

Costa Rica: Birding and Nature | Species List

January 13 – 20, 2018 | Compiled by Bob Meinke

With Pacific Coast Extension | January 20 – 24



Guides **Willy Alfaro** and **Bob Meinke**, with expert local lodge naturalists and 12 participants: Tom, Kristy, Julie, Charlie, Sheila, Pierre, Elisabeth, Beverly, Ellen, Judy, Kurt, and Lea

Summary

Surprisingly cooler than average weather offered pleasant temperatures during our travels (it was never hot), and despite the drizzle and occasional downpour (due to an unusual lingering into January of the Central American rainy season), we saw many species of birds, including rare and elusive taxa such as Chiriquí and Buff-fronted Quail-Doves (both local endemics), the recently described Zeledon's Antbird, Spotted Wood-Quail, the aptly named Tiny Hawk, Fasciated Tiger-Heron, and the cryptic Scaled Antpitta. Stars among the 24 species of hummingbirds recorded on the trip were Black-crested Coquette, the unique Snowcap, and Volcano, Scintillant, and Fiery-throated Hummingbirds (the latter four species regional endemics). Among the visually more impressive birds we encountered were Great Green Macaw, Cinnamon Woodpecker, Collared Trogon, Jabiru, the endemic Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Emerald Tanager, and four species of Motmot. Unlike many birds that reside in North America, Neotropical species seem largely undaunted by mist and rain, and we had little trouble racking up impressive observations during the main trip, as well as on the Pacific coast extension.

The combined list below summarizes main tour and Pacific coast post-tour extension sightings, covering species seen by all or at least some of the participants. Those observed only by the "extension group" (i.e., Elisabeth, Pierre, Lea, Judy, Sheila, and Charlie), including many shorebirds and waders not seen during the main tour, are differentiated below by **RED** text. An "**HO**" placed after a species name means the bird was *heard only and not sighted*, "**LO**" covers birds *only spotted by a trip leader*, while "**E**" denotes a *regional endemic* (these are mostly birds restricted to montane Costa Rica and immediately adjacent western Panama). The ordering of families is the same as in *The Birds of Costa Rica* (Garrigues and Dean, 2014. Cornell University Press). Species-level taxonomy follows the latest updates appearing in the Clements Checklist (Cornell Lab of Ornithology).

BIRDS (314 species: Main Tour & Pacific Coast Extension Combined)

Tinamidae: *Tinamous* (1)

Great Tinamou (*Tinamus major*) Observed twice for extended periods during our hike beyond the suspension bridge into the Selva Verde Rainforest Preserve—tinamous are commonly heard, but seldom seen, so this was a real bonus

Cracidae: *Guanas, Chachalacas, and Curassows* (2)

Gray-headed Chachalaca (*Ortalis cinereiceps*) A common and raucous species seen especially well at the Rancho Naturalista fruit feeders

Black Guan (E) (*Chamaepetes unicolor*) A stunning cloud forest endemic of Costa Rica and western Panama, Elisabeth was the first to spot this arboreal cracid during a solo hike at the Savegre Nature Reserve—most of the group later saw another bird cross the road as we left the Savegre Valley

Odontophoridae: *New World Quail* (1)

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Spotted Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus guttatus*) Observed by Bob on the upper trail in the Savegre Reserve, and then a covey was spotted in heavy forest near the hotel by the group

Podicipedidae: Grebes (2)

Least Grebe (*Tachybaptus dominicus*) Picked up during the Pacific coast post-tour extension

Pied-billed Grebe (LO) (*Podilymbus podiceps*) Seen briefly in the river at Heliconia Island

Anatidae: Ducks and Geese (4)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) Our only native duck of the main tour, this species was located by Kurt during a brief walk, when the rest of us were pre-occupied with Red-breasted Meadowlarks in a horse pasture

Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*) Spotted near the Pacific coast during the post-trip extension

Blue-winged Teal (*Spatula discors*) Recently moved from the genus *Anas*, the Blue-winged teal is one of the most common wintering duck species in much of Latin America

Northern Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*) Also recently split from the genus *Anas*—birds were seen near the coast after the main trip

Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants (1)

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) Scattered individuals and small groups were seen primarily along the Sarapiquí River during the main trip

Anhingidae: Anhingas (1)

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) Observed by the group several times during our excursion along the Sarapiquí River

Pelicanidae: Pelicans (1)

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) Observed during the Pacific coast post-tour extension

Fregatidae: Frigatebirds (1)

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) Distinctive and instantly recognized coastal species, recorded during the Pacific coast extension

Laridae: Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers (3)

The three following species were recorded during the post-tour Pacific coast extension—no gulls or terns were seen during the main tour, which was focused on inland habitats:

Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*)

Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*)

Sandwich tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*)

Eurypygidae: Sunbittern (1)

Sunbittern (*Eurypyga helias*) Tracked for us by Willy along a creek in a forested pasture, not far from Rancho Naturalista—great views were had of this secretive species

Ardeidae: Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns (13)

Fasciated Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma fasciatum*) An unexpected find, this rarely encountered species was seen straddling rocks midstream in the rushing Tius River—we got some excellent scope views

Bare-throated Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma mexicanum*) A widespread heron in Central America and Mexico, this species was

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seen in the Selva Verde area

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) A common winter visitor, seen around Savegre and the La Selva area

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) One of the world's most widespread species, observed several times during the trip

Snowy Egret (LO) (*Egretta thula*) Observed flying along the Sarapiquí River at Selva Verde at dusk

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) Hovering over the field where the Red-breasted Meadowlark was seen, during a stop on the drive down to Selva Verde

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) Picked up on the Pacific coast extension

Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*) Very uncommon in Costa Rica, located along the Pacific coast—a very nice find!

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) Seen sporadically throughout the trip, often locally common

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) One of the waders added to the checklist during the post-trip Pacific coast extension, this species is resident in Costa Rica

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) Another Pacific coast extension species, a Costa Rican resident

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) Another resident seen only on the Pacific extension

Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*) A curious species with a unique bill, located by the extension group

Threskiornithidae: Ibis and Spoonbills (2)

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) Observations of this species were restricted to the post-tour Pacific coast extension

Roseate Spoonbill (*Ptilalea ajaja*) A unique specialist feeder that winters mostly in coastal areas in Costa Rica, seen only during the Pacific coast extension

Aramidae: Limpkin (1)

Limpkin (*Aramas guarana*) Another of the many wading species seen during the Pacific coast post-tour extension

Burhinidae: Thick-Knees (1)

Double-striped Thick-Knee (*Burhinus bistriatus*) A lowland species mostly active at night, only seen by the group on the Pacific coast extension

Ciconiidae: Storks (2)

Jabiru (*Jabiru mycteria*) One of the world's largest storks at up to five feet tall, the Jabiru is rare over most of its range, including Costa Rica—the participants on the post-tour Pacific coast extension were fortunate to see the species

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) Impressively large in its own right, the Wood Stork is nonetheless dwarfed by the Jabiru—this species was also seen in wetland areas during the Pacific extension

Charadriidae: Plovers and Lapwings (4)

Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*) Once uncommon in Central America but now spreading north into Costa Rica, these exquisite shorebirds were found during the Pacific coast extension

Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) A common migrant along the Pacific coast

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) Another migrant seen by the post-tour extension group in the Pacific lowlands

Killdeer (HO, LO) (*Charadrius vociferous*) Evening flyover heard at the Bougainvillea Hotel

Recurvirostridae: Stilts and Avocets (1)

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) Both resident and migrant populations of stilts occur in Costa Rica—the species was only seen during the post-tour extension to the Pacific coast

Scolopacidae: Sandpipers and Allies (9)

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Note: Except for Spotted Sandpiper, the shorebirds below were only recorded during the Pacific coast post-tour extension. All typically occur as passage migrants in Costa Rica, and most if not all can be locally common. Although principally migratory, they may also establish short-term resident populations (either summer or winter, depending on the species).

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

Surfbird (*Calidris virgata*)

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*)

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*)

Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*)

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*)

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) Individual birds were common along the banks of the Sarapiquí River near Selva Verde during our afternoon boat trip—a common migrant in Costa Rica and elsewhere

Jacanidae: *Jacanas* (1)

Northern Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*) Scattered sightings in wet pasture or ponds as we descended the Caribbean slope towards Selva Verde

Rallidae: *Rails, Crakes, and Gallinules* (2)

Russet-naped Wood-Rail (*Aramides albiventris*) Seen well both mornings at the fruit feeders at Selva Verde

American Coot (*Fulica americana*) Observed swimming on farm ponds the last day, on our way to the San Jose Airport

Cathartidae: *New World Vultures* (2)

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) Most common raptor seen by the group in Costa Rica, observed daily

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) A close second to Black Vulture, widespread

Pandionidae: *Osprey* (1)

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) A single bird observed soaring above the Savegre River

Accipitridae: *Hawks, Eagles, and Kites* (12)

White-tailed Kite (LO) (*Elanus leucurus*) First bird recorded by Bob on his way to the Bougainvillea Hotel from the airport

Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) Never far from water, this species was seen during the Pacific coast extension

Tiny Hawk (*Accipiter superciliosus*) Rarely seen and poorly known, Charlie and Willy teamed up on this great find as we cruised the Sarapiquí River, with Charlie's keen eyes picking up the bird as it flew through the canopy, and Willy confirming the ID (after some discussion about Tiny Hawk vs. Barred Forest-Falcon)—one of the best birds of the trip

Common Black Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) Focused on frogs and similar prey in lowland streams and rivers, this typically coastal species was only seen during the Pacific coast extension

Roadside Hawk (*Rupornis magnirostris*) A common small hawk seen along roads, often perched atop utility poles

Harris's Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) Observed during the post-tour Pacific coast extension

Semiplumbeous Hawk (*Leucopternis semiplumbeus*) A beautiful small hawk seen by a small group while we were looking at macaws, after the Sarapiquí River boat trip—photographic evidence confirmed the ID

Gray Hawk (*Buteo plagiatus*) Seen most days of the trip, starting at the Bougainvillea Hotel in San Jose

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) Scoped during our lunch stop along the main road as we made our way towards

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Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) Observed by some early arrivals at Bougainvillea Hotel in San Jose, as well during stops on the trip to Savegre, and on the Pacific coast extension

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) Recorded on the Pacific slope during the post-tour extension

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) A couple birds seen soaring in the Savegre Valley—though common in the U.S., this was an exciting sighting for the local guides at Savegre

Falconidae: Falcons and Caracaras (5)

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) Scattered individuals seen most days, hunting or perched

Yellow-headed Caracara (*Caracara chimachima*) Flying over Bougainvillea Hotel on our first day, also recorded during the Pacific coast extension

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) Several perched on snags along the Sarapiquí River during our boating afternoon

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) Only seen during the post-tour Pacific coast extension

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) A migrant species in Costa Rica—seen flying near Bougainvillea Hotel on our first day, also recorded during the Pacific coast extension

Strigidae: Owls (3)

Each of the following owl species were recorded during the post-tour Pacific coast extension—owls are not easy to locate in tropical forests (and three species in four days was a nice effort!):

Pacific Screech-Owl (*Megascops cooperi*)

Spectacled Owl (*Pulsatrix perspicillata*)

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*)

Caprimulgidae: Nightjars and Allies (2)

Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) Recorded on the Pacific coast extension

Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) Heard and briefly seen at dawn fluttering around the grounds of Rancho Naturalista; also seen during the Pacific coast extension

Apodidae: Swifts (1)

Gray-rumped Swift (*Chaetura cinereiventris*) A mixed flock of these small swifts was seen feeding above the canopy at Heliconia Island, and again later near the Sarapiquí River at Selva Verde

Hirundinidae: Swallows and Martins (4)

Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*) Common along the Sarapiquí River during the last two days of the main tour, the smallest swallow in Central America

Blue-and-white Swallow (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*) The most common swallow species of the trip, seen every day on a number of occasions

Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) At Guayabo National Monument and along the main road outside the Selva Verde Lodge grounds

Barn Swallow (*Progne chalybea*) Cruising above the Sarapiquí River at Selva Verde on our last morning; also seen along the coast during the post-tour extension

Trochilidae: Hummingbirds (24)

White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*) A common and easily identified hummingbird at the Rancho Naturalista feeders (very cooperative for photographers)

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Green Hermit (*Phaethornis guy*) Beautiful views of this elegant hermit were had at local neighborhood feeders, as we walked along the Rancho Naturalista access road

Long-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis yaruqui*) Unimpeded by the rain, several birds were energetically visiting open flowers during our visit to Heliconia Island

Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis striigularis*) Seen well at Rancho Naturalista, this hermit species (one of the smallest) was also seen at feeders in the Savegre Valley

Lesser Violetear (*Colibri cyanotus*) This striking green and violet species is mostly South American in distribution, but occurs north into Costa Rica's mountains—we recorded the species in the Savegre Valley and near Rancho Naturalista

Green-breasted Mango (*Anthracothorax prevostii*) This distinctive species was only seen at Rancho Naturalista

Black-crested Coquette (*Lophornis helenae*) Though not quite a regional endemic, this exquisite, bee-like species is limited to middle Central America and southern Mexico, where it is nowhere common—we were fortunate to see at least one (maybe two) birds buzzing the *Verbena* flowers at the Rancho Naturalista owner's home

Green-crowned Brilliant (*Heliodoxa jacula*) Having a wide altitudinal amplitude, this species occurs from the mountains to the lower valleys—several individuals were seen at Savegre feeders as well as near Selva Verde by the Caribbean coast

Talamanca Hummingbird (E) (*Eugenes spectabilis*) Our best view of this impressive endemic (just recently split from Magnificent Hummingbird, and sister species to Rivoli's Hummingbird from SE Arizona) was in the high cloud forest at the Mirador de Quetzales feeders, on our way into the Savegre Valley

Green Thorntail (*Discosura conversi*) Seen briefly but well, hovering over *Bougainvillea* vines at Rancho Naturalista

Fiery-throated Hummingbird (E) (*Panterpe insignis*) With its astounding technicolored gorget, this hummingbird makes a real impression—seen only during our cloud forest lunch stop at Mirador de Quetzales

White-throated Mountain-gem (E) (*Lampornis castaneiventris*) Also recorded at Mirador de Quetzales—yet another montane endemic (with a very restricted range), the brilliant white gorget of this species was distinctive

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) One of the few migrant hummingbirds that traverses Costa Rica, this familiar species was seen during the post-tour Pacific coast extension

Volcano Hummingbird (E) (*Selasphorus flammula*) Another highly restricted mountain endemic, we found Volcano Hummingbirds at the feeders at Mirador de Quetzales and the Savegre Hotel

Scintillant Hummingbird (E) (*Selasphorus scintilla*) The smallest of the montane hummers in Costa Rica, the Scintillant is closely allied taxonomically with Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds of North America—this species shared the upper hillside feeders at Savegre Hotel with the similar-sized (and appearing) Volcano Hummingbird, among several others

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird (*Phaeochroa cuvierii*) This large species, related to the Sabrewings, was seen during the Pacific coast extension

Violet Sabrewing (*Campylopterus hemileucurus*) Excellent views of this stunning species were had by most of the group at either the Rancho Naturalista feeders, or at feeders we visited at a nearby home

Stripe-tailed Hummingbird (*Eupherusa eximia*) Normally a canopy-dweller, we had clear views of this species perched in the open at several locations on the grounds of the Savegre Hotel on our second and thirds days of the trip

Snowcap (E) (*Microchera albocoronata*) One of our main target species, we got several glimpses and (for most of us) at least one good look at this uniquely plumaged hummingbird at Rancho Naturalista

Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer (*Chalybura urochrysis*) Considered uncommon, this large species appeared infrequently at the hummingbird feeders at Rancho Naturalista—one may have also been glimpsed at Heliconia Island

Crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*) Sometimes referred to as Green-crowned Woodnymph, this glittering understory species appeared during our stay at Rancho Naturalista

Blue-chested Hummingbird (*Amazilia amabilis*) Several female birds (and possibly a male) were seen at Heliconia Island, hovering in the open despite the persistent rain that day

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*) Perhaps the most common hummingbird of the trip, it was seen almost daily at feeders, as well as in a range of natural habitats

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Cinnamon Hummingbird (*Amazilia rutila*) A richly colored species observed only during the Pacific coast extension

Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves (12)

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) The city pigeon we all know and love (ha)—seen infrequently in mostly settled areas

Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) A widespread species, seen occasionally during the trip, mostly along shaded forest roads during our drive from Rancho Naturalista down to the Caribbean coast

Red-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas flavirostris*) Recorded (generally as flyovers) during most of the early days of the trip, from the Bougainvillea Hotel to Rancho Naturalista

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*) A well-marked, large pigeon that occurs from Canada to Argentina—several small groups in flight were observed during our outings from Savegre and Rancho Naturalista

Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*) A distinctive, long-tailed species of ground dove, seen perched in the gardens at the Bougainvillea Hotel

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*) Only observed during the post-tour Pacific coast extension

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) Another widespread species, seen in small flocks in fields during our drive from Rancho Naturalista towards the Caribbean coast

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) Never abundant, individuals were seen walking trails and roadsides in lightly shaded forest during our time on the Caribbean slope

Buff-fronted Quail-Dove (E) (*Zentrygon costaricensis*) A great find, this poorly known endemic was seen both days by several members of the group at Savegre Hotel, feeding in the forest understory and landscaping surrounding the upper cabañas

Chiriqui Quail-Dove (E) (*Zentrygon chiriquensis*) A serendipitous discovery, and the last new bird recorded for the main tour, this narrow endemic was almost overlooked as it foraged around at the base of some shaded feeders at a tiny rural coffee shop in the mountains west of San Jose, on our way back to the airport

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) Native to the SW and Gulf coast of the U.S., Mexico, and parts of the Caribbean and Central America (so what's with that species epithet?), we saw these doves routinely on the Pacific slope

Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) Mostly seen along roadsides on the way to, and near, Rancho Naturalista

Psittacidae: Parrots (11)

Sulphur-winged Parakeet (E) (*Pyrrhura hoffmanni*) Most views were of flyovers in the Savegre Valley (the bright wing plumage only evident when seen from the ground below), where this endemic is locally common

Olive-throated Parakeet (*Eupsittula nana*) Common in much of northern Central America but less so in Costa Rica, we had several quick looks at this species on the Caribbean slope around Selva Verde Lodge and the Sarapiquí River

Orange-fronted Parakeet (*Eupsittula canicularis*) Seen during the Pacific coast extension after the main tour

Great Green Macaw (*Ara ambiguus*) Considered globally endangered, numbers of this striking species in Costa Rica are now reduced to perilously low levels—heard and eventually seen (at nest trees) near the Sarapiquí River, during and after our boat trip

Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao*) Another seriously at-risk species, this brilliantly colored macaw was seen by the group on the post-tour Pacific coast extension

Crimson-fronted Parakeet (E) (*Psittacara finschi*) Locally common in Costa Rica, raucous groups of this graceful endemic parrot descended on flowering trees outside the Bougainvillea Hotel in the afternoons we were there, and were also seen at Selva Verde Lodge later in the trip

Orange-chinned Parakeet (E) (*Brotogeris jugularis*) Seen flying to nest holes while we were also watching the Great Green Macaws (near the Sarapiquí River); this endemic was also seen on the post-tour extension to the Pacific coast

White-crowned Parrot (*Pionus senilis*) Typically encountered in small groups flying overhead, seen throughout the trip

White-fronted Parrot (*Amazona albifrons*) Restricted to the Pacific slope in Costa Rica, this species was only seen during the post-tour extension

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Red-lored Parrot (*Amazona autumnalis*) In the trees and overhead during the boat trip along the Sarapiquí River
Mealy Parrot (*Amazona farinosa*) Same location as above (overhead), and possibly glimpsed at the Selva Verde Lodge

Cuculidae: Cuckoos and Anis (2)

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) One of our first noteworthy species of the tour, beautifully plumaged Squirrel Cuckoos were seen several times in the plantings at the Bougainvillea Hotel, with birds also found later on at Rancho Naturalista and Selva Verde

Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) Particularly common along the farm roads surrounding Guayabo National Monument, infrequent elsewhere

Trogonidae: Trogons (5)

Resplendent Quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno*) Most of the group was able to get very close looks at this species at the quetzal feeding station set up at Mirador de Quetzales, high in the cloud forest—we made further attempts to see this iconic species later, in Savegre Valley and elsewhere, but were unsuccessful

Slaty-tailed Trogon (*Trogon massena*) A colorful male was observed in the forest after we crossed the suspension bridge over the Sarapiquí River, across from the Selva Verde Lodge

Black-headed Trogon (*Trogon melanocephalus*) Only known from the Pacific slope in Costa Rica, this species was recorded during the post-tour extension

Gartered Trogon (*Trogon caligatus*) One of three taxa that have recently been split from what was formerly Violaceous Trogon, this species was seen during the latter half of the main trip, with our best views during a walk while we were at Rancho Naturalista

Collared Trogon (*Trogon collaris*) A pair of birds was located in the trees during a forest walk our last morning at the Savegre Hotel—we had our best looks at the female (in the scope)

Momotidae: Motmots (4)

Lesson's Motmot (*Momotus lessonii*) Great views of this spectacular species were first had by several of us in the gardens surrounding the Bougainvillea Hotel, before the main tour started—also seen later at Rancho Naturalista

Rufous Motmot (*Baryphthengus martii*) The largest of the motmot species in Costa Rica, we had particularly good looks each morning at the Rancho Naturalista fruit feeders

Broad-billed Motmot (*Electron platyrhynchum*) A beautiful, smaller version of the Rufous Motmot, a male Broad-billed was seen perched in the open as we looked back across the Sarapiquí River, near the Selva Verde suspension bridge—we had excellent looks through the scope

Turquoise-browed Motmot (*Eumotmota superciliosa*) A species of the Pacific slope in Costa Rica, the Turquoise-browed Motmot was found during the post-tour Pacific extension

Alcedinidae: Kingfishers (4)

Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquata*) A fly-over by a noisy individual near Rancho Naturalista; also heard while on the water as we floated the Sarapiquí River

Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) This common North American species is present in Costa Rica only as a non-breeding migrant during the winter months—seen on the post-tour extension to the Pacific coast

Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*) The largest of the Latin American green-plumaged kingfishers, seen while we boated the Sarapiquí River during our last full day of the main tour

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) Also seen along the Sarapiquí River, on the boat tour and below the suspension bridge at the Selva Verde Lodge

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Bucconidae: Puffbirds (1)

White-whiskered Puffbird (*Malacoptila panamensis*) Found on both slopes in Costa Rica, but seen only on the post-tour extension to the Pacific coast

Galbulidae: Jacamars (1)

Rufous-tailed Jacamar (*Galbula ruficauda*) Seen perched just outside the entrance to Heliconia Island—nice scope views of an often-difficult-to-spot species

Capitonidae: New World Barbets (1)

Red-headed Barbet (*Eubucco bourcierii*) Very nice close-up views of this brilliantly-colored species at the fruit feeders at Savegre Hotel

Semnornithidae: Toucan-Barbets (1)

Prong-billed Barbet (E) (*Semnomis frantzii*) Closely related to the stunning Toucan Barbet of NW South America, this subtly-colored species is endemic to Costa Rica and nearby Panama—restricted to cloud forest habitat, we were lucky to locate several birds at the feeders of a small coffee shop as we drove down to San José the last day of the main tour

Ramphastidae: Toucans (5)

Northern Emerald Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus prasinus*) Observed at the upper hillside feeders recently established by the Savegre Hotel, and along utility wires on a nearby road—a great photo op!

Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) Commonly seen at Rancho Naturalista at the fruit feeders, and further down the Caribbean slope as we drove towards Selva Verde

Fiery-billed Aracari (E) (*Pteroglossus frantzii*) Although Fiery-billed Aracari may hybridize with the preceding taxon, it is now generally considered a Costa Rican/Panamanian endemic with full species status—only recorded by us during the Pacific coast extension

Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) This distinctive species (the National Bird of Belize) was seen in the forest (both perched and flying) on the Caribbean slope near Rancho Naturalista and Selva Verde, as well as at Guayabo National Monument

Yellow-throated Toucan (*Ramphastos ambiguus*) The taxonomy of the “ambiguous” group of toucans is in flux, and its various populations may actually constitute multiple species (e.g., birds we saw are called “Black-mandibled” in *The Birds of Costa Rica*, though this name is not currently recognized at the species level)—we had several flyovers while staying at the Selva Verde Lodge and while birding near the Sarapiquí River

Picidae: Woodpeckers (7)

Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) Well known in the U.S. and Mexico, less so in Costa Rica, we recorded this species at feeders and on telephone poles as we descended into the Savegre Valley on our first day of driving

Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*) A close relative of the Acorn Woodpecker, the Black-cheeked is restricted in Costa Rica to the Caribbean slope—we saw it at Rancho Naturalista and near the Sarapiquí River

Hoffman’s Woodpecker (E) (*Melanerpes hoffmannii*) Although a localized regional endemic, this species is relatively common in the Central Valley surrounding San José—good views were had on the grounds of the Bougainvillea Hotel

Hairy Woodpecker (LO) (*Picoides villosus*) This species, very common in North America, reaches its southern range limit in the mountains of Costa Rica—a couple birds were seen along a forested trail above the Savegre Hotel

Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Colaptes rubiginosus*) Observed in the trees and briefly at the feeders while at Rancho Naturalista

Cinnamon Woodpecker (*Celeus loricatus*) Located in the rain at Heliconia Island, the bird kept to the far side of a tree

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trunk (as they do), making its identification (versus Chestnut-colored) a bit problematic—Willy finally settled on Cinnamon Woodpecker once it peeked out enough to be seen reasonably well (a nice find!)

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) Seen flying between trees in a heavy downpour, as we worked our way along the Tius River craning our necks for tanagers and other canopy species

Furnariidae: Ovenbirds, Woodcreepers, and Allies (7)

Plain-brown Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*) One of several woodcreeper species seen during the trip, which were all found in mid-montane forested settings in upper elevation valleys or on the lower Caribbean slope—Plain-brown was seen best (and close-up) at the insect lights at Rancho Naturalista (see below)

Spotted Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*) Observed very clearly at dawn at Rancho Naturalista, gleaning insects from and below the hanging, brightly illuminated sheets used to attract nocturnal insects—it was remarkable to be able to get so close to an otherwise secretive species

Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*) Part of a mixed species group foraging in the understory at Guayabo National Monument—the flock's activity may have been due to an ant swarm (see Zeledon's Antbird, below)

Spot-crowned Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*) This is the woodcreeper seen working the large trees in the forest and fields surrounding the Savegre Hotel

Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*) Observed foraging in the mid-canopy at Guayabo National Monument—the diagnostic unstreaked breast was clearly seen

Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner (*Automolus ochrolaemus*) Initially reported by Lea from understory at Guayabo National Monument, this species was also part of the mixed flock working the insect light station at Rancho Naturalista—we were treated to amazingly close views of a forest species that is regularly heard, but hard to locate

Ruddy Treerunner (E) (LO) (*Margaranis rubiginosus*) Bob noticed this cloud forest species foraging in low, ericaceous brush, along the gravel road that led to the quetzal feeders side trail at Mirador de Quetzales

Thamnophilidae: Antbirds (6)

Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) A study in black-and-white, this common (yet typically elusive) neotropical species was picked up during the post-tour Pacific coast extension

Black-hooded Antshrike (E) (*Thamnophilus bridgesi*) This endemic relative of the Barred Antshrike, restricted to the Costa Rican and Panamanian Pacific slope, was likewise seen only during the post-tour extension

Plain Antwren (*Dysithamnus mentalis*) This diminutive antbird briefly joined the mixed species flock at the Rancho Naturalista insect lights (see Spotted Woodcreeper, above)

Slaty Antwren (*Myrmotherula axillaris*) Several of the group had good looks at this species, as it worked the understory as part of a mixed species flock at Guayabo National Monument

Dusky Antbird (*Cercomacroides tyrannina*) Typical understory antbird species, found throughout Costa Rica—was seen by the group on the post-tour extension to the Pacific coast

Zeledon's Antbird (*Hafferia zeledoni*) Recently split from Immaculate Antbird, this difficult-to-spot rare species was located at Guayabo National Monument in heavy underbrush, in a mixed flock with Streak-headed Woodcreeper, Slaty Antwren, White-breasted Wood-Wren, and Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant—although not an obligate ant-follower, it's possible this group of birds was focused on an army ant swarm just off the trail

Grallariidae: Antpittas (1)

Scaled Antpitta (LO) (*Grallaria guatemalensis*) Found by Bob during a walk along the upper trail above the cabañas at Savegre Hotel—a single bird quietly worked the dark riparian understory along the creek that paralleled the trail, about 150 m up from the hotel grounds (*The Birds of Costa Rica* indicates an upper altitudinal limit for this rare antpitta that is lower than the Savegre Valley; Willy, however, confirmed that he and other guides had seen the species here before)

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Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers (30)

Mountain Elaenia (*Elaenia frantzii*) Locally common on the grounds of the Savegre Hotel, where we had our best views of this mid-canopy and forest edge species

Torrent Tyrannulet (*Phylloscopus cinereiceps*) True to their name, Torrent Tyrannulets typically work swift streams and rivers (much like a dipper); however, flooding rains during our visit had forced the birds we saw to abandon their normal riverside habitat, and take up temporary residence in a small, placid pond on the grounds of our hotel—a nice find!

Olive-striped Flycatcher (*Mionectes olivaceus*) Not occurring north of Costa Rica, this inconspicuous species was seen flycatching a several spots in the Savegre Valley

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (*Mionectes oleagineus*) Known for eating mistletoe berries (seemingly odd for a tyrant flycatcher), this species was seen in open areas on the grounds of Rancho Naturalista

Paltry Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius vilissimus*) Similarly focused on mistletoes, this drab species readily takes insects, as well—widespread though inconspicuous, birds were briefly seen in the Savegre Valley and at Rancho Naturalista

Slaty-capped Flycatcher (*Leptopogon amaurocephalus*) Observed flycatching in a forest gap at Guayabo National Monument—first spotted by Willy as it sat with its back to us, this largely South American species is seldom recorded in Costa Rica

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus pileatus*) An elusive forest dweller, a few of us had very fleeting looks at a single bird while we watched a mixed species flock at Guayabo National Monument (see Zeledon's Antbird, above)—seen again on the post-tour Pacific coast extension

Northern Bentbill (*Oncostoma cinereigulare*) Except for the curiously shaped bill, an unremarkable small flycatcher with a penchant for thickets and tangles—only seen on the Pacific coast extension

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*) Seen well at Rancho Naturalista (the owner's home), where we were watching for Black-crested Coquette—also found later as we moved down the Caribbean slope toward Selva Verde

Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum nigriceps*) A tiny species that frequents the upper canopy, most of us had unsatisfactory glimpses of two fast-flying birds, as we hiked the steep road that leads up to Rancho Naturalista

Eye-ringed Flatbill (*Rhynchocyclus brevirostris*) An unassuming flycatcher (with a serious eyering) that sits quietly in the forest, we recorded this species during a brief visit to the Tirimbina Lodge Reserve (after being rained out of La Selva)

Yellow-margined Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias assimilis*) Seen perched in the understory at Rancho Naturalista, this bird is also called the Yellow-margined Flatbill—a notoriously complex group, *Tolmomyias* species are every bit as challenging as the *Empidonax* flycatchers that many of us struggle with in the U.S.

Royal Flycatcher (*Onychorhynchus coronatus*) Unmistakable in profile, birds of this taxonomically complex “superspecies” (recorded during the post-tour Pacific coast extension) may collectively represent as many as four species—for now, the Clements Checklist and eBird do not recognize any splits (our birds are subspecies *mexicana*)

Tawny-chested Flycatcher (E) (*Aphanotriccus capitalis*) A target species of many visitors to Rancho Naturalista, we had good looks at this restricted endemic, during our dawn visit to the insect light station (see Spotted Woodcreeper)

Tufted Flycatcher (*Mitrephanes phaeocercus*) Birds were observed flycatching from lower branches along the road that led to the recently constructed hillside hummingbird and fruit feeders, maintained by Savegre Hotel

Dark Pewee (E) (*Contopus lugubris*) See above location—this montane endemic was perched in the open in the same area as Tufted Flycatcher

Tropical Pewee (*Contopus cinereus*) A resident species in Costa Rica, seen on exposed perches at Rancho Naturalista

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) One of the first birds seen as we settled in at the Bougainvillea Hotel ahead of the main tour

Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) Several birds were seen foraging on the grounds of Rancho Naturalista

Yellowish Flycatcher (*Empidonax flavescens*) Our best looks were of scattered individuals seen around the resort grounds and nearby forest at Savegre

Black-capped Flycatcher (E) (*Empidonax atriceps*) Good views of this endemic species were had at Mirador de Quetzales,

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and at our first roadside stop in the forest (where the Black Guan was seen), after we left the Savegre Valley
Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) Easily recognized from the vehicle, as we passed a ditch on the drive out of San José
Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) A familiar species in the SW U.S. and throughout much of the Neotropics, we saw and heard perched birds near Rancho Naturalista, as well as at Heliconia Island

Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*) Another widespread *Myiarchus* species, this one was seen on the Pacific slope during the post-tour extension

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) One of the most common flycatchers of the trip, seen most days

Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*) Another boldly-colored, conspicuous species, seen first along the Savegre River and then again on most subsequent days (not as frequent as Great Kiskadee)

Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) The other most common flycatcher of the trip—seen daily at mid- to lower elevations in scrub and second growth

Gray-capped Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes granadensis*) A gray-headed version of the Social Flycatcher, we had opportunities at Selva Verde to compare the two species—also seen at Rancho Naturalista

White-ringed Flycatcher (LO) (*Myiozetetes albobittatus*) Less common than the preceding two taxa, and very similar, Bob confirmed two birds in brush along the Sarapiquí River outside his isolated room at Selva Verde Lodge

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) Another extremely common flycatcher at middle and lower elevations throughout Costa Rica—readily seen most days during the trip

Tityridae: Becards and Tityras (4)

Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) Our best views were in some village trees during an outing from Rancho Naturalista (during our successful hunt for the Sunbittern)

Black-crowned Tityra (*Tityra inquisitor*) Seen on the Caribbean slope as we headed by road to Heliconia Island (spotted from the van when we were stopped for the semi-truck that had run off the road), as well as on the post-tour extension

Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*) Observed in the canopy at Rancho Naturalista, and near the Selva Verde suspension bridge

Rose-throated Becard (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*) Picked up by the group during the post-tour Pacific coast extension—the subspecies seen in Costa Rica (*hypophaeus* and *latirostris*) are known to lack the rose throat

Pipridae: Manakins (3)

White-ruffed Manakin (*Corapipo altera*) We saw single birds, mostly observed at the feeders and in low brush on the grounds of Rancho Naturalista

White-collared Manakin (*Manacus candei*) This elusive species was a lucky find at Rancho Naturalista, and we also had a glimpse at Heliconia Island

Red-capped Manakin (*Ceratopipra mentalis*) One of the most distinctive species of manakin, a male bird made a brief appearance along the trail after we had crossed the Selva Verde suspension bridge—this was at the same location as the Song Wren

Cotingidae: Cotingas and Allies (1)

Three-wattled Bellbird (E) (*Procnias tricarunculatus*) This bizarre-looking endemic was a great find by the group that participated in the post-tour Pacific coast extension—the rest of us are envious!

Corvidae: Crows and Jays (2)

White-throated Magpie-Jay (*Calocitta formosa*) Another excellent find by the group travelling on the Pacific coast extension, not seen on the main tour

Brown Jay (*Psilorhinus morio*) A loud, ubiquitous species, seen and heard often during the tour

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Turdidae: Thrushes (8)

Black-faced Solitaire (E) (*Myadestes melanops*) This striking, ash-colored endemic was seen by several of us on the Savegre Hotel property, perched quietly on exposed, overhanging branches

Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush (E) (*Catharus gracilirostris*) Another of southern Central America's endemic thrushes, this shy species was seen hopping in the rain near the hummingbird feeders during our lunch stop at Mirador de Quetzales

Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus frantzii*) This elusive denizen of montane forests is confined to higher elevations in Costa Rica—we had good looks of several birds on the grounds of the Savegre Hotel

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) This familiar species, a non-breeding winter resident in Costa Rica, was seen in the understory at Guayabo National Monument

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) Another winter visitor, this species was seen methodically walking the forest floor at several sites

Sooty Thrush (E) (*Turdus nigrescens*) Like an American Robin dipped in India ink, this narrowly endemic, higher elevation species was observed several times in the mountains

Mountain Thrush (*Turdus plebejus*) A fairly plain thrush, it tends to become more common at higher elevations than the following similar-appearing species—seen by us at feeders in the Savegre Valley and nearby montane areas

Clay-colored Thrush (*Turdus grayi*) A common and easily observed bird, found in many open to semi-open habitats and often in close proximity to human habitation—the National Bird of Costa Rica (known as the Yigüirro), known for its elegant song.

Mimidae: Mockingbirds and Thrashers (2)

Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) Another of the common North American breeders that winter in Central America, we saw catbirds every morning at the Rancho Naturalista feeders

Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*) Although less commonly seen during our trip than might have been expected (we saw it primarily in fields near Guayabo National Monument), this once scarce species is now reportedly increasing its presence in Costa Rica

Ptilogonatidae: Silky Flycatchers (1)

Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher (E) (*Ptiliogonys caudatus*) This stunning local endemic was observed closely at the Savegre Hotel grounds, where birds were very approachable for photos, often perching right at eye level—a beautiful species

Poliophtilidae: Gnatcatchers (1)

White-lored Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila albiloris*) A furtive species located during the post-tour Pacific coast extension—only the females exhibit the characteristic white lores

Troglodytidae: Wrens (7)

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) Never occurring in great numbers, but seen off and on throughout the trip—the birds in Costa Rica are native residents, and not migrants (this is a taxonomically complex species)

Band-backed Wren (*Campylorhynchus zonatus*) Closely related to the Cactus Wren of the SW U.S., we had reasonable looks at this species as it flew between epiphyte-laden trees in the open plaza area at Guayabo National Monument

Rufous-naped Wren (*Campylorhynchus rufinucha*) Related to the preceding species, there were several pairs of this large wren noisily buzzing around the gardens at the Bougainvillea Hotel, prior to the main tour

Stripe-breasted Wren (E) (*Cantorchilus thoracicus*) Found from mid- to lower elevations on Costa Rica's Caribbean slope, we found this interesting endemic species in shrubbery at Rancho Naturalista

Bay Wren (*Cantorchilus nigricapillus*) We picked this distinctive species up as we walked along the Tius River in the

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rain—also seen at Selva Verde

White-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) White-breasted Wood-Wren occurs in humid lowland forests mainly on the Caribbean slope in Costa Rica—we located (and often just heard) the species around Rancho Naturalista
Song Wren (*Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus*) Encountered during our hike at Selva Verde, after crossing the suspension bridge on the Sarapiquí River—only a few of us got a quick glimpse of this very uncommon and striking species as it was pointed out by Willy

Vireonidae: Vireos (6)

Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) Seen by several in the group, who had hiked the upper hillside above the new hummingbird feeders installed across the canyon from the Savegre Hotel grounds

Lesser Greenlet (*Pachysylvia decurtata*) Reminiscent of Tennessee Warbler, a few birds were picked out of a mixed species flock in the canopy near Rancho Naturalista

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) Seen by a few of us in the gardens at the Bougainvillea Hotel, prior to the start of the main tour—a non-breeding winter migrant in Costa Rica

Yellow-winged Vireo (E) (*Vireo carmioli*) Also known as Carmiol's Vireo, this endemic species is restricted to the mountains of western Costa Rica and adjacent, westernmost Panama—a few of us saw birds in the Savegre Valley (see location for Rufous-browed Peppershrike, above)

Brown-capped Vireo (*Vireo leucophrys*) This close relative of the familiar Red-eyed Vireo was seen in the brush and lower canopy in the Savegre Valley and near Rancho Naturalista

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) This unremarkable winter migrant (breeds in the U.S.) was common on the grounds of the Bougainvillea Hotel at the start of the tour, and occasional elsewhere

Parulidae: New World Warblers (18)

Louisiana Waterthrush (*Parkesia motacilla*) An overwintering, nonbreeding species in Costa Rica, only confirmed on the post-tour extension to the Pacific coast

Northern Waterthrush (*Parkesia noveboracensis*) Observed in the rain in the understory at Heliconia Island

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) A beautiful non-breeding, winter visitor, seen in the canopy (scope views) during our final morning walk on the Savegre Hotel property

Flame-throated Warbler (E) (*Oreothlypis gutturalis*) A striking endemic species, observed at the same general location as Rufous-browed Peppershrike (above)

Tennessee Warbler (*Oreothlypis peregrina*) A common migratory species, seen throughout much of the trip, especially in mixed-species flocks at the Bougainvillea Hotel ahead of the main tour

Kentucky Warbler (*Geothlypis formosa*) Another migrant, most commonly seen on the trip in the understory in and around Rancho Naturalista

Mourning Warbler (*Geothlypis philadelphia*) A single, rather cautious bird was seen well one morning, as it ventured out to the Rancho Naturalista feeders

Tropical Parula (*Setophaga pitiauyumi*) Seen perched in low trees, as we walked down the road that led up the hill to Rancho Naturalista

Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*) Ditto (see Tropical Parula)

Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) Yet another of the migrant warblers common in Costa Rica during the winter months—we saw birds at the Bougainvillea Hotel, as well as along the Sarapiquí River at Selva Verde

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pensylvanica*) Seen several times, near Rancho Naturalista, as well as along the Sarapiquí River near Selva Verde

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Setophaga virens*) Scattered birds seen during hikes in the Savegre Valley, and on the way to Rancho Naturalista

Rufous-capped Warbler (*Basileuterus rufifrons*) A Costa Rican resident, several pairs were actively flitting around the

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lawns and extensive gardens at the Bougainvillea Hotel (prior to the main tour)

Buff-rumped Warbler (*Myiothlypis fulvicauda*) A pair of birds were seen scurrying near the small stream we passed as we exited the check-in lobby at Selva Verde (paralleling the walkway that led toward our rooms and the dining complex)

Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*) One of the first birds present in the understory as we headed down the trail with our guide at Guayabo National Monument

Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*) Widespread in North America, this species is also common in Central America as an overwintering migrant—another of the several warblers we saw at the Rancho Naturalista property

Slate-throated Redstart (*Myioborus miniatus*) Seen by several of the hikers in our group, in mixed species flocks along forest trails above the Savegre Hotel

Collared Redstart (E) (*Myioborus torquatus*) Found on the decks and porches at the Savegre Hotel and in nearby forest, this attractive endemic was the most confiding of the resident warblers seen on the trip

Thraupidae: Tanagers and Allies (22)

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) A well-known and widespread neotropical species, the most common tanager we saw in Costa Rica

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) Locally common at lower elevation sites, and especially well-represented in the canopy during our travels on the Caribbean slope

Speckled Tanager (*Ixothraupis guttata*) The colorful Speckled Tanager is an active forager, eating mostly fruits and terrestrial arthropods in the canopy—we saw birds above the fruit feeders in the morning at Rancho Naturalista

Golden-hooded Tanager (*Tangara larvata*) A very striking songbird, it ranges further north in Central America than any of the other members of the large genus *Tangara*—seen from the vehicle as we drove east from Guayabo National Monument, and also near Selva Verde

Spangle-cheeked Tanager (E) (*Tangara dowii*) Recently split from Green-naped Tanager, this montane endemic was seen perched in the creekside understory during our last morning outing on the Savegre Hotel property—a stunning species

Plain-colored Tanager (E) (*Tangara inornata*) With essentially unmarked, lead gray plumage, this endemic is arguably the least colorful of the many *Tangara* species (an otherwise mostly gaudy group)—Willy pointed out a single bird foraging within a mixed-species canopy flock, as we walked a road paralleling the Tius River in a driving rainstorm

Bay-headed Tanager (*Tangara gyrola*) A beautiful species, seen close-up at the Rancho Naturalista feeders

Emerald Tanager (*Tangara florida*) One of the last birds seen before departing Rancho Naturalista, this beautiful green tanager appeared at the feeders, and was then gone in a flash—only a few of us were lucky enough to catch a glimpse

Silver-throated Tanager (*Tangara icterocephala*) Recorded at the Savegre Hotel feeders as well as at Rancho Naturalista—one of the more common tanagers seen at the lodges

Slaty Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa plumbea*) This is the only flowerpiercer (a common group in South America) to range as far north as Costa Rica—a narrow montane endemic, we saw it several times, first at Mirador de Quetzales and later in the Savegre valley

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) Stunning male as well as female birds were seen in the trees at Rancho Naturalista, and later seen at the Selva Verde feeders while we enjoyed our morning coffee

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) Common at mid and lower elevations, generally in scrub and disturbed fields, etc.—the species was fairly common on the Caribbean slope portion of the trip, although often wary

Crimson-collared Tanager (*Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*) One of several tanager species with distinctive silvery beaks, we had great looks at a conspicuous male as it came to the Selva Verde fruit feeders one morning

Passerini's Tanager (*Ramphocelus passerinii*) Closely related to the former species, Passerini's Tanager was recorded at the Rancho Naturalista feeders as well as at Selva Verde

Cherrie's Tanager (E) (*Ramphocelus costaricensis*) Part of a taxonomic alliance that includes the previous two species (the Cherrie's male is virtually identical to Passerini's), this Pacific slope endemic was only recorded during the post-tour extension

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Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) A common species in Latin America, we saw birds in the Caribbean lowlands, especially at Heliconia Island and on the grounds of the Selva Verde Hotel

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) A sporadic visitor to the feeders and thickets at Rancho Naturalista

Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivaceus*) An otherwise plain greenish finch with a striking yellow and black (to dark brown) facial pattern, occurring in open grassy fields, pastures, and clearings—seen on fences and along roads as we travelled from the Savegre Valley to Rancho Naturalista

Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila corvina*) Habitat similar to the above species, and seen a few times in the same general areas—infrequent

Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*) Seen in the canopy near Rancho Naturalista, as well as along the Sarapiquí River at the far edge of the Selva Verde Hotel grounds (NOTE: We follow the Clements Checklist and eBird by keeping the saltators in the tanager family [Thraupidae]—some authors prefer Cardinalidae, others are simply uncertain)

Black-headed Saltator (*Saltator atriceps*) We spent part of one afternoon with Willy as he studiously tracked a cunning Sunbittern (not far from Rancho Naturalista) as it crept along the interface between a pasture and a forested creek—Black-headed Saltator was one of the ancillary species we also ran across at the same time

Grayish Saltator (*Saltator coerulescens*) Seen during the first day of the tour, on our inaugural morning walk with Willy (in the gardens at the Bougainvillea Hotel)

Mitrospingidae: Mitrospingid Tanagers (1)

Dusky-faced Tanager (LO) (*Mitrospingus cassinii*) A beautifully plumaged bird was seen by Bob as it visited a small pool by the Heliconia visitor center (the group missed this one, as they were already walking back to the vehicle)

Emberizidae: New World Sparrows (11)

Yellow-thighed Finch (E) (*Pselliophorus tibialis*) First seen in the cloud forest at Mirador de Quetzales, this endemic was found again at the Savegre Hotel—the puffy yellow thigh feathers (like little pantaloons) on an otherwise slate-gray bird are diagnostic

Large-footed Finch (E) (*Pezopetes capitalis*) The dominant greenish hue of the species is reminiscent of certain saltators, but the over-sized feet, slender beak, and towhee-like foraging habits are distinctive—we saw this endemic at two or three locations in the mountains

Sooty-faced Finch (LO)(E) (*Arremon crassirostris*) A sparrow-like species, this poorly seen bird was briefly observed at our last mountain coffee stop, ahead of arriving back in San Jose the final day of the main tour (same place as the Prong-billed Barbet)—seen briefly by Bob, and only included here since it was confirmed by a local guide accompanying another group

Orange-billed Sparrow (*Arremon aurantirostris*) Related to the previous species, but with a well-marked black and white head, and conspicuous orange beak—normally a forest skulker, birds were seen very well at the morning feeders at Selva Verde Lodge, and also at Rancho Naturalista

Chestnut-capped Brushfinch (*Arremon brunneinucha*) Another close relative of the two preceding species, a small family group (including a youngster) of this ground-dwelling finch were found foraging deep in the underbrush during our final morning walk from the Savegre Hotel

Black-striped Sparrow (*Arremonops conirostris*) Two birds were seen clearly in the open understory, foraging below hummingbird feeders at a private home we visited on a walk one morning down the road from the Rancho Naturalista compound

White-naped Brushfinch (*Atlapetes albinucha*) Listed as rare in *The Birds of Costa Rica*, several of us had good looks at a cooperative bird near the newly constructed hummingbirds feeders up the hillside and across from the Savegre Hotel grounds—a beautiful yellow, black, and white species

White-eared Ground-Sparrow (*Melospiza leucotis*) Easily the most intriguing and boldly-patterned species seen on the

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grounds of the Bougainvillea Hotel—technically not an endemic by the definition we’re using here, yet known from just a very few disjunct areas of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Guatemala (spotted by Charlie near a brush pile, a great find!)

Stripe-headed Sparrow (*Peucaea ruficauda*) Related to Botteri’s and Cassin’s sparrows of the SW U.S., this species was seen during the post-tour Pacific coast extension (the only New World sparrow known to exhibit cooperative breeding)

Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*) Common at the Bougainvillea Hotel, the species was subsequently seen sporadically throughout much of the first half of the main tour

Common Chlorospingus (*Chlorospingus flavopectus*) Also called Common Bush-Tanager, this species was seen in the forests in the Savegre Valley and during outings near Rancho Naturalista

Sooty-capped Chlorospingus (E) (*Chlorospingus pileatus*) Another of the narrow endemics confined to the cloud forests of Costa Rica and adjacent Panama, we got our best looks at this species at the rural coffee shop we stopped at as we approached the Savegre Valley (after departing Mirador de Quetzales), during our first day on the road

Passeridae: Old World Sparrows (1)

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) Well-known introduced species, seen sporadically throughout the trip in urban and other settled areas

Cardinalidae: Cardinals and Grosbeaks (4)

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) Surprisingly common and familiar to us from the U.S., we saw this colorful non-breeding winter migrant most days of the trip

Flame-colored Tanager (*Piranga bidentate*) Only recorded by us in the Savegre Valley area, but very common at the busy feeders at the Savegre Hotel—a conspicuous and attractive species

Red-throated Ant-Tanager (*Chlorothraupis stolzmanni*) A few individuals of this understory species were detected at Rancho Naturalista, and on the grounds of the Heliconia Island gardens

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) Seen occasionally as individual birds in the hills near the Savegre Valley and around Rancho Naturalista

Icteridae: New World Blackbirds (11)

Red-breasted Meadowlark (*Sturnella militaris*) Also called Red-breasted Blackbird—we spent a great deal of time scrutinizing a horse pasture for this species, during a stop on our way down to Selva Verde from Rancho Naturalista (we eventually hit paydirt after some keen eyes in the group finally spotted our objective—whew!)

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) Common in the U.S., populations of Eastern Meadowlark also extend throughout much of Central and South America—we saw at least two birds crouched in the same field as the above species

Melodious Blackbird (*Dives dives*) The common blackbird of the trip—seen and heard most days in a variety of habitats (except for the highest cloud forests)

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) Even more pervasive than the previous species—seen every day, often in impressive numbers

Black-cowled Oriole (*Icterus prothemelas*) Appeared one morning at the fruit feeders above the viewing deck at Selva Verde Lodge—a beautiful and distinctive species

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) Seen during the post-tour Pacific coast extension—a common North American non-breeding migrant in Costa Rica

Streak-backed Oriole (*Icterus pustulatus*) A resident oriole in the Neotropics, very rare in the U.S.—seen by the group on the Pacific coast extension

Spot-breasted Oriole (*Icterus pectoralis*) Another resident species of oriole in Costa Rica (an introduced population exists in Florida)—also seen only during the Pacific coast post-tour extension

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Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) A non-breeding migrant that frequents much of Costa Rica in the winter—dozens of birds were moving through the grounds of the Bougainvillea Hotel during our stay, and we saw the species commonly throughout the trip

Chestnut-headed Oropendola (*Psarocolius wagleri*) A gorgeous species with a memorable ivory-colored bill, it was seen well at the Rancho Naturalista feeders on at least two mornings

Montezuma Oropendola (*Psarocolius Montezuma*) Also seen at Rancho Naturalista, as well as at the feeders at Selva Verde, and flying through forested habitat along the Sarapiquí River

Fringillidae: Finches and Euphonias (5)

Yellow-crowned Euphonia (E) (*Euphonia luteicapilla*) A regional endemic, this species was seen best in the forests during our outings around Rancho Naturalista

Yellow-throated Euphonia (*Euphonia hirundinacea*) Widespread in northern Central America and Mexico, one of the commonest *Euphonia* species—seen by us in the Rancho Naturalista area

Olive-backed Euphonia (*Euphonia gouldi*) A uniquely plumaged species for the genus, featuring drab olives, subtle oranges, and yellow highlights—seen at feeders at Rancho Naturalista and Selva Verde Lodge

Golden-browed Chlorophonia (E) (*Chlorophonia callophrys*) Perhaps the most brilliantly colored bird of the trip, both adults and juveniles of this remarkable endemic were observed (and photographed) eating apples in an orchard, near the hummingbird feeders recently constructed up the hill from the Savegre Hotel—a stunning species

Yellow-bellied Siskin (*Spinus xanthogastrus*) Observed in the forest and fields as we hiked up the steep road that led to the new hummingbird feeders recently opened by the Savegre Hotel

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS (7 Species)

Brown Basilisk (*Basiliscus vittatus*) Near the Sarapiquí River

Green Iguana (*Iguana iguana*) Near the Sarapiquí River

Whiptail Lizard or Ameiva (*Holcosus* sp.) Seen sunning near the Bougainvillea Hotel

Green Spiny Lizard or Emerald Swift (*Sceloporus malachiticus*) On rocks at Savegre Hotel

House gecko (*Hemidactylus* sp.) Squeaking in the evenings at Selva Verde

Anole (*Anolis* sp.) Common in vegetation at Selva Verde

Cane toad (*Rhinella merianae*) Hopping at night on the grounds at Selva Verde Lodge