) - CS, CL, PL

Steely-vented Hummingbird (*Saucerottia saucerrottei*) - PL

Snowcap (*Microchera albocoronata*) - CS (female seen better than the male).

Purple-throated Mountain-gem (*Lampornis calolaema*) - BP, CS

White-throated Mountain-gem (*Lampornis castaneiventris*) - CM

Green-crowned Brilliant (*Heliodoxa jacula*) - BP, CS

Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*) - BP, CM

Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliothryx barroti*) - CS, PL

Magenta-throated Woodstar (*Calliphlox bryantae*) - BP, CS

Scintillant Hummingbird (*Selasphorus scintilla*) - BP, CM

Volcano Hummingbird (*Selasphorus flammula*) - CM

Black-headed Trogon (*Trogon melanocephalus*) - PL

Baird's Trogon (*Trogon bairdii*) - PL (great looks at this range-restricted endemic).

Violaceous Trogon (*Trogon violaceus*) - CL, PL (hd)

Collared Trogon (*Trogon collaris*) - BP

Black throated Trogon (*Trogon melanurus*) - CL (hd), CS, PL

Slaty tailed Trogon (*Trogon massena*) - CL, PL

Lattice-tailed Trogon (*Trogon clathratus*) - CS (Caribbean foothill specialty).

Resplendent Quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno*) - BP, CM (wonderful surprise male at our first stop on our first day, and then truly a fiesta of them in the valley of San Gerardo de Dota).

Ringed Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquata*) - CL, PL

Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*) - CL, PL

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) - CL, PL

Blue crowned Motmot (*Momotus momota*) - BP, PL

Rufous Motmot (*Baryphthengus martii*) - CL (stunning looks at a courting pair close by the La Selva footbridge).

Broad billed Motmot (*Electron platyrhynchum*) - CL

Turquoise-browed Motmot (*Eumomota superciliosa*) - PL

Rufous-tailed Jacamar (*Galbula ruficauda*) - PL

White-whiskered Puffbird (*Malacoptila panamensis*) - PL (multiple great looks at these lethargic birds of the forest interior).

Prong-billed Barbet (*Semnornis frantzii*) - BP, CS (including from only a few feet away).

Blue-throated Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus caeruleogularis*) - BP, CM (split from Emerald Toucanet).

Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) - CS

Fiery-billed Aracari (*Pteroglossus frantzii*) - PL (vying with the Scarlet Macaws to be seen).

Keel billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) - CS, CL

Chestnut-mandibled Toucan (*Ramphastos swainsoni*) - CL, PL (sometimes lumped with the Black-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos ambiguus*)).

Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) - CM

Golden-naped Woodpecker (*Melanerpes chrysauchen*) - PL (an especially good look at this colorful and scarce woodpecker).

Black cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*) - CL

Hoffmann's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes hoffmannii*) - MC, PL

Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*) - BP, CM

Smoky-brown Woodpecker (*Veniliornis fumigatus*) - CL

Rufous-winged Woodpecker (*Piculus simplex*) - CL (super looks at a close bird from the La Selva footbridge; typically scarce and hard to spot in the canopy).

Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Piculus rubiginosus*) - BP

Cinnamon Woodpecker (*Celeus loricatus*) - CL

Chestnut-colored Woodpecker (*Celeus castaneus*) - CL

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) - CL, PL

Pale-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus guatemalensis*) - CL

Slaty Spinetail (*Synallaxis brachyura*) - CL

Red-faced Spinetail (*Cranioleuca erythroptis*) - BP

Spotted Barbtail (*Premnoplex brunnescens*) - BP, CS

Ruddy Treerunner (*Magarornis rubiginosus*) - CM

Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*) - PL

Steak-breasted Treehunter (*Thripadectes rufobrunneus*) - BP, CM (seen surprisingly often and well this trip, without the usual difficulty).

Lineated Foliage-gleaner (*Syndactyla subalaris*) - BP

Striped Woodhaunter (*Hylocichla ustulata*) - CS

Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner (*Automolus ochrolaemus*) - CS, PL

Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*) - CS

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) - CL, CS

Northern Barred-Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*) - CL, CS (including the fluffed-out bird sunning on an open log beside the river at La Selva).

Cocoa Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*) - CL, PL (recent split from the Buff-throated Woodcreeper).

Spotted Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*) - CS

Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*) - CL, PL

Spot-crowned Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes affinis*) - BP, CM

Brown-billed Scythebill (*Campylorhamphus pusillus*) - BP (heard only).

Fasciated Antshrike (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*) - CL

Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) - CL, PL

Black-hooded Antshrike (*Thamnophilus bridgesi*) - PL (conspicuous and seen very well, both singing and foraging).

Western Slaty-Antshrike (*Thamnophilus atrinucha*) - CL

Russet Antshrike (*Thamnistes anabatinus*) - CS

Dot-winged Antwren (*Microrhopias quixensis*) - PL

Dusky Antbird (*Cercomacra tyrannina*) - PL

Chestnut backed Antbird (*Myrmeciza exsul*) - PL

Black faced Antthrush (*Formicarius analis*) - CL (hd), PL

Streak-chested (Spectacled) Antpitta (*Hylopezus perspicillatus*) - PL (incredibly long scope studies of a singing bird, the endearing "egg with legs").

Snowy Cotinga (*Carpodectes nitidus*) - CL (ethereal specialty of the Caribbean lowlands).

White collared Manakin (*Manacus candei*) - CL

Orange-collared Manakin (*Manacus aurantiacus*) - PL (it was fun to observe the active leks of displaying males).

White-ruffed Manakin (*Corapipo altera*) - CS

Long-tailed Manakin (*Chiroxiphia linearis*) - PL (heard only, in the drizzle).

Blue-crowned Manakin (*Lepidothrix coronata*) - PL

Yellow Tyrannulet (*Capsiempis flaveola*) - CL

Greenish Elaenia (*Myiopagis viridicata*) - PL

Yellow bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*) - MC, CL
Lesser Elaenia (*Elaenia chiriquensis*) - CL (dawn surprise at Sueno Azul and a significant discovery; probably has recently colonized this region with clearing of the forest).
Mountain Elaenia (*Elaenia frantzii*) - BP, CM
Torrent Tyrannulet (*Serpophaga cinerea*) - CM
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (*Mionectes oleagineus*) - PL
Paltry Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius villissimus*) - CL, CM
Northern Scrub-Flycatcher (*Sublegatus arenarum*) - PL
Black capped Pygmy Tyrant (*Myiornis atricapillus*) - CL (lured down from the canopy for larger-than-lifesize looks).
Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus pileatus*) - CS (heard only)
Northern Bentbill (*Oncostoma cinereigulare*) - PL
Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher (*Poecilatriccus sylvia*) - PL (close pair actively bringing material to a nearly-completed nest).
Black headed Tody Flycatcher (*Todirostrum nigriceps*) - CS
Common Tody Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*) - CL, PL
Eye-ringed Flatbill (*Rhynchocyclus brevirostris*) - BP
Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphureus*) - CS, CL, PL (lots of nests seen).
Yellow margined Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias assimilis*) - CL
Golden-crowned Spadebill (*Platyrinchus coronatus*) - PL (unusually good looks at a responsive pair in the open understory of the mature forest; seldom seen).
Northern Royal Flycatcher (*Onychorhynchus mexicanus*) - PL (starting a nest).
Black-tailed Flycatcher (*Myiobius atricaudus*) - PL
Tufted Flycatcher (*Mitrephanes phaenocercus*) - BP, CS, CM
Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*) - CM
Dark Pewee (*Contopus lugubris*) - BP
Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*) - PL
Tropical Pewee (*Contopus cinereus*) - CL
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) - PL
White-throated Flycatcher (*Empidonax albigularis*) - BP (an obscure and localized species not often encountered anywhere in its range).
Yellowish Flycatcher (*Empidonax flavescens*) - BP
Black-capped Flycatcher (*Empidonax atriceps*) - CM
Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) - BP, CS, CL
Long-tailed Tyrant (*Colonia colonus*) - CL
Bright rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*) - CL, PL (hd)
Rufous Mourner (*Rhytipterna holerythra*) - CL, PL (hd)
Dusky capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) - CS, PL
Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) - CL, PL
Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*) - PL
Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) - MC, CL, CS, PL
Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*) - BP, CL, PL
Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) - BP, CS, CL, PL
Gray-capped Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes granadensis*) - CL, PL
White-ringed Flycatcher (*Conopias albobittata*) - CL (the scarcest of the confusing look-alikes and confined to the treetops, but we had several good looks).
Golden-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes hemichrysus*) - BP, CS, CM
Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*) - PL
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*) - BP
Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*) - CS, CL, PL
Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) - MC, CS, CL, PL, CM (almost daily).
Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) - CL, PL
Barred Becard (*Pachyramphus versicolor*) - BP

Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*) - CL
Rose-throated Becard (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*) - PL (including pairs nest-building, by wrapping long strands of material around the down-hanging pouch while in flight).
Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) - BP, CL, PL
Black-crowned Tityra (*Tityra inquisitor*) - CL
Gray breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) - CL, PL
Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*) - CL, PL
Blue-and-white Swallow (*Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*) - MC, BP, CS, CM
Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) - CL
Southern Rough winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) - CL
Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) - BP, CL, PL
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) - PL
Black-and-yellow Silky-Flycatcher (*Phainoptila melanothorax*) - BP (in the fog).
Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher (*Ptilogonys caudatus*) - BP, CM (sleek and elegant birds characteristic of the higher montane regions).
American Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*) - BP, CM
Band-backed Wren (*Campylorhynchus zonatus*) - CL
Rufous-naped Wren (*Campylorhynchus rufinucha*) - MC, PL
Black-throated Wren (*Thryothorus atrogularis*) - CL
Black-bellied Wren (*Thryothorus fasciatoventris*) - PL (heard only)
Rufous-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus rutilus*) - PL
Riverside Wren (*Thryothorus semibadius*) - PL (especially good looks at this beautiful specialty of the southwestern forests).
Bay Wren (*Thryothorus nigricapillus*) - CS, CL
Stripe-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus thoracicus*) - CL, CS (hd)
Rufous-and-white Wren (*Thryothorus rufalbus*) - PL
Plain Wren (*Thryothorus modestus*) - CL
House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) - BP, CS, CL, PL
Ochraceous Wren (*Troglodytes ochraceus*) - BP
Timberline Wren (*Thryorchilus browni*) - CM (our last new bird for the trip and restricted to dense bamboo and scrub at the highest elevations).
White breasted Wood Wren (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) - CL (hd), CS (seen by a few).
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*) - BP, CM (hd)
Nightingale Wren (*Microcerculus philomela*) - CS (heard only)
Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) - CL
Black-faced Solitaire (*Myadestes melanops*) - BP (hd), CM
Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus fuscater*) - CS (heard only)
Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus gracilirostris*) - CM
Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus frantzii*) - BP, CM (delightful song).
Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) - PL, CM
Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) - MC (hd), CL
Sooty Robin (*Turdus nigrescens*) - CM
Mountain Robin (*Turdus plebejus*) - BP, CM
Pale-vented Thrush (*Turdus obsoletus*) - CS
Clay colored Robin (*Turdus grayi*) - all areas and seen every day (the national bird of Costa Rica, seen and heard daily in large numbers, sometimes singing a bit too early in the morning).
Long billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) - PL
Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila plumbea*) - CL
Brown Jay (*Cyanocorax morio*) - BP (hd), PL
Azure-hooded Jay (*Cyanolyca cucullata*) - BP (it took considerable patience to see these elegant and elusive birds of the subtropical forest).
Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) - CL
Yellow-winged Vireo (*Vireo carmioli*) - CM

Brown-capped Vireo (*Vireo leucophrys*) - BP
 Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) - PL
 Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*) - MC, BP, PL
 Lesser Greenlet (*Hylophilus decurtatus*) - CS, CL, PL
 Green Shrike-Vireo (*Vireolanius pulchellus*) - PL (heard only)
 Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) - BP (hd), CM (hd) (heard only)
 Yellow-bellied Siskin (*Carduelis xanthogastra*) - CM
 Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) - BP, CS, CL (several beautiful males; easier to find here on its wintering grounds than in North America).
 Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) - MC, CS, PL, CM
 Flame-throated Warbler (*Parula gutturalis*) - BP, CM
 Tropical Parula (*Parula pitiayumi*) - CS
 Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) - CL, PL (including a female “Mangrove” Warbler at the Tarcoles River bridge, sometimes considered a separate species).
 Chestnut sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) - CS, CL, PL
 Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) - BP, CS, CM
 Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) - BP, CS
 Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) - CS
 Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) - BP
 American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) - CL
 Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) - PL
 Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*) - CS
 Olive-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis semiflava*) - CL
 Wilson’s Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) - BP, CS, CM
 Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) - CS
 Slate-throated Redstart (*Myioborus miniatus*) - BP, CS
 Collared Redstart (*Myioborus torquatus*) - BP, CM (tame and confiding).
 Rufous-capped Warbler (*Basileuterus rufifrons*) - PL
 Black-cheeked Warbler (*Basileuterus melanogenys*) - BP, CM
 Three-striped Warbler (*Basileuterus tristriatus*) - BP
 Buff-rumped Warbler (*Basileuterus fulvicauda*) - CS, PL
 Wrenthrush (*Zeledonia coronata*) - CM (heard only)
 Bananaquit (*Coerebe flaveola*) - CS, CL
 Common Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*) - BP, CS, CM
 Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus pileatus*) - BP, CM
 Black-and-yellow Tanager (*Chrysothlypis chrysomelaena*) - CS (seen by a few).
 Olive Tanager (*Chlorothraupis carmioli*) - CS
 White-throated Shrike-Tanager (*Lanio leucothorax*) - CS (nice looks at “the leader of the flock”, generally a scarce bird).
 White-shouldered Tanager (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*) - CL, PL
 Tawny-crested Tanager (*Tachyphonus delatrii*) - CS
 Red throated Ant Tanager (*Habia fuscicauda*) - CL
 Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) - MC, BP, CL, CS, PL
 Flame-colored Tanager (*Piranga bidentata*) - BP, CM
 Crimson collared Tanager (*Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*) - CS, CL (stunning in color).
 Passerini’s Tanager (*Ramphocelus passerinii*) - CS, CL (not too shabby either).
 Cherrie’s Tanager (*Ramphocelus costaricensis*) - PL (Scarlet-rumped Tanager was split into this and the preceding species).
 Blue gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) - all areas and seen almost daily.
 Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) - CL, PL
 Scrub Euphonia (*Euphonia affinis*) - PL
 Yellow crowned Euphonia (*Euphonia luteicapilla*) - CL
 Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia laniirostris*) - PL

Spot-crowned Euphonia (*Euphonia imitans*) - PL (two pairs engaged in a song battle down low inside the forest for good looks at this obscure specialty of the southwestern forests).

Olive-backed Euphonia (*Euphonia gouldi*) - CL

White-vented Euphonia (*Euphonia minuta*) - CS

Tawny-capped Euphonia (*Euphonia anae*) - CS (seven species of euphonias!)

Golden-browed Chlorophonia (*Chlorophonia callophrys*) - BP, CS (exquisite little fig-feeders; many great looks including a pair building a nest made to look like the epiphytes).

Plain colored Tanager (*Tangara inornata*) - CL

Silver-throated Tanager (*Tangara icterocephala*) - BP, CS

Speckled Tanager (*Tangara guttata*) - CS

Bay-headed Tanager (*Tangara gyrola*) - CS, PL

Golden hooded Tanager (*Tangara larvata*) - CL, PL

Spangle-cheeked Tanager (*Tangara dowii*) - CM (super close looks at a family group of this highland specialty).

Scarlet-thighed Dacnis (*Dacnis venusta*) - BP, CS

Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*) - CL

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) - CS, CL

Shining Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes lucidus*) - CS, CL

Red legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) - CL, PL

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) - CS, PL

Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila corvina*) - CL, PL

White-collared Seedeater (*Sporophila torqueola*) - PL

Thick-billed Seed-Finch (*Oryzoborus funereus*) - CL

Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivacea*) - BP, CM

Slaty Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa plumbea*) - BP, CS, CM

Yellow-thighed Finch (*Psellophorus tibialis*) - BP, CS, CM

Large-footed Finch (*Pezopetes capitalis*) - CM (normally quite a skulker, but this trip foraging right out on the lawns at several sites).

Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch (*Buarremon brunneinucha*) - BP (an attractive visitor to the feeders, normally difficult to see inside the forest).

Orange-billed Sparrow (*Arremon aurantirostris*) - CL, CS, PL

Black striped Sparrow (*Arremonops conirostris*) - CL

Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*) - MC, BP, CS, CM

Volcano Junco (*Junco vulcani*) - CM (the highest-elevation endemic of these mountains).

Grayish Saltator (*Saltator coerulescens*) - MC

Buff throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*) - CS, CL, PL

Black-headed Saltator (*Saltator atriceps*) - CL

Slate colored Grosbeak (*Saltator grossus*) - CS (heard and glimpsed).

Black-faced Grosbeak (*Caryothraustes polioaster*) - CL, CS

Black-thighed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus tibialis*) - CM (a tough-to-find highland endemic).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) - CS, CL, PL

Blue black Grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa cyanoides*) - PL

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*) - PL

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) - PL (seen by a few).

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) - CS, CL

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) - CS

Melodious Blackbird (*Dives dives*) - BP

Great tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) - MC, CS, CL, PL

Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*) - BP, CS, CL

Giant Cowbird (*Molothrus oryzivorus*) - CL

Yellow-tailed Oriole (*Icterus mesomelas*) - CL

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) - CS, CL, PL

Black-cowled Oriole (*Icterus prothemelas*) - CL

Yellow-billed Cacique (*Amblycercus holosericeus*) - CL

Scarlet rumped Cacique (*Cacicus uropygialis*) - CL, CS (hd)
Montezuma Oropendola (*Gymnostinops montezuma*) - CS, CL (we had the chance to watch a colony of these fascinating birds).

Mammal List: follows the nomenclature in “A Field Guide to the Mammals of Central America and Southeastern Mexico” by Fiona Reid.

Northern Tamandua (Vested Anteater) (*Tamandua mexicana*) - CL
Hoffmann’s Two-toed Sloth (*Choloepus hoffmanni*) - PL
white-lined bat sp? (*Saccopteryx* sp?) - PL (several roosting on tree inside forest at Carara).
insectivorous bats (several sizes) - CL, PL
White-faced Capuchin (*Cebus capucinus*) - PL
Mantled Howler (*Alouatta palliata*) - BP (hd), CL (seen), PL (hd)
Variegated Squirrel (*Sciurus variegatoides*) - CL, PL (more open and secondary woodland).
Red-tailed Squirrel (*Sciurus granatensis*) - BP, CL, CS, CM (inside moister forests).
Mexican Porcupine (*Coendou mexicanus*) - CL
Central American Agouti (*Dasyprocta punctata*) - BP, PL
Paca (Agouti paca) - BP
White-nosed Coati (*Nasua narica*) - BP, PL
Collared Peccary (*Tayassu tajacu*) - CL
Baird’s Tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*) - huge tracks in the footpath in wet foothill forest.

Amphibians & Reptiles: follows “A Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of Costa Rica” by Twan Leenders. This was a great group for spotting herps, but many remain unidentified to species.

Giant Toad (*Bufo marinus*) - CL, PL
Green Climbing Toad (*Bufo coniferus*) - PL (in the afternoon rain).
Green-and-black Poison-Dart Frog (*Dendrobates auratus*) - PL
Strawberry Poison-Dart Frog (*Dendrobates pumilio*) - CL (“blue jeans frog”).
rain frog (*Eleutherodactylus* sp?) - BP
Spectacled Caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*) - PL
American Crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) - PL
Black Wood Turtle (*Rhinoclemys funerea*) - CL
House Gecko (*Hemidactylus frenatus*) - CL (introduced)
Common Basilisk (*Basiliscus basiliscus*) - PL
Striped Basilisk (*Basiliscus vittatus*) - CL
Black Spiny-tailed Iguana (*Ctenosaura similis*) - PL (“false iguana”).
Green Iguana (*Iguana iguana*) - CL, PL
Cloud-forest Anole (*Norops* sp?) - BP (medium-sized anole caught by Mimi; rose dewlap with thin whitish border).
Norops sp? - CL (tiny plain brown anole on the forest floor at La Selva)
Norops sp? - CL (slightly larger small anole with banded tail at La Selva).
Norops sp? - CL (medium-small anole at La Selva with white dewlap with yellow spot; two males displaying their dewlaps in a stand-off).
Norops sp? - PL (medium anole at Carara with large yellow-orange dewlap with weak whitish border).
Green Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus malachiticus*) - CM
Central American Whip-tailed Lizard (*Ameiva festiva*) - CL
whip-tailed lizard sp? (*Ameiva* sp?) - PL (fairly large brown lizard common in the leaf litter at Carara NP).
Brown Vine Snake (*Oxybelis aeneus*) - CL