

Costa Rica

Classic Costa Rica

Thu 15th – Wed 28th February 2018



Trip photos (clockwise from top left): Spectacled Owls • Collared Whitestart • Turquoise-browed Motmot • Chiriqui Quail-dove • Sunbittern • White-eared Ground Sparrow. © tour leader Colin Bushell/Limosa Holidays

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Costa Rica | Classic Costa Rica

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The 'Classic Costa Rica' tour is just that! An established itinerary covering all that makes Costa Rica one of the most exciting wildlife trips in the New World. We travelled from the highlands of the Central Divide to the Caribbean Coast and then traversed the country again, ending the tour by the Pacific. This may seem a long journey in just two weeks but Costa Rica's small size means travelling distances are relatively short and they are always punctuated with stops for great birds anyway! So as always it's hard to pick highlights from the tour but some of our team selected the stunning Green Honeycreeper, the tiny White-crested Coquette, Turquoise-browed Motmot, Fiery-throated Hummingbird, Scarlet Macaw and American Pygmy Kingfisher as some of their highlights. Surprisingly only one participant mentioned the Resplendent Quetzal among their favourites this year - I guess that's just expected!

No two tours are the same, for sure. There were many new experiences this year with the most noteworthy perhaps being the pair of Northern Royal Flycatchers building a nest over the trail at Carara. The antbirds were a late feature of the tour and just where did all the trogons go this year?! However Costa Rica always delivers the goods: 'walk-away views' of Collared Forest Falcon; Chiriqui Quail-Dove *and* Buff-fronted Quail-Dove strutting around below us, Snowcap, Golden-browed Chlorophonias, Snowy Cotinga and Collared Whitestart all worthy of mention. The daytime roosting Crested and Spectacled Owls were not bad either! The wildlife experiences during this tour are numerous as well. Whether walking forest trails in the steamy Caribbean lowlands, cool temperate highlands or arid Pacific coast, there is something for everyone here. Senses are overloaded by yelping toucans, roaring howler monkeys or the mixed species bird flock making its way through the canopy above.

Tour Diary

15 February

The recently developed direct British Airways flight from Gatwick to San Jose makes the journey quite relaxing and the group met in good time for the flight. With check-in formalities complete and plenty of time for refreshments prior to the flight we boarded, looking forward to birding in one of the Neotropic's best-known eco-tourism venues. Arriving in Costa Rica we dragged ourselves through immigration and customs to be met by Herman, our guide once again for the tour. Each year the journey from the airport to the Hotel Bougainvillea seems to take longer! The Heredia traffic was awful to say the least and we were all glad to arrive at the hotel, agreeing to a short break to freshen up before dining. With no bird list to do we 'hit the sacks' early and looked forward to the birding adventures ahead.

16 February

A pre-breakfast birding walk in the grounds of the hotel was offered as usual this year. A leisurely introduction to Costa Rica's common birds, the early walk attracted the whole group, despite the previous day's protracted journey. Many of 'the usual suspects' were seen: Rufous-collared Sparrow, Clay-coloured Thrush (Costa Rica's national bird), Inca Dove, White-winged Dove, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Hoffmann's Woodpecker, Finsch's Parakeets, Social Flycatcher, Great Kiskadee, Tropical Kingbird, noisy Brown Jays, Rufous-capped Warblers and Melodious Blackbirds. The garrulous Rufous-backed Wrens were once again gathering nest material in the grounds too. An intense splash of colour came in the shape of Baltimore Orioles in the flowering trees, joined by the smaller and slightly duller Orchard Oriole. White-tailed Kite was less expected and the Lesson's Motmot, though regularly seen in the grounds here, was very nice to see.

And so we headed towards the Caribbean Slope, leaving the hustle and bustle of Heredia behind and heading towards the clouds on the cusp of the distant sierra. Herman suggested we stop at a small cafe called 'Passiflora' before reaching La Paz Waterfall Gardens. It was a new site to me, but as always, Herman's judgement is to be trusted and we enjoyed our first hummingbird experience of the tour. In the light drizzle we watched our first Violet Sabrewings, Lesser Violetears, a Green Thorntail and Admirable Hummingbird at the feeders with Magenta-throated Woodstar perhaps our best 'hummer' there. However perhaps the stars of the show were the delightfully ornate White-eared ground Sparrows in the borders of the forest. On to the waterfall gardens and more new birds were rapidly added to our tally. La Paz is always a good site for Swallow-tailed Kites and, even in the drizzle, birds appeared over the forest. However it's still the hummingbirds that are the main event here and the feeders are a marvellous place to watch and learn to identify these little jewels. Black-bellied Hummingbird and the endemic Coppery-headed Emerald are the big attractions here, with Purple-throated Mountaingem and Green-crowned Brilliant other new birds for the tour. Away from the feeders (but not very far) Slaty Flowerpiercers, Common Bush Tanagers, Sooty-faced Finch and Silver-throated Tanagers were seen. A nearby viewpoint over the canopy yielded Tropical Parulas, Blackburnian Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler and Golden-winged Warbler, even in the light rain. And we mustn't forget the Slaty-backed Nightingale Thrush that helped itself to a bit of my lunch! The trail down to the waterfall was less productive than the previous year with Black-cowled Oriole, Dark Pewee, Yellowish Flycatcher, Ochraceous Wren, Slaty Antwren, Slate-coloured Whitestart and Northern Tufted Flycatchers on show before we reached the foot of the hill where Santiago was waiting for us with the bus.

Leaving the Waterfall Gardens we made our way down the Caribbean Slope, stopping for a coffee at Cinchona where the feeders always supply some interesting birds. Red-headed and Prong-billed Barbets were certainly nice to see at such close range but the celebrity bird here was definitely the Buff-fronted Quail-Dove creeping around under the bird table! Blue-

throated Toucanets, Silver-throated Tanagers and Buff-throated and Greyish Saltators were regular visitors to the balcony as well. By now it was time to make our way to La Quinta for the night but we still had time to watch White-nosed Coatis foraging at the roadside and one last stop at a small wetland. Laguna Rancho held a few wetland species such as Northern Jacana, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret and a few Western Cattle Egrets in the surrounding pastures, but it was the sedge-fringed margins that were of most interest. Our first Yellow-bellied Elaenias, with their buzzy calls, perched on roadside bushes and nearer the lake we could just make out Grey-crowned Yellowthroats, White-collared Seedeaters and a Bran-coloured Flycatcher that is apparently a scarce bird in this part of Costa Rica. Finally we arrived at La Quinta as Grey-headed Chachalacas made their way to roost in the forest borders and prepared for an early start the following day.

17 February

Our full day at La Selva is always an enjoyable one. The early breakfast may not be everybody's idea of a 'holiday' but it's always worth the extra effort with extra hours in the field first thing in the morning reaping the birding benefits! We headed straight for the entrance to La Selva Biological Station, hoping for birds feeding on moths attracted to lights by the gate and listening to the Mantled Howler Monkey dawn chorus. For some reason there were very few moths but nevertheless there were many birds! The entrance road area was, as ever, alive with a wide variety of Neotropical species. The star birds were probably the raptors - a calling Grey-headed Kite, only to be upstaged by a magnificent Collared Forest Falcon. This supreme predator spent much of the morning in the canopy of a huge forest-edge tree, even during one of the morning's downpours. Very happy with our prolonged 'scope views of the falcon and a plethora of other species, including toucans, woodcreepers, flycatchers and tanagers, we moved into the grounds of the station for a coffee break, taking shelter from yet another shower. We had spent much time gazing into the upper strata of the trees at Orange-chinned Parakeets, Brown-hooded Parrots, White-crowned Parrots, Red-lored and Mealy Amazons, so it was a respite when a few hummingbirds appeared to feed on roadside flowers. These included the red-legged Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer, Green-breasted Mangos and Band-tailed Barbthroat but the White-necked Jacobins had us staring skywards once again! Throughout the day (we repeated our visit after lunch as well) La Selva kept us entertained with a steady stream of new and exciting Neotropical birds. Passerini's Tanager and Red-throated Ant Tanagers patrolled the lower levels of the forest whereas the 'true' *Tangara* tanagers flitted from limb to limb in the taller forest trees; the dowdy Plain-coloured and the gaudy Golden-hooded Tanagers being good examples. Closely related to the tanagers, the Scarlet-thighed Dacnis and Blue Dacnis joined them at times. Along the forest trails we found Orange-billed Sparrows along dark stream edges, Great Tinamous and Grey-chested Doves on the forest floor and colourful Gartered Trogons, Squirrel Cuckoos and Rufous-tailed Jacamars over the path. The trails here are paved and this allowed us to concentrate on the birds and other wildlife ahead, rather than worrying about our footing. Sprightly Buff-rumped Warblers illuminated the dark forest as Great Curassows 'boomed' from the thickest boughs above us and there were, of course, the ever-present North American wintering birds like Wood Thrushes and Chestnut-sided Warblers sprinkled among the tropical species.

Neotropical wrens can be 'tough cookies' to say the least, often moving furtively through vine tangles or singing from the depths of the forest undergrowth. So it was satisfying to see Band-backed Wren and Black-throated Wren in La Selva. Mammals never feature too highly on a Neotropical forest day, normally being shy and retiring, but the Collared Peccaries certainly 'buck the trend' here, being very confiding as long as a respectable distance is kept between beast and observer. New World flycatchers are always a challenge for the birder with a wealth of similar and cryptically-plumaged species to identify. So it was nice to see some of the 'easy' ones, like the delightful Long-tailed Tyrant and the Bright-rumped Attila. The 'stripe-headed group' consisting of Piratic, Boat-billed and Social Flycatchers and Great Kiskadee as well as the superficially similar Grey-capped Flycatcher could be studied at leisure. 'Celebrity' species seen at La Selva included stunning male White-collared Manakins, Yellow-throated Toucans, Collared Araçaris, a female Snowy Cotinga, the sublime Semiplumbeous Hawk (for the third consecutive year) and both Cinnamon and Chestnut-coloured Woodpeckers. With one eye on the weather (the sky was darkening rapidly) we drove to a site just outside the station to end our day. The fitting finale was a fly-by from a Great Green Macaw, Bat Falcon and a White-throated Crake enticed onto the track just before the heavens opened.

18 February

Another overcast day dawned with a promise of rain but keen as ever to make the most of our time in Costa Rica, we enjoyed a pre-breakfast walk. The forest borders of La Quinta provide some cover for birds and Broad-billed Motmot was a nice appetiser amongst more commonly encountered birds. After another hearty breakfast we packed ready to leave, setting off for a mid-morning boat trip along the Rio Sarapiquí. The rain set in as we boarded the boat but the canopy provided some shelter. The showers gave way quite quickly and we were soon amongst the birds: Anhingas, Great Blue Herons, Little Blue Herons and Green Herons along the bank; Northern Waterthrushes and Bay Wrens darting between the roots of riverside trees and Mangrove Swallows hitching a lift on the canopy of the boat! Coasting along the river is a fine way to see kingfishers of course and we soon found Amazon, Green and the huge Ringed Kingfishers but the best was saved for the return journey to the dock, when six Great Green Macaws flew into the trees on the bank to feed on figs. What an incredible sight (and sound!).

Leaving the Caribbean lowlands and making our way into the foothills, we stopped at La Union. Once again we enjoyed the hospitality of Cope, a good friend of Herman, watching new birds from his blind. On a small pool near his house we saw Rufous-winged Woodpeckers, Pale-vented Pigeons and Rufous-naped Wood Rails as we sipped coffee and snacked on Costa Rican biscuits and cake. The feeders here attracted Long-billed Hermit, Green-breasted Mangos and Violet-headed Hummingbird with Chestnut-headed Oropendolas picking at the fruit on the bird tables. However the highlight here is definitely in the forest where Cope has some 'stake-outs' for some very desirable species. Entering the trail we were shown tiny Stripe-throated Hermits at a lek and watched Black-throated Trogons, with all this topped off by super views of roosting pairs of Spectacled and Crested Owls. Herman gave everyone a lesson in 'phone-scoping' (taking photos through the telescope with the phone camera) and ensured everyone had a souvenir of their time with these normally hard-to-see

species. Returning to Cope's house, most of the group purchased some of his artwork (he really is a very talented man) before heading off for lunch. We spent most of the early afternoon travelling higher into the foothills, reaching our destination for the next few nights in good time for dinner. Indeed a few keen folk had time to get a 'taster' of Rancho's birds from the balcony and these included Crested Guan, Green Hermit, Crowned Woodnymph and even Rancho's signature bird - the exquisite Snowcap!

19 February

The first morning of the tour at Rancho Naturalista is always thrilling. Simply birding from the balcony before breakfast can be very productive with so many different species coming to the feeders, foraging in the undergrowth or feeding from the canopy. Of course the coffee on the balcony makes an early start more palatable and there is also the hearty breakfast to look forward to! Grey-headed Chachalacas are an 'ever present' in and around the garden. Not as noisy as their South American relatives (at Rancho, at least), these birds stealthily make their way into the gardens to feed from the bird tables, ever-alert for predators. The balcony feeders were busy as usual with 'hummers' like Violet Sabrewing, White-necked Jacobins and our only Brown Violetear of the tour; but once again, the Snowcaps kept to the flowering bushes at the garden edge where Dusky Rice Rats fed underneath the bushes. Chiriqui Quail Dove may have been the 'star turn' rarity-wise in the garden, but Lesson's Motmot was well received, as were the Olive-backed Euphonias, Blackburnian Warblers and other canopy feeders. Leaving the garden, we found the 'resident' Bicoloured Hawk from the forest trail not too far from the lodge where we also found Gartered Trogon, Olivaceous and Northern Barred Woodcreepers, Slaty Antwren, Ochre-bellied, Slaty-capped and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, White-winged Becard, Tropical Gnatcatchers and Golden-crowned Warblers, many of which were following the Carmiol's Tanagers (one of the habitual flock 'leaders' of these forests). Making our way to a clearing, we re-found the Bicoloured Hawk as well as White-vented and Tawny-capped Euphonias, before returning to the lodge briefly for refreshment.

Batteries recharged, our late morning session was spent in a relaxing way downhill from our lodge, at Rancho Bajo, simply keeping an eye on the flowers for feeding hummingbirds. Green Thorntails and even Snowcaps are regular here but it was the Black-crested Coquette we were particularly keen to see. We didn't have long to wait before one appeared; so tiny and almost insect-like as it weaved between the flower stalks to feed. Mourning Warblers hopped around beneath the flowers. Due to the rather early Rancho dinner times, the post lunch birding session is usually a rather brief one. However the combination of open country at Casa Turire and the vast wetlands of Lago Angostura, supplies a rapid injection of new species to the tour. Small birds were not the main focus of attention here but we found Olive-crowned Yellowthroat, Eastern Meadowlarks and our only Giant Cowbirds of the trip in the grassland. We found a nice variety of wildfowl on the lake, mostly Lesser Scaups, but also a pair each of Muscovy Duck and Blue-winged Teal. Least and Pied-billed Grebes were also represented by just a pair of each and our first Neotropic Cormorants of the tour were way out on the lake, roosting on partly submerged logs. Western Osprey and Snail Kite were the expected typical raptors associated with wetlands here with the damp margins frequented by Purple Gallinules, Limpkins and Northern Jacanas. All too soon, it was time to return to the lodge at the end of another great day's birding in Costa Rica.

20 February

Adding a little variety to the tour, Herman decided to take us to two sites away from Rancho Naturalista today. Of course there was still the pre-breakfast birding from the balcony (with Rufous Motmot and Tawny-chested Flycatcher seen for the first time) and lunchtime to see birds near the lodge, but travelling these short distances definitely added diversity to the tour. Rio Tuis is a beautiful, forested valley and following the river we birded the edge of the forested foothills. The bizarre Sunbittern features heavily in the publicity for this 'Classic Costa Rica' tour so it was just as well we saw them along the Rio Tuis! In fact this turned out to be my best tour for Sunbitterns and we were treated to great views of birds among the rocks (spreading their wings to show the incredible pattern) and even crossing the road. Barred Parakeets, as usual, were seen in flight high above the canopy but it was the forest flocks that were most productive. Russet Antshrike, Greenish Elaenia, Yellow-olive Flatbill, Dusky-capped and Great Crested Flycatchers, Yellow-throated Vireos, Slate-throated Whitestarts and Speckled and Bay-headed Tanagers appeared for the first time of the tour. Away from the mixed species flocks, a pair of Cinnamon Becards were particularly confiding and in the grassy margins we found a pair of Thick-billed Seed Finches, while the river held Torrent Tyrannulets and Black Phoebes.

The wetlands of CATIE (Centro Agronomico Tropical de Investigacion y Esenaza) allowed us to watch some wetland species at leisure after lunch, with easy access along a paved footpath around the lake. Boat-billed Herons were one of the star species here and for once they could be observed well with no branches obscuring them! We found at least eight of these strange, largely crepuscular birds as well as three Yellow-crowned Night Herons and many Black-crowned Night Herons. We were also treated to some wonderful displays by a Great Egret, looking staggeringly ornate with its plumes spread.

21 February

Another day of mixed weather but once again the excellent birding kept spirits high. Our final morning at Rancho Naturalista was spent nearby at another property belonging to Wayne Easley. Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner and Cocoa Woodcreepers were seen well here and a splendid American Redstart made an appearance too. After breakfast, we made the short journey to Silent Mountain, a venue that always delivers good birding with a nice variety of birds. Another day, another Sunbittern and once again we enjoyed ridiculously close views of this most ornate species, one bird walking up the drive of a property and through the garden! 'Kettles' of White-collared Swifts wheeled around the hilltops and sharp-eyed birders found our only Tropical Pewee on the fence-line of a nearby hill. Crimson-collared Tanagers graced the tops of trees below us in the valley but we had to wait a little longer to see the stunning Emerald Tanager further up the valley. It was while watching the first tanager flock that a smaller bird appeared and proved to be a Blackpoll Warbler. News was gratefully received by one local birder who attempted to 'twitch' it!

After lunch (while watching Scarlet-rumped Caciques on the bird tables), with bar bills settled and bags packed, it was time to say farewell to Rancho Naturalista and the Snowcap once again. After a traditional warm send-off from the staff we headed for the highlands. A quick stop to buy good quality Costa Rican coffee also supplied our only Golden-olive Woodpecker of the tour and Collared Araçaris entertained us as we sampled the goods at Finca Christina. We arrived at our hotel close to Tapanti in the rain. Set in the hills with a fast rushing stream it was no surprise that Fasciated Tiger Heron was seen by one lucky member of the group here.

22 February

This morning we continued our highland birding at Rio Macho in some nice cloud forest. Collared Trogon appeared early on our walk and as the sun warmed the air a few raptors appeared. A Short-tailed Hawk soared over the canopy but it was the 'whinnying' call of the Black Hawk Eagle that attracted our attention and we were soon watching them wheeling overhead. Some nice mixed-species flocks included the by now familiar bird families, with a few new species. As well as the trogon, other frugivores attracted to a fruiting tree included Red-headed Barbet, Blue-throated Toucanet and we could hear Prong-billed Barbet nearby and a Black Guan appeared briefly as well. The flocks included many 'brown jobs' like Streaked Xenops, Spotted Barbtail, Ruddy Treerunner and Olivaceous Woodcreeper. Plain Antvireos were picked up by call, as was the tiny Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant that has such a loud call for such a small bird! Yellowish Flycatcher and our first Brown-capped Vireo and Lesser Greenlets of the tour were found, while Black-throated Green and Wilson's Warblers began their 'constant presence stints' as regular components of our highland birding. However, once again Rio Macho was to be the only place we saw White-winged Tanager on the tour, a beautiful pair of these colourful birds feeding in the subcanopy over the road.

Heading for Savegre, we stopped at Paraiso De Los Quetzales for lunch, immediately seeing Fiery-throated Hummingbird on the feeders and Admirable Hummingbird making an appearance for the first time since the start of the tour. Species characteristic of the highlands, like Black-and-yellow Phainoptila and Long-tailed Silky-flycatchers, were seen from the platform outside the restaurant. Acorn Woodpeckers, often roaming in little groups, suddenly appeared with Hairy Woodpecker in the same trees for comparison. This was turning into a very good lunch stop! Sooty-capped Bush Tanagers became a regular feature but it was the Golden-browed Chlorophonias that caused the most excitement; a stunning species indeed. Arriving at Savegre in the late afternoon, we still found time for some birding between finding our rooms and having dinner. Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, Grey-tailed Mountaingem, Volcano Hummingbird and Scintillant Hummingbird (all new for the tour) were found either at the feeders or on nearby flowers. Flame-coloured Tanager was another 'easy' bird coming to bird tables but we had to be satisfied with flight views of Sulphur-winged Parakeet. Black-faced Solitaire and Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush made their way onto the day lists and the day ended splendidly with Spotted Wood Quail on the small dark trail behind our cabins.

23 February

Savegre is without doubt my favourite site on the 'Classic Costa Rica' tour. Waking up in the mountains with a 'fresh' climate can be quite invigorating to say the least, but if there's one bird that can warm anybody it's the Resplendent Quetzal. And this was our mission for the first dawn at Savegre. In truth it wasn't hard to locate the area that these spectacular birds had been frequenting lately. All we had to do was find a parking slot near the crowds; not easy, even though there were less people than on our last attempt to see the quetzals at this spot two years ago! It wasn't too long before a quetzal appeared and everybody saw it, although the views were less than satisfactory, any view of a male Resplendent Quetzal is a good one! Unfortunately, it soon disappeared, but we would return for quetzals later at a quieter time of day now the 'pressure' was off. Returning to our lodge for breakfast with quetzal already 'under the belt' we looked forward to more highland birding, with Red-tailed Hawk soaring over the lodge and Sulphur-winged Parakeets in tight flocks over the forest canopy.

This morning we took the 4x4s to Los Robles. It's always a relief to disembark after the bumpy ride but the discomfort is soon forgotten with so many birds around. Northern Tufted Flycatchers and Acorn Woodpeckers were the first to appear; Herman soon picked out the call of Spot-crowned Woodcreeper and it wasn't long before our first 'brown job' of the morning was being watched through the 'scopes. Ochraceous Pewee was a good find in the Oak forest; just one of many desired upland species seen today that included Spangle-cheeked Tanager as well. Ruddy Pigeon was the next 'scope victim' but most of the real quality birds were fast moving flock members today. As quick as they are, Flame-throated Warblers are always unmistakable and another delightful bird - Collared Whitestart made its first appearance as we walked down the track, too. Landslides provided forest breaks where we could scan the distant hillsides for raptors and Swallow-tailed Kites and a Northern Crested Caracara were seen distantly as well as Band-tailed Pigeons. The calls of Mistletoe Tyrannulets (sounding like a distant Ringed Plover flying by!) accompanied us throughout the walk as we found more Furnariids like Ruddy Treerunner, the normally retiring Lineated Foliage-gleaner that showed really well and more Spot-crowned Woodcreepers.

Near the end of the track just above the hotel we found some birds attracted to water. As well as Yellow-faced Grassquits we found two new species to the tour - Yellow-bellied Siskins and Lesser Goldfinch. There are so many interesting Neotropical cloud forest species in the Savegre area, many were simply chance encounters as we walked back to the hotel. Grey-breasted Wood-Wren, Black-billed and Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrushes and Spot-winged Wood-Quail. In the afternoon we returned to an area favoured by quetzals and enjoyed magnificent views of Costa Rica's star bird in the company of just a handful of photographers. No luck with the Wrenthrush this year but the feeders higher up the valley were on good form once again with Flame-coloured Tanagers, Mountain Thrushes, Large-footed Finch and Yellow-thighed Finch. We finished our evening listening to Dusky Nightjars before descending the valley back to our hotel.

24 February

The Red-tailed Hawk was soaring around the cloudless Savegre sky above our lodge as we loaded the bus to leave this morning. Grey-tailed Mountaingems fed in the forest borders and Chestnut-capped Brushfinches could be heard calling as

we boarded and said farewell to the lodge set in the cloud forest. Leaving Savegre, we headed higher into the alpine zone of Cerro de la Muerte. Lucky once again with the weather, we climbed through the temperate cloud forest into the elfin forest zone, reaching the Paramo where we began birding. With the air thin, we didn't rush about much but in truth the target birds can be seen here without too much energetic searching. Our main target bird here - Volcano Junco - popped out from beneath the bushes and hopped around, finding another to feed with. We never have to work too hard for these birds on this tour, thankfully! Slaty Flowerpiercers led us astray in search of the wanted and similar Peg-billed Finches, but a very showy Timberline Wren was great compensation to say the least.

A brief bathroom stop at La Georgina restaurant allowed us to see Fiery-throated Hummingbirds at the feeders as we started our descent, saying goodbye to Sooty Thrushes and other highland birds for this tour. And so we started the journey to the Pacific Coast for the final chapter of the 'Classic Costa Rica' tour. Taking a welcome stop at Bosque de Tolomuco, we drank coffee and watched the feeding stations around the lodge. The feeders were very busy; Purple-throated Mountaingem and Green-crowned Brilliants were joined by a Snowy-bellied Hummingbird; a new bird for the trip. Another 'first' - Plain-capped Starthroat was only seen briefly, unfortunately, but turning our attention to the bird tables produced the tour's first Cherrie's Tanagers. New hummingbird species just kept appearing with White-tailed Emerald and White-crested Coquette joining Magenta-throated Woodstar, a species we hadn't encountered since the start of the tour. A very enjoyable lunch with a view over the foothills was great fun and the conversation certainly deviated away from birdwatching for once! Spirits were high as we neared our final destination of the tour, seeing Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Grey-breasted Martins and the superb Scarlet Macaws as we approached the coast, with Brown Pelicans flying by.

25 February

Our hotel at Punta Leona is an excellent place for early morning birding. Set at the edge of lowland Pacific forest, with some tall trees at the property's edge, birdwatching opportunities abound as well as the added bonus of White-faced Capuchins roaming the grounds! Grey-headed Chachalaca, so common earlier in the tour on the Caribbean slope, appeared again today and we finally added Ferruginous Pygmy Owl to the list. Fiery-billed Araçari is a bit of a speciality down here and very easy near the hotel in the large roadside trees. Yellow-throated Toucan and Golden-naped Woodpecker joined them and it was nice to reacquaint ourselves with Hoffmann's Woodpecker and Rufous-backed Wren again, both last seen at the start of the tour. Streaked Flycatcher and Rose-throated Becards were both new for the tour here around the buildings as we returned to the restaurant for breakfast.

Carara National Park featured heavily today with two visits either side of lunch. Driving to the park with Magnificent Frigatebirds over the surf and King Vulture over the forested hills, there is rarely a dull moment. Walking the trails in Carara is always exciting. Frequent encounters with new birds are essential towards the end of the tour and the 'shift' to lowland Pacific coast birding for the final few days ensured we were all kept alert! Bare-throated Tiger Heron was a bit of a surprise on the trail however, sitting in a streamside tree. Hummingbirds are much harder to see in the forest away from feeders but we did quite well along the trail with Long-billed and Stripe-throated Hermits, Blue-throated Sapphire, Charming Hummingbird and Blue-vented Hummingbird all seen. We were a little unlucky with antbirds this year, lacking the 'luxury' of an antswarm to follow. However we chanced upon a few more in Carara including Black-hooded Antshrike in the tangles and the terrestrial Chestnut-backed Antbirds and Black-faced Anthrush. Unfortunately, the Orange-collared Manakins just did not perform at their lek this year, but we were compensated somewhat with a cracking pair of Northern Royal Flycatchers nest-building right over the trail. We watched these strange birds for quite a while; of course they did not display their fanned crests (something I have never seen in over twenty years of birding in the Neotropics!) but it was a real treat to watch these scarce birds at leisure. Returning to the bus for lunch we did rather well for flycatchers along the trail with Northern Bentbill and Ruddy-tailed Flycatchers found.

Back at the park post lunch we walked a different trail. Streak-chested Antpitta showed well, but the 'main event' here is the stream where birds bathe in the late afternoon. Purple-crowned Fairy 'dipped' into the water below the bridge and Riverside Wren rummaged through the vines. But it was definitely the manakins that took centre stage with stunning male Red-capped and a female Blue-crowned Manakin sitting in the shallow stream close to us. Leaving the park for the final time, we still had time for a White-whiskered Puffbird and watched Central American Agouti before reaching the bus.

26 February

We started early on the Guacimo Road, birding the dry forest and scrub for our final full day in the field. Rather uninspiring in appearance at first, the potential for birds soon becomes apparent, with many birds appearing, all typical of the arid thorn forest of this region. A Zone-tailed Hawk was only seen briefly but we all soon became accustomed to our surroundings and its avifauna with Common Ground Dove, Cinnamon Hummingbird, Plain-capped Starthroat and the gorgeous Turquoise-browed Motmot on show. We also located White-throated Magpie-Jays quickly in an area that also yielded the strange Double-striped Thick-knees, Orange-fronted Parakeet and White-fronted Parrot. Another two areas were particularly productive. One roadside scrub patch gave us our first Stripe-headed and Olive Sparrows and, as we waited for the latter species to show, Indigo Buntings popped up on the trees above us! Another small, wooded area with taller trees, held a nice variety of forest edge birds like Greenish Elaenia, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee and, perhaps more surprisingly (to me at least!), White-necked Puffbird. We also had brief views of a female Long-tailed Manakin and Scrub Euphonia in a large Fig tree.

The eagerly-awaited boat trip on the Rio Tarcoles was enjoyable once again this year and the shorebird watching was excellent with the mudflats littered in waders. Semipalmated and Wilson's Plovers, the scarce Collared Plover, Least Sandpipers and Willets gave excellent views as our boat headed towards the mangroves. Nearing the big sand flats, a Peregrine was seen briefly and the raptor theme continued with Western Osprey at the river mouth and then some superb

Common Black Hawks as we entered the mangroves. Our attention turned towards smaller birds as we drew closer to the mangrove forest, where stunningly-bright Prothonotary Warblers illuminated the river banks. Many of the birds were American Yellow Warblers, Northern Waterthrushes or Spotted Sandpipers at the water's edge, but every so often a Mangrove Cuckoo or Green Kingfisher would appear. Perhaps the highlight of the mangrove trip this year was the American Pygmy Kingfisher that performed brilliantly for so long close to the bank, seemingly oblivious to our presence.

Leaving the mangroves and keeping an eye on the canopy, we found Yellow-naped Amazons with Wood Storks soaring over the forest. Returning to a more open landscape a dozen Sanderling were running in their familiar 'clockwork toy' manner over the estuary mud, with other familiar birds like Ruddy Turnstone among the 'exotic' Tricoloured Herons, American White Ibis and Roseate Spoonbills. As last year, Lesser Nighthawks appeared as we neared the dock as a fitting finale to another great Tarcoles boat trip.

27 February

An early second visit to the Guacimo Road was planned for this morning as we had a slightly later return flight to the UK than last year. It worked well and allowed us time for some more new birds for the tour as well as extra time to relax before the flight for those not wanting the early start. Marbled Wood Quails could be heard as we boarded the bus for the final birding session of the tour and we hit the ground running on the Guacimo Road with Scaly-breasted and Canivet's Hummingbirds in a small patch of gallery forest. The tricky Nutting's Flycatcher could be compared with the similar Brown-crested Flycatcher with other 'new tour birds' including Yellow-green Vireo, Banded Wren and Cabanis's Wren and a Streak-backed Oriole. All too soon it was time to return to the hotel for lunch and a period of free time to freshen up and pack for the trip to the airport and the flight home. Arriving at the airport with plenty of time to check-in we said "Adios" to Herman who'd shown us so many great birds and Santiago, our excellent driver. With airport formalities completed we relaxed in the departure lounge prior to the British Airways flight to London Gatwick.

28 February

Another 'Classic Costa Rica' tour ended in Gatwick where we were greeted by the vestiges of 'The Beast From The East'; a severely cold weather system that fortunately did not effect our journey home.

Another Limosa tour with another super group! Thanks to you all for your great company, sharing some wonderful wildlife experiences in one of the most welcoming Neotropical countries. I look forward to seeing everybody again very soon

Annotated Species Checklist (regional endemics per Garrigues & Dean, 2014).

H = Heard, but not seen. Total species = 404.

Great Tinamou *Tinamus major*

One seen well at La Selva 17/2.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

Two at Lago Angostura (near Rancho Naturalista) 19/2.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

Two at Lago Angostura 19/2.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*

At least 265 on Lago Angostura 19/2.

Grey-headed Chachalaca *Ortalis cinereiceps*

Regularly seen on the Caribbean slope from Rancho Naturalista in the foothills to La Selva in the lowlands. Reappeared again when we reached Punta Leona at the end of the tour.

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurescens*

A few seen on two dates at or near Rancho Naturalista.

Black Guan *Chamaepetes unicolor*

Seen on three dates in the highlands at Rio Macho and at Savegre. Always shy and furtive. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Great Curassow *Crax rubra*

One at La Selva 17/2.

Marbled Wood Quail *Odontophorus gujanensis* (H)

Heard at Punta Leona on the final morning of the tour.

Black-breasted Wood Quail *Odontophorus leucolaemus* (H)

Heard near the hotel near Rio Macho 22/2.

Spotted Wood Quail *Odontophorus guttatus*

Recorded on three dates at Savegre and seen well on the little forest trail behind the lodge there.

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus*

Two on Lago Angostura 19/2.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*

Two on Lago Angostura 19/2.

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*

Several soaring over the Guacimo Road and the Tarcoles at the end of the trip.

American White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*

Recorded in the Pacific lowlands at the end of the tour with sightings on the Rio Tarcoles 26/2.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*

Seen from the boat on the Rio Tarcoles river trip 26/2.

Fasciated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum*

Scarce this year with only one sighting at Rio Perlas 21/2.

Bare-throated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum*

One up a tree in Carara on 25/2 was an unusual sighting but 'normal service was resumed' when we saw them on the Tarcoles the next day.

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius*

At least eight near Rancho Naturalista at CATIE 20/2.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Many with the Boat-billed Herons 20/2.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*

Three with the Boat-billed Herons 20/2 and several on the Rio Tarcoles 26/2.

Green Heron *Butoroides virescens*

Seen on three dates at the Rio Sarapiquí, Lago Angostura and Tarcoles.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Seen on ten dates of the tour.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*

Seen in virtually all wetland areas visited.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

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

Tricoloured Heron *Egretta tricolor*

A few on the Rio Tarcoles 26/2 were the only records of this attractive heron.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*

Seen on four dates including both boat trips (Sarapiquí and Tarcoles) and at Lago Angostura.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

Seen on just four dates including the Sarapiquí and Tarcoles boat trips.

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*

Observed along the Pacific coast on the final three dates of the tour.

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*

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

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

Seen at Lago Angostura and on the Rio Tarcoles.

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*

A few on the Sarapiquí river trip 18/2, near Rancho 20/2, near Punta Leona 24/2 and on the Rio Tarcoles 26/2.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

Seen daily during the tour.

American Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

Recorded daily.

King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa*

One soaring over forested slopes near Carara 25/2.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Seen on four dates in the La Selva area at the start of the tour and the Tarcoles at the end.

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*

Seen on two dates.

Grey-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis*

One at La Selva 17/2 gave wonderful views along the approach road to the Biological Station.

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*

Seen at the La Paz Waterfall Gardens 16/2, La Selva the following day, Savegre 23 & 24/2 and Carara 25/2.

Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus*

Two over Rio Macho 22/2.

Bicoloured Hawk *Accipiter bicolor*

One at Rancho Naturalista 19/2 in the same area of forest where we saw one the previous two trips. We enjoyed great 'scope views from a clearing later that morning.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*

Three seen well at Lago Angostura 19/2.

Common Black Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus*

Several seen very well 26/2 on the Tarcoles river trip where we watched some displaying.

Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris*

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

Semiplumbeous Hawk *Leucopternis semiplumbeus*

'Old Faithful' was seen again at La Selva this year. Such a beautiful raptor too.

Grey Hawk *Buteo plagiatus*

Seen on 18/2 & 24/2 as we travelled between sites. The closely related Grey-lined Hawk *B. nitidus* occurs in southern Costa Rica and into South America.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*

Only seen on one date (20/2) near Rancho Naturalista this year.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*

Seen at Rancho Naturalista and Rio Macho this year with both light and dark colour morphs seen.

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus*

Singles on the Guacimo Road and as we travelled back to the airport for the flight home on the final day in Costa Rica.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*

Singles over the lodge at Savegre on two consecutive mornings.

Sunbittern *Eurypyga helias*

A great tour for this species with up to three seen in a day during excursions from Rancho Naturalista to Rio Tuis and Silent Mountain. This year we watched them on fast flowing rivers, small drainage ditches and even in people's gardens!

White-throated Crane *Laterallus albigularis*

One seen at dusk on the Police Station Road near La Quinta 17/2 and then heard at wetland sites near Rancho Naturalista on two dates.

Rufous-naped Wood Rail *Aramides albiventris*

This was the 'Grey-necked Wood Rail' at Copé's garden at Union. Marvellous views of two birds from the blind there.

Uniform Crane *Amaurolimnus concolor* (H)

Heard at La Selva 17/2.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinicus*

Several at Lago Angostura 19/2 and at CATIE the next day.

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*

Seen at Lago Angostura and Rio Tarcoles.

Double-striped Thick-knee *Burhinus bistriatus*

A pair or two along the Guacimo Road 26/2.

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*

Seen on 19/2 in the Rancho Naturalista area.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*

Several on the Tarcoles mud 26/2.

Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia*

A couple with the Semipalmated Plovers on the Tarcoles.

Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris*

At least two on the Tarcoles mudflats 26/2.

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa*

Seen on four dates, most numerous on the wetlands near Rancho Naturalista 19 - 20/2.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Small numbers near Punta Leona and on the Tarcoles at the end of the tour on the Pacific Coast.

Willet *Tringa semipalmatus*

Seen on the mudflats in the mangroves of Rio Tarcoles 26/2.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*

Recorded on four dates on various pools and river banks.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Seen on the Tarcoles mudflats 26/2.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

A dozen on the mudflats at the mouth of the Tarcoles 26/2.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*

Small numbers on the Tarcoles 26/2.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*

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

Feral Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Seen around human habitation on two dates.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*

Seen in the forested highlands of the Savegre area 23/2.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*

Seen at La Selva, La Union and CATIE.

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris*

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

Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea*

Seen at Rancho Naturalista and Savegre.

Short-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas nigrirostris*

Seen at La Selva and Rancho Naturalista. Also heard at Carara.

Inca Dove *Columbina inca*

A few seen in Heredia 16/2 but most were seen on the last few days along the Pacific coast near Punta Leona.

Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerina*

A few seen in the arid scrub of the Guacimo Road 26 & 27/2.

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti*

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

Ruddy Quail-Dove *Geotrygon montana*

One heard along the trail at Carara 25/2.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*

Seen at all forested sites visited during the tour.

Grey-chested Dove *Leptotila cassinii*

One seen at La Selva 17/2.

Chiriqui Quail-Dove *Zenrygon chiriquensis*

One at Rancho Naturalista in the garden on two dates. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Buff-fronted Quail-Dove *Zenrygon costaricensis*

One below the cafe at Cinchona 16/2 and heard at Rio Macho 22/2.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*

Seen in Heredia, near Silent Mountain and Punta Leona on the final three days of the tour.

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*

Seen on seven 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.

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia* (H)

Heard on the Guacimo Road 26/2.

Lesser Ground Cuckoo *Morococcyx erythropygus* (H)

Heard, but alas not seen (unlike last year), on the Guacimo Road.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*

A couple of sightings at La Selva and Rio Macho and heard in Carara.

Mangrove Cuckoo *Coccyzus minor*

One in the Tarcoles mangroves 26/2.

Crested Owl *Lophotrix cristata*

Two in a daytime roost site near La Union 18/2.

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 on the Guacimo Road and at Punta Leona.

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis*

A few hawking insects at dusk over the forest near the Rio Tarcoles 26/2.

Dusky Nightjar *Caprimulgus saturatus* (H)

Heard at Savegre 23/2 but we were unable to locate one. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Chestnut-collared Swift *Streptoprocne rutila*

One or two over the forest at Rio Tuis 20/2.

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne rutila*

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

Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi*

A few at La Selva 17/2.

Band-tailed Barbthroat *Threnetes ruckeri*

One at La Selva 17/2.

Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy*

Seen regularly at feeders in the Caribbean foothills 18 - 22/2.

Long-billed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris*

One seen well near La Union 18/2 and then in Carara 25/2.

Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis*

Great views at La Union (lekking birds 'scoped though Heliconias), near Rancho Naturalista and at the stream in Carara.

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird *Phaeochroa cuvieri*

Seen on the Guacimo Road 27/2..

Violet Sabrewing *Campylopterus hemileucurus*

Seen on six 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.

Brown Violetear *Colibri delphinae*

One briefly at Rancho Naturalista 19/2.

Lesser Violetear *Colibri cyanotus*

Regularly seen in the foothills and highlands at La Paz Waterfall Gardens, Savegre and also at Bosque de Tolomuco.

Green-breasted Mango *Anthracothorax prevostii*

First seen at La Selva and then La Union, Rancho Naturalista and Bosque de Tolomuco.

Violet-headed Hummingbird *Klais guimeti*

One at La Union 18/2.

Black-crested Coquette *Lophornis helenae*

One at Rancho Bajo 19/2.

White-crested Coquette *Lophornis adorabilis*

At least two at Bosque de Tolomuco 23/2.

Green Thorntail *Discosura conversii*

Seen at the La Paz Waterfall Gardens and Rancho Baja and Rancho Naturalista.

Canivet's Emerald *Chlorostilbon canivetii*

One on the Guacimo Road 27/2.

Fiery-throated Hummingbird *Panterpe insignis*

Seen well at Paraiso De Los Quetzales 22/2 and the cafe at La Georgina on the feeders 24/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

White-tailed Emerald *Elvira chionura*

At least one at Bosque de Tolomulco 23/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Coppery-headed Emerald *Elvira cupreiceps*

Seen at La Paz Waterfall Gardens 16/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica.**

Stripe-tailed Emerald *Eupherusa exima*

A nice series of sightings over our three day stay in the Savegre area 22 - 23/2.

Black-bellied Hummingbird *Eupherusa nigriventris*

Seen at La Paz Waterfall Gardens 16/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Crowned Woodnymph *Thalania columbica*

Seen at La Union 18/2 and throughout our stay at Rancho Naturalista.

Blue-throated Sapphire *Hylocharis eliciae*

One in Carara NP 25/2.

Cinnamon Hummingbird *Amazilia rutila*

This dry country hummer was seen in the arid scrub of the Guacimo Road 26/2.

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl*

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

Charming Hummingbird *Amazilia decora*

One in Carara NP 25/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and Western Panama.**

Snowy-bellied Hummingbird *Amazilia edward*

Seen at Bosque de Tolomuco 24/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and Panama.**

Blue-vented Hummingbird *Amazilia hoffmanni*

Seen in Carara 26/2.

Snowcap *Microchera albocoronata*

This iconic species was seen well on the garden Vervain at Rancho Naturalista and nearby, over four days there.

Bronze-tailed Plumleteer *Chalybura urochrysia*

This was the red-footed hummer seen on the Caribbean slope from La Selva to Rancho Naturalista.

Purple-throated Mountaingem *Lampornis calolaemus*

Seen at La Paz Waterfall Gardens, Cinchona and Rio Macho. **Nicaragua to western Panama.**

Grey-tailed Mountaingem *Lampornis cinereicauda*

Quite common in the Savegre area 22 - 24/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula*

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

Admirable Hummingbird *Eugenes spectabilis*

Seen at Cinchona and common in the highlands at Savegre.

Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliothryx barroti*

Seen at Rancho Naturalista 20/2 visiting the bathing pools there and 25/2 at Carara NP.

Plain-capped Starthroat *Heliomaster constantii*

Seen at Bosque de Tolomuco 24/2 on the Guacimo Road 26/2.

Long-billed Starthroat *Heliomaster longirostris*

Seen along the Guacimo Road on 26/2.

Magenta-throated Woodstar *Calliphlox bryantae*

Seen at Passiflora near La Paz Waterfall Gardens and at Bosque de Tolomuco. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Volcano Hummingbird *Selasphorus flammula*

Another highland hummer seen only at Savegre and Cerro de la Muerte. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Scintillant Hummingbird *Selasphorus scintilla*

Seen at Savegre throughout our stay there. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Resplendent Quetzal *Pharomachrus mocinno*

The bird everyone wants to see in Costa Rica and we saw two males at Savegre on 23/2. In the morning we shared poor views of the male with crowds of admirers whereas in the afternoon we had one virtually to ourselves in the same area.

Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus*

Seen at La Selva and Rancho Naturalista in a poor tour for trogons generally.

Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus*

Seen at La Union 18/2.

Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris*

Seen at Rio Macho 22/2.

American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea*

One performed beautifully in the mangroves of Tarcoles 26/2.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*

A few on the Sarapiquí and on the Tarcoles.

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*

Seen on the Sarapiquí, Lago Angostura and on the Tarcoles.

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*

Seen on the Sarapiquí only this year.

Lesson's Motmot *Momotus lessonii*

Seen in the hotel garden on our first morning in Heredia, and then in and around Naturalista. A good tour for this species.

Rufous Motmot *Barythengus martii*

Seen in the garden at Rancho Naturalista.

Broad-billed Motmot *Electron platyrhynchum*

Seen well at La Quinta 18/2.

Turquoise-browed Motmot *Eumomota superciliosa*

Seen very well along the Guacimo Road on the final two days of the tour. The national bird of El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda*

Seen well at La Selva 17/2.

White-necked Puffbird *Notharchus hyperrhynchus*

Seen well on the Guacimo Road 26/2.

White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis*

One seen at Carara NP 25/2.

Red-headed Barbet *Eubucco bourcierii*

A male at Cinchona 16/2 and also seen in the Rio Macho and Savegre areas in the highlands.

Prong-billed Barbet *Semnormis frantzii*

Seen at close range from the cafe at Cinchona 16/2. Also heard at Rio Macho. **Endemic to Costa Rica and w Panama.**

Blue-throated Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus caeruleogularis*

Seen very well at Cinchona 16/2 and Rio Macho 22/2.

Collared Araçari *Pteroglossus torquatus*

Regularly seen at La Quinta, La Selva and Rancho Naturalista on five dates during the tour.

Fiery-billed Araçari *Pteroglossus frantzii*

A few seen around Punta Leona as we ended the tour on the Pacific coast. **Endemic to Costa Rica and w 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 (as is often the case with this genus) were seen in the Paraiso De Los Quetzales and Savegre areas.

Golden-naped Woodpecker *Melanerpes chrysauchen*

Seen at Punta Leona 25/2.

Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani*

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

Hoffman's Woodpecker *Melanerpes hoffmannii*

Common in the grounds of the Hotel Bougainvillea, Heredia on our first morning of the tour. Thereafter seen regularly when we reached the Pacific coast but the picture became a little cloudy with the presence of some apparent hybrids involving Red-crowned Woodpecker *M. rubricapillus*. **Southern Honduras to Costa Rica.**

Hairy Woodpecker *Leuconotopicus villosus*

One at Paraiso De Los Quetzales 22/2.

Rufous-winged Woodpecker *Piculus simplex*

One in La Selva 18/2.

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus*

Seen at Silent Mountain 21/2.

Cinnamon Woodpecker *Celeus loricatus*

Singles in La Selva 17/2 and at La Union the following day.

Chestnut-coloured Woodpecker *Celeus castaneus*

One at La Selva 17/2.

Lineated Woodpecker *Drycopus lineatus*

Seen at Rancho Naturalista and Silent Mountain as well as heard calling at a few other sites.

Northern Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway*

One over Savegre on 23/2 was unusual and then seen near Carara NP 26/2.

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*

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

Barred Forest Falcon *Micrastur ruficollis* (H)

Heard twice at Rancho Naturalista.

Collared Forest Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus*

One very vocal bird at La Selva on 17/2 showed particularly well.

Bat Falcon *Falco rufigularis*

One near La Selva 17/2.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

One at the Tarcoles river mouth 26/2.

Barred Parakeet *Bolborhynchus lineola*

We obtained typically (for this species) distant flight views at Rio Tuis 20/2.

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.

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 along the banks of the Rio Tarcoles at the end of our boat trip 26/2.

Red-ored Amazon *Amazona autumnalis*

Seen very well in the La Selva area 17 & 18/2.

Yellow-naped Amazon *Amazona auropalliata*

Seen in the Tarcoles area 26/2.

Northern Mealy Amazon *Amazona guatemalae*

Seen at La Selva 17/2.

Sulphur-winged Parakeet *Pyrrhura hoffmanni*

Seen in flight at Savegre and also seen at Silent Mountain. **Endemic to Costa Rica and w Panama.**

Olive-throated Parakeet *Eupsittula nana*

Seen at La Selva 17/2.

Orange-fronted Parakeet *Aratinga canicularis*

Seen along the Guacimo Road 26/2.

Great Green Macaw *Ara ambiguus*

In contrast to last year we had absolutely marvellous views of six in trees on the Rio Sarapiquí, improving on our views of three the previous day near La Selva.

Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao*

Fairly common in the Punta Leona area and even near our cabins at the hotel. Also seen nearby in Carara.

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.

Endemic from south-eastern Nicaragua to western Panama.

Spotted Barbtail *Premnoplex brunnescens*

One seen well in Savegre 22/2.

Ruddy Treerunner *Margarornis rubiginosus*

A good showing this year. Recorded on three dates at Rio Tuis and at Savegre.

Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner *Automolus ochrolaemus*

One at Silent Mountain 21/2.

Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser *Sclerurus mexicanus*

One briefly at Rio Tuis 20/2.

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus* (H)

Heard Rio Tuis 20/2.

Streaked Xenops *Xenops rutilans*

Seen at Rio Macho 22/2 .

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*

Seen at Rancho Naturalista, Rio Macho 22/2 and on the Guacimo Road 26/2.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*

Sightings from Silent Mountain only this year.

Northern Barred Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*

Seen at Rancho Naturalista on two dates.

Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans*

Seen at Rancho Naturalista and Punta Leona.

Spotted Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*

Seen at Rancho Naturalista 19/2.

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*

The most frequently encountered woodcreeper; seen on four dates on both Caribbean and Pacific slopes.

Spot-crowned Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes affinis*

Seen 23/2 in the highlands of Savegre.

Fasciated Antshrike *Cymbilaimus lineatus*

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

Black-hooded Antshrike *Thamnophilus bridgesi*

Seen in Carara 25/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Black-crowned Antshrike *Thamnophilus atrinucha*

Heard at La Union on 18/2.

Russet Antshrike *Thamnistes anabatinus*

One seen well at Rio Tuis 20/2.

Plain Antvireo *Dysithamnus mentalis*

A pair seen at Rio Macho 22/2.

Slaty Antwren *Myrmotherula schisticolor*

Seen on the first morning at La Paz Waterfall Gardens and then at Rancho Naturalista and Rio Macho.

Chestnut-backed Antbird *Myrmeciza exsul*

Great views in Carara on 25/2.

Black-faced Antthrush *Formicarius analis*

One in Carara 25/2 strutting around like a little rail in the leaf litter.

Streak-chested Antpitta *Hylopezus perspicillatus*

One showed reasonably well along a forest trail near Carara 25/2.

Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata*

One Rio Tuis 20/2.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*

Seen en route to La Quinta at Laguna Rancho, at Rancho Naturalista and its environs and Tarcoles.

Mountain Elaenia *Elaenia frantzii*

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

Torrent Tyrannulet *Serpophaga cinerea*

Seen on the rushing river of the Tuis 20/2.

Mistletoe Tyrannulet *Zimmerius parvus*

Recorded on six dates but more often heard than seen.

Olive-striped Flycatcher *Mionectes olivaceus*

Seen at La Paz Waterfall Gardens and Savegre.

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus*

Seen on two dates at Rancho Naturalista and heard in La Selva.

Slaty-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon superciliaris*

Seen on two dates in Rancho Naturalista.

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

Heard in Carara 25/2, but not seen.

Northern Bentbill *Oncostoma cinereigulare*

One seen well in Carara 25/2.

Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant *Lophotriccus pileatus*

Seen on the Rio Macho road 22/2.

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*

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

Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum nigriceps* (H)

Heard at Silent Mountain but no sight records this year unfortunately.

Yellow-olive Flatbill *Tolmomyias sulphureus*

Seen at Rancho Naturalista (often from the lodge balcony) and in Carara NP.

Tawny-chested Flycatcher *Aphanotriccus capitalis*

One at Rancho Naturalista showed only briefly on 20/2. **Endemic to eastern Nicaragua and Costa Rica.**

Bran-coloured Flycatcher *Myiophobus fasciatus*

One on 16th at Laguna Rancho. A rare bird on the Caribbean Slope in Costa Rica and only recently discovered at this site.

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*

Seen on four 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 and Savegre.

Dark Pewee *Contopus lugubris*

One at La Paz Waterfall Gardens. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Ochraceous Pewee *Contopus ochraceus*

Two seen well at Savegre 23/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and Western Panama.**

Eastern Wood Pewee *Contopus virens*

One at the Guacimo Road 26/2.

Tropical Pewee *Contopus cinereus*

One at Silent Mountain 21/2.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *Empidonax flaviventris*

Seen at Rancho Naturalista and along the Guacimo Road.

Yellowish Flycatcher *Empidonax flavescens*

A few seen at La Paz Waterfall Gardens and in the Savegre forest edge.

Black-capped Flycatcher *Empidonax atriceps*

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

Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus*

Great 'scope views of these on the entrance road to La Selva 17/2.

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus*

A good year and seen on seven dates in La Selva, at Rancho Naturalista and nearby, Bosque de Tolomuco and Carara.

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 three dates.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*

Common and ubiquitous; seen most days.

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 and La Quinta but fewer sightings than last year.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*

Widespread and common; seen every day.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana*

One seen by a couple of the group as we travelled from Savegre to Punta Leona.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*

Seen as we travelled down from the highlands to the Pacific Coast on 24/2 in the dry country of the Guacimo Road.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*

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

Nutting's Flycatcher *Myiarchus nuttingi*

This dry country flycatcher was seen on the Guacimo Road 27/2 .

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus*

Only one at Rio Tuis this year.

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*

Seen well on the Guacimo Road at the end of the tour.

Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus*

Seen at La Selva and heard at Rancho Naturalista and in Carara.

Snowy Cotinga *Carpodectes nitidus*

A female in the canopy at La Selva 17/2. Good views with the 'scope, despite the showers while we were watching it.

Northern Honduras to western Panama.

Long-tailed Manakin *Chiroxiphia linearis*

A female appeared at a Fig Tree on the Guacimo Road on 26/2.

White-ruffed Manakin *Corapipo altera* (H)

Heard at Rancho Naturalista 19/2.

Blue-crowned Manakin *Lepidothrix coronata*

A female came to bathe in a stream near Carara 26/2.

White-collared Manakin *Manacus candei*

Some superb males seen at La Selva and others at or near Rancho Naturalista.

Red-capped Manakin *Pipra mentalis*

Stunning males appeared at the Carara bathing stream 26/2.

Northern Royal Flycatcher *Onychorhynchus mexicanus*

One of the highlights of the tour must surely be the pair nest building over the trail at Carara this year? We spent some time watching these strange flycatchers at a respectable distance, enjoying a rare opportunity to observe them at leisure.

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher *Terenotriccus erythrurus*

One in Carara 25/2.

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*

Quite common at La Selva, La Quinta and the Rancho Naturalista area. Also present in Punta Leona and Carara.

Barred Becard *Pachyramphus versicolor* (H)

Heard in the highlands of Savegre. It's strange to not see this species, normally a regular feeding flock member, during a tour to Costa Rica.

Cinnamon Becard *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*

Two seen well at Rio Tuis after just hearing it at La Selva earlier in the tour.

White-winged Becard *Pachyramphus polychopterus*

One at Rancho Naturalista 19/2.

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae*

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

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis* (H)

Heard at Savegre 23/2.

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*

Seen in the hotel gardens in Heredia 16/2 and Rancho Naturalista and environs and Guacimo Road.

Yellow-winged Vireo *Vireo carmioli*

Seen on 23/2 at Savegre.

Brown-capped Vireo *Vireo leucophrys*

Two at Rio Macho.

Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus*

Seen at Rancho Naturalista and Savegre.

Yellow-green Vireo *Vireo flavoviridis*

Seen on the Guacimo Road 27/2.

Lesser Greenlet *Hylophilus decutatus*

Heard at Rancho Naturalista and seen in the highlands but the best views were at Carara.

Brown Jay *Cyanocorax morio*

Widespread and seen on nine dates throughout the tour.

White-throated Magpie-Jay *Calocitta formosa*

Seen very well on the Guacimo Road 26/2.

Black-and-Yellow Phainoptila *Phainoptila melanoxantha*

A female 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 easily at 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 at La Selva and 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, on the Rio Sarapiquí and Tarcoles boat trips.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*

Widespread and seen on seven dates.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Only seen at Lago Angostura and on the Tarcoles this year.

Band-backed Wren *Campylorhynchus zonatus*

Seen at La Selva 17/2.

Rufous-backed 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*

Seen on three dates in La Selva and Rancho Naturalista.

Rufous-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius rutilus* (H)

Heard in Carara 25/2.

Banded Wren *Thryophilus pleurosticus*

A couple on the Guacimo Road 27/2.

Cabanis's Wren *Cantorchilus modestus*

Seen on the Guacimo Road 27/2.

Riverside Wren *Cantorchilus semibadius*

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

Bay Wren *Cantorchilus nigricapillus*

Seen at Rio Sarapiquí and heard at Rancho Naturalista.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

Recorded on four dates.

Ochraceous Wren *Troglodytes ochraceus*

Seen at La Paz Waterfall Gardens and heard at Rio Macho. **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* (H)

Regularly heard on the Caribbean slope.

Grey-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys*

Seen well at Savegre at 23/2 after hearing it at other cloud forest sites previously during the tour.

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus*

Heard at La Selva and seen at Silent Mountain.

White-lored Gnatcatcher *Polioptila albiloris*

Another dry country species seen on the Guacimo Road on both visits.

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Polioptila plumbea*

Seen at Rancho Naturalista and Rio Tuis.

Grey Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*

Singles at La Selva and on two dates at Rancho Naturalista.

Black-faced Solitaire *Myadestes melanops*

Seen on two dates at Savegre.

Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus gracilirostris*

A couple seen very well at Savegre 22 & 23/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus aurantiirostris*

Seen at Savegre 22/2.

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 daily in the Savegre area.

Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina*

A few individuals seen at La Selva and Rancho Naturalista.

Sooty Thrush *Turdus nigrescens*

Common around Savegre 23 - 24/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

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.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Seen on 18/2 but probably overlooked.

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria*

A few at Savegre 23/2.

Yellow-bellied Siskin *Spinus xanthogastra*

Seen at Savegre in the company of the above species.

Scrub Euphonia *Euphonia affinis*

Seen in the dry country of the Guacimo Road 26/2.

Yellow-crowned Euphonia *Euphonia luteicapilla*

Seen at La Selva and heard at Rancho Naturalista.

Yellow-throated Euphonia *Euphonia hirundinacea*

Seen at Rancho Naturalista and Rio Macho.

Olive-backed Euphonia *Euphonia gouldi*

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

White-vented Euphonia *Euphonia minuta*

Seen at Rancho Naturalista 19/2.

Tawny-capped Euphonia *Euphonia annea*

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

Golden-browed Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia callophrys*

Two of these beautiful birds seen at Paraiso De Los Quetzales 22/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and Western Panama.**

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis*

This was the only Waterthrush species positively identified and usually found near water. We saw them at the Rio Sarapiquí, Lago Angostura, Carara NP and on the Tarcoles.

Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*

Only seen on two days this year; at La Paz Waterfall Gardens and Rio Tuis near Rancho Naturalista.

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*

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

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*

A few absolutely stunning individuals in the Tarcoles mangroves 26/2.

Flame-throated Warbler *Oreothlypis gutturalis*

As usual we found this beautiful bird in the highlands at Savegre. **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*

Two at Laguna Rancho 16/2.

Mourning Warbler *Geothlypis philadelphia*

Seen every day at Rancho Naturalista.

Olive-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis semiflava*

Seen at Lago Angostura 19/2.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*

Seen at La Quinta and Silent Mountain.

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitayumi*

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

Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca*

Seen on six dates and easy to see at La Paz waterfall Gardens, Rancho Naturalista, Rio Macho and Savegre.

American Yellow Warbler *Setophaga aestiva*

Seen at La Paz Waterfall Gardens, Lago Angostura and along the Pacific coast (including the Tarcoles mangroves).

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Setophaga pensylvanica*

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

Blackpoll Warbler *Setophaga striata*

One Rio Tuis 20/2.

Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens*

Another wintering migrant associated with middle and high elevations; seen at La Paz Waterfall Gardens and (more commonly) Savegre and Cerro de la Muerte areas.

Buff-rumped Warbler *Myiothlypis fulvicauda*

The bright rumps and flicking tails of this species could be seen readily along the La Selva trails, Rio Sarapiquí during our boat trip and other small streams and rivers including near the cabins at La Quinta.

Rufous-capped Warbler *Basileuterus rufifrons*

Seen well in the gardens of our hotel in Heredia and at Rancho Naturalista and nearby sites.

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*

Seen near Rancho Naturalista 19/2.

Black-eared Warbler *Basileuterus malanotis*

Seen at La Paz Waterfall Gardens. Previously considered conspecific with Three-striped Warbler *B. tristriatus*. **Costa Rica to Western Panama.**

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*

Another common wintering migrant warbler; seen at Heredia, La Paz Waterfall Gardens and Savegre.

Slate-throated Whitestart *Myioborus miniatus*

Seen at La Paz Waterfall Gardens, near Rancho Naturalista and Rio Macho.

Collared Whitestart *Myioborus torquatus*

Great views of this highland species at Savegre 23/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Wrenthrush *Zeledonia coronata* (H)

Heard along the Savegre road 24/2 but couldn't be enticed into view. **Endemic to Costa Rica and W Panama.**

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna*

A two in damp pasture near Lago Angostura 19/2.

Chestnut-headed Oropendola *Psarocolius wagleri*

Regularly seen at La Selva and Rancho Naturalista.

Montezuma Oropendola *Psarocolius montezuma*

Common on the Caribbean slope and a few seen near the Pacific at Punta Leona. Recorded on eight dates.

Scarlet-rumped Cacique *Cacicus microrhynchus*

Two at Rancho Naturalista 21/2.

Streak-backed Oriole *Icterus pustulatus*

One on the Guacimo Road 27/2. We missed this species last year so it was nice to catch up with it once more.

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*

Common; seen on nine dates.

Black-cowled Oriole *Icterus prothemelas*

Seen at La Paz Waterfall Gardens and Rancho Naturalista.

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius*

A couple in the gardens of the hotel at Heredia 16/2.

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*

A few seen by the Rio Tarcoles 26/2.

Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus*

A few near Casa Turire near Rancho Naturalista 19/2.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*

Seen at near La Selva 17/2.

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus*

A few seen near Laguna Rancho 16/2.

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.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*

Regularly seen in small numbers on the Caribbean slope and at Bosque de Tolomuco and Carara near the Pacific.

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotricha capensis*

Regularly seen in the highlands.

Volcano Junco *Junco vulcani*

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

Stripe-headed Sparrow *Aimophila ruficauda*

A couple in the dry country of the Guacimo Road on both our visits there.

White-eared Ground Sparrow *Melospiza leucotis*

A couple at Passiflora near La Paz Waterfall Gardens 16/2.

Olive Sparrow *Arremonops rufivirgatus*

Two or three in the dry country of the Guacimo Road 26/2.

Orange-billed Sparrow *Arremon aurantirostris*

Seen well at La Quinta, La Selva and Rancho Naturalista.

Chestnut-capped Brushfinch *Arremon brunneinucha*

Seen well at Savegre 24/2.

Sooty-faced Finch *Arremon crassirostris*

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

Large-footed Finch *Pezoptes capitalis*

Close views at Savegre 22 & 23/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Yellow-thighed Finch *Pselliophorus tibialis*

Seen on two dates at Savegre. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Common Bush Tanager *Chlorospingus flavopectus*

Small numbers at La Paz Waterfall Gardens. Inexplicably scarce this year.

Sooty-capped Bush Tanager *Chlorospingus pileatus*

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

White-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus luctuosus*

Seen at Carara NP only.

White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus*

Seen at Silent Mountain 21/2.

Crimson-collared Tanager *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*

This stunning species was seen at Silent Mountain.

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 w Panama.**

Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*

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

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*

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

Plain-coloured Tanager *Tangara inornata*

This understated tanager was seen on just one date at La Selva on 17/2. **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 regularly in the Savegre area after a few at the start of the tour at La Paz Waterfall Gardens.

Speckled Tanager *Tangara guttata*

A few at Rancho Naturalista.

Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola*

A couple at Rancho Naturalista and nearby sites (such as Silent Mountain) over our three days stay at the lodge. Also seen at Carara NP.

Golden-hooded Tanager *Tangara larvata*

Small numbers on the Caribbean slope at La Quinta, La Selva and Rancho Naturalista over five dates.

Spangle-cheeked Tanager *Tangara dowii*

A few at Savegre 23/2. **Endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama.**

Scarlet-thighed Dacnis *Dacnis venusta*

Small parties at La Selva 17/2.

Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana*

Seen at La Selva 17/2.

Shining Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes lucidus*

A few at La Quinta 17/2.

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus*

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

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza*

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

Slaty Flowerpiercer *Diglossa plumbea*

First seen at La Paz Waterfall Gardens and then regularly in the highlands of Savegre and Cerro de la Muerte.

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*

A few at Laguna Rancho, La Selva and the Guacimo Road.

Variable Seedeater *Sporophila corvina*

Small numbers at La Selva and around Rio Sarapiquí. We also saw these all black male birds near Rancho Naturalista but the birds near Carara were the very different pied Pacific race *S. c. hoffmannii*.

White-collared Seedeater *Sporophila torqueola*

A few at Laguna Rancho on our first day in the field.

Thick-billed Seed Finch *Oryzoborus funereus*

Seen near Rancho Naturalista 20/2.

Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus*

Seen at Casa Turire, Silent Mountain and on two dates at Savegre.

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.

White-winged Tanager *Piranga leucoptera*

A pair at Rio Macho 22/2.

Red-throated Ant Tanager *Habia fuscicauda*

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

Carmioli's Tanager *Chlorothraupis carmioli*

One furtive bird at Rancho Naturalista 19/2.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

Single at La Paz Waterfall Gardens and Silent Mountain.

Black-faced Grosbeak *Caryothraustes poliogaster*

Seen only at La Selva 17/2.

Black-headed Saltator *Saltator atriceps*

Seen at La Quinta and Rancho Naturalista.

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus*

Seen on Caribbean and Pacific slopes on eight dates.

Greyish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens*

Seen in Heredia, Cinchona, La Quinta and La Selva.

Blue-black Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea*

Seen in La Selva 17/2 and on the Guacimo Road 27/2.

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*

Seen on the Guacimo Road 26/2.

Mammals

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*
Long-nosed (Proboscis) Bat *Rhynchonycteris naso*
Honduran White Bat *Ectophylla alba*
White-nosed Coati *Nasura narica*
Tayra *Eira barbara*
Collared Peccary *Tayassu pecari*

Reptiles & Amphibians

Black Wood Turtle *Rhinoclemmys funerea*
Central American Crocodile *Crocodylus acutus*
Spectacled Caiman *Caiman crocodilus*
Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*
Black Spiny-tailed Iguana *Ctenosaura similis*
Helmeted Iguana *Corytophanes cristatus*
Green Basilisk *Basiliscus plumifrons*
Tropical House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*
Slender Anole *Norops limifrons*
Stream Anole *Anolis oxylophus*
Cane Toad *Bufo marinus*