

Costa Rica

Classic Costa Rica

Thu 14th – Wed 27th February 2019



Trip photos (clockwise from top left): Blue-throated Toucanet • Slaty-tailed Trogon • Prong-billed Barbet • Double-striped Thick-knee • Broad-billed Motmot • Red-headed Barbet. © Colin Bushell/Limosa

**Report compiled by tour leader:
Colin Bushell**

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Tour Leaders: Colin Bushell & Leo Garrigues

with Mary Anketell, Alan Moore, Joanna & Malcolm Neal, Cathryn Pritchard, Mandy & Rupert Pye, Heather Robertson, Daphne & Mike Watson.

The 'Classic Costa Rica' tour always delivers great birds. This year's trip (my fourth for Limosa) was no exception: Great Curassows, Swallow-tailed Kites, Sunbittern, five kingfishers (including the diminutive American Dwarf), four motmots, toucans, parrots, two species of macaw and numerous flycatchers, woodpeckers, antbirds, woodcreepers, tanagers, New World warblers and of course the incredible Resplendent Quetzal! Memorable moments were many, but a 'four trogon species day', lekking Stripe-throated Hermits near day-roosting Crested and Spectacled Owls and a boat trip through the mangroves on the Tarcoles were definite highlights. Hummingbirds are a feature of the hills and mountains with Black-crested Coquette, Green Thorntails, Fiery-throated hummingbirds, endemic Coppery-headed Emeralds, three Mountaingem species and we can't forget the tiny Snowcap now, can we?! This carefully arranged itinerary, covering highlands and both Caribbean and Pacific Slopes, means we were seeing new birds throughout the tour. Our days were frequently 'refreshed' with species new to the tour; several new species were added to the tour list on the final morning!

14 & 15 February

A foggy morning at Gatwick soon turned to a fine sunny day, an unseasonable theme, set to continue in the UK throughout our stay in Costa Rica apparently! We arrived in San Jose after our direct British Airways flight. El Nino was to ensure we'd enjoy favourable weather too; the dry season having seen even less rain than in 'normal' years. Leo, our guide this year, soon had us on the way to the hotel and our driver, Luis knew some 'rat runs', dodging the heavy traffic. The Hotel Bougainvillea is a great favourite of Limosa groups. The nice rooms, good food and welcoming staff helped us to forget our long flight and we enjoyed dinner before retiring to bed. The next morning, the long-awaited first full day in Costa Rica, dawned clear and crisp. Everybody was keen to bird the hotel gardens pre-breakfast and nobody was disappointed with the results. As usual the White-winged Doves, Rufous-collared Sparrows and Clay-coloured Thrushes (Costa Rica's national bird) introduced us to Central America's diverse avifauna; noisy Hoffmann's Woodpeckers, garrulous Rufous-naped Wrens, buzzing Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds, raucous Finsch's Parakeets and gaudy Summer Tanagers and Baltimore Orioles kept us busy. 'Star birds' included Lesson's Motmot and White-eared Ground Sparrows before breakfast beckoned and we were accompanied by White-winged Doves and Clay-coloured Thrushes on the bird table outside the window while we enjoyed the buffet.

Packed and ready to move on, we assembled outside the hotel, sorry to leave this marvellous place but high in anticipation of the great birding to come. Great-tailed Grackles, Blue-and-white Swallows and a single Red-tailed Hawk were seen before we reached our destination at the La Paz Hummingbird Gardens and our first taste of Caribbean Slope birding. Nestled in the hill forests, La Paz harbours a nice variety of foothill bird species. Resisting the temptation to head straight into the forest we lingered by the feeders for a while first. After the distraction of a few black and red Passerini's Tanagers, we set about the task of identifying some of the hummingbirds. Bulky Violet Sabrewings, Green-crowned Brilliant, tiny Green Thorntail and Purple-throated Mountaingem were the first to arrive at the feeders near the reception. The main set of feeders, just downhill were even better, however. As well as the aforementioned species we also saw Black-bellied Hummingbird, several of the endemic Coppery-headed Emeralds and our only White-bellied Mountaingems (a species we missed last year) of the trip were seen on this day. Away from the hummingbirds, we spent a little time at the forest edge. An intense burst of bird activity produced several forest species new to us, including Common Bush Tanager, Northern Tufted Flycatcher, Red-faced Spinetail, Ochraceous Wren and some wintering North American warblers like Golden-winged and the humbug-like Black-and-White Warbler. Time for lunch!

We enjoyed great views of Sooty-faced Finch in the kitchen of the buffet area while we dined, but eventually we ventured into the field. A few of the group opted to stay with me at the top of the trail, while the rest walked down to the waterfall below. Prong-billed Barbet, Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush and Yellow-thighed Finch were just a few of the highlights before we took the short drive to the little cafe and viewpoint at Cinchona. The feeders at Cinchona were alive with birds coming to the fruit impaled on the tables and branches around the balcony. Silver-throated Tanagers, Red-headed Barbets, Baltimore Orioles and Blue-throated Toucanets arrived as we sipped coffees and teas. Virgen de Socorro, a site I'd not visited for several years, was only a short drive away, although we were held up by perched Bat Falcons and Broad-winged Hawks as well as a roadside White-nosed Coati. A brief spell by the bridge at Virgen de Socorro was very busy indeed! Noisy Bay Wrens gave us the run-

around a little, dashing between little gaps in the cover, while Wedge-billed Woodcreeper finally gave itself up at the forest edge. Two 'brown jobs' - Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser and Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner showed, but the rather overcast conditions were making observation difficult in the forest. Driving out of the valley we were delighted to find a stunning White Hawk perched below us as we climbed back to the main road. After many photos of this beautiful raptor it was time to make for Selva Verde, where we would spend the next two nights.

16 February

As usual we made an early start for La Selva Biological Station, making the most of our day at this magnificent lowland Caribbean birding site. The entrance road to the Biological Station was alive with birds. Neotropical species of all shapes and sizes were active; from Northern Barred and Streak-headed Woodcreepers to huge Montezuma's Oropendolas. A Double-tooted Kite displayed above us, but perhaps the star attraction was the small group of four Chestnut-coloured Woodpeckers that performed so well in the nearby trees. We managed to capture 'scope views of Bright-rumped Attila before it disappeared into the forest too. The vine-loving Fasciated Antshrike proved a little more tricky to see but the Black-cheeked Woodpeckers, the huge Black-headed Saltators and Yellow-throated Toucans were easy to find, perched on the dead branches. We finally made it into the biological station, but our next mission was to leave the car park and make for the forest trails! Dainty Long-tailed Tyrants, Red-legged and Green Honeycreepers and Golden-hooded Tanagers greeted us once we left the bus. Shiny Cowbirds flew around the clearing as Northern Rough-winged Swallows perched on the buildings and a mix of confusing 'stripe-headed' flycatchers held us up for a while, as we watched Boat-billed Flycatchers, Great Kiskadees, Social and Grey-capped Flycatchers on cables over the road as well as Piratic Flycatchers on distant snags. Phew!

We met our local guide Joel, made use of the bathrooms and then headed across the bridge over the Sarapiquí (we'd see more of this river the next day) and into the forest. A Short-billed Pigeon, Tropical Gnatcatchers, Yellow-throated Vireos, the omnipresent Chestnut-sided Warbler, Shining Honeycreepers and Common Tody-Flycatchers could be seen in the trees around the bridge; Olive-throated Parakeets flew over as we checked the sky for Grey-rumped and Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts. One last look for Snowy Cotinga; no luck, the only white bird being a male Masked Tityra next to a huge Green Iguana! We came across interesting birds even before entering the trails of course. Following a pair of Great Curassows between some buildings, we found some Crested Guans feeding at a fruiting tree with a Collared Peccary sauntering around below. Nearby another group of birders had discovered a Purple-throated Fruitcrow that some of us saw before we headed into the forest along the paved trail. Parts of the path were quiet for birds; then we would come across a small bird party. One spell yielded Stripe-breasted Wren, Rufous Motmot, Eye-ringed Flatbill and Black-capped Antshrike and as we walked into a small clearing a Black Hawk-Eagle circled above. Kentucky Warbler skulked in the undergrowth as we made our about turn. Retracing our steps, we had great views of Orange-billed Sparrows and Red-throated Ant Tanagers. Views of parrots and parakeets were frustratingly brief, as they flew across the canopy, only seen for fractions of a second as they called loudly. Several attempts were made to see White-crowned Parrot, Northern Mealy Amazon and Red-lored Amazons. We also heard Great Green Macaws but failed to see them under the dense rainforest canopy. Making our way back to the bus we watched Grey-chested Doves in the clearing and enjoyed super views of a very confident Broad-billed Motmot pair while Olive-backed Euphonias built their nest nearby. A Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth near the car park was a nice way to end the morning, although we had to choose between that or the White-whiskered Puffbirds on show at the same time.

We returned to La Selva after our lunch and siesta back at Selva Verde. A Slaty-breasted Tinamou was a tough challenge to see as it walked along the forest floor, only metres from the trail, in the dense undergrowth. Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth was less challenging and we also enjoyed 'scope views of Keel-billed Toucans. Super close views of a Fasciated Antshrike delighted the photographers (this species is usually high in dense tangles), but it was soon time to head to a regular site for Great Green Macaws outside the Biological Station. Delayed by Rufous-winged Woodpecker and Gartered Trogon 'scope views, we still made the macaws in good time. We watched a pair perched for some time as well as improving our views of Red-lored Amazons. Watching pairs of Great Green Macaws arriving across the distant treetops made a fitting end to our day in the Caribbean lowlands of La Selva.

17 February

Today was a travel day, but these are always full of birds in Costa Rica. A few of the group turned out for the pre-breakfast 'early-bird' session, in the hope of Snowy Cotinga in the tall trees bordering the swimming pool. One had been seen here the previous morning, but alas, this species was to evade us this year. New birds kept coming though - Black-cowled Orioles and Great Crested Flycatcher perching where the cotinga should have been. A couple of White-collared Manakins near the restaurant in a small fruiting tree proved difficult to observe. Our task wasn't helped by the Olive-backed Euphonias (same size and shape as the manakins) flitting in and out of the tree, but we managed good views of the right birds in the end! A brief spell by the Rio Sarapiquí in the

grounds of Selva Verde produced our first Collared Aracaris of the tour, fly-by American White Ibis, Black-crowned Tityra, Ringed Kingfisher and another couple of Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts high over the canopy. Back at the restaurant we enjoyed our final breakfast at Selva Verde before gathering our bags, paying our bills and driving the short distance to the dock on the Sarapiquí for our first boat trip of the tour. Mangrove Swallows always hitch a lift on our boat on the Sarapiquí and we soon became familiar with Spotted Sandpipers on the riverbank. Wheatear-like Buff-rumped Warblers were often followed by Northern Waterthrushes, but the main attractions were the Bare-throated Tiger Herons and Green Herons on the river, and of course the kingfishers with multiple views of both Green and Amazon on this trip. Anhingas sat on exposed branches at the river's edge, hanging their wings to dry, cormorant-fashion in the hot sun as we turned back towards dock. The dry El Niño conditions meant we couldn't explore the river to its full potential this year, as the level was low. Everyone enjoyed the trip though, even if the brief appearance of the Rufous-tailed Jacamars had left us wanting more!

Leaving the Caribbean lowlands mid-morning, we ascended into the foothills. Costa Rica has a fine network of national parks and today we would skirt the perimeter of Braulio Carrillo NP; an extensive forested region connecting the Caribbean foothills with the lowlands, facilitating altitudinal migration for many bird species. Our first stop would be the Old Butterfly Garden, targeting two important hummingbird species feeding on the flowering Verbena there. Green Thorntails, Violet-headed Hummingbirds, Green Hermits and Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds buzzed around the flowers as we waited. Then one of the specialties, Black-crested Coquette, appeared, perched and allowing 'scope views. The other target, Snowcap, only appeared briefly. As is often the case, this tiny 'hummer' was 'seen off' by larger, more aggressive species and never returned. By now it was very hot, so we headed for the shade of the forest edge. Anyway, we were heading for 'The Home of the Snowcap' later at Rancho Naturalista, so no pressure! The forest was rather hard work in the late morning heat, Carmiol's Tanager and Pale-vented Thrush being the most noteworthy species. After a good Casada lunch in a local restaurant we stopped at what is now known as 'Cope's Place' in La Unión. No time to waste so we took the short diversion into the forest and were shown lekking Stripe-throated Hermits as soon as we left the bus! These though are just the 'appetizers' for the main event. In no time at all we were watching a pair of roosting Crested Owls and enjoying marvellous views through the 'scopes. Twenty minutes later, different trail and we were soaking up unbeatable views of a pair of Spectacled Owls! Our final stop was at the blind overlooking the feeding station and pool near Cope's house. Another boost of new birds included Rufous-naped Wood Rail, Pale-vented Pigeon and some showy hummingbirds just metres from us. Crowned Woodnymph and White-necked Jacobins were regular visitors to the feeders, with Long-billed Hermit, Blue-chested Hummingbird and Bronze-tailed Plumbeater only appearing briefly. A White-tipped Sicklebill zoomed in and perched in a Heliconia for a short while, long enough for most to see it, but too brief for many photo opportunities, unfortunately. Unfortunately time was catching up on us and we had to leave Cope's place. Our journey to Rancho Naturalista took us into the foothills on an overcast afternoon and it was good to see the welcoming staff at Rancho on arrival once again.

18 February

The first full day at Rancho is always an exciting one. The usual pre-breakfast coffee on the balcony was taken by just about the whole group, before we wandered the short distance up to the insect trap at the edge of the forest. Birds were very busy nearby: Cocoa and Plain-brown Woodcreepers, Buff-throated Foliage-gleaners, Tennessee Warblers and White-breasted Wood Wrens were performing very well indeed as they searched for insects attracted to the light. Back at the breakfast table our meal was interrupted by Mourning Warblers and Yellow-faced Grassquits foraging below the borders of the garden and then suddenly a "Snowcap" shout from Luis. It's always good to have a sharp-eyed driver in the team! We soaked up this tiny vinous-red, white-capped hummingbird for a while, finished our eggs, rice, beans and fresh coffee, before gathering our gear for the morning excursion away from the lodge. Boarding the bus isn't easy when there are distractions like Snowcap (the Verbena outside the lodge was a favourite feeding site this year), Scarlet-thighed Dacnis, Tropical Parulas, Blackburnian Warblers and Golden-hooded Tanagers feeding in the car park, but we made it eventually. Our destination this morning was La Mina, a road bordering some nice forested hillside along a rushing river. Birds were aplenty here as usual with small 'waves' holding Philadelphia Vireo, Slaty-capped Flycatcher and Cinnamon Becard. Two frugivorous flycatchers (yes, there is such a thing!) - Olive-striped and Ochre-bellied Flycatchers were foraging in the nearby fruiting tree too, but the range-restricted Tawny-chested Flycatcher was the main prize here. Mistletoe Tyrannulets, Black-headed Tody-Flycatchers, White-shouldered and Bay-headed Tanagers were great, a Dull-mantled Antbird showed very well indeed, but scanning the clear waters of the rushing river below us produced only Black Phoebes and Torrent Tyrannulets. One special bird was missing, so we'd have to search another area.

A short drive to a bridge over a rocky river produced one of the most-wanted birds of the tour: Sunbittern! Last year we were encountering this species quite frequently in any suitable location; this year was different, but at last we had found one! Golden-olive Woodpecker and Yellow-throated Euphonia were seen while the Sunbittern

performed and with everybody happy we headed back to Rancho for lunch. The usual Brown Jays and Grey-headed Chachalacas accompanied us as we drove towards the lodge, arriving in time for another excellent lunch with Scarlet-rumped Caciques seen from the dining table. Post lunch saw most of us set out on foot a short way along the trails. Gartered Trogon was logged in the clearing and Bicoloured Hawk gave brief views before most of us descended to the 'Hummingbird bathing pools' in the forest. Progress to the pools was delayed a little by a nice feeding party that included Checker-throated and Slaty Antwrens, Plain Antvireo and Golden-crowned Warblers. Further down a White-ruffed Manakin was seen before the main event at the pools where Purple-crowned Fairy, Dull-mantled Antbird, Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner and Carmiol's Tanagers came to bathe. It was strange to hear a Mottled Owl calling in daylight and a Snowcap was a late show at the pools as we climbed the trail, ready for dinner. In the evening we ventured out for some local night birding. We managed brief views of Mottled Owl and heard Common Potoo and Pauraque before retiring for bed after a long day in the field.

19 February

Well, if yesterday belonged to the forests, today belonged to the wetlands! In fact the sites visited today gave us variety in our birding and a break from peering into canopy or the dense understory. Birding before breakfast was a little quiet on the trails although Spotted Woodcreeper and Plain Xenops were good to see. And of course the Tayra that visited the garden as we took breakfast was very welcome indeed. CATIE is an education centre for tropical agricultural research and within the grounds lie a series of small lakes and pools and a botanical garden. Arriving at the lakes we immediately found some Boat-billed Herons on the wooded islands among the Black-crowned Night Herons. We also located Yellow-crowned Night Herons here with Northern Jacanas, Black-bellied Whistling Ducks and Purple Gallinules haunting the margins of the lakes. Away from the water we spent some time looking for Band-backed Wrens in the trees, one of which was taken by a Roadside Hawk before our eyes! Other birds in the scattered trees around the grounds included Collared Aracaris, Yellow-headed Caracaras and a variety of species already logged during the trip. Later in the morning we moved on to the botanical gardens, stopping on the way in a plantation where Leo 'phoned a friend'. Minutes later after a few short maneuvers of the bus, we were watching a roosting Great Potoo! Birding the rest of the gardens was a little quiet, probably due to the late morning heat. However, we did find a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl that was being mobbed by various birds including a Yellow-olive Flatbill, American Yellow Warblers and an American Redstart. Back at base we enjoyed another very nice Rancho lunch. Some took another opportunity to watch the Snowcap at its regular feeding patch and a Bay Wren showed very well indeed just outside reception.

We continued our wetland birding for the afternoon session, driving to Casa Turire. Spending a little time in open country first we found some Southern Lapwings, a nice flock of Giant Cowbirds, Bronzed Cowbirds and at least one Red-breasted Blackbird. Heading for the lake we paused briefly to watch a Harris's Hawk in the wooded borders. Scanning the lake we picked up a few new birds for the tour quite quickly. Great Blue and Little Blue Herons, Great Egrets and Green Herons were around the fringes of the lake. White-throated Crakes and Limpkins could be heard, Western Ospreys and Snail Kites flew by. Telescopes are important here, with most ducks at long range. More than 300 Lesser Scaups could be seen in rafts. Three Ring-necked Ducks mingled with the Lesser Scaups; very difficult to pick out in the raft of diving ducks. Another great birding day came to an end once the Olive-crowned Yellowthroat had showed and we drove back to Rancho in time for dinner. The Mottled Owl showed once again as we finished the bird list, ending a great day at Rancho Naturalista.

20 February

This morning we changed our pre-breakfast schedule, opting for an earlier-than-usual meal and departing straight away for our morning birding venue. We travelled just a short distance from Rancho to El Silencio where we hit the ground running with a nice mixed species flock that included stunning Emerald and Black-and-Yellow Tanagers alongside the less gaudy Speckled Tanagers. El Silencio, or Silent Mountain as it is also known, was on good form. Sulphur-winged Parakeets flew over at great speed, calling as they went, Tawny-capped Euphonias entertained us in a nearby fruiting tree, Rufous-capped Warblers darted around the undergrowth and a pair of Black-striped Sparrows perched beautifully for all to see in the 'scopes. We also had an opportunity to compare both Louisiana and Northern Waterthrushes before heading back to the bus. Slaty Spinetail was one of the last birds we saw in a scrubby patch before we headed back to Rancho Naturalista for the final time. Securing great views of Green-breasted Mango was the mission before lunch, but we also had time for a bit of forest edge birding too.

After lunch we packed up, paid our bills and said farewell to Rancho. We only drove a short distance, stopping at Casa Turire one last time for more Lesser Scaup and Ring-necked Duck action! Another unscheduled stop, thanks to some Blue-winged Teals close to the bridge over the Rio Atirro, turned out to be very fortuitous indeed. A Green Ibis (the only one of the tour) spotted a little further up river, meant we disembarked. While we were scanning the river the ducks scattered frantically and the culprit was a Jaguarundi! Fortunately we all saw this sleek cat, even though the appearance had been very brief as it leapt across the rocks in the river. Buoyed by

fortune we headed off in the direction of Tapanti, stopping at Ujarras for a search for the endemic Cabanis's Ground Sparrow. A quick look on the delta produced another flock of Lesser Scaups with just a single Ring-necked Duck this time. We saw a Squirrel Cuckoo here too as well as some rather distant Black-necked Stilts and Least Grebes. After quite a search we eventually located a pair of the ground sparrows, and having troubled them enough to obtain good views, we left them in peace and boarded the bus to make for our hotel. Nearing the hotel Leo spotted a Fasciated Tiger Heron on the rushing river below us; a fine bird to end the day.

21 February

The optional pre-breakfast birding was a little slow in the grounds of the Rio Perlas hotel, but Black-cowled Orioles were nice to see and it was good to finally get to grips with Yellow-bellied Elaenias at last. Checking out from Rio Perlas and heading to Tapanti National Park, passing yet more Giant Cowbirds (there seemed to be a lot around this year), we entered the park accompanied by Panamanian White-fronted Capuchins in the trees near the reception centre. A flock of Common Bush Tanagers that greeted us at the entrance began to gather other species as we walked into the forest. It was nice to see Red-headed Barbets again (first since Cinchona on the Caribbean slope) and we had a good opportunity to compare a pair of tricky woodcreepers as both Spotted and Spot-crowned Woodcreepers were on show here. A loud call signaled the presence of the tiny Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant and we soon located one in the middle strata of the trees. Snazzy Spangle-cheeked Tanagers (another new bird for the tour) lit up the dense forest canopy when a Brown-billed Scythebill called. Leo acted very quickly and with a short burst of playback the scythebill was in view! This is a difficult bird to see in Costa Rica and the first on this 'Classic' tour for two years. Rufous-browed Peppershrike whistled from the forest, Red-faced Spinetails joined the flock and we had good views of Grey-breasted Wood Wrens before turning back towards the entrance road as White-collared Swifts swooped overhead.

We had lunch at Orosi where Grey-breasted Martins and House Sparrows perched on the wires around the football pitch, and a small pool just outside of town delayed our journey to the highlands. Solitary Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Common Gallinule (all new to the tour), Southern Lapwings and Blue-winged Teals could be seen, but we were just too far from the pool to identify the small, stint-like wader on the shore. Onwards and upwards (literally), we headed for the mountains, breaking our journey to Savegre at the superb Paraiso de los Quetzales. Hummingbirds were the main attraction as we walked onto the balcony of the small restaurant at Quetzales. Lesser Violetear, Fiery-throated Hummingbird, Talamanca Hummingbird and the tiny Volcano Hummingbird were all new to us; the shutters were going crazy!!!! Scanning across the cloud forest (this is quetzal country), we picked up the delightful Long-tailed Silky-flycatchers and two new woodpeckers - Acorn and Hairy - perched on dead trees near the balcony. Collared Whitestarts, Black-and-Yellow Phainoptila, Sooty-capped Bush Tanager and Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush gave very close views near the platform and Large-footed and Yellow-thighed Finches foraged in the vegetation under the restaurant. Mandy spotted our first Resplendent Quetzal of the tour; a female in the forest bordering the restaurant, showing long enough for most to get a 'scope view before disappearing into the forest. A male also appeared, but far too briefly and also at greater distance. We'd work more on these over the following few days, for sure! It had been a very busy 'break' indeed, but with time marching on we had to leave for Savegre. Sooty Thrushes, Mountain Thrushes and the occasional Black Guan were seen as we drove into the beautiful Savegre Valley, descending to the wonderful Trogon Lodge by the river.

22 February

Early morning coffee was the order of the day, before leaving the lodge in the fresh, crisp air in search of Resplendent Quetzal this morning. Birds near the lodge didn't show this morning, (Golden-bellied Flycatchers were a nice bonus though) but we joined other folk on the road above the lodge where we found a nice male. Many of the valley birds - Flame-coloured Tanagers, Sooty-capped Bush Tanagers, Acorn Woodpeckers and Black Guans - had now become quite familiar to us, even though most had only been with us since Tapanti.

This year we opted to do the Paramo on our 'full day' at Savegre, taking in a few sites lower in the forested valley on the way up. Mountain Elaenias, Collared Whitestarts, Yellow-winged Vireos and Wilson's Warblers were in the trees overhanging the road where we also saw our only Barred Becard of the trip. Black-cheeked Warblers moved furtively through the undergrowth and Spot-crowned Woodcreepers and a Ruddy Treerunner crept along the moss-laden trunks and branches. The 'Wow Factor' definitely came with the Flame-throated Warblers though - such stunning birds! Back on the bus, we climbed through the pine forests, hitting Elfin Forest on the main road, before turning off towards the 'antennas' and the Paramo of Cerro de la Muerte. This is a very special habitat, with very few bird species, but ones that can only be found up here above the tree line. It didn't take us long to find the Volcano Junco; in fact we didn't even have to leave the bus! But after 'debussing' we had great views of this evil-eyed, rather understated, Dunnock-like species. Timberline Wren followed soon after with Volcano Hummingbirds buzzing around too. The scenery up here is fantastic, too. I have been very lucky with the weather on 'Death Mountain' on all my visits, with panoramic views to the forested slopes below. The rapidly

changing fortunes of a bird tour leader were well exhibited by the thick cloud-cover that rolled in as we drove back to Savegre for lunch though. Indeed the mountain ridges were shrouded in dense cloud by the time we had descended to Miriam's feeders at the head of the Savegre Valley on this morning. Lesser Violetear, Fiery-throated Hummingbirds, Tamanca Hummingbird and Grey-tailed Mountaingems performed well at the feeders outside Miriam's Restaurant with some immaculate Long-tailed Silk-flycatchers in the trees below us. Large-footed Finches, Acorn Woodpeckers and Flame-coloured Tanagers came to the bird tables so the photographers were in Neotropical paradise heaven!

In the afternoon we spent a little time with a pair of Resplendent Quetzals in the valley before a truck-load of very disgruntled-looking photographers turned up, banging on the cab roof to stop the vehicle and consequently flushing the birds! Field craft eh ? Now sated, with quetzalmania fully quashed, we carried on to the waterfall trail. Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush, Black-faced Solitaire, Yellowish Flycatcher and our first White-tailed Emerald were good rewards for our efforts on this easy walk. This evening we ventured back up the valley, not as far as we wanted however, due to a truck stuck on the upper slopes and blocking the road. Leo did a great job of showing us Dusky Nightjars though, especially the perched birds on the telegraph poles. Indeed we were back at Trogon Lodge only a little later than our normal arrival time after an afternoon's birding session.

23 February

An early morning birding session around Trogon Lodge produced our final Resplendent Quetzal sighting of the tour, this time a female perched in a tree not far from the restaurant. Birding on the trails near the cabins was good with three Black-faced Solitaires on the handrails before we had brief views of a flighty Buff-fronted Quail-Dove at the trailhead. We were leaving Savegre this morning so it was our last chance to enjoy the highland species before descending into the Pacific lowlands to end this marvellous tour of Costa Rica. So having said farewell to Trogon Lodge and the Savegre Valley we climbed over the divide and onto the Pacific Slope, making our first stop at a small side road at La Auxiliadora. A small bird party came through the forest with some interesting birds. The familiar Sooty-capped Bush Tanagers were accompanied by a few new birds, including Black-capped Flycatchers, more stunning Flame-throated Warblers and a few Philadelphia Vireos. Best of all a Buffy Tuftedcheek perched for some time; a rare opportunity to see this species well. Our next stop was at Bosque Tolomuco. Being at a lower elevation on the Pacific Slope, we soon found ourselves among new birds yet again. The feeders were very busy here with some 'old friends' - Green-crowned Brilliant, Violet Sabrewing and Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds. Recent acquaintances like Grey-tailed Mountaingem and Volcano Hummingbird were also here, but the lower elevation meant that we'd be introduced to some new species like White-tailed Emerald, Snowy-bellied Hummingbird, Garden Emerald and Scintillant Hummingbird. The bird tables were busy too with our first Passerini's Tanager and some stunning Golden-hooded and Silver-throated Tanagers as well as a female Red-headed Barbet. Super Swallow-tailed Kites were overhead, and I've never seen them swoop so low over the clearing! We checked the forest edge before leaving, where there was a nice bird flock. Most were familiar species, but there was a Brown-capped Vireo and we were able to watch a Ruddy Pigeon perched through the 'scopes too. Of course we were back in the company of some of the birds first seen at the start of the tour - Hoffmann's Woodpecker would be with us until the end of the tour again now.

We made our way to the Pacific coast in the afternoon, stopping for lunch at a restaurant with a view over the broken forest below. More Swallow-tailed Kites, Broad-winged Hawks and a Zone-tailed Hawk (looking very much the same as the soaring Turkey Vultures) made sure our concentration wasn't fully on food. Yellow-throated Toucans yelped from the canopy and every so often one would fly by. A brief, but very productive stop at the marina at Quepos was our first taste of the Pacific coast. Magnificent Frigatebirds and Brown Pelicans are a feature of this last section of the tour, but Leo introduced us to a good site for wintering Wandering Tattlers here. It was good to see them dodging the incoming waves on the rocky islets below the seawall. Inca Doves, Mangrove Swallow, Pale-vented Pigeons and our first Red-crowned Pigeons were seen during a quick stop for fuel along the highway with our first Scarlet Macaws worth a stop at Jaco prior to arrival at Punta Leona. Entering our hotel complex we checked in, before settling into our rooms prior to dinner and bird list.

24 February

A pre-breakfast amble around the grounds of the hotel brought the expected species this morning. Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Hoffmann's Woodpecker, Yellow-throated Toucan, Streak-headed Woodcreeper, Rufous-naped Wren, Rose-throated Becards and Streaked Flycatchers are all to be expected in the grounds, even near the rooms. After breakfast we drove the short distance to Carara National Park, stopping briefly along the hotel approach road to see a Double-striped Thick-knee in the grasslands. The forest here has a more 'humid' quality to that around the hotel or north of the Tarcoles and we enjoyed a good mix of Neotropical species. As usual, we didn't walk very far. Progress along the trail was slow, waiting for birds in feeding flocks to come to the paved trail, rather than us wandering in. Northern Bentbill, Long-billed Gnatwren and a pair of Dot-winged Antwrens were seen at our first stop, the female antwren far more interesting than the male with her rufous-red underparts.

White-shouldered Tanagers and Red-legged Honeycreepers were in the trees across the path. A Pale-billed Woodpecker performed very well for the photographers here, too. Another bird wave started as we turned the next corner with Black-hooded Antshrike, Cocoa Woodcreeper, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Rufous-breasted Wren and Lesser Greenlet all seen in the trees with an Ovenbird on the path. The Great Tinamous, strolling along the forest floor and eventually crossing the trail were particularly good value! Our last stop had a nice mix of birds and mammals. Rufous-tailed Jacamars, Orange-billed Sparrow and Purple-crowned Fairy noted, although Greater White-lined Bats and Honduran Ghost Bat roosting on trunks and under leaves respectively, stole the show. A fine White-whiskered Puffbird perched close to the trail on the way back to the bus was really nice as we'd only seen this species rather distantly across a clearing at La Selva prior to this sighting.

In the afternoon we returned to a different part of the park for a short walk on the trails. As usual the afternoon wasn't as productive as the morning birding session. A calling White-necked Puffbird was located in the canopy, but in the end we called it a day in the forest and headed for the bridge over the Tarcoles. A flock of Costa Rican Swifts over the road as we pulled away were the only ones of the tour. Busy Sunday afternoon traffic made observation from the road bridge difficult at times. However, scanning the river we saw many birds, some of which would be repeated the following day on our boat trip. Collared Plover was a good sighting here, though.

25 February

A small number of the group started our last full day's birding of the tour by walking one of the trails near the hotel. It was nice to start with a calling Grey-headed Kite in the top of the huge emergent tree above the trail set against the moon in the rather overcast sky. We really didn't get very far along the trail (again) as nearly every species was new for the tour. Ruddy Quail Doves were calling (although we didn't see any), a Tawny-winged Woodcreeper appeared briefly, but it was the trogons that took centre stage this morning. In contrast to last year's tour (when trogons were difficult to come by), we tripped over them this morning, with Black-throated on the trail and Slaty-tailed and Baird's in the same tree at the trailhead. A Blue-black Grosbeak in the dark undergrowth was yet another new bird and even our arrival at breakfast was delayed by Golden-naped Woodpecker and White-necked Puffbird stopping us boarding the bus!

After breakfast we took a bus ride north of the Tarcoles to the Guacimo Road. The subtle change to more arid countryside complete, we disembarked from the bus and immediately came across new species. White-fronted Amazons and Orange-fronted Parakeets appeared in the tall, bare trees. Turquoise-browed Motmots, White-throated Magpie-Jays and a Black-headed Trogon were next; we were in for a real treat here, we could tell! A Lineated Woodpecker posed well for the photographers on a roadside log while Double-striped Thick-knees and Stripe-headed Sparrows were seen very close to the road by using our bus as a mobile hide. The thick-knees, resting in the shade of roadside trees, were the closest I've ever seen; so much better than the hazy, statuesque shapes in the heat-baked fields that we usually see. A birding session in a patch of dry forest was very educational indeed. We had a 'Myiarchus Masterclass', seeing flycatchers from this tricky genus in quick succession. The small Dusky-capped was quite simple and the Great Crested came in calling. Various individuals that had us puzzled for a while turned out to be Brown-crested and Nutting's Flycatchers once we heard them call and obtained good 'scope views. Other species, typical of this arid habitat, appeared during our morning in the field, too. Cinnamon Hummingbird, White-lored Gnatcatcher and Olive Sparrow all fall into this category. Unfortunately the Lesser Ground Cuckoo remained in cover and could not be enticed into the open for all to see. It was now time to make our way back to the hotel but a small flock of American Cliff Swallows had us disembarking rapidly and when we looked up, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was perched in a dead tree above us!

After lunch we headed back to the Tarcoles for the boat trip. The usual Magnificent Frigatebirds greeted us as we left the main road and turned off towards the dock where our boat was waiting. It was no surprise to see Bare-throated Tiger Herons, Little Blue Herons and Yellow-crowned Night Herons here. Tricolored Herons, American White Ibis, Wood Storks and Roseate Spoonbills gave our best views yet of these species as we headed towards the mangroves. The tide was suitable for shorebirds to be feeding on the exposed mud so there were plenty of Least Sandpipers, a few Semipalmated Plovers, Whimbrels, Willets and at least 10 Ruddy Turnstones. Belted Kingfisher was a new bird for the trip and nearing the mouth of the mangrove channel we found some handsome Common Black Hawks and for anyone who hadn't had their fill of Myiarchus flycatchers, there were a couple of Panamanian Flycatchers! Prothonotary Warblers and Mangrove Warblers flitted around the branches overhanging the river, along with the odd American Redstart. The boatman located an American Pygmy Kingfisher, which meant we'd seen all the kingfishers possible on this itinerary. A pair of Plumbeous Kites flew overhead, complementing the Western Ospreys and Peregrine Falcon already seen from the boat.

Leaving the mangrove channel we saw a Greyish Saltator, making amends for the one that was so shy on that first morning in the garden of the Bougainvillea! Muscovy Duck, Yellow-naped Parrots, Scarlet Macaws, Red-

winged Blackbird and Harris's Hawk were some of our last birds seen from the boat as we made our way back to dock. A last bit of birding back at the hotel gave us great views of Pauraque near the restaurant before dinner.

26 February

Our final day dawned and just about everybody was out before breakfast for birding on the trail above the hotel. Once again we did well for target birds on a short walk even if the Fiery-billed Aracaris only showed briefly. Grey-headed Tanager, Chestnut-backed Antbird and Greenish Elaenias were all new for the tour on our pre-breakfast walk on the last morning! With just a few hours to spare before heading back to the airport today, we opted for some local birding at the Tarcoles river mouth after breakfast. A stop at some roadside mangroves was rather hectic; the new birds still coming thick and fast at this late stage of the trip! Mangrove Vireo, Scaly-breasted and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Northern Scrub Flycatcher and Northern Beardless Tyrannulet made the bird list for the first time this morning. Rose-throated Becards, Cinnamon Becards, Yellow-throated Vireos, Tropical Gnatcatchers, Mangrove Warblers and American Redstarts added to the intense activity in this bird wave. The river mouth itself was a little more relaxing with Royal Terns, Laughing Gulls and Cabot's Terns on the wet sand, as frigatebirds and Brown Pelicans drifted over the surf. There was a bit of a panic as about twenty Black Skimmers arrived over the distant sand bars, but apart from that, it was a fairly relaxing end to the last morning in the field. In the end we had to admit we'd drained every little bit of birding out of the tour and headed back to the hotel, to pack, ready for our journey home. After a leisurely lunch we made time for some last gasp souvenir shopping, before arriving at the airport in good time for a comfortable check-in.

27 February

Our direct flight from Costa Rica arrived late morning at Gatwick this morning. In contrast to last year's 'Beast from the East', we arrived in the balmy conditions the UK had been enjoying while we were in Central America. We'd also managed to miss the earthquake experienced in the Gatwick area that morning. Sounds more like Central America

Another great Costa Rica tour comes to an end. I'm not sure there's another tour with so many new experiences, especially on the last day of a fortnight's tour! Many thanks to everyone in the group - it was great fun as usual in this magical country. Looking forward to seeing you all again soon on another Limosa tour.

Annotated Species Checklist (regional endemics per Garrigues & Dean, 2014). H = Heard, but not seen.

Great Tinamou *Tinamus major*

Heard at La Selva 16/2 and at least two seen very well at Carara NP 24/2

Slaty-breasted Tinamou *Crypturellus boucardi*

One showed intermittently at La Selva on 16/2.

Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*

Seen on three dates this year at CATIE, Ujarras and near the Tarcoles at the end of the tour.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

One over the Tarcoles on 25/2 was the only record.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

Small flocks on two dates; on the Rio Atirro and near Orosi.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

Three at Casa Turire on 19/2. Two were seen there the following day when we also saw a lone female at Ujarras. All birds associated with the following species

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*

Lago Angostura at Casa Turire is the place for these. This year we counted 330 here on 19/2. We didn't managed a full count there the following day, although a large raft of birds was still present. However we did count 180 at Ujarras on 20/2.

Grey-headed Chachalaca *Ortalis cinereiceps*

Regularly seen on the Caribbean slope near Rancho Naturalista to Punta Leona at the end of the tour. Missing from the highlands.

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurescens*

A few seen at La Selva, at or near Rancho Naturalista and around Punta Leona and Carara NP.

Black Guan *Chamaepetes unicolor*

Seen on three dates in the highlands around Savegre. Easier to see than in previous years. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Great Curassow *Crax rubra*

Two at La Selva 16/2.

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus*

Three on Lago Angostura 19/2 and six at Ujarras the following day.

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*

A couple seen very high over Carara NP 24/2 and several the next day on the Tarcoles.

Green Ibis *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*

One seen on the Rio Atirro after we left Rancho Naturalista 20/2. This was a real blessing as a Jaguarundi crossed the river while we were watching it!

American White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*

Just a single on the Sarapiqui was our only Caribbean slope record. More seen in the Pacific lowlands at the end of the tour with sightings mainly on the Rio Tarcoles.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*

Seen on the Rio Tarcoles on the Pacific coast at the end of the tour.

Fasciated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum*

Scarce this year with only one sighting at Rio Perlas 20/2.

Bare-throated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum*

This beautiful heron was seen at the Rio Sarapiqui and Rio Tarcoles.

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius*

At least three near Rancho Naturalista at CATIE 19/2.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

A dozen or so with the Boat-billed Herons 19/2.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*

One with the Boat-billed Herons 19/2 and several on the Rio Tarcoles 25/2.

Green Heron *Butoroides virescens*

Seen on four dates at the Rio Sarapiqui, Lago Angostura and Tarcoles.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Seen on eleven dates of the tour.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*

Seen on four dates, mainly around the Tarcoles.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Small numbers on eight dates; mainly seen as we travelled by bus between sites.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor*

A few around the Rio Tarcoles at the end of the tour were the only records of this attractive heron.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*

Seen on five dates including both boat trips (Sarapiqui and Tarcoles) and at Lago Angostura.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

Seen on seven dates including the Sarapiqui and Tarcoles boat trips.

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*

Observed along the Pacific coast at the end of the tour.

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*

Common on the Pacific coast at the end of the tour.

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

Seen on four dates on wetlands around the Sarapiqui and Tarcoles.

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*

Seen on three dates around the Sarapiqui and Tarcoles.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

Seen daily during the tour. Interestingly a loose flock of over a hundred birds was noted moving over La Selva on 16th; possibly a sign of early migration?

American Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

Recorded daily.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Seen on six dates throughout the tour.

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*

Seen on two dates; one was seen from the bus as we drove from La Union to Rancho Naturalista 17/2 with another seen 20/2 at Ujarras.

Grey-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis*

One seen at the trailhead near our Punta Leona hotel at dawn 25/2 was our only sighting this year.

Harri's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Two records: at Casa Turire 19/2 and Tarcoles 25/2.

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*

We had to wait until we arrived on the Pacific slope to see this stunning species this year, but it was really worth it! I've never seen birds so low as the ones at Bosque Tolomuco on 23/2, as they swooped over the clearing. We also enjoyed several that flew by the restaurant as we had lunch on the same day. Definitely a bird with immense 'Wow Factor'!

Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus*

One calling and circling over La Selva on 16/2.

Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus*

One circling over La Selva on 16/2 was fluffing up its undertail-coverts, making it appear white-rumped.

Bicolored Hawk *Accipiter bicolor*

One at Rancho Naturalista 18/2 in the same area of forest where we saw one the previous three trips. It was also heard calling there the next day.

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea*

Two over the Tarcoles 25/2 were our only birds this year.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*

Three seen well at Lago Angostura 19/2.

Crane Hawk *Geranospiza caerulescens*

Great views of two birds on the Guacimo Road, one of which was perched in the forest for quite a while.

Common Black Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus*

Several seen very well over the three day period we spent on the Pacific coast at the end of the tour.

Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris*

Seen on five dates, often as we travelled between sites.

White Hawk *Pseudaster albicollis*

This stunning raptor was seen perched in the canopy at Virgen de Socorro 15/2.

Grey Hawk *Buteo plagiatus*

Seen on four dates, mostly along the Pacific coast.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*

Only seen on three dates on the Caribbean slope and in the highlands near Savegre.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*

A pale morph bird over Virgen de Socorro 15/2 was our only record this year.

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus*

One seen as we lunched on the Pacific slope 23/2 was our only record.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*

Singles near La Paz Waterfall Gardens 15/2 and Savegre 22/2.

Sunbittern *Eurypyga helias*

Just one sighting, in contrast to last year's bumper tour for this species. We saw one on a river between La Mina and Rancho Naturalista.

White-throated Crake *Laterallus albigularis* (H)

Heard at wetland sites near Rancho Naturalista on two dates.

Grey-necked Wood Rail *Aramides cajaneus*

One at Punta Leona 26/2.

Rufous-naped Wood Rail *Aramides albiventris*

Seen at Copé's garden at Union. Marvellous views of two birds from the blind there.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinicus*

Several at Lago Angostura (Casa Turire), CATIE and on the Rio Tarcoles.

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*

A couple on a roadside pool near Orosi 21/2.

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna* (H)

Heard at Lago Angostura 19/2.

Double-striped Thick-knee *Burhinus bistriatus*

One along the approach road to the hotel at Punta Leona 24/2 and then great views of a pair at the Guacimo Road the next day.

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*

Only seen at Ujarras 20/2.

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*

Seen in the Rancho Naturalista area with best views at Casa Turire 21/2.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*

Several on the Tarcoles mud on the last two dates of the tour.

Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris*

One by the banks of the Tarcoles 24/2.

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa*

Seen on four dates, most numerous on the wetlands near Rancho Naturalista.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Small numbers on the Tarcoles at the end of the tour on the Pacific Coast.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

At least ten on the Tarcoles 25/2.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*

Small flocks on the Tarcoles 25/2.

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata*

One on the roadside pool near Orosi 21/2.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*

Recorded on five dates on various pools and river banks.

Wandering Tattler *Tringa incana*

Two or three on the little rocky islets off the marina at Quepos 23/2.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*

One on the roadside pool at Orosi 21/2.

Willet *Tringa semipalmatus*

Seen on the Pacific coast beaches and mudflats in the mangroves of Rio Tarcoles at the end of the tour.

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla*

Some large flocks seen at the mouth of the Tarcoles on the final two days in Costa Rica. Most were distant but a few came close to us with the Royal Terns.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*

Seen on the Pacific coast at the end of the tour.

Cabot's Tern *Thalasseus acutifluidus*

Several came close to us at the mouth of the Tarcoles 26/2.

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger*

A flock of about twenty birds flew into the Tarcoles river mouth 26/2. Unfortunately they were distant and disappeared out of view very quickly indeed.

Feral Rock Dove *Columba livia*

We had to wait until 23/2 to see this species. The first time I've ever heard a cheer for this species on any tour!

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*

Seen very well at La Union and along the Pacific coast as we travelled to Punta Leona.

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris*

Seen on seven dates at all major birding sites on both Caribbean and Pacific slopes.

Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea*

Seen well at Bosque Tolomuco.

Short-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas nigrirostris*

Seen at La Selva. Thereafter we only heard this species at Rancho Naturalista and around Carara NP.

Inca Dove *Columbina inca*

Seen on the last few days along the Pacific coast near Punta Leona.

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti*

Widespread and sightings of small numbers on seven dates spread over the tour.

Ruddy Quail-Dove *Geotrygon montana* (H)

One heard along the trail at Punta Leona 25/2.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*

Seen at all forested sites visited during the tour.

Grey-chested Dove *Leptotila cassinii*

Two seen at La Selva 16/2.

Buff-fronted Quail-Dove *Zentrygon costaricensis*

One at the start of a trail at Trogon Lodge 23/2.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*

One of the first birds of the tour in Heredia; seen on nine dates.

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*

Seen on six dates and nowhere numerous. Recorded on a few travel days and sites around Rancho Naturalista with most records at the end of the tour on the Pacific Coast.

Lesser Ground Cuckoo *Morococcyx erythropygus* (H)

Heard, but alas not seen on the Guacimo Road.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*

Heard in La Selva and seen at Ujarras and Tapanti NP.

Mottled Owl *Strix virgata*

Present around the lodge at Rancho Naturalista where we managed brief views on two nights. Also heard calling during the day near the Hummingbird Bathing Pools in the forest there.

Crested Owl *Lophotrix cristata*

Two in a daytime roost site near La Union 17/2. Also heard by the leader at Rancho Naturalista on one night.

Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata*

Two at a roost site near the above species making it a great 'double owl day' at Union yet again!

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*

Seen well at CATIE and at Punta Leona.

Great Potoo *Nyctibius grandis*

A day roosting bird seen well at CATIE 19/2.

Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus* (H)

Heard at Rancho Naturalista on two nights.

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*

Heard at Rancho Naturalista and seen well at Punta Leona 25/2.

Dusky Nightjar *Caprimulgus saturatus*

Great views at Savegre this year 22/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne rutila*

Seen on five dates with impressive flocks over La Selva and Savegre.

Costa Rican Swift *Chaetura fumosa*

Around a dozen birds over the road near Carara NP 24/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Grey-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris*

A small flock over La Selva 16/2.

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift *Panyptila cayennensis*

Two sightings this year; both brief and of high-flying birds. Seen over La Selva 16/2 and over the Sarapiquí at Selva Verde the next morning.

White-tipped Sicklebill *Eutoxeres aquila*

One at La Union 17/2 didn't hang around for long. Cope's hide seems to be a good place to see this species.

Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy*

Seen regularly at feeders in the Caribbean slope and foothills from La Selva up to Rancho Naturalista.

Long-billed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris*

One seen well near La Union and then seen at Carara NP.

Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis*

Great views at La Union (lekking birds 'scoped in Heliconias). Others at La Selva, Rancho Naturalista and in Carara NP.

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird *Phaeochroa cuvieri*

Seen in the mangroves near Tarcoles 26/2.

Violet Sabrewing *Campylopterus hemileucurus*

Seen on five dates at La Paz Waterfall Gardens, La Union, Rancho Naturalista and Bosque de Tolomuco.

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora*

Seen at La Selva, La Union and Rancho Naturalista area.

Lesser Violetear *Colibri cyanotus*

Regularly seen in the highlands at Savegre and also at Bosque de Tolomuco.

Green-breasted Mango *Anthracothorax prevostii*

Only seen at Rancho Naturalista this year.

Violet-headed Hummingbird *Klais guimeti*

A good showing this year as we enjoyed good views of this species at the Old Butterfly Farm 17/2 and there was a regular bird on the flowers outside the lodge at Rancho Naturalista throughout our stay there.

Black-crested Coquette *Lophornis helenae*

A male at the Old Butterfly Farm 17/2.

Green Thorntail *Discosura conversii*

Seen at the La Paz Waterfall Gardens and at the Old Butterfly Farm on the Caribbean slope.

Garden Emerald *Chlorostilbon assimilis*

One female at Bosque Tolomuco 23/2.

Fiery-throated Hummingbird *Panterpe insignis*

Seen well at Paraiso De Los Quetzales 21/2 and Miriam's cafe at Savegre on the feeders 22/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

White-tailed Emerald *Elvira chionura*

At least one at Bosque Tolomuco 23/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and Western Panama.**

Coppery-headed Emerald *Elvira cupreiceps*

Seen at La Paz Waterfall Gardens where it is quite numerous at the feeders. **Endemic to Costa Rica.**

Stripe-tailed Emerald *Eupherusa exima*

A couple of birds at Savegre area 22/2.

Black-bellied Hummingbird *Eupherusa nigriventris*

Seen at La Paz Waterfall Gardens 15/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Crowned Woodnymph *Thalarnia columbica*

Seen at La Selva, Old Butterfly Farm, La Union and throughout our stay at Rancho Naturalista.

Cinnamon Hummingbird *Amazilia rutila*

This dry country hummer was seen in the arid scrub of the Gaucimo Road 25/2.

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl*

The most frequently encountered hummingbird of the tour; recorded on nine dates.

Blue-chested Hummingbird *Amazilia amabilis*

One at La Union 17/2.

Blue-vented Hummingbird *Amazilia hoffmanni*

Seen on at Selva Verde and in Carara NP. Some authorities consider this to be conspecific with Steely-vented Hummingbird *Amazilia saucerrottei*.

Snowy-bellied Hummingbird *Amazilia edward*

Seen at Bosque de Tolomuco 23/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and Panama.**

Snowcap *Microchera albocoronata*

This iconic species was seen well on the garden at Rancho Naturalista, over our three days there. **Southern Honduras to western Panama.**

Bronze-tailed Plumleteer *Chalybura urochrysis*

This was the red-footed hummer seen on the Caribbean slope at La Union only.

White-bellied Mountaingem *Lampornis hemileucus*

Two at La Paz Waterfall Gardens 15/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and Western Panama.**

Purple-throated Mountaingem *Lampornis calolaemus*

Seen at La Paz Waterfall Gardens. **Nicaragua to western Panama.**

Grey-tailed Mountaingem *Lampornis cinereicauda*

Quite common in the Savegre area 22 - 23/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula*

Another foothill hummer seen at La Paz Waterfall, Rancho Naturalista and Bosque de Tolomuco.

Talamanca Hummingbird *Eugenes spectabilis*

Common in the highlands, particularly at Savegre.

Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliothryx barroti*

Seen at Rancho Naturalista 18/2 visiting the bathing pools there and 24/2 at Carara NP.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*

One in the mangroves near Tarcoles 26/2.

Volcano Hummingbird *Selasphorus flammula*

Another highland hummer seen at Savegre, Cerro de la Muerte and a few at Bosque Tolomuco. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Scintillant Hummingbird *Selasphorus scintilla*

Seen at Bosque Tolomuco only this year.. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Resplendent Quetzal *Pharomachrus mocinno*

The bird everyone wants to see in Costa Rica (maybe Sunbittern comes a close second?). We saw females well at Paraiso de los Quetzales (where a male was also seen briefly) and at Trogon Lodge. A pair were seen reasonably well near a nest hole in the Savegre too.

Slaty-tailed Trogon *Trogon massena*

Seen on the last two days of the tour at Punta Leona. At least six birds seen.

Black-headed Trogon *Trogon melanocephalus*

A female on the Guacimo Road 25/2.

Baird's Trogon *Trogon bairdii*

One at Punta Leona 25/2.

Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus*

Seen at La Selva and Rancho Naturalista and heard at Punta Leona.

Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus*

Seen at Punta Leona 24/2.

American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea*

One performed beautifully in the mangroves of Tarcoles 25/2.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*

A few on the Sarapiquí and on the Tarcoles.

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*

Seen on the Sarapiquí and Casa Turire.

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*

Two on the Tarcoles 25/2.

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*

Seen on the Sarapiquí and at Casa Turire.

Lesson's Motmot *Momotus lessonii*

Seen in Heredia (in the hotel garden) on our first morning in Costa Rica.

Rufous Motmot *Barythengus martii*

Seen at La Selva, Selva Verde and in the garden at Rancho Naturalista.

Broad-billed Motmot *Electron platyrhynchum*

Seen well at La Selva and Selva Verde.

Turquoise-browed Motmot *Eumomota superciliosa*

Seen very well along the Guacimo Road and on the Tarcoles at the end of the tour.

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda*

Seen briefly along the Rio Sarapiquí 17/2, but very good views at Carara NP 24/2.

White-necked Puffbird *Notharchus hyperrhynchus*

Seen well in Carara NP and at Punta Leona.

White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis*

Two seen at La Selva and another performed beautifully at Carara NP 24/2.

Red-headed Barbet *Eubucco bourcierii*

A pair at Cinchona 15/2, at Tapanti NP 21/2 and a female at Bosque Tolomuco 23/2.

Prong-billed Barbet *Semnornis frantzii*

Seen briefly at La Paz Waterfall Gardens and very well at Cinchona the same day. Heard in Tapanti NP.

Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.

Blue-throated Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus caeruleogularis*

Seen very well at Cinchona 15/2 and heard in Tapanti NP.

Collared Araçari *Pteroglossus torquatus*

Regularly seen at Selva Verde and Rancho Naturalista during the tour.

Fiery-billed Araçari *Pteroglossus frantzii*

A few around Punta Leona on the Pacific coast. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Keel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos sulfuratus*

Quite common on the Caribbean slope from La Quinta up to Rancho Naturalista and seen on five dates.

Yellow-throated Toucan *Ramphastos ambiguus*

Seen in the same areas as the above species but also near the Pacific coast at the end of the tour.

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus*

Small parties were seen in the Paraiso De Los Quetzales and Savegre areas.

Golden-naped Woodpecker *Melanerpes chrysauchen*

Seen near Punta Leona 25/2.

Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani*

Common on the Caribbean slope from La Selva to Rancho Naturalista.

Red-crowned Woodpecker *Melanerpes rubricapillus*

One seen on the way to Punta Leona 23/2.

Hoffman's Woodpecker *Melanerpes hoffmannii*

Common in the grounds of the Hotel Bougainvillea, Heredia on our first morning of the tour. Thereafter only seen regularly when we reached the Pacific coast. **Southern Honduras to Costa Rica.**

Hairy Woodpecker *Leuconotopicus villosus*

One at Paraiso De Los Quetzales 21/2 and heard at Savegre the following day.

Smoky-brown Woodpecker *Picoides fumigatus*

One at La Paz Waterfall Gardens 15/2.

Rufous-winged Woodpecker *Piculus simplex*

One in La Selva 16/2.

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus*

Seen near La Mina 18/2.

Chestnut-coloured Woodpecker *Celeus castaneus*

Four together on the approach road at La Selva 16/2.

Lineated Woodpecker *Drycopus lineatus*

Seen at Rancho Naturalista and on the Guacimo Road.

Pale-billed Woodcreeper *Campephilus guatemalensis*

One at La Mina 18/2 and another showing really well at Carara NP 24/2.

Northern Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway*

Seen on just three dates this year; as we travelled to Rancho Naturalista and then near Carara NP.

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*

Seen near Rancho Naturalista and as we descended to the Pacific Coast at the end of the tour.

Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis*

At least four on the dead trees between Cinchona and Virgen de Socorro 15/2 and another seen in the Caribbean lowlands 17/2.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

One at the Tarcoles river mouth 25/2.

Orange-chinned Parakeet *Brotogeris jugularis*

Common (though admittedly heard more than seen) at the Sarapiquí and La Selva areas and along the Pacific coast on the final four days of the tour.

Brown-hooded Parrot *Pionopsitta haematotis*

Seen at La Selva 17/2, but poor views this year.

White-crowned Parrot *Pionus senilis*

Recorded on seven dates and seen well at Rancho Naturalista and its environs, including some perched birds.

White-fronted Amazon *Amazona albifrons*

Only seen well along the Guacimo Road 25/2.

Red-lored Parrot *Amazona autumnalis*

A few seen in the La Selva and Selva Verde areas.

Yellow-naped Amazon *Amazona auropalliata*

Seen in the Tarcoles area 25/2.

Northern Mealy Parrot *Amazona guatemalae*

Seen at La Selva and Selva Verde in the Caribbean lowlands.

Sulphur-winged Parakeet *Pyrrhura hoffmanni*

Only seen well in flight Silent Mountain near Rancho Naturalista 20/2. Unfortunately the perched birds flew just as we got the 'scopes on them! **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Olive-throated Parakeet *Eupsittula nana*

Three seen briefly at La Selva 16/2.

Orange-fronted Parakeet *Aratinga canicularis*

About twenty seen along the Guacimo Road 25/2.

Great Green Macaw *Ara ambiguus*

Brilliant views of a few pairs near La Selva in the evening of 16/2.

Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao*

Common in the Punta Leona area along the Pacific coast and even near our cabins at the hotel. Also seen nearby in Carara NP.

Finsch's Parakeet *Aratinga finschi*

Plenty around our hotel in Heredia on our arrival in Costa Rica and especially common in the Rancho Naturalista area. Seen on nine dates. **Endemic from south-eastern Nicaragua to western Panama.**

Slaty Spinetail *Synallaxis brachyura*

One in shrubby roadside vegetation at Silent Mountain 20/2.

Red-faced Spinetail *Cranioleuca erythrops*

Three seen well at La Paz Waterfall Gardens 15/2 and in Tapanti 21/2.

Ruddy Treerunner *Margarornis rubiginosus*

A poor showing this year. Recorded at Savegre 22/2 only.

Buffy Tuftedcheek *Pseudocolaptes lawrencii*

One showed very well at La Auxiliadora on the Pacific side of the Divide 23/2.

Streak-breasted Treehunter *Thripadectes rufobrunneus* (H)

Heard 17/2 at the Old Butterfly Farm.

Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner *Automolus ochrolaemus*

One at Virgen de Socorro, but was overshadowed by birds at the Insect Light at Rancho Naturalista 18/2.

Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser *Sclerurus mexicanus*

One seen well at Virgen de Socorro 15/2.

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus*

Seen well at Rancho Naturalista 19/2.

Plain-brown Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla fuliginosa*

One showed well near the Insect Light at Rancho Naturalista 18/2.

Tawny-winged Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla anabatina*

One along the trail at Punta Leona 25/2.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*

Two seen at Virgen de Socorro and then two more along the Guacimo Road 25/2.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*

Sightings from Virgen de Socorro only this year.

Northern Barred Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*

Seen at La Selva 16/2.

Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans*

Recorded on six dates at Rancho Naturalista, Carara NP and Punta Leona.

Spotted Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*

A typical foothill woodcreeper; seen at Rancho Naturalista and Tapanti NP.

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*

Widespread and the most frequently encountered woodcreeper; seen on four seven on both Caribbean and Pacific slopes.

Spot-crowned Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes affinis*

Seen in the highlands of Tapanti and Savegre.

Brown-billed Scythebill *Campylorhamphus pusillus*

One at Tapanti NP 21/2. A difficult bird to see on this tour.

Dot-winged Antwren *Microrhophias quixensis*

A pair at Carara NP 24/2 showed very well indeed.

Checker-throated Antwren *Epinercrophylla fulviventris*

Seen on two dates on the trails at Rancho Naturalista.

Slaty Antwren *Myrmotherula schisticolor*

Seen on two dates at Rancho Naturalista in the same flocks as the above species.

Plain Antvireo *Dysithamnus mentalis*

Heard at Rancho Naturalista and seen well at Carara NP.

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus* (H)

Heard at CATIE 19/2.

Black-hooded Antshrike *Thamnophilus bridgesi*

Seen in Carara 24/2. Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.

Black-crowned Antshrike *Thamnophilus atrinucha*

A female at La Selva 16/2 was our only sighting.

Fasciated Antshrike *Cymbilaimus lineatus*

This vine-loving antbird was, as usual, seen in La Selva.

Dusky Antbird *Cercomacra tyrannina*

Two at Punta Leona 26/2.

Chestnut-backed Antbird *Myrmeciza exsul*

Great views in the grounds of our hotel at Punta Leona on 26/2.

Dull-mantled Antbird *Myrmeciza laemosticta*

Three seen 18/2 at La Mina and the Bathing Pools at Rancho Naturalista.

Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata*

One Punta Leona 26/2.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*

Surprisingly scarce this year and only seen at Tapanti 22/2.

Mountain Elaenia *Elaenia frantzii*

Seen in the uplands of Savegre and Cerro de la Muerte.

Northern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma imberbe*

One in the mangroves near Tarcoles 26/2.

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum*

One at Punta Leona 24/2.

Torrent Tyrannulet *Serpophaga cinerea*

Seen on the rushing rivers near Rancho Naturalista, Tapanti NP and Savegre.

Mistletoe Tyrannulet *Zimmerius parvus*

Recorded on seven dates but more often heard than seen.

Olive-striped Flycatcher *Mionectes olivaceus*

Seen at La Mina 18/2.

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus*

Seen with the above species at La Mina.

Slaty-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon superciliaris*

Seen on two dates in the Rancho Naturalista area and in Tapanti NP.

Northern Scrub Flycatcher *Sublegatus arenarum*

One in the mangroves near Tarcoles 26/2.

Black-capped Pygmy Tyrant *Myiornis atricapillus* (H)

Heard in La Selva, but not seen.

Northern Bentbill *Oncostoma cinereigulare*

One seen well in Carara 24/2.

Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant *Lophotriccus pileatus*

Seen at Tapanti NP 21/2.

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*

Recorded in forests (humid and arid) of La Selva, Rancho Naturalista and along the Guacimo Road this year.

Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum nigriceps*

Seen near Rancho Naturalista 18/2 and heard at a couple of other sites.

Eye-ringed Flatbill *Rhynchocylus brevirostris*

Great views of a bird at La Selva 16/2.

Yellow-olive Flatbill *Tolmomyias sulphureus*

Seen at La Selva and Rancho Naturalista area.

Tawny-chested Flycatcher *Aphanotriccus capitalis*

Seen at La Mina and Rancho Naturalista; the traditional 'hotspots' for this species. **Endemic to eastern Nicaragua and Costa Rica.**

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*

Seen on six days this year, often when we stopped at fast moving rivers, mostly recorded in the Rancho Naturalista area.

Northern Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus*

Seen at the La Paz Waterfall Gardens.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *Empidonax flaviventris*

Seen at Rancho Naturalista and along the Guacimo Road.

Yellowish Flycatcher *Empidonax flavescens*

Seen in the Savegre forest edge of the Waterfall Trail there 22/2.

Black-capped Flycatcher *Empidonax atriceps*

Another highland *Empidonax* seen at Auxiliadora 23/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus*

Great 'scope views of these at the entrance to La Selva 16/2.

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus*

Seen at La Selva and heard on three dates towards the end of the tour.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*

Seen on ten dates. Common away from highland sites.

Grey-capped Flycatcher *Myiozetetes granadensis*

Another locally common (particularly at La Selva) lowland flycatcher. Seen on four dates.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*

Common and ubiquitous; seen most days.

Golden-bellied Flycatcher *Myiodynastes hemichrysus*

Two at Trogon Lodge 22/2.

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus*

Seen at sites along the Pacific Coast over the last three days of the tour.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarhynchus pitangua*

Seen at La Selva, Selva Verde, near Rancho Naturalista and Punta Leona.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*

Widespread and common; seen every day.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*

Seen in the dry country of the Guacimo Road.

Rufous Mourner *Rhytipterna holerythra* (H)

Heard on two dates at Rancho Naturalista, but not seen.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*

Recorded on three dates at Rancho Naturalista, Carara NP and also on the Guacimo Road.

Panamanian Flycatcher *Myiarchus panamensis*

Several seen in the mangroves around the Tarcoles on the last two days of the tour.

Nutting's Flycatcher *Myiarchus nuttingi*

This dry country flycatcher was seen on the Guacimo Road 25/2 .

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus*

Seen at Selva Verde and along the Guacimo Road.

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*

Two on the Guacimo Road at the end of the tour.

Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus*

Seen at La Selva and heard on five other days.

Purple-throated Fruitcrow *Querula purpurata*

One seen in a fruiting tree at La Selva 16/2.

Long-tailed Manakin *Chiroxiphia linearis* (H)

Heard briefly in a dry forest patch on the Guacimo Road on 25/2.

White-ruffed Manakin *Corapipo altera*

A male at Rancho Naturalista 18/2.

White-collared Manakin *Manacus candei*

Seen at Selva Verde 17/2 and near Rancho Naturalista briefly 20/2..

Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor*

One at Selva Verde 17/2.

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*

Four at La Selva 16/2 and one at Carara NP 25/2.

Barred Becard *Pachyramphus versicolor*

A female seen in the highlands of Savegre 22/2.

Cinnamon Becard *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*

Seen on three dates on the Caribbean slope and on the final day near Tarcoles.

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae*

Seen well near the hotel at Punta Leona and near Tarcoles. The resident race male is all grey below, lacking the 'rose-throat'.

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*

One seen in Tapanti.

Green Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanius pulchellus* (H)

Always a hard bird to see due to its canopy-dwelling behaviour; this was heard at La Selva.

Mangrove Vireo *Vireo pallens*

One in the mangroves near Tarcoles 26/2.

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*

Seen at La Selva, Rancho Naturalista and environs and around the Tarcoles.

Yellow-winged Vireo *Vireo carmioli*

Seen on 22/2 at Savegre.

Brown-capped Vireo *Vireo leucophrys*

Only seen at Bosque Tolomuco 23/2.

Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus*

Seen at Rancho Naturalista, La Auxiliadora and Bosque Tolomuco .

Lesser Greenlet *Hylophilus decutatus*

Heard at Rancho Naturalista and seen in Carara NP and Punta Leona.

Brown Jay *Cyanocorax morio*

Widespread and seen on nine dates throughout the tour.

White-throated Magpie-Jay *Calocitta formosa*

Four seen very well on the Guacimo Road.

Black-and-Yellow Phainoptila *Phainoptila melanoxantha*

A pair seen at Paraiso De Los Quetzales.

Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher *Ptilogonys caudatus*

Another highland 'flycatcher' (this species eat more fruit, rather than insects and is probably closer to thrushes or waxwings than tyrant-flycatchers) seen at Paraiso de los Quetzales and around Savegre. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea*

Locally common along rivers and many seen on the Sarapiquí and Tarcoles.

Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*

A few around Orosi as we descended the Pacific Slope to Punta Leona and Carara at the end of the tour.

Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*

The 'default swallow' away from the lowlands really; seen on eight dates.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

Identified at La Selva, near Rancho Naturalista and Tarcoles boat trip.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*

Seen at Selva Verde, Silent Mountain and around the Tarcoles.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Only seen during the last three days along the Pacific coast this year.

American Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*

Eight over the Guacimo Road 25/2.

Band-backed Wren *Campylorhynchus zonatus*

Heard at La Selva and seen at CATIE 19/2.

Rufous-naped Wren *Campylorhynchus rufinucha*

This garrulous and sociable wren was seen well in the gardens of the Hotel Bougainvillea at the start of the tour. Thereafter we did not encounter it again until returning to the Pacific slope at the end of the tour.

Black-throated Wren *Pheugopedius atrogularis* (H)

Heard in La Selva.

Rufous-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius rutilus*

Heard near Rancho Naturalista and seen at Carara NP and at Punta Leona.

Cabanis's Wren *Cantorchilus modestus* (H)

Heard in the grounds of the Hotel Bougainvillea on the first morning.

Riverside Wren *Cantorchilus semibadius*

Seen along the trail at Carara NP. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Bay Wren *Cantorchilus nigricapillus*

Seen at Virgen de Socorro and Rancho Naturalista.

Stripe-breasted Wren *Cantorchilus thoracicus*

One seen at La Selva.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

Recorded on four dates.

Ochraceous Wren *Troglodytes ochraceus*

Seen at La Paz Waterfall Gardens and Cinchona. **Endemic to Costa Rica and Panama.**

Timberline Wren *Thryorchilus browni*

Seen very well indeed on Cerro de La Muerte. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

White-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucosticta*

Seen very well indeed at Rancho Naturalista near the Insect Light.

Grey-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys*

Seen at La Paz Waterfall Gardens and at Tapanti.

Southern Nightingale-Wren *Microcerculus marginatus* (H)

Heard at the Old Butterfly Garden and at Rancho Naturalista.

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus*

Great views in the vine tangles above the trail at Carara NP 24/2.

White-lored Gnatcatcher *Polioptila albiloris*

Another dry country species seen on the Guacimo Road.

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Polioptila plumbea*

Seen at La Selva, Rancho Naturalista and around the Tarcoles mangroves.

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus*

A tricky bird to get on this itinerary, and we sometimes miss it. Two were seen as we travelled between sites (as is often the case on this tour) 20/2 after leaving Rancho Naturalista.

Black-faced Solitaire *Myadestes melanops*

Seen on two dates at Savegre, including three on the cabin handrails at Trogon Lodge 23/2.

Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus gracilirostris*

A couple seen very well at Paraiso de los Quetzales and Savegre. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus fuscater*

Seen on our first day in the field at La Paz Waterfall Gardens.

Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus frantzii*

Seen on a couple of occasions in the Savegre area.

Sooty Thrush *Turdus nigrescens*

Common around Savegre. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Pale-vented Thrush *Turdus obsoletus*

Heard at Virgen de Socorro and seen at the Old Butterfly Farm 17/2.

Mountain Thrush *Turdus plebejus*

Common near Savegre.

Clay-coloured Thrush *Turdus grayi*

Common just about everywhere except in the extreme highlands; seen almost every day. The national bird of Costa Rica.

American Dipper *Cinclus mexicanus*

Two at Virgen de Socorro 15/2 and one that gave great views at Savegre 22/2.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Seen only at La Union and Orosi..

Scrub Euphonia *Euphonia affinis* (H)

Heard in the dry country of the Guacimo Road.

Yellow-crowned Euphonia *Euphonia luteicapilla*

Seen near La Mina 18/2, but heard at many other sites, particularly Rancho Naturalista.

Yellow-throated Euphonia *Euphonia hirundinacea*

Seen at near La Mina and at Tapanti NP.

Olive-backed Euphonia *Euphonia gouldi*

A few seen at La Selva and Rancho Naturalista and nearby sites.

Tawny-capped Euphonia *Euphonia annea*

Small numbers at Rancho Naturalista and Tapanti NP. **Costa Rica to north-western Colombia.**

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotricha capensis*

Regularly seen in the highlands.

Volcano Junco *Junco vulcani*

Great views of this species at Cerro de la Muerte as usual. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Stripe-headed Sparrow *Aimophila ruficauda*

A couple in the dry country of the Guacimo Road.

Cabanis's Ground Sparrow *Melospiza cabanisi*

Two at Ujarras 20/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica.**

White-eared Ground Sparrow *Melospiza leucotis*

A couple in the gardens of the Hotel Bougainvillea on our first morning.

Olive Sparrow *Arremonops rufivirgatus*

One in a forest patch in the dry country of the Guacimo Road.

Black-striped Sparrow *Arremonops conirostris*

Two seen very well indeed on Silent Mountain.

Orange-billed Sparrow *Arremon aurantirostris*

Seen well on seven dates at La Selva, Selva Verde, Carara NP and Rancho Naturalista.

Sooty-faced Finch *Arremon crassirostris*

Great views of at least three birds at La Paz Waterfall Gardens. **Endemic to Costa Rica and Panama.**

Large-footed Finch *Pezoptes capitalis*

Close views in the highlands around Savegre. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Yellow-thighed Finch *Pselliophorus tibialis*

Seen at the La Paz Waterfall Gardens and around Savegre. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Common Bush Tanager *Chlorospingus flavopectus*

Small numbers at La Paz Waterfall Gardens and in Tapanti NP.

Sooty-capped Bush Tanager *Chlorospingus pileatus*

Regularly encountered in the highlands near Savegre. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Red-breasted Blackbird *Leistes militaris*

One at Casa Turire 19/2 was only seen briefly.

Chestnut-headed Oropendola *Psarocolius wagleri*

Regularly seen at La Selva and Rancho Naturalista.

Montezuma Oropendola *Psarocolius montezuma*

Common on the Caribbean slope. Recorded on seven dates.

Scarlet-rumped Cacique *Cacicus microrhynchus*

Two at Rancho Naturalista or nearby.

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*

Widespread; seen on seven dates.

Black-cowled Oriole *Icterus prothemelas*

Seen at Selva Verde and Tapanti.

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*

A few seen by the Rio Tarcoles 25/2.

Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus*

A few near Casa Turire and some of the other sites near Rancho Naturalista. In a good year for this species we also saw some as we drove to Tapanti NP.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*

Seen at near La Selva and Selva Verde.

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus*

A few seen near Rancho Naturalista during our stay there.

Melodious Blackbird *Dives dives*

One of the first birds of the tour in Heredia. Also seen at the end of the tour; again on the Pacific slope.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*

Common; seen most days.

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla*

One showed nicely on the trail at Carara NP 24/2.

Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla*

One seen at Silent Mountain and another, well studied bird, near Trogon Lodge.

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis*

We saw them at the Rio Sarapiquí, Carara NP and on the Tarcoles.

Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*

Seen on five days this year; at La Paz Waterfall Gardens, La Selva and sites near Rancho Naturalista.

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*

Seen at La Paz Waterfall Gardens, Rancho Naturalista and the Tarcoles mangroves.

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*

A few absolutely stunning individuals in the Tarcoles mangroves.

Flame-throated Warbler *Oreothlypis gutturalis*

As usual we found this beautiful bird in the highlands at Savegre and also at La Auxiliadora. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Tennessee Warbler *Leiothlypis peregrina*

Seen on seven dates; perhaps the most widespread North American warbler during our trip.

Grey-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis poliocephala* (H)

Heard along the Tarcoles 25/2.

Mourning Warbler *Geothlypis philadelphia*

Seen near La Selva and at Rancho Naturalista.

Kentucky Warbler *Geothlypis formosa*

A shy and skulking individual seen at La Selva.

Olive-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis semiflava*

Seen at Lago Angostura, Casa Turire.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*

Seen at CATIE, Silent Mountain and in the mangroves of the Tarcoles.

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiayumi*

Seen on six dates and most easily in the Rancho Naturalista area.

Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca*

Seen at La Paz Waterfall Gardens, Rancho Naturalista and Savegre.

American Yellow Warbler *Setophaga aestiva*

Seen at La Paz Waterfall Gardens, CATIE and along the Pacific coast.

Mangrove Warbler *Setophaga petechia*

Great views this year along the Tarcoles.

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Setophaga pensylvanica*

Another North American migrant and seen on eight dates. Numerous on the Caribbean slope during our stay.

Buff-rumped Warbler *Myiothlypis fulvicauda*

The bright rumps and flicking tails of this species could be seen readily along the La Selva trails, Selva Verde and Rio Sarapiquí.

Rufous-capped Warbler *Basileuterus rufifrons*

Seen well in the gardens of our hotel in Heredia and at Savegre.

Black-cheeked Warbler *Basileuterus melanogenys*

Two at Savegre 22/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*

Seen in small bird flocks at Rancho Naturalista.

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*

Another common wintering warbler; seen at Heredia and Savegre. Fewer records than previous years though.

Slate-throated Whitestart *Myioborus miniatus*

Seen at La Paz Waterfall Gardens, near Rancho Naturalista and Tapanti NP.

Collared Whitestart *Myioborus torquatus*

Great views of this species at La Paz Waterfall Gardens and Savegre. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Flame-coloured Tanager *Piranga bidentata*

Another brightly coloured upland tanager seen around Savegre.

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*

Widespread but never numerous; recorded on nine dates.

Red-throated Ant Tanager *Habia fuscicauda*

Another tanager seen only on the Caribbean slope from La Selva up to Rancho Naturalista.

Carmioli's Tanager *Chlorothraupis carmioli*

Furtive bird at the Old Butterfly Farm and Rancho Naturalista.

Blue-black Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea*

One seen along the trail at Punta Leona 25/2.

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*

Two at Carara NP 24/2.

Grey-headed Tanager *Eucometis pencillata*

One at Punta Leona 26/2.

White-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus luctuosus*

Seen at La Mina and Carara NP.

White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus*

Seen at La Selva only.

Passerini's Tanager *Ramphocelus passerinii*

The black and red male tanager of the Caribbean slope during the first half of the tour. Seen on six dates.

Cherrie's Tanager *Ramphocelus costaricensis*

The black and red male tanager on the Pacific slope at Bosque de Tolomuco. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*

Common in the lowlands and foothills with fewer in the highlands. Seen nearly every day.

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*

Widespread if not particularly numerous and seen in small numbers on eight dates.

Plain-coloured Tanager *Tangara inornata*

This understated tanager was seen at CATIE. **Costa Rica to northern Colombia.**

Emerald Tanager *Tangara florida*

This attractive species was seen along the road up to Silent Mountain.

Silver-throated Tanager *Tangara icterocephala*

Seen on six dates in the foothills and highlands.

Speckled Tanager *Tangara guttata*

A few at Rancho Naturalista and Silent Mountain.

Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola*

A couple at Silent Mountain.

Golden-hooded Tanager *Tangara larvata*

Small numbers on the Caribbean slope at La Selva and Rancho Naturalista as well as Bosque Tolomuco on the Pacific side.

Spangle-cheeked Tanager *Tangara dowii*

A few at Tapanti NP. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Scarlet-thighed Dacnis *Dacnis venusta*

Small parties at La Selva and Rancho Naturalista.

Shining Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes lucidus*

A few at La Selva.

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus*

Seen at La Selva and Selva Verde in the Caribbean lowlands. Small numbers were seen at Silent Mountains and then in Carara NP on the Pacific side.

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza*

Small numbers in the Caribbean lowlands and foothills during the first five days in the field.

Black-and-Yellow Tanager *Chrysothlypis chrysomelas*

Some stunning males seen at Silent Mountain.

Slaty Flowerpiercer *Diglossa plumbea*

Seen regularly in the highlands of Savegre and Cerro de la Muerte.

Black-headed Saltator *Saltator atriceps*

Seen well at La Selva.

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus*

Seen on Caribbean and Pacific slopes on six dates.

Greyish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens*

Seen only along the Rio Tarcoles.

Variable Seedeater *Sporophila corvina*

Small numbers at La Selva and around Rio Sarapiquí. All black males also seen near Rancho Naturalista.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*

Regularly seen in small numbers on the Caribbean slope at La Paz Waterfall Gardens and Silent Mountain. The last were seen at Bosque Tolomuco on the Pacific slope.

Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus*

Seen at Casa Turire, Silent Mountain and Rancho Naturalista.

Mammals

Greater White-lined Bat *Saccopteryx bilineata*
Honduran White Bat *Ectophylla alba*
Common Tent-making Bat *Uroderma bilobatum*
Panamanian White-fronted Capuchin *Cebus imitator*
Mantled Howler Monkey *Alouatta palliata*
Variegated Squirrel *Sciurus variegatoides*
Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis*
Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata*
Dusky Rice Rat *Oryzomys caliginosus*
White-nosed Coati *Nasura narica*
Crab-eating Raccoon *Procyon cancrivorus*
Tayra *Eira barbara*
Collared Peccary *Tayassu pecari*
Brown-throated three-toed Sloth *Bradypus variegatus*
Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth *Chloropus hoffmanni*
Jaguarundi *Herpailurus yaguarondi*
Red Brocket *Mazama americana*
Common Opossum *Didelphis marsupialis*

Reptiles & Amphibians

Central American Crocodile *Crocodylus acutus*
Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*
Black Spiny-tailed Iguana *Ctenosaura similis*
Green Basilisk *Basiliscus plumifrons*
Tropical House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*
Slender Anole *Norops limifrons*