

# Costa Rica: Birding & Nature | Species Report

## January 16 – 27, 2024 | with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by guide Bryan Calk with local guide Johan Fernandez. Our clients included Bill, Sharon, Sandy, Sue, Gordon, Virginia, Steve, Wendy, Lloyd, Antonela, and Dragos**



Beautiful, varied, mysterious, and captivating – Costa Rica is a place you could easily lose yourself in the best way. Our journey began as we all meet at the beautiful Hotel Bougainvillea outside of San Jose with its extensive manicured gardens full of surprises around each corner. Once gathered and acquainted, our first journey took us up the Cerro de la Muerte and the Savegre Valley with the branches of the cloud forests dripping with epiphytes and improbable creatures trilling from the canopy and sneaking through the dense leaf litter. Evenings and morning excursions were chilly and brisk with dense, moist air enriching our lungs and surrounding us with the sounds of the clear mountain streams navigating rocky riverbeds. Descending from here we entered the Caribbean foothills and lowlands around Rancho Naturalista and La Selva Biological Station. Classic rainforest denizens dazzled us from butterflies, monkeys, frogs, and of course birds as we explored by foot and by boat. Along the way we learned how important this region has been to developing the human

understanding of not only these biomes but biomes across the world, even getting a glimpse at how the ancient tribes of the region thrived at Guayabo National Monument. Most of our group continued to the Pacific coast extension including Carara National Park and La Ensenada's deciduous dry forest on the Gulf of Nicoya where the weather was warm and sunny and the wildlife changed in many ways. As one client said, each day was like a Christmas morning as we rose either before or with the sun, eager for the surprises in store!

**Birds: 342 species were recorded. Details are included below.**

The eBird link below details the 342 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 Birding and Nature | January 16-27, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

### **Mammals (14 species):**

**Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth** *Bradypus variegatus*– One seen high in a tree near the manakin viewing spot at Guarumo Lodge y Soda where we had lunch

**Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth** *Choloepus hoffmanni*– One seen itching itself over the suspension bridge at La Selva, and two adults, one with a baby, were seen in a tree hanging over the Rio Sarapiquí on our boat trip there

**Proboscis (long-nosed) Bat** *Rhynchonycteris naso*– Seen under an eave at La Selva through the scope and again roosting under a log on the Sarapiquí River boat trip

**Honduran White Bat** *Ectophylla alba* – Shown to us by Cope under a folded leaf of a heliconia plant

**Central American Agouti** *Dasyprocta punctata* – Seen best at the corn feeding stations at Rancho Naturalista

**Variegated Squirrel** *Sciurus variegatoides* – Seen almost daily throughout the tour

**Red-tailed Squirrel** *Sciurus granatensis* – Seen often at feeders during the first half of the tour at higher elevations

**Central American Spider Monkey** *Ateles geoffroyi* – Most of the group saw these high in the trees at La Selva Biological Station

**White-faced Capuchin Monkey** *Cebus imitator* – Seen distantly at Selva Verde during a morning walk, and exceptionally well at the deck of Cerro Lodge during the extension

**Mantled Howler Monkey** *Alouatta palliata* – Seen often in groups during the second half of the tour like along the Sarapiquí River and at La Ensenada during the extension

**White-nosed Coati** *Nasua narica* – A small group seen briefly in the understory near the end of our walk at Carara National Park

**Collared Peccary (Javelina)** *Dicotyles tajacu* – A group seen moving through the forest at La Selva Biological Station

**Dusky Rice Rat** *Melanomys caliginosus* – Darting in and out of the bushes at Rancho Naturalista to feed on the same corn the Agoutis were coming to

**Coyote** *Canis latrans* – A group howling into the night in the cloud forest of Savegre and one along the entrance road into La Ensenada

### **Reptiles and Amphibians (14 species):**

**American Crocodile** *Crocodylus acutus*– First seen on the banks of the Sarapiquí River with a Green Ibis nearby, then seen exceptionally well along the Rio Tarcoles during the extension

**Emerald Swift** *Sceloporus malachiticus*– A pair seen along the outer walls of the church ruins at Ujarras

**Black Spiny-tailed Iguana** *Ctenosaura similis*– Seen almost daily during the second half of the tour, particularly during the extension

**Green Iguana** *Iguana iguana*– A large male and his female were quite something along the suspension bridge at La Selva, but seen other places as well

**Helmeted Basilisk (Helmeted Iguana)** *Corytophanes cristatus*– One seen in a bramble right by the path at Carara National Park during the extension

**Green Basilisk** *Basiliscus plumifrons*– One seen resting on a branch by the path at Cope's

**Common Basilisk** *Basiliscus basiliscus*– One resting on a rock in the river at the first place we saw Sunbittern right outside Rancho Naturalista

**Middle American Ameiva** *Holcosus festivus*– Seen a couple of times during the tour including La Selva Biological Station and Carara National Park

**Central American Eyelash-Pitviper** *Bothriechis nigroadspersus* – One seen along the trail at La Selva Biological Station hanging out in a plant about eye-level

**Strawberry Poison Dart Frog** *Oophaga pumilio*– A couple seen at La Selva Biological station during our walk there

**Green-and-black Poison Dart Frog** *Dendrobates auratus*– One found by Antonela during a morning walk at Selva Verde

**House Gecko** *Hemidactylus frenatus*– Often heard and seen around the lights and buildings at our lodges in the lower elevations

**Black River Turtle** *Rhinoclemmys funerea*– Several seen in the river below the suspension bridge at La Selva Biological Station

**Red-eared Slider** *Trachemys scripta*– One seen basking along the banks of the Sarapiquí River during our boat ride