

# Summer in Costa Rica

## Species List | July 17 – 24, 2024

### with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by Naturalist Journeys host guide James P. Smith with eBird checklists provided by tour members Liz, Pete, Max and Kent, and real-time field contributions from Lucas, Roger & Donna, Victor & Betsy, Maryann and Lorna.**

This was an exceptional tour in many respects not least of which was the effort, generosity and enthusiasm shown by our awesome group on every field outing. While technically a 'rainy season' trip, the weather rarely interfered with our plans but when it did the 'plan B' option often produced something special - who could forget the family of White-faced Capuchins above Stella's Bakery right in the heart of Monteverde!

Our three-center tour began in the delightful and temperate surroundings of the Hotel Bougainvillea in Santa Domingo passing through the humid Caribbean lowlands at La Selva Biological Station before settling down for three nights at the fabulous Arenal Observatory Lodge. From there we cruised across Lake Arenal and then gained elevation crossing the Continental Divide where we spent the final three nights at Monteverde Country Lodge on the Pacific slope. The tour provided a fantastic example of Costa Rica's rich diversity with almost 240 bird species recorded in just one week. Of course, there were many highlights but stand out moments included Pete spotting a Bare-necked Umbrellabird, and Donna's sharp eyes picking out a Central American Jumping Pit-Viper casually resting on a log. Ironically, both sightings came from the Danta Waterfalls trail at Arenal Observatory Lodge on the same morning! And, we could hardly leave Monteverde without seeing a Resplendent Quetzal or two and Johan duly delivered using his local knowledge to find four of them in the same tree!

This ebird species report link details over 235 species, some of them with photos and audio. If you click on "Show All Details" on the right side of the ebird list you will see the details of each sighting;

[Summer in Costa Rica | July 17-24. 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Special thanks go to knowledgeable and witty local leader Johan Fernandez, and especially to our stoic driver Heraldo who brought us to our destinations safely and always in good time. We'll be back for this exceptional tour in July 2025.

### **Mammals (12)**

**Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth** *Bradypus variegatus* – great views at La Selva Biological Station with another (male) along the access road to Arenal Observatory Lodge, plus one at Sendero Bogarín just before the rain started in earnest!

**Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth** *Choloepus hoffmani* – very good views by the suspension bridge at La Selva Biological Station.

**Honduran White Bat** *Ectophylla alba* – a small group of three of these beauties resting under a tent-like leaf at La Selva Biological Station. One of the highlights of the trip.

**Central American Agouti** *Dasyprocta punctata* – not especially common but a wide scatter of singles, usually in forested or garden habitats on most days of the tour.

**Variiegated Squirrel** *Sciurus granatensis* – widespread with 1- 5 daily, including in the grounds of the Hotel Bougainvillea.

**Alfaro's Pygmy Squirrel** *Microsciurus alfari* – one seen very well in the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve and another, rather briefly, at Santa Elana the next day.

**Central American Spider Monkey** *Ateles geoffroyi* – a family group routinely seen over the main lodge building at Arenal Observatory Lodge.

**White-faced Capuchin** *Cebus capuchinus* – a chance encounter with a family group of about six feeding on fruiting *Ficus* trees in Monteverde town, right behind Stella's Bakery!

**Mantled Howler Monkey** *Alouatta palliata* – the deep, throaty growls of this species could be on heard most days though seeing them was a different matter though we did manage some views on the first full day of the tour.

**White-nosed Coati** *Nasua narica* – Arenal Observatory Lodge was really the place to see this raccoon-like mammal when up 16 could be seen foraging around the gardens and lawns.

**Collard Pecary** *Pecari tajacu* – one afternoon found a large group feeding seemingly unconcerned by the main gate at Arenal Observatory Lodge.

**Coyote** *Canis latrans* – encounters with two Coyote's along the access road to Santa Elana on the last full day of the trip.

## **Reptiles (10)**

**Spectacled Caiman** *Caiman crocodilus* – a smallish specimen in the pond at Arenal 1968 reserve.

**Black Spiny-tailed Iguana** *Ctenosaura similis* – two or three hanging around behind the restrooms at the final gas station stop of the tour in Orotina.

**Green Iguana** *Iguana iguana* – a handful seen at La Selva Biological Station, mostly by the river and residential area.

**Green Basilisk** *Basiliscus plumifrons* – one seen just after lunch by the ornamental pond at Sendero Bogarín

**Common Basilisk** *Basiliscus basiliscus* – nice views of a single at Sendero Bogarín.

**Middle American Ameiva** *Holcosus festivus* – one at Sendero Bogarín

**Eyelash Pit-Viper** *Bothriechus schlegelii* - a tiny orange specimen at La Selva Biological Station. The local guide seemed to know exactly where to look!

**Central American Jumping Pit-Viper** *Metlapilcoatlus mexicanus* – this stunning beast was spotted by Donna on a rotten log right by the Danta Waterfalls trail at Arenal Observatory Lodge. Initially it was being mobbed by Orange-billed Sparrows.

**Brown Wood Turtle** *Rhinoclemmys annulata* – a single specimen by the trail at La Selva Biological Station.

**Asian House Gecko** *Hemidactylus frenatus* – a few 'in-room' reports from Arenal Observatory Lodge.

## **Amphibians (4)**

**Strawberry Poison Dart Frog** *Oophaga pumilio* – a couple of 'blue jeans' found at La Selva Biological Station on the first full day.

**Green-and-black Poison Dart Frog** *Dendrobates auratus* – several beautiful specimens at La Selva Biological Station.

**Giant Toad** *Rhinella horribilis* – seen and heard at Arenal Observatory Lodge

**Smoky Jungle Frog** *Leptodactylus pentadactylus* – mostly heard at Arenal Observatory Lodge.

## **Butterflies (20)**

A selection of the many butterflies seen though not in taxonomic order. Many of these could be found in the gardens at the Hotel Bougainvillea at the beginning of the trip.

**Red Postman** *Heliconius erato*  
**Rusty-tipped page** *Siproeta epaphus*  
**Monarch** *Danaus plexippus*  
**Crimson Patch** *Chlosyne janais*  
**Julia Longwing** *Dryas iulia*  
**Zebra Longwing** *Heliconius charithonia*  
**Banded Peacock** *Anartia Fatima*  
**Great Southern White** *Ascia monuste*  
**Frosted Flasher** *Telegonus alardus*  
**Tiger Heliconian** *Heliconius ismenius*  
**Hermes Satyr** *Hermeuptychia hermes*  
**Ruby-spotted Swallowtail** *Papilio anchisiades*  
**Large Orange Sulphur** *Phoebis agarithe*  
**Cloudless Sulphur** *Phoebis sennae*  
**Mexican Fritillary** *Euptoieta hegesia*  
**Yellow-angled Sulphur** *Anteos maerula*  
**Common Blue Morpho** *Morpho helenor*  
**Turquoise Emperor** *Doxocopa laurentia*  
**Polymnia Tigerwing** *Mechanitis polymnia*  
**Clearwing Mimic-white** *Dismorphia theucharila*

## **Moths**

**Urania Swallowtail Moth** *Urania fulgens* – at least one seen well at Arenal 1968 Reserve.