

# Costa Rica: Birding & Nature | Species List

## January 16 – 24, 2024 | with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by guide Rick Weiman with host Emily Renkey and local guide Jose Armando Obando Sanchez. Our nine wonderful clients included Barb and Rebecca, Steve and Laura, Ken and Anita, Bob, Ken and Rick.**

As we learned on this tour, Costa Rica is a spectacular birding destination. Few places rival its ecological diversity. As our itinerary states, over a quarter of the country is protected lands, boasting 850 bird species and 200+ mammals. On this tour we traversed the Continental Divide with our local guide Jose Armando Obando Sanchez. We traveled from lowland rainforest to montane cloud forest and visited the warmer Caribbean lowlands including the La Selva Biological Station. We took a rewarding Sarapiquí River tour where we saw several species of kingfisher, spectacled caimans, many herons and egrets and mantled howler monkeys. The final days of the tour were spent in the northern part of the country in the vicinity of the Caño Negro National Wildlife Refuge near the Nicaraguan border. Here we explored by boat the freshwater river systems and expansive marshes and wetlands that provide a protected haven for hundreds of bird and animal species. Enjoy reviewing this species list to learn about the wonderful birds and wildlife we encountered on this relaxing tour.

BIRDS 218 species were recorded of which 11 were heard only, 29 were regionally endemic and two were introduced. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 218 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Costa Rica: Birds & Nature | January 16-24, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

### **MAMMALS (9):**

**Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth** *Choloepus hoffmanni*—Spotted in a tree on the boat tour on the Rio Sarapiquí. **Central American Agouti** *Dasyprocta punctata*—Observed on the trails at La Selva Biological Station. **Variiegated Squirrel** *Sciurus variegatoides*—A very large and colorful squirrel observed multiple times on the tour. **Red-tailed Squirrel** *Sciurus granatensis*—A smaller squirrel observed in the gardens at the Hotel Bougainvillea.

**Mantled Howler Monkey** *Alouatta palliata*—We heard them calling at La Quinta Sarapiquí Lodge and later spotted some on the Rio Sarapiquí boat tour. Later in the tour, after departing Caño Negro, we saw a troop feeding right next to the road, amazingly close to us all.

**Central American Spider Monkey** *Ateles geoffroyi*—Seen in the trees near our cabins at Caño Negro Natural Lodge.

**White-throated Capuchin** *Cebus capucinus*—One peeked out of the trees for photos on our morning Caño Negro National Wildlife Refuge boat tour.

**Common Opossum** *Didelphis marsupialis*—Only seen by Bob Davis one evening at La Quinta Sarapiquí Lodge.

**Proboscis Bat** *Rhynchonycteris naso*—Seen roosting under the dock where our Rio Sarapiquí boat tour departed from, others were seen on a log later on that trip.

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

**Spectacled Caiman** *Caiman crocodilus*—Many were spotted on the Rio Sarapiquí and Caño Negro National Wildlife Refuge boat tours. Also observed on our night walks in the ponds at La Quinta Sarapiquí Lodge.

**Emerald Swift** *Sceloporus malachiticus*—Several were seen among the rock walls at Trogon Lodge.

**Green Iguana** *Iguana iguana*—Spotted in the trees on all of our boat tours.

**Green Basilisk** *Basiliscus plumifrons*—Our local guide called these Emerald Basilisks, but they seem to have several names. There were several brilliant green ones on the edge of the river on our Caño Negro National Wildlife Refuge boat tour including one that did a short run across the water as they often do to escape predators.

**Common House Gecko** *Hemidactylus fenatus*—An introduced species from Asia that is now common in most of Costa Rica. Most commonly seen on the walls in the dining area of the La Quinta Sarapiquí Lodge.

**Black River Turtle** *Rhinoclemmys funerea*—Spotted on logs on the boat tour along the Rio Sarapiquí.

**Meso-American Slider** *Trachemys venusta venusta*—This lone turtle was spotted and photographed on a log on the boat tour along the Rio Sarapiquí.

**Annulated Tree Boa** *Corallus annulatus* —An amazing spot by Ken Eyster as it was high in a tree on our night walk; Ken snapped a nice picture allowing us to positively identify it. Our only snake of the tour sadly.

**Leaf Litter Toad** *Rhaebo haematiticus*—Found on our night walk on the grounds of La Quinta Sarapiquí Lodge.

**Red-eyed Tree Frog** *Agalychnis callidryas*—Several were found on our night walks on the grounds of La Quinta Sarapiquí Lodge and an egg mass was also found under a large leaf overhanging a pond, which allows the tadpoles to safely hatch, wriggle free and plop into the pond.

**Strawberry Poison Dart Frog** *Oophaga pumilio*—Armando located a few of these very small frogs in the leaf litter during a morning walk at La Quinta Sarapiquí Lodge; very tiny with pink bodies and blue legs.

**Giant Toad** *Rhinella horribilis*—Also known as Cane Toads, one fell in the pool at Caño Negro Natural Lodge and was rescued, several others were seen there on our night drive.

**Savage's Thin-toed Frog** *Leptodactylus savagei*—Observed on one of the small ponds on our second night walk on the grounds of La Quinta Sarapiquí Lodge. Armando referred to this very large, brown frog as a Central American bullfrog. While that may be the local name, subsequent research identified it as Savage's thin-toed frog, a new life amphibian for guide Rick!