

Costa Rica: Birding Across the Continental Divide Feb. 15-24, 2025 | Trip Report | by Kent Skaggs



Guides Jose Armando Obando and Kent Skaggs, with 10 participants: Dana & Coleman, Jane & Mike, Linda & Mike, Maxa, Peggy & Randy and Wendy



Saturday, Feb 15 - Arrival in San Jose | Hotel Bougainvillea Gardens

Hotel Bougainvillea would be our starting point for our Costa Rica adventure. With 10 acres of botanical gardens on the premises, it's a great place to be introduced to some of the tropical species we would encounter in the coming days. With a varied collection of tropical trees, shrubs and other flowering plants, the gardens provide excellent habitat for birds and butterflies, as well as just being a peaceful place to unwind after a long flight.

Most everyone had an opportunity to explore the grounds of the hotel a bit before officially gathering at 4:00 PM for a short walk to see what we could find as a group. We were joined by our leader/local guide, Jose



Armando Obando (who went by Armando) as we scanned the area. Red-billed and Short-billed Pigeons were seen jockeying about for the best perches in the treetops, while Lesson's Motmots waited patiently in the understory looking for a late afternoon snack. Several other species were seen as well including two Crested Caracaras that landed briefly in the top of a tall conifer before being sent on their way by some Brown Jays. After a brief break, the group gathered in the bar at 6:30 PM for a welcome drink and Armando gave us an overview of what was in store for the group during the tour. We then moved to the restaurant for dinner before returning to our rooms to prepare for the following day. We were all excited for the tour to get started!

Sunday, Feb 16 - Cinchona | Pierella Garden | La Selva Biological Station

Travel day! But before we loaded onto the bus, most of the group met at 6:00 AM to take one last walk through the gardens. Several species that were seen the day before were present along with some new ones including Squirrel Cuckoo, Crimson-fronted Parakeet, Rufous-browed Peppershrike and White-eared Ground Sparrow. After the walk we joined the rest of the group for breakfast before grabbing our bags and loading up on the bus.

As we made our way north out of the city, Armando provided the group with a brief history lesson on Costa Rica and its development as an agricultural economy, the need to conserve its natural resources and the rise of ecotourism. Our first stop was at the La Paz Waterfall to snap some photos before continuing on a little further down the road to the Soda y Mirador Cinchona or 'Colibri Cafe'. This roadside restaurant is known for close up views of several species of birds, good food and great views. As we entered there were people gathered in front of a fruit feeding station. We ordered some beverages and settled in to see what avian species were making an appearance. Red-headed and Prong-billed Barbet, Northern Emerald-Toucanet, Clay-colored Thrush, Common Chlorospingus, Baltimore Oriole, Summer Tanager, Crimson-collared Tanager, Scarlet-rumped Tanager, Blue-gray Tanager, Palm Tanager, Silver-throated Tanager, Red-legged Honeycreeper and Buff-throated Saltator were all enjoying the free fruit buffet, while several Green-crowned Brilliants and a couple of Violet Sabrewings were enjoying the hummingbird feeders.

We stayed for an hour before needing to get back on the road. It was hard to leave such a wonderful site, but we were just getting started and there was a lot yet to see. Our next stop would be at Pierella Garden in the Sarapiquí area where we would be eating lunch. They too had bird feeding stations and hummingbird feeders, so as we ate we watched. White-necked Jacobins were visiting the hummingbird feeders and Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Yellow-crowned Euphonia, Yellow-throated Euphonia, Olive-backed Euphonia, Golden-hooded Tanager and Green Honeycreeper were new species seen at the fruit feeding station. After enjoying a very good meal, we got back on the bus to head to the La Selva Biological Station.



Upon arrival, we filled out some paperwork before gathering with our guide who would be leading us on a walk. It had started to rain so we stayed under cover and scanned nearby vegetation to see what we could find while we waited for a break in the weather. The rain persisted however and all we could do was wait it out. Eventually it subsided and we were able to get out and explore for about an hour finding some new species in Crested Guan, Violet-headed Hummingbird, Semiplumbeous Hawk, Crested Owl and Gartered Trogon to name a few.

Then we settled in for the drive to La Fortuna and eventually the Arenal Observatory Lodge where we would be staying for the next three nights. We arrived a little later than planned due to being delayed by the rain, so we went straight to dinner before settling into our rooms. It had been a good start and we had already seen some amazing birds. We were now ready for more.

Monday, Feb 17 - Arenal Observatory Lodge | Arenal 1968

Everyone was up early for the 6:00 AM bird walk which started on the viewing deck next to the restaurant. The walk turned into more of a 'Big Sit' as Armando had us set up just below the viewing deck near a fruiting tree that was attracting a lot of birds. We could now see several species that were not in view from the deck, plus we had the space all to ourselves. Several Great Curassows were walking around beneath the tree while Crested Guans and Gray-headed Chachalacas plucked fruit directly from the branches. Joining the guans and chachalacas were several Clay-colored Thrushes, a couple of White-necked Thrushes and a Pale-vented Thrush. Tanagers were present as well with Carmiol's, Scarlet-rumped, Blue-gray, Palm, Golden-hooded, Bay-headed, Emerald and Silver-throated all making an appearance. While we watched the activity in the fruiting tree, a couple of male Black-crested Coquettes appeared out of nowhere right next to us, apparently having a disagreement over who had first laid claim to some flowers nearby. We eventually moved back up on the deck for a while before heading inside for breakfast. It was a pretty good start to the day and we really didn't go anywhere.

After breakfast, we loaded onto the bus and headed for Arenal 1968 Volcano View and Trails to explore one of the trails there. Named after the year in which the Arenal Volcano erupted, this private park has several great vantage points from which to view the volcano and trails that allow you to access the lava fields and the forest. We chose a trail that allowed us to walk along the edge of the forest and loop back to where we started. The forest yielded some new species with Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Streak-headed Woodcreeper and Northern Plain-Xenops and some edge habitat near some water yielded Barred Antshrike, Gray-crowned Yellowthroat, Morelet's Seedeater and Yellow-faced Grassquit. It was now time for lunch so we headed back to the lodge to eat and take a little siesta.



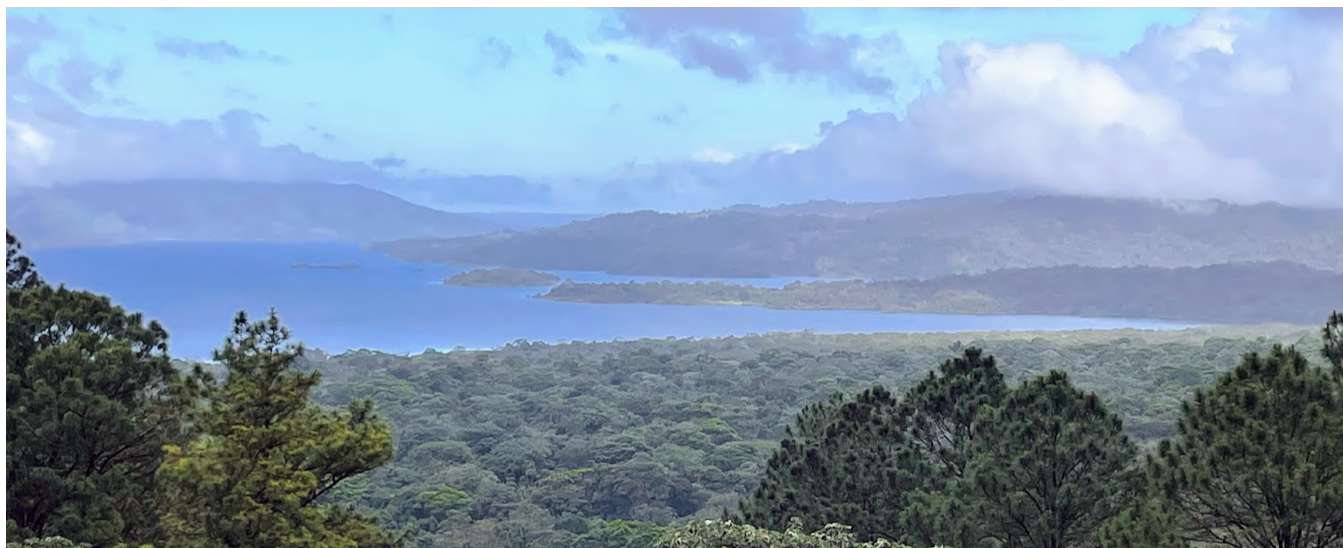
Mid afternoon, part of the group explored some of the trails on the grounds, but rain was looming. Before the skies opened up we found a Cinnamon Becard, a Gray-capped Flycatcher and a Scarlet-thighed Dacnis, along with several other birds. We also were directed to a perfectly camouflaged Eyelash Viper. We returned back to our rooms for a little break before gathering again for dinner. Day 3 was now in the books and we were looking forward to exploring more of the area come morning.

Tuesday, Feb 18 - Arenal Observatory Lodge | Sendero Bogarin

Most of the group was up early again for the 6:00 AM bird walk. We started on the viewing deck again, but instead of going down below we stayed put to see what we could see. Most of the species we had seen the day before were present again with one notable addition. A Bare-necked Umbrellabird, which had been reported at the lodge, appeared in one of the trees just below the deck. Armando had been hoping this bird was still around and fortunately for our group it was. The bird was very cooperative and everyone got good looks before we headed inside for breakfast.

After breakfast most of the group loaded onto the bus to head back into La Fortuna to pay a visit to the Bogarin Trail. Upon arrival we checked out a bird feeding station next to the reception area where several Clay-colored Thrushes were squabbling with Blue-gray and Palm Tanagers over the fruit that had been placed out for them. Bogarin is known as a good place to see sloths, so we eventually set out on one of the trails to see if we could find some. Just a short distance down the trail we ran into a group of people that were looking up into the trees. They kindly directed us where to look and voila, a Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth was before us. We got it in the scope for a closer view before continuing on the trail to see what else we could find. As we walked along birds could be heard but not easily seen due to the fairly dense understory. We eventually found a Broad-billed Motmot sitting out in the open providing excellent views. From here we backtracked on the trail to see if we could locate a Blue-throated Goldentail that had been heard but only briefly seen. It didn't take long and the bird was located perched on a bare branch about 15 feet off the ground. As we watched the hummingbird, we heard a White-collared Manakin displaying nearby so we moved in the direction of the loud, mechanical sounds produced when the male snaps its wings together. The bird was located perched not far off of the trail, preening its feathers. Then we were able to see it display on its lek, quickly hopping from perch to perch. What a treat!

We returned to the reception area to take a last look at the feeding station where we added a Black-headed Saltator to the list before driving a very short distance to a restaurant for lunch. As we were walking toward the



entrance of the restaurant, our driver, JP, directed our attention to a bird perched in a tree a short distance away. It was a Keel-billed Motmot, a species we were hoping to see and now we had thanks to JP.

Then it was back to the lodge for a brief siesta before most of the group gathered again to explore some of the trails on the property. We took the trail below the viewing deck, which started with a gradual downward slope before dramatically increasing. A concrete block stairway took us down and down before we took an offramp to our right, ending the descent. The silhouettes of about 20 White-crowned Parrots could be seen flying above the tree canopy and a Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush was heard singing in the distance. As we gradually made our way back up the slope, Armando spotted some Central American Spider Monkeys moving through the trees. We watched these acrobats of the forest easily make their way through the tree canopy for a while before continuing on. Not much further down the trail we came across some Mantled Howler Monkeys, with White-faced Capuchins calling not far off in the distance. The capuchins remained out of sight so we continued on. As we circled back towards the reception area, a Thicket Antpitta could be heard calling so Armando tried to draw it closer into view to no avail.

We finished our walk, then got freshened up a bit before gathering again for dinner. It had been another productive day, but a lengthy one as well. We enjoyed our last evening together at Arenal Observatory Lodge, before most of the group retired to their rooms to pack as we would be departing for our next destination in the morning. Two of us joined Armando for a night walk in search of owls. It took less than 10 minutes before coming upon a pair of Black-and-white Owls hanging out near a light along the entrance road. Armando took some video through his spotting scope to share with the rest of the group, before we decided this was a good way to end the day and retired ourselves.

Wednesday, Feb 19 - Arenal Observatory Lodge | Children's Eternal Rainforest

Travel day! But first some of the group did a pre-breakfast walk around the grounds near the lodge starting again at the viewing deck. The Bare-necked Umbrellabird was back in the same place as the previous morning, the Great Curassows and Gray-headed Chachalacas were back at the fruit feeding station and several tanager species took their turn as well once the big birds had their fill. Then it was onto a trail starting near the reception area where several familiar species were seen, but a couple of new ones were added too in Slaty-tailed and Collared Trogons. Then it was breakfast, grab our things and load up and hit the road. We had enjoyed our stay at the Arenal Observatory Lodge, but it was time to continue our adventure.



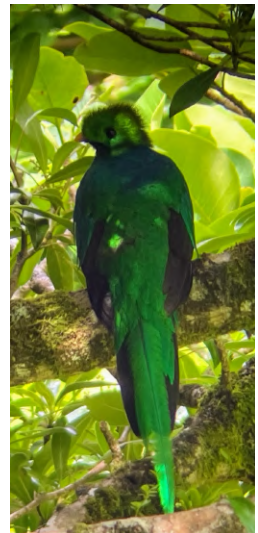
We had a new ride this morning as our driver took off early with our bus in order to meet us on the other side of Lake Arenal in the town of Tilaran. We would be traveling by boat on Lake Arenal. Once underway on the lake, we settled in to enjoy the scenery, stopping once to check out some roosting birds on an island and stopping again in a little bay to see what was hanging around on shore. It took approximately an hour to make the crossing and once on the other side we hopped in another bus which transferred us to Tilaran. Once there, we reconnected with JP and proceeded on to Monteverde for lunch.

After lunch we visited the Bajo del Tigre sector of the Children's Eternal Rainforest (CER). Armando was hoping to find a special bird at this location, the Long-tailed Manakin. After a brief orientation on the CER and its mission, we started on one of the trails. We didn't make it very far before Armando heard a Long-tailed Manakin. The trick would be finding this small bird in the dense vegetation of the forest. Armando was once again up to the task as he was able to locate it perched in the shade on a branch several yards into the forest. He promptly got the bird in his scope and we all took a look at a beautiful male with his black head, underbelly and two characteristic long central tail feathers set off by a bright blue back and crimson crown. The bird stayed put for quite a while before deciding to find somewhere with a little more privacy. With smiles on our faces, we continued a short distance on the trail before stopping to take a look at a Leafcutter Ant colony and the many workers that were dutifully fulfilling their role within it. While Armando was filling us in on some basic facts of the colony and its inhabitants, he spotted a snake crossing the trail ahead of us. We proceeded forward to take a closer look and found this long slender critter to be a Neotropical Bird Snake or Bird-eating Snake. Non-venomous, these snakes prefer a diet of birds and bird eggs, but also will eat a variety of other small vertebrates as well.

We finished up our walk and headed for the Hotel Claro de Luna, where we would be spending the next three nights. After we got settled in, we went out for dinner in Monteverde and then returned to the hotel to get some rest. There had been a fair amount of travel on this day, but we had seen lots of interesting landscapes along the way and it was exciting experiencing a different part of the country. In the morning, our adventure would continue.

Thursday, Feb 20 - Curi-Cancha Reserve | Monteverde Cloud Forest

Our day would start with breakfast and then we would load onto the bus to go to the Curi-Cancha Reserve, where we would be hoping to find the Resplendent Quetzal. Upon arrival, we checked in and then proceeded onto one of the trails, stopping briefly under a large Strangler Fig Tree to learn a little about its role in the rainforest. We then headed to an area where there was a large wild avocado tree or Ocotea, to see if any quetzals were around. Several people were looking but no quetzals. Then there was some excitement on the



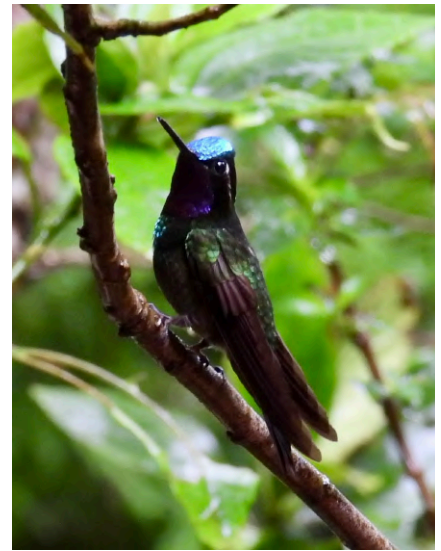
other side of the trees along the trail we had come in on. Our group turned a corner to find several people looking at something low to the ground, which turned out to be four Black-breasted Wood-Quail. The quail were busy scratching through the leaf litter on the ground looking for something tasty to eat. Everyone got a good look, then we headed a little further up the trail to where there was another path leading to the area with the Ocotea Tree.

Midway on the path there were some people stopped looking up into the canopy. Perched on a branch was a female Resplendent Quetzal. It wasn't terribly high up but we got it in the scopes for everyone to get a better look. While we took in the female, we could also see more people gathering near the Ocotea Tree. All was calm for a while but then there appeared to be some excitement among the onlookers. We decided to head back down the trail to get closer. When we got there, everyone was focused on a male Resplendent Quetzal towards the back of the tree. We again set up the scopes for everyone to get a better look as this bird was a little further away. The bird seemed content and stayed in view for quite a while, so we took advantage of the opportunity to soak it in for as long as possible.

We eventually moved on to explore more of the reserve. At one stop there were several people looking at some Golden-browed Chlorophonias in the top of a lone tree in an open area. In that same tree, an Elegant Euphonia was calling but was staying out of sight. Eventually it moved into the open briefly on a bare branch before retreating to the cover of the leafy canopy. Further up the trail in a more densely forested area we came across a mixed flock of birds foraging on or near the ground. Gray-throated Leaf-tosser, Northern Barred Woodcreeper, Spotted Barbtail, Rufous-and-white Wren, Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush, Wood Thrush and Chestnut-capped Brushfinch were all present. As we returned back down the trail we took one last look at the Ocotea Tree. There weren't any quetzals in the tree itself, but another male was perched on a tree branch above us. Certainly a nice way to wrap up our visit to Curi-Cancha.

From here we made our way to the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve where we would be eating lunch. After we finished eating, Armando had us follow him as he had a little surprise for the group. A short distance away from the restaurant was the Monteverde Hummingbird Gallery, which was essentially a souvenir shop with hummingbird feeders set up outside and the feeders were busy. Several Green-crowned Brilliants were dominating the feeders, with a couple of Violet Sabrewings, a couple of Purple-throated Mountain-gems and a Lesser Violetear getting a turn from time to time. Even a Green Hermit snuck in for a quick drink.

We then ventured into the reserve to see what we could find. Being in a cloud forest, it certainly was damp, but there were intermittent showers as well making it a little more challenging to look for birds. We marched on for



a little over a mile before the clouds began reducing the visibility to the point that it was hard to see much, so we returned back to the reception area and called it a day. We did manage to find some birds previously seen during our outing plus a few new ones in Plain Antvireo, Streak-breasted Treehunter and Costa Rican Warbler. Then it was back to the hotel for a brief break before heading back out for dinner. It had been a good day in the Monteverde area and we were looking forward to exploring it further come morning.

Friday, Feb 21 - Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve | Free Time

After breakfast we loaded onto the bus and headed for the Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve. When we left the hotel, the skies were partly cloudy but as we got closer to the reserve the sun disappeared and the rain began to fall. Upon arriving, we grabbed our gear and went inside the visitor center. We ventured outside on one of the trails briefly but the rain began to intensify so we went back inside to wait it out. As we waited for a break in the weather, the group gathered at some tables in the restaurant area and an impromptu bird identification game started to help pass the time. We also would step outside on a balcony from time to time to see if there were any birds active nearby and to see if the weather might be improving. There were a couple of Common Chlorospingus hanging around outside, with one making its way into the restaurant area to see if it could find a mid morning snack. It seemed to know its way around the facility giving the impression that it had done this before. At one point the weather teased that it might be getting better as the skies became lighter, the rain lessened and the winds abated, but it was short lived and the skies opened up once again. We finally decided that the weather wasn't going to improve, so we loaded onto the bus and returned to town for lunch. As we neared town, Armando spotted a Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth in a small tree. It was partially hidden from view due to the foliage, but still a nice addition to our species list for the trip.

Back in Santa Elena, the weather was pretty much the same as when we left. Partly cloudy, a bit breezy, but pleasant. We ate lunch at a restaurant just down the street from the hotel and then the afternoon was free for the group to do whatever they chose. Linda explored the shops downtown while the rest chilled back at the hotel. Mid afternoon, Kent led a walk around the hotel grounds to see what birds were around. One spot turned out to be quite birdy as we encountered a mixed flock moving through some trees near a garden area. Cabanis's Wren, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Chestnut-capped Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Red-legged Honeycreeper and Cinnamon-bellied Saltator all made appearances, plus several other species including a pair of Lesson's Motmots.

Late afternoon the group loaded back onto the bus to go to a location near the Valle Escondido Preserve to watch the sunset, before returning to Monteverde for dinner. Despite the rain in the morning, it had been an



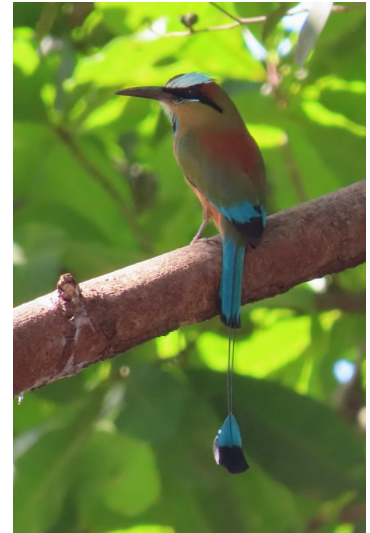
enjoyable day and the free time allowed us to recharge our batteries. In the morning we would be continuing our adventure in Costa Rica as we would be departing for the Pacific coast.

Saturday, Feb 22 - Monteverde Butterfly Gardens | Travel to Cerro Lodge

After breakfast, we had one more place to visit before leaving the area and that place was the Monteverde Butterfly Gardens. We were scheduled for a guided walk through the butterfly enclosures, but before doing so we received an introduction to some of the other insects and arachnids the facility is committed to conserving. After learning about a scorpion, a tarantula and a giant cockroach, our guide led us through enclosures housing multiple species of butterflies including Rusty-tipped Page, Tiger Leafwing, Julia, Postman, Owl and the gorgeous Blue Morpho.

Then it was back on the road to head to our next destination. As we traveled south towards the coast and dropped in elevation, it was immediately apparent how quickly we went from a lush rainforest environment to a tropical dry forest. Armando explained the reason for this and also taught us a little about Costa Rican culture and useful words/phrases as we motored down the highway. As we neared Orotina we stopped for lunch at a location that also provided an opportunity for the group to purchase souvenirs, before going off the beaten path a bit to look for birds. The plan was to drive a gravel road near Ceiba, stopping when we came to likely spots for birds or when we encountered them. The road passed through open fields, mostly agricultural, with some patches of dry forest here and there. For an area that looked rather meager in terms of habitat compared to the lush rainforests we had just come from, the number of bird species we encountered was a pleasant surprise. New species seen along the road for the trip included Common Ground Dove, Plain-breasted Ground Dove, Green-breasted Mango, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Cinnamon Hummingbird, Turquoise-browed Motmot, Bat Falcon, Orange-fronted Parakeet, Greenish Elaenia, Northern Tropical Pewee, Streak-backed Oriole, Yellow Warbler and Blue Grosbeak.

It was getting late in the afternoon so we continued birding our way towards Cerro Lodge, where we would be staying the next two nights. We added several other new species in the process with Double-striped Thick-knee, Ruddy Ground Dove, Groove-billed Ani, Crane Hawk, Black-headed Trogon and White-lored Gnatcatcher all being seen. When we arrived at the lodge we checked in, got our keys and headed to our rooms to freshen up a bit before gathering again for dinner. The temperatures were noticeably warmer now that we were closer to sea level, but the day had been very pleasant overall. Tomorrow would be the last full day in Costa Rica as a group, but there were still lots of things yet to discover.



Sunday, Feb 23 - Carara National Park | Tarcoles River Boat Tour

The day started with an early breakfast, but we were also able to do some birding from the restaurant while we ate. A Turquoise-browed Motmot was seen perched in a nearby tree, while a pair each of Yellow-naped and Mealy Amazons flew by in the distance. But the stars at breakfast were a pair of Scarlet Macaws that came in for some breakfast of their own in the form of sunflower seeds that were placed out for them and other birds on the railing of the viewing deck.

Our first stop of the day was Carara National Park, which is the northernmost Pacific coast rainforest still intact in Costa Rica and is also where the transition to the tropical dry forest occurs as well. Right from the parking area it was rather birdy with several species moving about including a Blue-vented Hummingbird and a White-whiskered Puffbird. Not long after entering the forest on a trail we heard Black-hooded Antshrikes singing nearby, but most of the group were only able to get fleeting glimpses of them in the understory. We continued on looking and listening, with Armando listening for one bird in particular - a Streak-chested Antpitta. We eventually came across several Chestnut-backed Antbirds singing and displaying right alongside the trail, providing great looks. While we watched the antbirds, Armando continued to listen for the antpitta. We moved further along the trail, stopping and listening when Armando heard an antpitta singing in the direction we had just come from. As we approached the displaying antbirds again the song of the antpitta sounded pretty close, so Armando tried to draw it closer by calling. It wasn't long before he saw it about 10 yards off of the trail walking on the ground. There was a fair amount of vegetation between us and the bird but everyone eventually got a clear look at the Streak-chested Antpitta.

We continued walking through the forest until we got to a walking bridge that crossed a small stream. Once across, Armando set up his spotting scope on something and had people step up to take a look. In the scope was a Purple-crowned Fairy sitting on a nest located in some low hanging branches just above the bridge. This was a special treat as it is not every day you get to see a hummingbird on a nest. From here we backtracked to the parking area where we loaded back onto the bus, but we weren't finished with our visit to Carara. Taking a right onto the highway, we traveled a short distance up the road to a pulloff that provided access to another trail in the park. This would be less of a stroll through the forest and more of a hike as our objective was to find Orange-collared Manakins displaying on their leks. Along the way we did encounter a pair of Black-hooded Antshrikes posing nicely just off the trail, so we took the opportunity to snap some photos before continuing on. We eventually reached the spot where the manakins were located and a male was seen perched a few feet off the ground. While we watched this bird, you could hear another male manakin displaying on its lek. We watched for



a while before needing to return to the bus, but we got another treat on the way back as we came across some White-faced Capuchins that ultimately crossed the trail via branches right in front of us.

It was time for lunch so we stopped at a roadside restaurant not far from where we would be going on our next adventure. After a very good meal, we proceeded to the Tarcoles River where we boarded a boat and settled in for a relaxing couple of hours on the water. We started by heading towards the river mouth and taking a side channel through the mangroves before the tide came in. As we moved through the channel we had a close flyby from a Ringed Kingfisher carrying a fish and saw a Green Kingfisher as well. We also had fleeting glimpses of Prothonotary Warblers and the resident Mangrove Yellow Warblers as well as a Mangrove Vireo. While we were trying to get a better look at one of the warblers, an American Pygmy Kingfisher flew across from the other side of the river and landed close to the boat. We then shifted our attention to this tiny kingfisher, trying to get everyone a good look before moving on. As we backtracked to the main river channel we came across some Roseate Spoonbills perched in some tree branches and a couple of Common Raccoons that were looking for a meal on the exposed mud banks before the tide covered them up.

When we got back to the river we continued towards the river mouth before turning around and backtracking towards where we had started. On some exposed mudflats, we came across an entire group of birds that for the most part we had yet to encounter - shorebirds. Black-necked Stilt, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Semipalmated Plover, Southern Lapwing, Wilson's Plover, Collared Plover, Whimbrel, Willet, Ruddy Turnstone, Least Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper and Semipalmated Sandpiper were all there. As we continued on we added an Amazon Kingfisher and saw several Scarlet Macaws flying near the river. The boat tour came to an end, but not the birds as we found a couple of Gartered Trogons on shore after leaving the boat. We loaded up and headed back to Cerro Lodge where we would be having our last dinner as a group. On the road to the lodge we got a couple of bonus sightings, one planned and the other a surprise. The surprise was seeing Armando's wife, daughter and in-laws along the road and the planned was a roosting Pacific Screech-Owl in a tree next to the road. It had been a fantastic last day of birding and a great way to wind down the tour.

Monday, Feb 24 - Departures

Some of the group was up early for a bird walk before breakfast where we had great looks at Black-headed and Gartered Trogons, as well as a Yellow-naped Amazon and a pair of Barred Antshrikes. We met the others at breakfast, except for Wendy who had an early morning departure so we said farewell to her the night before. Then it was onto the bus and back on the highway to San Jose. Once back, some were dropped off at the airport and some continued on to their hotels for the night. The trip had come to an end, but wonderful memories of



our time in Costa Rica had been made. Here's hoping our paths cross again on another adventure with Naturalist Journeys.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ARMANDO FOR PUTTING US ON SOME GREAT BIRDS AND TO JUAN PABLO (JP) FOR GETTING US TO ALL OF OUR DESTINATIONS SAFELY!!

Best bird/s

Dana - American Pygmy Kingfisher, Roseate Spoonbill, Violet Sabrewing

Coleman - Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Prothonotary Warbler

Jane - Montezuma Oropendola

Mike M. - Crimson-collared Tanager, Chestnut-capped Brushfinch, American Pygmy Kingfisher

Linda - Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Long-tailed Manakin

Mike P. - Gray-breasted Wood-Wren, Long-tailed Manakin, White-collared Manakin, Orange-collared Manakin

Maxa - Crimson-collared Tanager

Peggy - Orange-collared Manakin, Scarlet Macaw

Randy - Long-tailed Manakin, White-collared Manakin, Orange-collared Manakin

Wendy - Scarlet Macaw, Roseate Spoonbill

Armando - Bare-necked Umbrellabird, Black-crested Coquette, Streak-chested Antpitta, Orange-collared Manakin

JP - Keel-billed Motmot

Kent - Orange-collared Manakin, Crane Hawk, Streak-chested Antpitta

Photos: Group (Kent Skaggs - KS), Lesson's Motmot (KS), Gulf of Nicoya Scenic (KS), Orange-collared Manakin (KS), Crimson-collared Tanager (KS), Yellow-throated Toucan (KS), Hotel Bougainvillea (KS), Northern Emerald-Toucanet (KS), Silver-throated Tanager (KS), Green Honeycreeper (female) (Peggy Skaggs - PS), Red-headed Barbet (KS), Green-crowned Brilliant (KS), Collared Aracari (Randy Skaggs - RS), Golden-hooded Tanager (RS), View of Lake Arenal (KS), Broad-billed Motmot (KS), Blue-throated Goldentail (KS), Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (RS), Red-legged Honeycreeper (Linda Lee - LL), Slaty-tailed Trogon (Coleman Gross - CG), Curi Cancha Reserve (KS), Resplendent Quetzal (KS), Hotel at Monteverde (RS), Purple-throated Mountain Gem (RS), Blue Morpho Butterfly (KS), Passionflower (KS), Turquoise-browed Motmot (KS), Black-headed Trogon (RS), Scarlet Macaw (PS), White-whiskered Puffbird (RS), Streak-chested Antpitta (CG), Tarcoles River (PS)