



# March 21 - 31, 2019 Costa Rica: Monteverde And More w/ Caribbean Lowlands Extension (Mar 31 - Apr 2)

With Carlos Sanchez and Johann Fernandez, with 12 participants: Mary Ann, Lee, Viggo, James, Donna, Steve, Molly, Ruth, Ken, Jennie, Edith, and Wayne

## Compiled by Carlos Sanchez

(HO)= Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only

(I)= Introduced

(RE)= Regional Endemic

(E)= National Endemic

**Summary:** This was a great route through northern Costa Rica, sampling three separate elevations and their own unique mix of species: Monteverde (highland cloud forest), Celeste Montain Lodge (midelevation rainforest), and Cano Negro (lowland wetlands and gallery forest). Over the course of the tour, trip participants got to sample most of the bird families one is able to see in the Neotropics, from macaws to motmots and tanagers to toucans.

However, this tour not only allows first time travelers to experience the wonderous diversity of the Neotropics, but it also gives even well-seasoned birders the chance to see some really special species — and we did! Resplendent Quetzal, Three-wattled Bellbird, and Azure-hooded Jay at Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve; Sungrebe, Pinnated Bittern, and Yellow-breasted Crake at Cano Negro; Tody Motmot at Celeste Mountain Lodge; Buff-fronted Quail-Dove at Cinchona; Great Green Macaw at La Selva — and more!

#### BIRDS (324 species recorded, of which 10 were heard only):

#### **TINAMOUS: Tinamidae (1)**

**Great Tinamou** Tinamus major (HO)—heard the quavering call of this shy ground-dwelling bird on our first afternoon at Celeste Mountain Lodge

#### **DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (2)**

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis*—these tropical ducks were numerous around Cano Negro and Medio Queso Wetlands

Blue-winged Teal Spatula discors—a few of these migratory dabbling ducks around Cano Negro

#### **GUANS AND CURASSOWS: Cracidae (3)**

**Gray-headed Chachalaca** *Ortalis cinereiceps*—a few on our way from Monteverde to Celeste; some saw them around Cano Negro

**Crested Guan** *Penelope purpurascens*—we saw these giant, arboreal gamebirds at Celeste Mountain Lodge

**Black Guan (RE)** Chamaepetes unicolor—a total of five individuals observed at various sites around Monteverde during our time there; this species is endemic to the cloud forests of Costa Rica and western Panama

# **PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (14)**

Rock Pigeon Columba livia (I)—seen around towns on travel days

**Pale-vented Pigeon** *Patagioenas cayennensis*—a common pigeon of secondary growth and disturbed areas in the lowlands such as around Cano Negro, where we saw it daily

**Red-billed Pigeon** *Patagioenas flavirostris*—small numbers at Hotel Bougainvillea, Monteverde, and Celeste Mountain Lodge; tolerant of human disturbance and common at middle to higher elevations in Costa Rica

**Short-billed Pigeon** Patagioenas nigrirostris (HO)—heard only in the forest trail below Celeste **Inca Dove** Columbina inca—a pair seen on our first walk at Hotel Bougainvillea

**Common Ground-Dove** *Columbina passerina*—one in the seasonal dry forest north of Orotina on our way to Monteverde

**Plain-breasted Ground-Dove** *Columbina minuta*—we saw one of these tiny doves at Medio Queso Wetlands on our afternoon there

**Ruddy Ground-Dove** *Columbina talpacoti*—small numbers around Cano Negro; the common ground-doves of suburban and agricultural areas throughout the tropical Americas

**Blue Ground-Dove** *Claravis pretiosa*—a pair of these pretty doves at Cano Negro during our first boat trip

White-tipped Dove Leptotila verreauxi—small numbers of this plump terrestrial dove observed almost daily, especially at Celeste (often under the feeder) and Cano Negro Lodge (near the banana feeder)

Gray-chested Dove Leptotila cassinii—observed while at Celeste Mountain Lodge

**Gray-headed Dove** *Leptotila plumbeiceps*—seen walking along the shore while on one of our boat trips, in one of the more forested sections of the river

**Buff-fronted Quail-Dove** *Zentrygon costaricensis* **(RE)**—the early departure group got to see this delicately beautiful dove feeding under the cafe at Cinchona

White-winged Dove Zenaida asiatica—common and widespread in Costa Rica, especially in the lowlands

## **CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae (3)**

**Groove-billed Ani** *Crotophaga sulcirostris*—these bizarre black cuckoos were numerous around Cano Negro, where we saw them daily in small family groups

**Squirrel Cuckoo** *Piaya cayana*—great views on the waterfall trail on our last day at Celeste **Mangrove Cuckoo** *Coccyzus minor*—one sneaky individual played hard to get as we were walking back from the Yellow-breasted Crake, offering only partial views as it skulked away

#### NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (1)

**Common Pauraque** *Nyctidromus albicollis*—heard every night while at Celeste and seen on our night walk at Cano Negro, feeding from the ground

#### **POTOOS: Nyctibiidae (2)**

**Great Potoo** *Nyctibius grandis*—one impressive bird observed on a wooden post as we were heading back from the Medio Queso Wetlands in the early evening – wow!

**Common Potoo** *Nyctibius griseus*—an individual observed roosting near the meeting area for our Cano Negro boat trips; incredible camouflage

## **SWIFTS: Apodidae (3)**

**White-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne zonaris*—we saw these flying boomerangs overhead at Celeste Mountain Lodge

**Vaux's Swift** *Chaetura vauxi*—a few of these small swifts at the Bird Song Gardens near Celeste **Gray-rumped Swift** *Chaetura cinereiventris*—seen only on the extension

## **HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (21)**

White-necked Jacobin Florisuga mellivora—seen only on the extension

Band-tailed Barbthroat Threnetes ruckeri—seen only on the extension

**Green Hermit** *Phaethornis guy*—one at the Curi-Cancha feeders on our walk to see the Three-wattled Bellbird; another individual was regular at the Bird Song Gardens feeder setup

**Long-billed Hermit** *Phaethornis longirostris*—an infrequent visitor to the Bijagua Bird Song Garden feeders

**Stripe-throated Hermit** *Phaethornis striigularis*—the smallest of the Costa Rican hermits, observed at the Bijagua Bird Song Garden feeders near Celeste Mountain Lodge

**Brown Violetear** *Colibri delphinae*—seen once near Celeste Mountain Lodge

Lesser Violetear Colibri cyanotus—regular at all the feeders we visited around Monteverde

**Green-breasted Mango** *Anthracothorax prevostii*—good numbers around Cano Negro, including the lodge grounds and on the boat tour along the river

Black-crested Coquette Lophornis helenae—seen only on the extension

**Green-crowned Brilliant** *Heliodoxa jacula*—we saw these iridescent green hummingbirds only at the feeders of Curi-Cancha in Monteverde and the cafe at Cinchona

**Purple-throated Mountain-gem** *Lampornis calolaemus* (RE)—regular at the feeders at Curi-Cancha Magenta-throated Woodstar *Calliphlox bryantae* (RE)—we saw this lovely 'bee-type' hummingbird navigating around its larger cousins at both Curi-Cancha and Hotel Montana Monteverde

**Violet-headed Hummingbird** *Klais guimeti*—this tiny hummer loved the porterweed (Verbena) planted around Celeste and Bird Song Gardens

**Violet Sabrewing** *Campylopterus hemileucurus*—the largest hummingbird by weight in Costa Rica; fortunately, common at the feeders at Hotel Montana Monteverde with an encore appearance at the Bird Song Gardens near Celeste

**Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer** *Chalybura urochrysia*—seen at the Bird Song Gardens – remember the red feet!

**Crowned Woodnymph** *Thalurania colombica*—seen below Celeste Mountain Lodge, at a tree that was fruiting – perhaps attracted to the insects it was drawing in?

**Stripe-tailed Hummingbird** *Eupherusa eximia*—singles at Curi-Cancha and Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve

**Coppery-headed Emerald** *Elvira cupreiceps* **(E)**—common at feeders around Monteverde; one of two hummingbird species endemic to Costa Rica

**Steely-vented Hummingbird** *Amazilia saucerottei*—infrequent visitor to the feeders at Hotel Montana Monteverde, very similar in appearance to the following species

**Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** *Amazilia tzacatl*—common and widespread hummingbird of Costa Rica, occurring in a variety of habitats and elevations

**Blue-throated Goldentail** *Hylocharis eliciae*—one at the Bijagua Bird Song Gardens, taking nectar from the porterweed (verbena)

## RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (6)

Russet-naped Wood-Rail Aramides albiventris—several observed on our first Cano Negro boat trip; this species is a recent split from the former Gray-necked Wood-Rail, which includes the next species Gray-cowled Wood-Rail Aramides cajaneus (HO)—heard calling below Monteverde area Sora Porzana carolina—one feeding out in the open for a good amount of time on our crake walk at Cano Negro

**Purple Gallinule** *Porphyrio martinica*—very numerous at the Medio Questo Wetlands, where we observed about a dozen individuals in the vegetation

**Yellow-breasted Crake** *Hapalocrex flaviventer*—brief glimpses of one of these tiny crakes on our crake walk; Cano Negro is perhaps the best place in Central America to observe this shy bird **White-throated Crake** Laterallus albiqularis (HO)—heard only on our first Cano Negro boat trip

## **FINFOOTS AND SUNGREBE: Heliornithidae (1)**

**Sungrebe** *Heliornis fulica*—incredible views of this normally shy bird along the river at Cano Negro, allowing us to get quite close and observe it at length – and get some amazing photography!

# LIMPKIN: Aramidae (1)

**Limpkin** Aramus guarauna—these snail-eating birds were quite numerous (and vocal!) along the Cano Negro River

# THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae (1)

**Double-striped Thick-knee** *Burhinus bistriatus*—scope views of a bird staying low in the heat of the day in the dry habitat north of Tarcoles on our way to Monteverde

#### **STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (1)**

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus*—these black and white shorebirds were conspicuous and numerous along the Cano Negro River and Medio Queso Wetlands

#### LAPWINGS AND PLOVERS: Charadriidae (1)

**Southern Lapwing** *Vanellus chilensis*—seen on the banks of the Cano Negro River; a recent colonist from South America that is spreading northward with deforestation over the last decade

## JACANAS: Jacanidae (1)

**Northern Jacana** *Jacana spinosa*—conspicuous and numerous along the Cano Negro and Medio Queso Wetlands

## **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (5)**

**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*—small numbers in muddy areas and puddles of Cano Negro and the Medio Queso Wetlands

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius*—small numbers were regular on our boat trips on the Cano Negro **Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa solitaria*—one alone in a puddle at the Medio Queso Wetlands

**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca*—two at the Medio Queso Wetlands

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*—one at the Medio Queso Wetlands

## **GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (2)**

**Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla*—seen on a brief stop on our way north to Monteverde **Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maximus*—seen on the coast on a brief step on our way north to Monteverde

## **STORKS: Ciconiidae (2)**

**Jabiru** *Jabiru mycteria*—one of these towering, hulking birds in the middle of a drying wetland at Cano Negro – spectacular! The tallest bird species in North America

Wood Stork Mycteria americana—singles and duos at Cano Negro and Medio Questo Wetlands

## FRIGATEBIRDS: Fregatidae (1)

**Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens*—quite a few soaring overhead on our brief coastal stop on our way north to Monteverde

## **ANHINGAS: Anhingidae (1)**

Anhinga Anhinga anhinga—common and conspicuous at Cano Negro and Medio Queso

## **CORMORANTS Phalacrocoracidae (1)**

**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*—common and conspicuous at Cano Negro and Medio Queso

## PELICANS: Pelecanidae (1)

**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis*—flyby individuals on our brief coastal stop on our way to Monteverde

# **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (11)**

**Pinnated Bittern** *Botaurus pinnatus*—amazing views of a very cooperative individual right by the road at Medio Queso Wetlands, offering fantastic photo opportunities for the group

**Bare-throated Tiger-Heron** *Tigrisoma mexicanum*—a total of five of these striking, tropical herons were seen on our two boat tours at Cano Negro

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*—we saw a lingering individual at the Medio Queso Wetlands; this species is a winter resident in Costa Rica

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*—quite common at Cano Negro and Medio Questo Wetlands; a common winter resident in this part of Costa Rica

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula*—several at Cano Negro and Medio Queso

Little Blue Heron Egretta caerulea—several at Cano Negro and Medio Queso

**Tricolored Heron** *Egretta tricolor*—several at Cano Negro and Medio Queso

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*—big flock near the cattle at Cano Negro, where we were watching the Jabiru **Green Heron** *Butorides virescens*—several at Cano Negro and nearly a dozen at Medio Queso Wetlands **Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*—a single roosting bird along the river at Cano Negro **Boat-billed Heron** *Cochlearius* cochlearius—small numbers along the Cano Negro, including a couple individuals in the spotlight during our night walk; this species uses its expansively wide bill to capture fish and shrimp at night

# IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Theskiornithidae (3)

White Ibis Eudocimus albus—singles and pairs around Cano Negro and Medio Queso Wetlands
Green Ibis Mesembrinibis cayennensis—an ibis of vegetated ponds and rivers; we saw eight individuals
on one of our Cano Negro boat tours

**Roseate Spoonbill** *Platalea ajaja*—three individuals on our Cano Negro boat tours and another five seen at the Medio Queso Wetlands

## **NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (3)**

**King Vulture** *Sarcoramphus papa*—one of these incredible vulture was soaring over Celeste Mountain Lodge

Black Vulture Coragyps atratus—common and widespread

Turkey Vulture Cathartes aura—common and widespread

## OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)

Osprey Pandion haliaetus—seen along the coast and on one of our Cano Negro boat trips

## HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (10)

White-tailed Kite Elanus leucurus—seen on drives around Cano Negro, hunting over fields used by grazing cattle

**Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus*—this striking and elegant raptor was pleasantly common at Monteverde and Celeste Mountain Lodge, where we saw it daily

**Black-collared Hawk** *Rupornis magnirostris*—a fish-eating specialist like the Osprey, seen on two of our Cano Negro boat tours; uncommon and very local in Central America

Barred Hawk Morphnarchus princeps—seen only on the extension

Roadside Hawk Rupornis magnirostris—our best views were during our stay at Cano Negro

White Hawk *Pseudastur albicollis*—one observed distantly on the scope on one of the side roads near Celeste Mountain Lodge; a strikingly beautiful forest raptor; another observed flying overhead from the paved road below Celeste

**Semiplumbeous Hawk** *Leucopternis semiplumbeus*—seen only on the extension

**Gray Hawk** *Buteo plagiatus*—one seen from the road on our way towards Tenorio National Park **Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus*—a widespread winter resident in Costa Rica; seen in the dry fields near Orotina on our way to Monteverde, near Tenorio National Park, and Cano Negro **Swainson's Hawk** *Buteo swainsoni*—a migrating flock of Swainson's Hawk kettling high overhead on one of our Cano Negro boat tours — a big highlight for some during our stay there!

## OWLS: Strigidae (5)

**Tropical Screech-Owl** *Megascops choliba*—seen in the spotlight while owling in the garden at Hotel Bougainvillea on our last evening

**Pacific Screech-Owl** *Megascops cooperi*—seen at night during our night walk at Cano Negro and a roosting individual during the day on one of our boat tours

**Spectacled Owl** *Pulsatrix perspicillata*—seen only on the extension

**Mottled Owl** *Ciccaba virgata*—two beautiful individuals seen on a day roost at Curi-Cancha Reserve, although we had to crane our necks at odd angles to get good views

**Black-and-white Owl** *Ciccaba nigrolineata*—seen during our night drive at Cano Negro; a large and spectacular tropical owl

#### **TROGONS: Trogonidae (6)**

**Resplendent Quetzal** *Pharomachrus mocinno*—we heard a male at Curi-Cancha Reserve, but we finally saw both male and female individuals (quite well!) at Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve; arguably, the most beautiful bird in the Americas

Slaty-tailed Trogon Trogon massena—seen well at Celeste Mountain Lodge and another at Cano Negro
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**Black-headed Trogon** *Trogon melanocephalus*—two at the Medio Queso Wetlands at a woodland edge *Gartered Trogon Trogon caligatus (HO)*—only heard at Celeste and on the extension

Black-throated Trogon Trogon rufus—seen only on the extension

**Orange-bellied Trogon** *Trogon aurantiiventris*—singles seen daily at the various Monteverde Cloud Forest Sites; this species will soon be lumped with Collared Trogon, as the genetics do not support species status

## **MOTMOTS:** Momotidae (4)

**Tody Motmot** *Hylomanes momotula*—scope views for the group of this tricky and shy forest bird in a wet ravine at Celeste Mountain Lodge, one of the best known sites for this species in Costa Rica **Lesson's Motmot** *Momotus lessonii*—common at Hotel Bougainvillea and around Monteverde **Rufous Motmot** *Baryphthengus martii*—seen only on the extension

**Broad-billed Motmot** *Electron platyrhynchum*—a pair seen by the road at Celeste Mountain Lodge gave us views on the three days that we were there

## **KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (3)**

Ringed Kingfisher Megaceryle torquata—noisy and conspicuous along the Cano Negro
Amazon Kingfisher Chloroceryle amazona—noisy and conspicuous along the Cano Negro
Green Kingfisher Chloroceryle americana—singles of this diminutive kingfisher seen on both of our Cano
Negro boat tours

## JACAMARS: Galbulidae (1)

**Rufous-tailed Jacamar** *Galbula ruficauda*—seen only on the extension

## **TOUCAN-BARBETS: Semnornithidae (1)**

**Prong-billed Barbet** *Semnornis frantzii* **(RE)**—seen at Curi-Cancha Reserve and at the feeders at Cinchona on our travel day from Cano Negro to San Jose

#### **TOUCANS: Ramphastidae (4)**

**Northern Emerald-Toucanet** *Aulacorhynchus prasinus*—we saw this small, highland toucanet daily around Monteverde at most of the reserves we visited

**Collared Aracari** *Pteroglossus torquatus*—great views of one feasting on a large fruit right by the road as we were traveling to Cano Negro

**Yellow-throated Toucan** *Ramphastos ambiguus*—two in the scope from the Bird Song Gardens near Celeste

**Keel-billed Toucan** *Ramphastos sulfuratus*—a few seen near Celeste Mountain Lodge in the canopy of the forest

#### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae (10)**

**Olivaceous Piculet** *Picumnus olivaceus*—three of these tiny woodpeckers cooperated for the group while exploring the side road near Celeste

**Black-cheeked Woodpecker** *Melanerpes pucherani*—seen daily in the wet forest around Celeste Mountain Lodge, including birds that attended the fruit feeder

**Hoffmann's Woodpecker** *Melanerpes hoffmannii*—a common woodpecker in the northern half of Costa Rica, seen daily in a variety of habitats and elevations (but never in undisturbed forest)

**Hairy Woodpecker** *Dryobates villosus*—two in the very wet high elevation cloud forest of Santa Elena; birds in Costa Rica are quite a bit more dusky than the ones found in the eastern USA

**Smoky-brown Woodpecker** *Dryobates fumigatus*—two birds at the entrance to the Rio Celeste Trail at Tenorio National Park

Pale-billed Woodpecker Campephilus quatemalensis—seen only on the extension

**Lineated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus lineatus*—one at the Bijagua Bird Song Gardens and three more at Cano Negro; the tropical equivalent of the Pileated Woodpecker of the USA and Canada

**Chestnut-colored Woodpecker** *Celeus castaneus*—seen only on the extension

**Rufous-winged Woodpecker** *Picus simplex*—seen only on the extension

**Golden-olive Woodpecker** *Colaptes rubiginosus*—observed a couple times at Monteverde and once at Celeste Mountain Lodge

## **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (3)**

Crested Caracara Caracara cheriway—a few individuals during our stay at Cano Negro

**Yellow-headed Caracara** *Milvago chimachima*—singles at Cano Negro and Medio Queso Wetlands; a smaller caracara species than the previous one

**Laughing Falcon** *Herpetotheres cachinnans*—great views of one from the side of the road just outside Tenorio National Park; a large and striking falcon that specializes in hunting snakes

# **PARROTS: Psittacidae (11)**

**Orange-chinned Parakeet** *Brotogeris jugularis*—small flocks loitering around the banana feeders at the lodge in Cano Negro, often allowing approach to within a few feet – very cool! You could even see the orange chins

**Brown-hooded Parrot** *Pyrilia haematotis*—regular as flyovers over Celeste Mountain Lodge in the mornings and late afternoons

White-crowned Parrot Pionus senilis— regular as flyovers over Celeste Mountain Lodge in the mornings and late afternoons

**Red-lored Parrot** *Amazona autumnalis*—a flyover pair at Celeste and a few more flyovers at Cano Negro **Yellow-naped Parrot** *Amazona auropalliata*—observed at Hotel Bougainvillea and Cano Negro; a large *Amazona* parrot that is threatened by the pet trade; IUCN lists it as Endangered

White-fronted Parrot Amazona albifrons—single perched bird at Monteverde, observed in the scope Olive-throated Parakeet Eupsittula nana—small numbers at Cano Negro

**Orange-fronted Parakeet** *Eupsittula canicularis*—observed in the dry forest habitats on our way to Monteverde

**Great Green Macaw** *Ara ambiguus*—seen only on the extension; IUCN lists it as Endangered **Scarlet Macaw** *Ara macao*—seen only on the extension

Crimson-fronted Parakeet Psittacara finschi—numerous at Hotel Bougainvillea and Cano Negro

#### **ANTBIRDS: Thamnophilidae (8)**

Fasciated Antshrike Cymbilaimus lineatus—seen only on the extension

**Barred Antshrike** *Thamnophilus doliatus*—one lived in the pruned brushes right outside our rooms at Celeste Mountain Lodge! The males are black and white, while the females are rufous

Black-crowned Antshrike Thamnophilus atrinucha—seen only on the extension

**Dusky Antbird** *Cercomacroides tyrannina*—heard at Celeste Mountain Lodge and seen on the extension *Chestnut-backed Antbird Poliocrania exsul (HO)—heard only on the trail below Celeste Mountain Lodge* **Dull-mantled Antbird** Sipia laemosticta—seen on two dates on the trails below Celeste Mountain Lodge, offering brief glimpses for most of the group as it moved around in the undergrowth

**Zeledon's Antbird** *Hafferia zeledoni*—observed at close range at the Santa Elena Reserve; a lovely black antbird with bright blue bare skin around the eye

**Spotted Antbird** *Hylophylax naevioides*—brief views for some of the group at the Celeste Lodge trails; a beautiful antbird with an ornate feather pattern

# OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS: Furnariidae (12)

**Olivaceous Woodcreeper** *Sittasomus griseicapillus*—the second smallest woodcreeper, two seen on our walk at Curi-Cancha Reserve in a mixed feeding flock that included Azure-hooded Jays and a Streakbreasted Treehunter

**Wedge-billed Woodcreeper** *Glyphorynchus spirurus*—the smallest of the woodcreepers, seen on two of our walks at Celeste Mountain Lodge

**Northern Barred-Woodcreeper** *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*—seen only on the extension; a follower of antswarms, and it is often labeled as an "antcreeper" among the woodcreepers

**Cocoa Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus susurrans*—seen on the extension

**Spotted Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*—observed at Curi-Cancha and the Cloud Forest Reserve

**Streak-headed Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*—often the most common woodcreeper in disturbed habitats in the lowlands; observed near Celeste Mountain Lodge and Cano Negro on multiple dates

Plain Xenops Xenops minutus—seen only on the extension

**Buffy Tuftedcheek** *Pseudocolaptes lawrencii*—two birds offered only poor views as they moved rapidly through the canopy overhead at Santa Elena Cloud Forest

**Streak-breasted Treehunter** *Thripadectes rufobrunneus* **(RE)**—nice views of a relatively cooperative bird at Curi-Cancha Reserve, associating with a mixed feeding flock

**Ruddy Treerunner** *Margarornis rubiginosus* **(RE)**—observed at Santa Elena and Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserves; a beautifully patterned and richly colored furnariid

**Red-faced Spinetail** *Cranioleuca erythrops*—pair seen at Santa Elena feeding in some lower vegetation **Slaty Spinetail** *Synallaxis brachyura*—seen only on the extension

## **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (32)**

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet Camptostoma imberbe—seen once at Cano Negro

**Yellow-bellied Elaenia** *Elaenia flavogaster*—one on the side road we explored not far from Celeste Mountain Lodge, and another one at Medio Questo Wetland

**Mountain Elaenia** *Elaenia frantzii*—a pair in the bamboo right outside our lodge in Monteverde **Mistletoe Tyrannulet** *Zimmerius parvus*—observed at Curi-Cancha Reserve and Bijagua Bird Song Gardens; a recent split, formerly called Paltry Tyrannulet

**Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant** *Myiornis atricapillus*—one on the Celeste Forest Trail at Tenorio **Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant** *Lophotriccus pileatus*—heard daily and seen only briefly by some of the group during our stay at Celeste Mountain Trail; a tiny flycatcher that can be difficult to pick out in the understory

**Common Tody-Flycatcher** *Todirostrum cinereum*—relatively common at the garden at Celeste Mountain Lodge and also around Cano Negro

**Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher** *Todirostrum nigriceps*—closely related to the previous species but more closely tied to the forest canopy; seen only on the extension

**Yellow-olive Flycatcher** *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*—observed on our walk on the side road not far from Celeste; also seen on the Celeste Forest Trail

**Yellow-margined Flycatcher** *Tolmomyias assimilis*—seen on the Celeste Forest Trail

**Tufted Flycatcher** *Mitrephanes phaeocercus*—one of these cute flycatchers at Curi-Cancha Reserve

Olive-sided Flycatcher Contopus cooperi—a migrant, seen only at Santa Elena Cloud Forest

**Tropical Pewee** *Contopus cinereus*—one on the side road near Celeste, identified by call and the shorter primary projection (they do not have to undergo the longer migrations of our summer breeders) **Yellowish Flycatcher** *Empidonax flavescens*—seen at Curi-Cancha and Monteverde Cloud Forest **Long-tailed Tyrant** *Colonia colonus*—a beautiful flycatcher offered excellent scope views on our walk along the side road near Celeste; they usually hunt from an exposed perch, sallying out for flying insects (especially stingless bees)

**Bright-rumped Attila** Attila spadiceus (HO)—frequently heard but remaining unseen at Celeste **Rufous Mourner** Rhytipterna holerythra—seen on the trail below Celeste Mountain Lodge **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** Myiarchus tuberculifer—one on the forest edge at Bijagua Bird Song Gardens **Great Crested Flycatcher** Myiarchus crinitus—one calling bird at Cano Negro; a winter resident here **Brown-crested Flycatcher** Myiarchus tyrannulus—one in the dry forest habitat between Tarcoles and Monteverde

**Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus*—these colorful and vociferous birds were common and widespread in a variety of habitats and elevations

**Boat-billed Flycatcher** *Megarynchus pitangua*—seen from the parking lot at Curi-Cancha; much larger beak than Great Kiskadee with no rufous in the wings

Social Flycatcher Myiozetetes similis—common and widespread, observed daily

Gray-capped Flycatcher Myiozetetes granadensis—seen once at Celeste and at Cano Negro

White-ringed Flycatcher Conopias albovittatus—seen only on the extension

**Streaked Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes maculatus*—observed in the dry environment en route to Monteverde; a summer breeding visitor that migrates to South America in the Costa Rican 'winter' **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes luteiventris*—one observed at Curi-Cancha Reserve and another at the Bird Song Gardens near Celeste; a migrant in Costa Rica, nesting in the northern half of the country northward to southeast Arizona

**Piratic Flycatcher** *Legatus leucophaius*—seen at Hotel Bougainvillea, Bijagua Bird Song Gardens, and Hotel Montana Monteverde; they appropriate the domed or enclosed nests of larger passerine species such as caciques and oropendolas, hence the name 'piratic'

**Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus*—observed daily in open areas and on wires **Eastern Kingbird** *Tyrannus tyrannus*—seen only on the extension, a passage migrant here **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus forficatus*—seen in the dry open country of the Pacific Coast on our way to Monteverde

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus savana*—one spectacular bird with long tail streamers at Medio Queso Wetlands

## **COTINGAS: Cotingidae (1)**

**Three-wattled Bellbird** *Procnias tricarunculatus*—seen at length on our walk at Curi-Cancha Reserve; a spectacular bird with an incredible voice! **VOTED BIRD OF THE TRIP** 

#### **MANAKINS: Pipridae (3)**

Long-tailed Manakin Chiroxiphia linearis—after quite a bit of effort, we finally got everyone on a displaying male while exploring the bizarre little Monteverde Reserve with the vegetable garden White-ruffed Manakin Corapipo altera—seen on the trails below Celeste Mountain Lodge on two dates, feeding in a fruiting tree with several other small passerines and hummingbirds White-collared Manakin Manacus candei—seen on the trails below Celeste Mountain Lodge

# **BECARDS AND TITYRAS: Tityridae (5)**

Black-crowned Tityra Tityra inquisitor—observed on two days while at Celeste

Masked Tityra Semifasciata—observed at both Monteverde and Celeste Mountain Lodge; a widespread tropical species that occurs up into northwest Mexico near the Arizona border Northern Schiffornis Schiffornis veraepacis—this chunky, dark green bird was hard to spot, but we did have quite a few of the group get on it one afternoon; formerly known as the Thrush-like Manakin or Mourner

**Cinnamon Becard** *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*—we observed this chunky, unicolor bird on two of our visits to the little Bird Song Gardens near Celeste

White-winged Becard Pachyramphus polychopterus—seen only on the extension

# **VIREOS: Vireonidae (6)**

Green Shrike-Vireo Vireolanius pulchellus (HO)—heard only on the extension

**Tawny-crowned Greenlet** *Tunchiornis ochraceiceps*—seen by some on the trail below Celeste **Lesser Greenlet** *Pachysylvia decurtata*—a small and inconspicuous little vireo of forest feeding flocks; seen once at Monteverde and another at Celeste

**Yellow-throated Vireo** *Vireo flavifrons*—seen in the large bare tree at Hotel Bougainvillea **Philadelphia Vireo** *Vireo philadelphicus*—also seen in the large bare tree at Hotel Bougainvillea, a reliable site for this uncommon winter visitor

**Yellow-green Vireo** *Vireo flavoviridis*—a recently arrived and actively singing summer resident; observed in the dry habitat on the Pacific Coast en route to Monteverde

## CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (3)

**Azure-hooded Jay** *Cyanolyca cucullata*—fantastic views of this normally shy jay at Curi-Cancha Reserve, feeding in a small flock right by the trail

White-throated Magpie-Jay Calocitta formosa—a couple birds on the grounds of Hotel Montana Monteverde and another couple birds at the Bird Song Gardens near Celeste; a spectacular and very large Neotropical jay that has been spreading into Monteverde and wetter areas in northern Costa Rica Brown Jay Psilorhinus morio—a large and noisy forest jay; quite common in the Monteverde area

#### **SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (7)**

**Blue-and-white Swallow** *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*—the common swallow in the Monteverde area; also observed at Hotel Bougainvillea

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*—our best views of this large and brown swallow were on the gravel side road which we explored before returning to Celeste Mountain Lodge **Southern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*—seen only on the extension; identified by the previous species by its white rump and brighter orange throat

**Gray-breasted Martin** *Progne chalybea*—a resident martin similar to our Purple and with a penchant for human structures; a few seen at Cano Negro and the Medio Queso Wetlands

**Mangrove Swallow** *Tachycineta albilinea*—small numbers at Cano Negro and the Medio Queso Wetlands; a very green swallow closely related to our Tree

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*—a boreal migrant; a few birds seen at each of the three lodges we stayed **Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*—a small flock migrating through the Cano Negro area one day

## **WRENS: Troglodytidae (13)**

**Nightingale Wren** *Microcerculus philomela*—we saw this shy songster at the forest edge right near Celeste Mountain Lodge – a fantastic sighting!

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon*—quite common (if not conspicuous) at all three sites we visited; our best views were of the family group rummaging in the leaf litter right by the cafe at Rio Celeste Trail

**Ochraceous Wren** *Troglodytes ochraceous* **(RE)**—two birds seen well at Reserva Santa Elena, working the wet moss and bromeliads

**Rufous-naped Wren** *Campylorhynchus rufinucha*—noisy and conspicuous at Hotel Bougainvillea **Spot-breasted Wren** *Pheugopedius maculipectus*—one on one of our boat tours at Cano Negro; a northern Central America species that reaches the southern limit of its range in northern Costa Rica *Black-throated Wren Pheugopedius atrogularis* (HO)—heard only on the extension

**Rufous-and-white Wren** *Thryophilus rufalbus*—two seen at Hotel Fonda Vela at Monteverde while looking for Wood-Quail one morning

**Stripe-breasted Wren** *Cantorchilus thoracicus*—two seen on the gravel road we explored near Celeste **Cabanis's Wren** *Cantorchilus modestus*—seen a couple times in the Monteverde area; formerly called the Plain Wren before being split into three species

**Canebrake Wren** *Cantorchilus zeledoni* **(RE)**—one seen on one of our boat trips at Cano Negro on one of our boat trips; formerly lumped with Cabanis's Wren as Plain Wren

**Bay Wren** *Cantorchilus nigricapillus*—a beautiful wren with a rich rufous color; a pair seen on the gravel road near Celeste, a very productive area despite being mostly secondary growth!

White-breasted Wood-Wren Henicorhina leucosticta (HO)—a very shy wren, heard only at Celeste Gray-breasted Wood-Wren Henicorhina leucophrys—brief glimpses of this highland wren at Monteverde

# **GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae (2)**

**White-lored Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila albiloris*—a dry forest species seen en route to Monteverde on the Pacific Coast

**Tropical Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila plumbea*—seen a couple times around Cano Negro

# **THRUSHES: Turdidae (10)**

**Black-faced Solitaire** *Myadestes melanops* **(RE)**—singles seen at Curi-Cancha Reserve and Monteverde Cloud Forest; a highland thrush species with an incredible, ventriloquial song

**Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush** *Catharus aurantiirostris*—seen at the small sanctuary in the town of Monteverde on two mornings

Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush Catharus fuscater—one seen well at Reserva Santa Elena Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush Catharus frantzii—seen well at Reserva Santa Elena Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush Catharus mexicanus—seen at Reserva Santa Elena by some of the group

**Swainson's Thrush** *Catharus ustulatus*—seen at Curi-Cancha Reserve, Monteverde, and Celeste **Wood Thrush** *Hylocichla mustelina*—one individual scraping through the leaf litter at the small sanctuary in the town of Monteverde

**Mountain Thrush** *Turdus plebejus*—two in a fruiting tree along the entrance road to Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve

White-throated Thrush Turdus assimilis—one in a fruiting tree along the entrance road to Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve

Clay-colored Thrush Turdus grayi—the national bird of Costa Rica; common, vocal, and widespread

#### FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (4)

**Golden-browed Chlorophonia** *Chlorophonia callophrys* **(RE)**—two at Curi-Cancha Reserve and another feeding with a Scarlet-thighed Dacnis on the entrance road to Monteverde – a spectacular, bright green finch found only in the mountains between Costa Rica and Panama

**Yellow-crowned Euphonia** *Euphonia luteicapilla*—seen on two dates at Bijagua Bird Song Gardens; extensive yellow crown and dark throat

**Yellow-throated Euphonia** *Euphonia hirundinacea*—the most common and widespread euphonia in northern Costa Rica; observed daily and a faithful attendant of the fruit table at Celeste and Rio Negro **Olive-backed Euphonia** *Euphonia gouldi*—an oddly colored, mossy green euphonia seen several times during our stay at Celeste

## **NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (7)**

**Common Chlorospingus** *Chlorospingus flavopectus*—common at the various cloud forest reserves around Monteverde

**Black-striped Sparrow** *Arremonops conirostris*—regular under the feeders at Celeste Mountain Lodge! **Orange-billed Sparrow** *Arremon aurantiirostris*—seen only on the extension

**Chestnut-capped Brushfinch** *Arremon brunneinucha*—we saw this large, handsome sparrow only once at Reserva Santa Elena

**Rufous-collared Sparrow** *Zonotrichia capensis*—the common sparrow of the highlands around Monteverde

**White-eared Ground-Sparrow** *Melozone leucotis*—seen particularly well on the grounds of the Hotel Montana Monteverde; also seen at Hotel Bougainvillea

White-naped Brushfinch Atlapetes albinucha—seen once around Monteverde

## **NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (13)**

**Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna*—two in the agricultural fields in front of the Rio Celeste Trail of Tenorio National Park

**Red-breasted Meadowlark** *Sturnella militaris*—beautiful views in the scope on the crake walk at Cano Negro

**Chestnut-headed Oropendola** *Psarocolius wagleri*—a few at Bijagua Bird Song Gardens near Celeste **Montezuma Oropendola** *Psarocolius montezuma*—a very large and common icterid of the lowlands, seen several times at Celeste and Cano Negro

**Scarlet-rumped Cacique** *Cacicus uropygialis (HO)*—heard only on the extension

**Black-cowled Oriole** *Icterus prosthemelas*—seen regularly at the feeders at Celeste Mountain Large **Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula*—a very common winter visitor in Costa Rica; seen at Hotel Bougainvillea, Celeste Mountain Lodge (feeders), and Cano Negro

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*—large flocks at Cano Negro and Medio Queso Wetlands **Bronzed Cowbird** *Molothrus aeneus*—one at Cano Negro in a blackbird flock

**Giant Cowbird** *Molothrus oryzivorus*—one at Cano Negro in a mixed blackbird flock while we were scoping the pond with the Jabiru; almost crow-like in appearance, this species parasitizes oropendolas and caciques

Melodious Blackbird Dives dives—our best views were at Hotel Bougainvillea

**Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus*—common and widespread

**Nicaraguan Grackle** *Quiscalus nicaraguensis* **(RE)**—seen a couple times at Cano Negro on our boat trips, always near a herd of cattle; an uncommon and very local species that occurs only around lakes Nicaragua and Managua, just barely reaching into Costa Rica at Cano Negro

#### **NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (20)**

**Ovenbird** *Seiurus aurocapilla*—seen once around Monteverde **Louisiana Waterthrush** *Parkesia motacilla*—seen only on the extension

**Northern Waterthrush** *Parkesia noveboracensis*—very common by call note at Cano Negro; we did eventually get to see one or two working the shoreline on one of our boat trips

**Golden-winged Warbler** *Vermivora chrysoptera*—seen at Curi-Cancha, Reserva Santa Elena, and Celeste Mountain Lodge; always in mixed feeding flocks

Black-and-white Warbler Mniotilta varia—seen at Hotel Bougainvillea and Reserva Santa Elena
Tennessee Warbler Oreothlypis peregrina—common and widespread, even attending banana feeders
Gray-crowned Yellowthroat Geothlypis poliocephala—nice views in a forest clearing at Curi-Cancha
Mourning Warbler Geothlypis philadelphia—one on the gravel road near Celeste Mountain Lodge
Tropical Parula Setophaga pitiayumi—nice views of an individual feeding in the bushes near the feeders
at Celeste Mountain Lodge one day

**Bay-breasted Warbler** *Setophaga castanea*—seen once on the topiary grounds of Celeste **Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia*—common and widespread winter visitor

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** *Setophaga pensylvanica*—common winter visitor at Celeste and Cano Negro **Black-throated Green Warbler** *Setophaga virens*—two along the entrance road to the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve one afternoon

**Rufous-capped Warbler** *Basileuterus rufifrons*—seen at the small reserve in the town of Monteverde **Golden-crowned Warbler** *Basileuterus culicivorus*—two in the trailside undergrowth at Curi-Cancha **Costa Rican Warbler** *Basileuterus melanotis* **(RE)**—seen at Santa Elena and Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserves

**Buff-rumped Warbler** *Myiothlypis fulvicauda*—observed at a dry stream bed in the trail below Celeste Mountain Lodge

Wilson's Warbler Cardellina pusilla—very common at Monteverde and Celeste

**Slate-throated Redstart** *Myioborus miniatus*—seen a few times in the reserves around Monteverde **Collared Redstart** *Myioborus torquatus* **(RE)**—one at Reserva Santa Elena sallying for insects right near the buildings at the entrance

#### CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (7)

**Hepatic Tanager** *Piranga flava*—a female in the topiary gardens at Celeste Mountain Lodge **Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra*—coming to the banana feeders at Celeste Mountain Lodge **Scarlet Tanager** *Piranga olivacea*—seen only on the extension

**Carmiol's Tanager** *Chlorothraupis carmioli*—heard well and seen briefly in the roadside vegetation below Celeste Mountain Lodge

**Black-faced Grosbeak** *Caryothraustes poliogaster*—approximately three very vocal individuals in the Bijagua Bird Song Gardens; a core species of mid-elevation mixed feeding flocks

Rose-breasted Grosbeak Pheucticus Iudovicianus—seen at Hotel Bougainvillea

Blue-black Grosbeak Cyanoloxia cyanoides—observed at Celeste Mountain Lodge

#### TANAGERS AND ALLIES: Thraupidae (20)

**Crimson-collared Tanager** *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*—a large and spectacular tanager, seen well on the gravel road near Celeste Mountain Lodge

**Scarlet-rumped Tanager** *Ramphocelus passerinii*—numerous and conspicuous, particularly at feeders, at Celeste Mountain Lodge and Cano Negro

**Blue-gray Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus*—recorded daily

**Palm Tanager** *Thraupis palmarum*—quite common, especially around Celeste and Cano Negro **Golden-hooded Tanager** *Tangara larvata*—small numbers around Celeste and Bijagua Bird Song Gardens

**Rufous-winged Tanager** Tangara lavinia—seeing two in the scope near Celeste was a real treat; this is an uncommon and local tanager with a very narrow altitudinal range

**Bay-headed Tanager** *Tangara gyrola*—seen only on the extension

Silver-throated Tanager Tangara icterocephala—relatively common in the highlands, recorded daily at the various Monteverde reserves

Scarlet-thighed Dacnis Dacnis venusta—several around Monteverde and one at Celeste; a very striking black and blue tanager with vibrant red pantaloons

Shining Honeycreeper Cyanerpes lucidus—two at Celeste Mountain Lodge

Red-legged Honeycreeper Cyanerpes cyaneus—recorded daily around Celeste and Cano Negro

Green Honeycreeper Chlorophanes spiza—coming to the banana feeders at Celeste Mountain Lodge

Blue-black Grassquit Volatinia jacarina—one in a grazed field on the gravel road near Celeste

Thick-billed Seed-Finch Sporophila funerea—seen on the gravel road near Celeste and at Medio Queso Wetlands

Variable Seedeater Sporophila corvina—very common at Celeste and Cano Negro, with several individuals living in the garden in front of the dining area

Morelet's Seedeater Sporophila morelleti—a few along the gravel road near Celeste, not as common as the previous seedeater

Bananaquit Coereba flaveola—great views at the hummingbird feeders of the Monteverde **Hummingbird Gallery** 

Yellow-faced Grassquit Tiaris olivaceus—common in open grassy areas in the highlands, with several feeding on the short grass right on the grounds of Hotel Montana Monteverde

Buff-throated Saltator Saltator maximus—observed daily at Celeste and Cano Negro, especially at the banana feeders

Grayish Saltator Saltator coerulescens—seen only at Hotel Bougainvillea

#### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)**

House Sparrow Passer domesticus (I)—seen at a gas station en route back to San Jose

## MAMMALS (13 species recorded):

Nine-banded Armadillo Dasypus novemcinctus

**Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth** *Bradypus variegatus*—extension only

Hoffmann's Toe-toed Sloth Choloepus hoffmanni—extension only

Lesser Sac-winged Bat (Lesser White-lined Bat) Saccopteryx leptura

Central American Agouti Dasyprocta punctata—quite a few around the Monteverde area

Variegated Squirrel Sciurus variegatoides—common at Hotel Bougainvillea and Monteverde **Red-tailed Squirrel** *Sciurus granatensis* 

Central American Dwarf Squirrel Microsciurus alfari—great find on the trail below Celeste Mountain Lodge

**Central American Spider Monkey** *Ateles geoffroyi* 

Mantled Howler Monkey Alouatta palliata—seen (and heard) during our stay at Cano Negro

Olingo Bassaricyon gabbii—one raiding the hummingbird feeders for sugar water at Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve

White-nosed Coati Nasua narica

Collared Peccary Pecari tajacu

# **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (13 species recorded):**

**Spectacled Caiman** Caiman crocodilus

Mesoamerican Slider Trachemys venusta

Black River Turtle Rhinoclemmys funerea

**Emerald Swift** Sceloporus malachiticus

Black Spiny-tailed Iguana Ctenosaura similis

Green Iguana Iguana iguana—lounging in the vegetation along the Cano Negro River

Helmet Iguana Corytophanes cristatus

**Green Basilisk** Basiliscus plumifrons

Middle American Ameiva Holcosus festivus

**Red-eyed Tree Frog** *Agalychnis callidryas*—nice views in the artificial frog ponds at Celeste Mountain Lodge; a spectacularly colorful tree frog!

Masked Tree Frog Smilisca phaeota—nice views at the artificial ponds at Celeste Mountain Lodge

**Strawberry Poison Dart Frog** *Oophaga pumilio*—extension only

**Green-and-black Poison Dart Frog** *Dendrobates auratus*—extension only