

Southern Costa Rica | Species List

January 20-29, 2019 | Compiled by Bob Meinke



**With Bob Meinke, Carlos Umaña, and 13 participants:
Kelly, Therese, Dave, Roger, Chuck, Lola, Pierre, Danalee, Robert, Ellen,
Jeanne, Ann, and Bonnie**

(HO) = Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only

(RE) = Regional Endemics

(#) = Number of days encountered in parentheses

Summary

This was the inaugural trip for a new southern Costa Rica itinerary for Naturalist Journeys, tracing a route south from the capital San José to the Golfo Dulce region at the Panamanian border.

Our journey took us from subalpine habitats at Cerro Buena Vista and the Cerro de la Muerte—characterized by plant species familiar to North American wildflower enthusiasts (such as Indian Paintbrush [*Castilleja* sp.] and Coyote Thistle [*Eryngium* sp.]—to the palms and orchids of the coastal rainforests that blanket the Osa Peninsula. The montane highlands of the Talamanca Cordillera, where we visited unique Páramo ecosystems reminiscent of grasslands in South America's Andes, featured many species with narrow distributions, including plants as well as birds. We were fortunate to locate Volcano Junco here, as well as Timberline Wren. And at Paraiso Quetzales Lodge, Ruddy Treerunner, Talamanca and Volcano Hummingbirds, both Long-tailed and Black-and-yellow Silky Flycatchers, Slaty Flowerpiercer (the most northerly representative of an otherwise South American bird family), and Flame-throated Warblers were all easy to spot. All are local endemics.

Descending into the warmth of the lowlands, we initially spent time in the foothills of El General Valley, visiting the historic Alexander Skutch estate where the famed American ornithologist lived for much of his professional career. The birding here was excellent, featuring a range of woodcreepers, tanagers, antbirds, and flycatchers. Olivaceous Piculet, White-crested Coquette, and Turquoise Cotinga were sought-after specialties seen at nearby Talari Lodge, where we stayed for two nights.

We then moved on to the verdant Osa Peninsula, and later boated across the Golfo Dulce to hike in primary forest adjacent to Tiskita Lodge. Baird's Trogon, Fiery-billed Aracari, Charming Hummingbird, Blue-throated Goldentail, Crested Guan, Rufous Mourner as well as Rufous Piha, and Bicolored Antbird (the latter visiting an army ant swarm) were among the many avian highlights, not to mention seeing all four species of Costa Rican primates. We spent an entire morning on the water with Common Bottlenose and Pantropical Spotted Dolphins, and witnessed some remarkable aeronautical feats by the local flying fish. We later watched the release of baby Olive Ridley Turtles as part of a local conservation program at Punta Banco. All in all a fantastic trip, one we hope to continue in future years!

BIRDS (273 species recorded, of which 11 were heard only):

Tinamidae: Tinamous (1)

Great Tinamou *Tinamus major* (HO) (1) This elusive species was briefly heard both mornings at Talari Lodge, but never seen.

Anatidae: Ducks and Geese (2)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* (1) Several were seen during our lunch stop on our last day of the tour, back in San José—they were in a pond with domesticated ducks, yet these were likely wild individuals that had dropped in for a visit.

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors* (1) Same scenario as above, at the same location—two teals were seen by a few of the group while the rest were shopping.

Cracidae: Guans and Chachalacas (3)

Gray-headed Chachalaca *Ortalis cinereiceps* (3) Seen best on the grounds of Talari Lodge in the foothills—not as vocal as the Plain Chachalaca of the Caribbean slope.

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens* (1) A small group of this species was observed by Kelly, Chuck, and Lola in the Tiskita Lodge orchard on our last day.

Black Guan *Chamaepetes unicolor* (RE) (1) Kelly spotted a pair of this elegant species on a roadside stop on our way into El General Valley—seen well by most of the group.

Ciconiidae: Storks (1)

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* (1) A flyover of this distinctive wader was seen during a stop near some fields on the drive into Tiskita.

Fregatidae: Frigatebirds (1)

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* (4) Scattered individuals (many of which were pale-headed subadults) were observed overhead at Agua Dulce and along the coastline near Tiskita Lodge.

Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants (1)

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (1) Seen in flight by a few of the group, as we drove north near the coast towards Golfito to catch our flight back to San José.

Pelecanidae: Pelicans (1)

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* (5) Seen daily at both Agua Dulce and Tiskita Lodge—impressive aerial formations cruising the beach above Punta Banco (where we visited the sea turtle conservation site) were especially noteworthy.

Ardeidae: Herons and Egrets (7)

Bare-throated Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum* (2) A young bird was spotted by Kelly among the mangroves along the drive out of Agua Dulce one day—a mature bird was also seen near Tiskita Lodge.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* (3) Birds in flight were seen in San José, above Talari Lodge grounds, and by the coast near Tiskita.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* (4) A common species in North America, it is less frequent in Costa Rica—a few birds were seen flying or wading in fields at scattered locations in the lowlands.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* (2) Best seen from the van wading among the mangroves on the Osa Peninsula, just outside Agua Dulce.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* (1) A few individuals were hunting the shoreline at low tide when we returned from our dolphin-viewing trip out on Golfo Dulce.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (5) A common sight in farm fields, generally closely associating with their namesake.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* (2) Same location as Little Blue Heron; also seen skulking near a small pond near the airstrip below Tiskita Lodge.

Threskiornithidae: Ibis and Spoonbills (2)

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* (2) Seen twice, in mangrove areas near Agua Dulce (an immature); also an adult flyover on the afternoon drive in to Tiskita the following day.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* (1) Nice looks by the group of perched birds directly above us, as we slowly cruised through mangrove channels along Golfo Dulce.

Cathartidae: New World Vultures (3)

Black Vulture *Corabyps atratus* (9) Seen overhead every day, common and abundant.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* (9) Same as preceding species—the two vultures often flew together in mixed flocks.

King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa* (4) We had clear looks at adult birds, mostly in the skies over Tiskita Lodge—beautiful patterns on the undersides of the wings.

Pandionidae: Osprey (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (2) Single individuals in flight above Tiskita Lodge, and along the beach near Punta Banco.

Accipitridae: Hawks, Kites, and Eagles (11)

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus* (1) Two birds seen in flight in Santo Thomas, over the gardens of the Hotel Bougainvillea on first day of tour (before the entire group had linked up in downtown San José).

Gray-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis* (1) A single bird (possibly subadult) seen during our drive to the Piro Biological Station (an Osa Conservation facility).

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* (3) The group saw several of these distinctive raptors in flight, as we drove into El General Valley, at Talari Lodge, and also near the Piro Biological Station.

Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus* (1) Departing Talari Lodge one morning we briefly puzzled over an immature example of this species, cryptically perched roadside in the understory (nice spot, Therese!); clear scope views of a subadult were had later that afternoon along the Rio General at Talari.

Common Black Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus* (1) A single bird was seen flying near mangroves, as we left Agua Dulce on our way to the Piro Biological Station.

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris* (4) A fairly common species during the middle part of the tour, especially on the Osa Peninsula—we had scope views on the grounds of the Skutch estate (Los Cusingos Bird Sanctuary), and saw a bird hunting near Agua Dulce.

White Hawk *Pseudastur albicollis* (2) Even at a distance, this unique hawk is easily spotted as it passes over the deep green of the forest canopy—a pair of adults (possibly nesting) were seen several times along the ridgeline behind Tiskita Lodge.

Gray Hawk *Buteo plagiatus* (1) Picked up by Ann and Kelly at the Zoológico y Jardín Botánico Nacional, Simón Bolívar Park, on the first day of the tour (before our welcome dinner at the Presidente Hotel in downtown San José).

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* (2) Scattered individuals seen soaring overhead at Agua Dulce and Tiskita Lodge.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus* (5) The most common raptor of the trip, we had scoped views in the foothills on the way to El General Valley, and saw several birds soaring in the Golfo Dulce region.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* (1) Seen in the highlands on our first day, as we drove south into the Talamanca Cordillera.

Rallidae: Rails, Crakes, and Coots (2)

Gray-cowled Wood-Rail *Aramides cajaneus* (2) Birds were seen by several in the group nonchalantly strolling along hedgerows on the lawns at Agua Dulce—unlike their skittish smaller relatives, wood-rails are often unfazed by the company of people.

Common Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica* (1) Observed at Agua Dulce, one bird was seen emerging from roadside vegetation behind the hotel.

Charadriidae: Plovers and Lapwings (2)

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* (1) Two or three birds were in the shadows along a sandy shore near mangroves—seen briefly during our mangrove channel side-trip during the dolphin excursion.

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis* (2) A pair of birds were seen standing motionless in a dry field, alongside the road leading away from Agua Dulce towards the Puerto Jiménez airport.

Scolopacidae: Sandpipers and Allies (5)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* (1) Several birds were seen along sandy shores near Puerto Jiménez, and also near mangroves during our dolphin boat tour.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* (1) Several birds in near breeding plumage were working the shoreline at low tide, near Puerto Jiménez.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* (1) A single bird at same general location as Whimbrel.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* (5) A common sight along streams, channels, and shoreline areas during much of the trip.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata* (1) A small group was present on sand bars near the mouth of the narrow, mangrove-lined channel that we entered on the dolphin trip—the tell-tale wing pattern gave the birds away as they took flight.

Laridae: Gulls and Terns (3)

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla* (2) Many birds were seen at Puerto Jiménez near shore; also a few birds were flying off shore at Punta Banco, while we were enjoying the sea turtle release.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* (1) A small group of this species was feeding in the shallows of Golfo Dulce the day we were on the water chasing dolphins—the most common tern in Costa Rica.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis* (1) Much more common than Royal Tern the day we were on Golfo Dulce, we all saw the distinctive black bill with the yellow tip that is diagnostic for the species.

Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves (11)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* (3) Very common in San José, scattered in El General Valley.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis* (1) Seen flying over mangrove scrub on Golfo Dulce, as well as perched in the trees at Agua Dulce resort.

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris* (2) Birds were scattered in the trees and overhead in the gardens at Hotel Bougainvillea on our first day of the tour (before the entire group had linked up in downtown San José); also seen as we headed out of San José the next morning.

Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea* (1) An unexpected find in hills above Tiskita Lodge early one morning, identified by Carlos based on vocalization—very similar in appearance to Short-billed Pigeon.

Short-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas nigrirostris* (2) Widespread in the forest surrounding Tiskita Lodge, vocalization distinct from preceding species—the pigeon regularly seen by the group.

Inca Dove *Columbina inca* (1) Two small groups feeding in the gardens at Hotel Bougainvillea on our first day of tour (before the entire group had linked up in downtown San José).

Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti* (4) Seen at the Piro Biological Station, but most common near the coast at Agua Dulce; also common in dry fields near Punta Banco.

Blue Ground-Dove *Claravis pretiosa* (HO) (1) We heard the repetitive call of this secretive dove (a hollow-sounding ‘bump’) at several places, but never had a glimpse of the birds—a hard species to see.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* (4) Found at the Hotel Bougainvillea on our first day (before the entire group had gathered in downtown San José); also commonly observed on the trails at Tiskita Lodge throughout our stay.

Gray-chested Dove *Leptotila cassinii* (1) Also at Tiskita, seen quietly feeding in the understory and along trail margins, but not nearly as common as the preceding species.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* (1) Many observed by Kelly and Ann at Simón Bolívar Park in downtown San José, on the first day of the tour (before our welcome dinner at the Presidente Hotel).

Cuculidae: Cuckoos (2)

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* (3) Occasional small groups seen on the Skutch estate, near Talari Lodge, and along roads on the Osa Peninsula—sometimes easy to dismiss as grackles if you aren’t paying attention.

Mangrove Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* (1) An uncommon migrant species, spotted by Carlos while perched in roadside vegetation along the gravel road leading from Agua Dulce—seen well by all, a very nice find!

Strigidae: Owls (1)

Tropical Screech-Owl *Megascops choliba* (HO) (1) Heard tooting on the grounds of Talari Lodge, with a fleeting glimpse of what may have been this species in flight on our second evening—no confirmation, however.

Caprimulgidae: Nighthawks and Nightjars (2)

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis* (1) Seen over farm fields at dusk by Bob and a few others (from the van) during our drive into Agua Dulce.

Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* (1) The ethereal call of this nightjar relative was heard by all at Talari, and seen by a few of the group who were up before dawn.

Apodidae: Swifts (2)

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris* (3) Seen overhead on the Osa Peninsula, near Agua Dulce, as well as over forest clearings at the Piro Biological Station—the white markings were evident.

Vaux’s Swift *Chaetura vauxi* (1) After considerable deliberation, the flocks of small, pale-throated, dark rumped swifts seen after lunch at the Wilson Botanical Gardens were determined to be this species.

Trochilidae: Hummingbirds (21)

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora* (3) Typically seen mobbing nectar feeders in much of Central America, this species appeared for us only sporadically, and only at Tiskita Lodge (which eschews the use of feeders).

Band-tailed Barbthroat *Threnetes ruckeri* (1) Briefly seen by a few of our hikers, in a *Heliconia* patch near the Tiskita orchard on our last day at the lodge—a nice find by Carlos, this is the least common of the hermit hummingbirds in Costa Rica.

Long-billed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris* (3) The long tail and prominent decurved bill of this species is diagnostic—birds were seen on the Osa Peninsula (Piro Biological Station), near the Agua Dulce resort, and in the forest reserve of Tiskita Lodge.

Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis* (1) Seen zipping around floral plantings at Tiskita Lodge, only a few of us had a solid view of the species (on just a single day).

Lesser Violetear *Colibri cyanotus* (1) One of the dominants at the Paraiso Quetzal Lodge hummingbird feeders, where we had many close-in views and photo ops.

Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliathryx barroti* (1) The short bill and all-white underside are diagnostic traits, and helped us quickly recognize this forest species at the Skutch estate during our morning walk there.

White-crested Coquette *Lophornis adorabilis* (1) A few of the group had gathered by the Rio General at Talari Lodge, to view a Piculet nest, when our attention was diverted by a clearly agitated Double-toothed Kite perched nearby—a look through the scope showed it being repeatedly harassed by a male coquette, and we ended up with clear (and prolonged) views of this unexpected encounter.

Talamanca Hummingbird *Eugenes spectabilis* (RE) (1) Although a regional endemic, this large, colorful species was common during our lunch stop at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge—this is a close relative of Rivoli’s Hummingbird, which occurs in southern Arizona (see PHOTO).

Long-billed Starthroat *Heliomaster longirostris* (3) The distinctive profile of this hummer made it identifiable even from the van, as we parked under a utility wire where the bird sat; the species was also seen on the Osa Peninsula, at Agua Dulce, and at the Piro Biological Station.

Plain-capped Starthroat *Heliomaster constantia* (1) A female bird attending a nest was seen at the Hotel Bougainvillea on our first day of the tour (before the entire group rendezvoused in downtown San José)—the prominent post-ocular stripe could be seen in the scope.

Fiery-throated Hummingbird *Panterpe insignis* (RE) (1) Another endemic found at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge feeders—when seen at the right angle, with ample light, the colors of this species are astonishing.

White-throated Mountain-gem *Lampornis castaneiventris* (1) At least one bird was spotted by Chuck at the Paraiso Quetzal Lodge feeders—it was not near as common here as it was during our 2018 tour.

Volcano Hummingbird *Selasphorus flammula* (RE) (3) The species was quite common at Paraiso Quetzal feeders, but most of us only saw female birds—the colorful males were very scarce.

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird *Phaeochroa cuvierii* (2) Our views of this plain-plumaged species were limited to the Osa Peninsula, i.e., trailside at the Skutch estate, as well as on the grounds of Talari Lodge.

Crowned Woodnymph *Thalurania colombica* (3) Birds were seen at the Wilson Botanical Gardens, and then were relatively common during our stay at Tiskita Lodge.

White-tailed Emerald *Elvira chionura* (RE) (1) Several small groups of this species were seen by some of us at the Wilson Botanical Gardens, although not especially well and only from below, with the birds remaining high in the canopy as they visited flowering epiphytes.

Charming Hummingbird *Amazilia decora* (RE) (1) We had a number of “probable” looks at this elusive beauty at Tiskita Lodge over the course of our stay, but few definitive views.

Snowy-bellied Hummingbird *Amazilia edward* (RE) (2) Seen in the gardens at Talari Lodge both days, though very infrequent.

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzactl* (9) Recorded every day of the trip by some or all of the group, one of the most common (and recognizable) hummingbirds in Central America.

Sapphire-throated Hummingbird *Lepidopyga coeruleogularis* (2) This species has only recently been found crossing the border from Panama, and it was on Carlos’ target list—Ellen had the first look by the Tiskita airstrip, and the next morning we all saw a gorgeous male (a lifer for everyone, including Carlos)!

Blue-throated Goldentail *Hylocharis eliciae* (2) A gorgeous hummer, its thick, livid-red bill contrasting with the blues, greens, and golds of the plumage—the birds seldom sat still, but most of us eventually had decent if not excellent views of this exquisite species while at Tiskita Lodge (and Ellen later saw a nesting bird at Luna Lodge, during her and Jeanne’s post-tour extension!).

Trogonidae: Trogons (3)

Slaty-tailed Trogon *Trogon massena* (2) The first of our three trogons, all seen near Tiskita Lodge—we had given up on a very vocal male deep in the forest, and had moved on, when one of our group came hustling down the trail to call us back—we ultimately had great views, thanks to Chuck’s perseverance!

Black-headed Trogon *Trogon melanocephalus* (1) Seen by some of the group on a hike to a section of primary forest located on a ridgeline above Tiskita Lodge.

Baird’s Trogon *Trogon bairdii* (RE) (1) Several of this endemic beauty came in very close during the group’s hike up to the primary forest above Tiskita Lodge—a major target-bird check-off for Chuck, our trogon aficionado.

Momotidae: Motmots (1)

Lesson’s Motmot *Momotus lessonii* (4) A stunning species one never tires of seeing, found at Hotel Bougainvillea at the start of the trip, and then several others times at Talari and Tiskita Lodges.

Alcedinidae: Kingfishers (1)

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* (3) Initially seen fishing at a stream crossing as we returned from the Piro Biological Station, this species was later picked up near the coast at Tiskita, as well.

Bucconidae: Puffbirds (1)

White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis* (1) It was dusk as a small group of us walked back along the Stream Trail at Tiskita when Carlos pointed out this species perched in the understory—cryptic even in the best of light, how he managed to spot it is a mystery (must have been the white whiskers...)

Galbulidae: Jacamars (1)

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda* (1) Like an oversized, carnivorous hummingbird—seen in the primary forest at Tiskita during a group walk.

Ramphastidae: Toucans (3)

Northern Emerald Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus prasinus* (1) Seen by the entire group, when we stopped to bird a side road off Route 2 (the Pan-American Highway) as we descended into El General Valley—a beautiful member of the Toucan family.

Fiery-billed Aracari *Pteroglossus frantzii* (RE) (4) This brightly colored endemic was locally abundant and readily seen at both Talari and Tiskita lodges, and heard near Agua Dulce on the Osa Peninsula.

Yellow-throated Toucan *Ramphastos ambiguus* (7) Found daily once we were into the foothills and lowlands, typically seen flying single-file in small groups if not perched (previously known as the Chestnut-mandibled Toucan).

Picidae: Woodpeckers (9)

Olivaceous Piculet *Picumnus olivaceus* (2) A pair of birds were seen nesting (with young) along the Rio General at Talari Lodge—a truly miniature woodpecker, the entrance hole to the nest cavity was no larger than a quarter!

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus* (HO) (1) Typically common at mountain sites, a few of us heard this species in the distance at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge.

Golden-naped Woodpecker *Melanerpes chrysauchen* (RE) (2) Encountered during the group hike up to the primary forest area at Tiskita Lodge, and then seen well in the scope later on, where it frequented heavy forest bordering the lodge's expansive orchard.

Red-crowned Woodpecker *Melanerpes rubricapillus* (4) The most common woodpecker of the trip, seen at Talari Lodge, the Skutch estate, Wilson Botanical Garden, and Agua Dulce on the Osa Peninsula.

Hoffmann's Woodpecker *Melanerpes hoffmannii* (RE) (1) The counterpart to Red-crowned Woodpecker in the northwest of the country, Hoffman's was common at Hotel Bougainvillea on our first day of the tour (before the entire group had met up in downtown San José).

Hairy Woodpecker *Picoides villosus* (1) Largely a mid- to high-montane species in Costa Rica, the Hairy Woodpecker (with one subspecies or another familiar to most of us from home) was readily seen during our lunch stop at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge.

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus* (HO) (1) A couple of the group had a fleeting glance at a pair of vocal birds at Wilson Botanical Gardens, while we stalked the Orange-billed Nightingale Thrush, but not enough to count—we'll consider this "heard only."

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus* (1) A clear view was had by Kelly from the van in a wooded field, with a glimpse by a couple others, as we made our way to the Skutch estate from Talari Lodge.

Pale-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus guatemalensis* (4) Infrequent, but observed on four separate days—most notable was a pair seen first by Kelly that were tearing into a downed log in the forest reserve at Tiskita Lodge.

Falconidae: Falcons and Caracaras (4)

Collared Forest-Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus* (HO) (1) This difficult to see species was briefly heard at dawn at Tiskita Lodge, from the lower bungalows.

Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway* (6) Fairly common throughout our trip, this distinctive raptor was most frequent in the areas surrounding Golfo Dulce.

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima* (6) Also widespread and seen multiple times, starting in San José and later in open areas near Talari Lodge, on the Osa Peninsula, and near the beach and airstrip at Tiskita.

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans* (2) We heard this species during our stay at Talari, but our best encounter was had at Tiskita Lodge—red feathers floating down from the canopy clued us into a Summer Tanager in the clutches of a Laughing Falcon, which was busy tearing it into bite-size chunks (an unusual prey item for a raptor that specializes in snakes).

Psittacidae: Parrots (10)

Orange-chinned Parakeet *Brotogeris jugularis* (4) We had several flyover views of varying quality, mostly during our time on the Osa Peninsula, as well as in the foothills above Talari Lodge.

Red-fronted Parrotlet *Touit costaricensis* (RE) (1) While watching the piculet nest at Talari Lodge, Carlos pointed out a flock of parrotlets rocketing overhead, a rare occurrence for the area—only a couple of us had much of a look, with the diminutive size, squared tail, and yellow leading edges of the wings briefly apparent (Carlos looked for the species again the following morning, to no avail).

Brown-hooded Parrot *Pyrilia haematotis* (1) Observed by most of the group while we were at Tiskita Lodge, during their hike up to the primary forest tract.

Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus* (2) Seen in flyovers and also perched, during our visit to the Skutch estate—also observed settling into trees during a late afternoon roadside birding stop on our initial drive into Tiskita Lodge.

White-crowned Parrot *Pionus senilis* (6) The most consistently seen parrot of the trip (in terms of number of days), yet not the most common in terms of numbers.

Red-lored Parrot *Amazona autumnalis* (4) The default psittid during the latter half of the trip, it's size gave it away even at a distance—quantitatively, this was our most common parrot.

White-fronted Parrot *Amazona albifrons* (1) A pair of birds was seen in flight behind the Hotel Bougainvillea on our first day of the tour (before the entire group had gathered in downtown San José).

Sulphur-winged Parakeet *Pyrrhura hoffmanni* (RE) (1) A single flock passed overhead during our roadside stop along the Pan American Highway (Costa Rica Route 2) as we headed to Talari lodge—this was our only view of this regional endemic, which is common in the Talamanca Cordillera.

Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao* (5) We had fantastic views of this enormous, colorful parrot on the grounds of Tiskita Lodge, and especially at Agua Dulce, where a pair was mating (or attempting it) in the trees along the back edge of the property—amazing!

Crimson-fronted Parakeet *Psittacara finschi* (RE) (3) Common at Hotel Bougainvillea as well as in downtown San José the first day of the trip (several were perched outside the Presidente Hotel on a neon sign!); also seen at Talari Lodge and heard at Agua Dulce.

Thamnophilidae: Antbirds (5)

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus* (1) Based on vocalizations, this antshrike was far less common at Tiskita Lodge than the following species—a male was seen well at the pools above the waterfall.

Black-hooded Antshrike *Thamnophilus bridgesi* (RE) (2) Very vocal and seen several times at Tiskita Lodge, the species was also sighted on the grounds of Talari Lodge and at the Los Cusingos Bird Sanctuary (which includes the former home of Alexander Skutch).

Dot-winged Antwren *Microrhopias quixensis* (1) Our best examples were seen at the Skutch estate—we had great views of a male and female bird together, allowing us to study the marked sexual dimorphism of the species.

Chestnut-backed Antbird *Poliocrania exsul* (2) Very elusive—we were fortunate to see birds in the forest understory at Los Cusingos, as well as along trails at the Piro Biological Station and Tiskita Lodge.

Bicolored Antbird *Gymnopithys bicolor* (1) We came across an ant swarm at Tiskita Lodge (near the start of the Waterfall Trail), and had wonderful views of a bicolored antbird in a mixed species flock—all oblivious to our presence—that was feeding on the invertebrates flushed by the marauding ants.

Furnariidae: Ovenbirds (10)

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus* (1) This readily identified woodcreeper, based on its small size and unique gray and brown plumage, was seen on a hike at the Wilson Botanical Gardens, one of six woodcreeper species seen there in close proximity (on the fourth day of the tour).

Long-tailed Woodcreeper *Deconychura longicauda* (1) Recorded by Kelly and Jeanne on their botany and birding hike through Wilson Botanical Gardens, one of the more uncommon woodcreeper species in southern Costa Rica.

Tawny-winged Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla anabatina* (3) Relatively common on the trip, seen on the grounds of the Skutch estate, the Wilson Botanical Gardens, and attending the ant swarm we watched at Tiskita Lodge.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* (1) The smallest of the woodcreepers, with a Xenops-like bill, we had good looks at a couple birds inching up trees in the forests surrounding Tiskita Lodge.

Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans* (4) The whistling call of the Cocoa Woodcreeper was a recurrent sound in the forests we visited near the Golfo Dulce and at Wilson Botanical Gardens—several individuals of this large-billed species were seen.

Black-striped Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus* (1) An exquisitely patterned woodcreeper, we recorded the species on the high ridge behind Tiskita Lodge, in an area of primary forest.

Spotted Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus erythropyglus* (1) Another of the species seen only during our forest walk at Wilson Botanical Gardens—just a single bird was observed.

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii* (4) The most common of the woodcreepers we encountered, seen by most if not all the group at the Wilson gardens, Talari Lodge, and the Tiskita reserve—the rapid, descending trill of the species was less commanding but just as common as the call of the Cocoa Woodcreeper.

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus* (4) Could be confused with Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, but it doesn't creep up tree trunks, but rather hangs from branchlets and gleans leaves, in chickadee-fashion—we saw several of these birds, at Talari Lodge, Wilson Botanical Gardens, and forests near Tiskita Lodge.

Ruddy Treerunner *Margarornis rubiginosus* (RE) (2) Observed by the group from the observation deck at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge, this is another of the regionally endemic, yet locally common species found in the Talamanca Range—birds often stay in the open, and are less skittish than many Furnarids.

Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers (32)

Yellow Tyrannulet *Capsiempis flaveola* (1) A pair seen from the lower bungalows the last morning at Tiskita Lodge, in shrubby understory along forest edge.

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum* (2) This tiny, non-descript, crested flycatcher was working the semi-wooded, open areas behind the lodging units at Agua Dulce—seen by several in the group both mornings.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster* (3) Seen at Wilson Botanical Garden and Talari Lodge, where we had our best looks of birds, some with raised crests—often a common species, but not so on this trip.

Mountain Elaenia *Elaenia frantzii* (1) Only seen by the group on a single day, though everyone had very good looks at several birds, as we walked an unimproved road prior to lunch at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge.

Olive-striped Flycatcher *Mionectes olivaceus* (1) A single bird was pointed out by Carlos when we stopped in late afternoon to bird a gravel spur-road off of Costa Rica Route 2, on our way south into El General Valley.

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleaginous* (3) Our first bird was spotted by Ellen in the dark understory as we hiked trails on the reserve associated with the Skutch estate, part of the Los Cusingos Bird Sanctuary—additional individuals were later spotted in similar habitat in the Tiskita forest reserve.

Slaty-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon superciliaris* (1) A single individual perched cooperatively in thick understory during our trail walk down to the observation tower at Wilson Botanical Gardens—despite the fidgety nature of the bird and the heavy brush, most of the group managed to get decent looks.

Mistletoe Tyrannulet *Zimmerius vilissimus* (1) Seen only at the Wilson Botanical Gardens—we saw birds in the canopy as we walked the trails, and later had much better looks, when (just prior to leaving) we birded from the front terrace area outside the dining hall (formerly called Paltry Tyrannulet).

Northern Bentbill *Oncostoma cinereigulare* (HO) (1) Never seen, but its rapid-fire trill was heard several times, especially on the way up to the pools above the waterfall at Tiskita Lodge.

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum* (1) Widespread but not always easy to see, we had brief but solid looks at a pair during our trip to the Los Cusingos Bird Sanctuary.

Eye-ringed Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus brevirostris* (1) A single bird was quietly perched along the waterfall trail during Bob and Jeanne's hike up to the pools above the falls.

Yellow-olive Flycatcher *Tolmomyias sulphurescens* (1) Seen the last day (before we loaded the vans for the Golfito airport) near the pool area at Tiskita Lodge, working some low brush.

Golden-crowned Spadebill *Platyrrinchus coronatus* (1) Tiny and hard to pinpoint in the understory, most of the group was finally able to see this little gem during the hike up to the primary forest area at Tiskita—good job by Carlos in making this happen.

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher *Terenotriccus erythrurus* (1) With a little help from playback, Carlos was able to lure this tiny, old growth specialty out for the group to see during the hike to the primary forest tract above Tiskita Lodge—a very difficult bird to locate.

Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher *Myiobius sulphureipygius* (1) Observed at the natural pools above the waterfall at Tiskita Lodge, the bird was heard before finally being seen perched on an overhanging branch over the lowermost pool.

Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus* (1) Seen by the group during our pre-lunch walk at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge, exhibiting classical flycatcher behavior as it sallied out and returned to the same branch over and over, giving everyone a chance for a good look.

Tropical Pewee *Contopus cinereus* (1) A single bird was seen by a couple of us as we rolled into the Golfito airport on our way back to San José, perched on a drooping overhead utility wire.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *Empidonax flaviventris* (1) A few birds of this familiar northern temperate breeder were seen by the group during our time in the foothills—at Talari Lodge, and later near thickets at the Wilson Botanical Gardens.

Black-capped Flycatcher *Empidonax atriceps* (RE) (1) Unlike the *Empidonax* species we are used to at home, this one is well-marked and easily recognized—we saw several birds during our extended walk at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge, mostly foraging and perching close to the ground.

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* (1) Seen resting on a large rock in the middle of a stream, the species was unmistakable—seen from the van as we drove from Talari Lodge to the Los Cusingos Bird Sanctuary.

Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus* (2) This robust flycatcher was seen by several in the group on our last morning at Agua Dulce, perched in trees near the entrance into the lodge compound—we had very good scope views.

Rufous Mourner *Rhytipterna holerythra* (1) Another of the primary forest specialties that the group came across in largely undisturbed forest habitat at Tiskita Lodge—uncommon and seldom shows itself.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer* (1) One or possibly two birds were in the gardens at the Hotel Bougainvillea (seen on the first day of the tour, before the group had fully assembled in downtown San José).

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus* (4) Well-known to those in the eastern U.S., this species was seen by the group several times, particularly at Agua Dulce and also in the lowland secondary forests around Tiskita lodge.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* (9) Seen by everyone on each day of the tour, a common and conspicuous species.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua* (2) So similar in appearance (and behavior, to a large extent) to Great Kiskadee, yet seen far less often—we had good looks at birds during our walk at the Skutch estate, and at Talari Lodge.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis* (9) Easily as common as the Great Kiskadee, seen by the group countless times.

Gray-capped Flycatcher *Myiozetetes granadensis* (5) Carlos pointed out several birds from the van as we drove to our morning visit at the Los Cusingos Bird Sanctuary and Alexander Skutch estate—similar to (and easy to dismiss as) a Social Flycatcher if you're not careful.

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus* (3) Chuck and Lola got close looks at this species during a walk in a residential area outside the grounds of Agua Dulce, and the group later had nice views of birds in trees bordering the airport runway at Tiskita—close relative of Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher in Arizona.

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus* (1) A single bird was seen from the dining area deck at Talari Lodge—likely one of the first migrants to arrive for the season from further south.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* (8) If it were possible for a species to exceed Great Kiskadee and Social Flycatcher in terms of sheer abundance, this would be the one.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savanna* (2) A few of us saw this elegant species, perched on fences in fields, during a drive through El General Valley—the entire group then had nice views in the scope during a late afternoon roadside stop as we drove down towards Tiskita Lodge.

Cotingidae: Cotingas (2)

Turquoise Cotinga *Cotinga ridwayi* (RE) (1) We thought we had struck out on this spectacular endemic when a bird spotted by Carlos at Talari quickly vanished before we could set up the scope—what was likely the same bird reappeared later in the day, though only a few of the group was present when it did.

Rufous Piha *Lipaugus unirufus* (1) Another of the very difficult birds to see that Carlos was able to summon for the group that hiked high into the primary forest above Tiskita Lodge—excellent!

Pipridae: Manakins (3)

Blue-crowned Manakin *Lepidothrix coronata* (4) Scattered individuals were seen on several days of the trip, but the species was by no means common—we had good looks at both the greenish females and jet-black males with their blue caps.

Orange-collared Manakin *Manacus aurantiacus* (RE) (3) We had initial views of the species during our hike at the Los Cusingos Bird Sanctuary and Alexander Skutch estate—later, in the forest around Tiskita Lodge, the electric snaps emanating from the local Orange-collared Manakin leks never let up, and greeted us every morning.

Red-capped Manakin *Ceratopipra mentalis* (2) We had two views of male birds, once at the Los Cusingos Bird Sanctuary (near the Skutch house), and again during a walk around the grounds at Tiskita—the brilliant red head and yellow thighs made them easy to spot, despite their tiny size.

Tityridae: Tityras and Becards (2)

Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor* (1) There was a flyover by two birds on our last day at Tiskita Lodge, near the pool area.

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata* (1) We had great scope views (by the river at Talari Lodge) of a brilliantly plumaged male, sitting in the same tree as a Double-toothed Kite, an Olivaceous Piculet, and a White-crested Coquette—it was late in the day, and a shame only a few of us were there to see it!

Vireonidae: Vireos (6)

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis* (HO) (1) Heard from the lower bungalows one morning at Tiskita Lodge—despite use of a little playback, the bird would not appear.

Tawny-crowned Greenlet *Tunchiornis ochraceiceps* (2) It took some effort, but most of the group had excellent views of this skittish understory dweller while on the trail at the Piro Biological Station, during our pre-lunch hike.

Lesser Greenlet *Pachysylvia decurtata* (HO) (1) Heard several times in the trees at Tiskita, but we never seemed to have the opportunity to track down a good view of this common species! The birds largely stayed hidden in the canopy.

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* (2) This North American migrant was seen at the Hotel Bougainvillea the first day of the trip (before the group was all together), and again from the dining room birding deck at Talari Lodge.

Yellow-winged Vireo *Vireo carmioli* (RE) (2) A quiet, unassuming little vireo, we saw two or three birds mingling in mixed flocks as we walked before lunch at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge.

Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus* (2) Very common migrant at Simón Bolívar Park in San José during the first day of the tour (before dinner), and then seen later along the coastline near Punta Banco in flowering shrubs.

Corvidae: Jays and Crows (1)

Brown Jay *Psilorhinus morio* (3) A small (and uncharacteristically quiet) party of brown jays was present at Hotel Bougainvillea the morning of the first day of the tour, and a few were also seen at Talari Lodge.

Hirundinidae: Swallows and Martins (6)

Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca* (5) Present (and common) the first five days of the tour (from San José to Agua Dulce), and absent thereafter—the smallest swallow in Costa Rica.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* (1) Flying over the suburbs and parks of San José on our first day, but then not seen outside the city.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* (2) Recorded flying over open agricultural areas of El General Valley, and also perched on utility wires—relatively common and seen well by most of the group.

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea* (5) Our first looks were of small flocks along the Rio General at Talari Lodge—birds were then seen sporadically on most days after that, especially at Agua Dulce.

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea* (1) Abundant in the Golfo Dulce area, seen best during our dolphin boat tour and our water transfer to Golfito.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (1) A North American migrant with an unmistakable profile, seen swirling over Hotel Bougainvillea and downtown San José at the start of the tour.

Troglodytidae: Wrens (9)

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* (4) Seen at Hotel Bougainvillea at the beginning of the tour, and later around plantings and buildings at Talari and Tiskita lodges.

Ochraceous Wren *Troglodytes ochraceus* (RE) (1) We had a great look at this regional endemic as we walked trails near Paraiso Quetzal Lodge—a beautiful little wren that was working some lower tree limbs, intent on combing through the mosses and flowering epiphytes as we watched.

Timberline Wren *Troglodytes browni* (RE) (1) Seen by most of the group near the summit of Cerro Buena Vista (11,000 feet!)—birds were very chatty (despite the swirling mist and 45°F), but stayed well concealed, and it took some time before one finally appeared in full view.

Rufous-naped Wren *Campylorhynchus rufinucha* (2) A close relative of Arizona's Cactus Wren, this robust and noisy species was common in the gardens at Hotel Bougainvillea (the morning the tour kicked off), and then seen by the group at the very end of the tour (back in San José) during our lunch stop, before checking in at the Doubletree Hotel.

Black-bellied Wren *Pheugopedius fasciatoventris* (RE) (1) The melodious dawn song of this striking forest wren piqued the interest of those in our group staying in the upper bungalows at Tiskita Lodge—Carlos eventually resorted to a little playback, and some excellent views were finally had!

Cabanis's Wren *Cantorchilus modestus* (1) Located among the plantings at Hotel Bougainvillea (on the morning the main tour started)—this species is one of three recently split from Plain Wren.

Riverside Wren *Cantorchilus semibadius* (RE) (4) An intricately patterned species, this wren was very common by voice during the latter half of the tour—we had our best views as a group along the trail at Osa Conservation's Piro Biological Station.

White-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucosticte* (1) Heard and eventually seen along the trail at Wilson Botanical Gardens, during our walk to the observation tower—this is the mid- to lower elevation counterpart to the following species.

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys* (1) A couple of birds were lured from the brush by pishing during our late afternoon birding stop in the hills along Costa Rica Route 2, as we headed down to El General Valley and Talari Lodge.

Poliptilidae: Gnatcatchers (2)

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus* (1) Several birds were active in the trees near the visitor center at the Los Cusingos Bird Sanctuary—too twitchy to be seen in the scope, most of us finally settled for some partial views in our bins.

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Poliptila plumbea* (2) Also seen at Los Cusingos (in the open area near the Skutch house), and then again in forest edge habitat near Tiskita Lodge.

Turdidae: Thrushes (8)

Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus gracilirostris* (RE) (2) Several birds were present at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge, hopping around in plantings near the main building, below the observation platform, and along the trails we walked before lunch—most of us had close looks at this regional endemic.

Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus aurantiirostris* (2) This secretive species was heard by most, but seen by only a few, while at Talari Lodge—a lone bird was then seen later (after considerable effort on our part) as it skulked in heavy thickets at Wilson Botanical Gardens.

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* (HO) (1) Heard from the dining area observation deck our second morning at Talari Lodge.

Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina* (1) A brief view was had on the grounds of the Doubletree Hotel in San José, on our last full day of the tour.

Sooty Thrush *Turdus nigrescens* (RE) (1) Seen several times in the open on the ground or in low brush, as we hiked at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge and then drove on through the Talamanca Range—one of several all black *Turdus* species present in both the Old and New Worlds, this one is a narrow regional endemic.

Mountain Thrush *Turdus plebejus* (1) Birds were occasional along the trails at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge, we had the opportunity to compare this species with the similar-appearing Clay-colored Thrush.

Clay-colored Thrush *Turdus grayi* (9) Vying for the title of most common species for the trip, yet probably just losing out to three prominent yellow flycatchers (you know who they are!)—largely owing to its beautiful song, this has been designated the national bird of Costa Rica.

White-throated Thrush *Turdus assimilis* (1) We spent a good 15 minutes tracking this species in the canopy at Wilson Botanical gardens, while on our trek to the observation tower—tends to stay off the ground, unlike many related thrushes.

Mimidae: Mockingbirds (1)

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus* (2) While common in many areas of Central America, we only had limited views of this species, mostly in agricultural and residential areas in the vicinity of Talari Lodge.

Ptilonotidae: Silky-flycatchers (2)

Black-and-yellow Silky-Flycatcher (RE) *Phainoptila melanoxantha* (1) Most of the group had unsurpassed views of this chunky, colorful species at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge, from the observation platform and along the trail—one of only four members of the silky-flycatcher family, yet it looks nothing like the following species.

Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher *Ptilogonys caudatus* (RE) (2) During lunch at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge, Chuck pointed to a wooden replica of this bird on the table, lamenting that we had yet to see it—as if on cue, one appeared moments later in the vegetation outside the window behind us! A beautiful species, reminiscent (in form) of the Phainopepla of the American Southwest.

Parulidae: Wood-Warblers (18)

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis* (1) One or more individuals were seen on multiple mornings at Tiskita Lodge, ambling along the shaded road that led to the airport.

Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera* (2) Seen by most of the group in the canopy while hiking near the Alexander Skutch house at the Los Cusingos Bird Sanctuary—we had nice looks at this beautiful migrant, which is increasingly at risk in the U.S. due to habitat loss and hybridization.

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* (2) Seen gleaning in the trees at both the Los Cusingos Bird Sanctuary and the Wilson Botanical Gardens.

Flame-throated Warbler *Oreothlypis gutturalis* (RE) (1) We had very nice views of this colorful montane endemic in a mixed species flock, while hiking the gravel road at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge.

Tennessee Warbler *Oreothlypis peregrine* (5) Best views were in San José, at the Hotel Bougainvillea at the start of the trip, and the Doubletree Hotel at the end—also seen sporadically around Talari Lodge.

Mourning Warbler *Geothlypis philadelphia* (2) Spotted by Kelly and Carlos on the grounds of Talari Lodge, below the birding deck.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* (1) An active pair of birds was seen within and below plantings surrounding the dining hall observation deck at Talari Lodge.

Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca* (2) We didn't arrive at the observation tower at the Wilson Botanical Gardens until mid-afternoon—we managed to see this colorful migrant but little else (by all accounts, being on the tower just after sunrise offers a completely different experience!).

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia* (4) This species was most common during the latter part of the tour, and several were seen on the Osa Peninsula and at Tiskita Lodge—we saw the terracotta-headed “Mangrove” Warbler during our boat tour from Puerto Jiménez (a very distinctive subspecies).

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Setophaga pensylvanica* (5) A relatively common North American migrant, we saw several during our trip (at least one in full breeding plumage) in the foothills and lowlands.

Bay-breasted Warbler *Setophaga castanea* (1) A single female bird, seen along the back road that exits the Agua Dulce resort.

Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens* (1) A couple birds were seen during our walk near Paraiso Quetzal Lodge, in a mixed flock with Flame-throated Warblers and Mountain Elaenia.

Rufous-capped Warbler *Basileuterus rufifrons* (1) A fairly common species in the gardens surrounding Hotel Bougainvillea, the birds we saw (on the first day of the tour, before the group met up in downtown San José) were in beautiful, bright plumage.

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus* (1) A single bird was seen in the understory as we watched various woodcreepers, on our walk to the observation tower at Wilson Botanical Gardens.

Buff-rumped Warbler *Myiothlypis fulvicauda* (2) Seen flitting along rivulets in the forest reserve managed by Tiskita Lodge—behaves like a redstart addicted to water.

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina canadensis* (1) A well-known northern temperate breeder, seen several times during our all-to-brief lunch stop and hike at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge.

Slate-throated Redstart *Myioborus miniatus* (2) Seen in the forest subcanopy during our late afternoon birding stop along a gravel road just off Costa Rica Route 2—also found later at the Wilson Botanical Gardens.

Collared Redstart *Myioborus torquatus* (RE) (1) Most of the group got good looks at this colorful (and relatively confiding) endemic, while standing on the observation platform at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge.

Thraupidae: Tanagers and Allies (23)

Gray-headed Tanager *Eucometis penicillate* (2) Fairly common in the forest at Tiskita Lodge, we had our best looks at a bird that was hovering near an army ant swarm near the start of the Waterfall Trail, seemingly impervious to the dozen or more birders just a few feet away.

White-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus luctuosus* (1) Seen briefly at Agua Dulce, then daily at the overlook area fronting the Tiskita Lodge dining hall—both black-plumaged males and cinnamon females were present.

Cherrie's Tanager *Ramphocelus costaricensis* (RE) (6) Seen almost daily in the foothills and lowlands, beginning at Talari Lodge—the species is now being merged with Passerini's Tanager to form “Scarlet-rumped Tanager” by some authorities, a controversial decision that's not universally embraced. See <http://checklist.aou.org/assets/proposals/PDF/2018-A.pdf> (page 10) for details.

Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus* (8) An easily recognized species, the most common tanager we saw during the trip—typically prefers middle elevations down to the lowlands.

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum* (7) One of the most widespread and familiar species of submontane neotropical forests, often accompanying the preceding tanager at feeders—we saw it almost daily.

Speckled Tanager *Ixothraupis guttate* (3) A beautiful, intricately patterned tanager that frequented flowering trees in the foothills and intermontane valleys—seen along Costa Rica Route 2 (Pan-American Highway) above El General Valley, at the Skutch estate, and in mixed flocks at Wilson Botanical Gardens.

Golden-hooded Tanager *Tangara larvata* (4) Featuring a stunning combination of colors, this species was seen multiple times, principally during our stays at Talari and Tiskita lodges.

Spangle-cheeked Tanager *Tangara dowii* (1) Seen in fading light and mist during our roadside stop along Costa Rica Route 2 before we entered El General Valley on our way to Talari Lodge—another lovely species, but not seen well by most of us due to the conditions.

Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola* (7) Found every day once we left the high mountains, the reddish-brown head and blue-green body are diagnostic—we had especially good looks by the Skutch House.

Silver-throated Tanager *Tangara icterocephala* (2) Our best views of this active species were in trees near the dining-hall terrace at Wilson Botanical Garden, just before we left to drive on to Agua Dulce.

Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana* (1) A couple of us pointed out a brilliant blue bird that was flying away from us at the birding deck at Talari Lodge—identified as this species by Carlos, we had only a quick look.

Shining Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes lucidus* (2) Having seen the Red-legged Honeycreeper earlier at Talari Lodge, the yellow legs of this species immediately alerted us that we had something different—several birds were seen at Los Cusingos Bird Sanctuary near the Skutch House.

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus* (4) Males and females were present at Talari Lodge, and in the gardens at Tiskita.

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza* (6) Our largest and most common honeycreeper, males and females were seen daily at both Talari and Tiskita lodges—beautiful birds.

Slaty Flowerpiercer *Diglossa plumbea* (RE) (3) Belonging to a largely South American family, the Slaty Flowerpiercer uses its peculiar awl-shaped bill to penetrate the base of flowers to access nectar, thereby sidestepping its potential role as a pollinator by avoiding contact with the floral organs—this endemic species was common in the shrubs and at the hummingbird feeders at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge.

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia minuta* (1) Exceedingly common in much of Central America, we saw this species once, in a roadside field during a gas stop on the way to Agua Dulce—superficially similar to the Variable Seedeater, it gave itself away by exhibiting its characteristic hop when it vocalized.

Variable Seedeater *Sporophila corvina* (4) This bird was never common, but we saw it several times along fencerows and in weedy waste areas in the lowlands—males are black and females rufous-brown.

Morelet's Seedeater *Sporophila moreletii* (1) A lone male was seen at the airstrip that services Tiskita Lodge (while we were focused on locating a Sapphire-throated Hummingbird seen earlier by Ellen), but few of us saw it well—Morelet's is a recent split from White-collared Seedeater.

Yellow-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila nigricollis* (1) Several birds were seen foraging for seeds in the tall grass, also at the airstrip below Tiskita Lodge—a nomadic and uncommon species in Costa Rica.

Thick-billed Seed-Finch *Sporophila funereal* (1) We ended up with a seedeater *trifecta* at the Tiskita airstrip, with this being the third *Sporophila* species recorded here on the same morning (see above); a lone male flew by, which few of us actually saw—its parrot-like bill distinguishes it from other small, black songbirds in the area.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola* (4) Never abundant, but seen several times by the group, most notably at Wilson Botanical Garden and in the plantings at Tiskita Lodge.

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus* (3) Looking like a cross between a sparrow and a grosbeak, saltators are actually allied to tanagers—we saw this impressive species a few times, mostly in the secondary forest near Talari Lodge, and at the Wilson Botanical Gardens.

Grayish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens* (1) A resident species at Hotel Bougainvillea—birds were seen here the first day of the tour, before the whole group assembled in downtown San José.

Emberizidae: Sparrows (9)

Sooty-capped Chlorospingus *Chlorospingus pileatus* (RE) (3) Locally common in the mountains, this was one of the first birds we saw as we left the van at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge.

Common Chlorospingus *Chlorospingus flavopectus* (2) Seen in the foothills on our way south to Talari Lodge, and later on at Wilson Botanical Gardens—this and the preceding species were formerly called Bush-tanagers.

Black-striped Sparrow *Arremonops conirostris* (2) This species was first observed by the group on the grounds of Agua Dulce, when a single bird hopped into view through an opening in a hedge—also seen later at Tiskita Lodge.

Orange-billed Sparrow *Arremon aurantirostris* (5) Seen well during our hike on the Skutch estate, and later along the margins of forest trails at Tiskita Lodge.

Volcano Junco *Junco vulcani* (RE) (1) We didn't have a lot of hope that birds (of any species) would show themselves on Cerro Buena Vista during our visit, with stiff winds and 45° temps—but to our surprise, a single Volcano Junco, yellow eyes and all, was waiting for us when we reached 11,000 feet.

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis* (3) Common on the grounds of the Hotel Bougainvillea and in other parts of San José, sporadic elsewhere during the trip.

Large-footed Finch *Pezopetes capitalis* (RE) (1) Seen by the group as Paraiso Quetzal Lodge as we hiked the trails before lunch—an interesting endemic with towhee-like behavior.

White-eared Ground-Sparrow *Melospiza leucotis* (1) Several pairs of birds were seen on shaded garden trails at Hotel Bougainvillea on the first day of the tour—the harlequin facial pattern is unique among Costa Rican birds.

Yellow-thighed Finch *Pselliophorus tibialis* (RE) (1) Our only chance of seeing this unusual endemic was during our brief stop at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge, and fortunately the birds were cooperative—the bright yellow, pantaloons-like tufts of fine feathers on the upper legs stood out on an otherwise drab plumage.

Zeledoniidae: Wrenthrush (1)

Wrenthrush *Zeledonia coronata* (1) Several of us had clear, but split second glimpses of this furtive species as it moved through the wet undergrowth—seen and heard as we walked the back trails at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge.

Cardinalidae: Grosbeaks and Buntings (3)

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* (4) Birds of various plumages (mature males and females, and subadult males) were seen here and there throughout the trip, at or near all three main lodges.

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager *Habia rubica* (2) We had several good looks through the underbrush at both males and females, during our walk in the forest at the Los Cusingos Bird Sanctuary.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus* (1) A pair of birds was seen in the back corner of the Hotel Bougainvillea gardens on the first day of the trip, prior to our welcome dinner at the Presidente Hotel.

Icteridae: Blackbirds and Orioles (6)

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna* (1) A couple of birds were seen on fenceposts as we drove from Tiskita to Golfito, as we headed for the airport and our flight back to San José.

Red-breasted Meadowlark *Sturnella militaris* (1) Carlos had us stop along the roadside as we headed down to Tiskita Lodge, to look for this species—Lola was the one to finally spot a far-off red smudge that proved to be our target bird (we ultimately had good scope views of this stunning species).

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula* (4) A common migrant in Costa Rica, present throughout much of San José—seen at the Hotel Bougainvillea, Talari Lodge, and the Los Cusingos Bird Sanctuary.

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus* (1) We all had good looks at flocks of this red-eyed brood parasite, mostly along the roadside in farm country near Talari Lodge.

Melodious Blackbird *Dives dives* (2) Heard at Hotel Bougainvillea, but not seen until our drive back to Golfito to catch our return flight to San José.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus* (9) A widespread and ubiquitous species in Costa Rica, grackles were present at virtually every location we visited.

Fringillidae: Euphonias and Finches (7)

Golden-browed Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia callophrys* (RE) (1) Males of this species exhibit an almost unbelievable combination of brilliant colors—we had fantastic, close-up views of several birds on the grounds of Paraiso Quetzal Lodge.

Yellow-crowned Euphonia *Euphonia luteicapilla* (RE) (1) Male birds were present on the grounds of Talari Lodge both mornings, and later at Wilson Botanical Gardens.

Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia lanirostris* (3) Birds were seen near the Skutch House (Los Cusingos Bird Sanctuary), at the Wilson Botanical Gardens, and in forests around Golfo Dulce.

Yellow-throated Euphonia *Euphonia hirundinacea* (1) Picked up in San José by Kelly and Ann at the Zoológico y Jardín Botánico Nacional, Simón Bolívar Park, on the first day of the tour (the afternoon before our welcome dinner at the Presidente Hotel).

Spot-crowned Euphonia *Euphonia imitans* (RE) (5) Locally common at many sites we visited, including the Los Cusingos Bird Sanctuary, Wilson Botanical Gardens, and Agua Dulce—the female is uniquely plumaged among euphonias on the Pacific slope, and is easily identified.

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria* (1) Several birds were spotted around the gardens and buildings at Wilson Botanical Gardens.

Yellow-bellied Siskin *Spinus xanogastrus* (1) Seen in heavy forest in near twilight conditions, during our roadside stop along Costa Rica Route 2 (in the higher foothills before we entered El General Valley on our way to Talari Lodge).

Passeridae: Old World Sparrows (1)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (1) A few were seen in San José and around Golfito.

MAMMALS (11 species recorded):

White-faced Capuchin *Cebus capucinus* (4) We had many encounters with this curious species on the immediate grounds of Tiskita Lodge, and in the nearby orchard area, as well.

Central American Spider Monkey *Ateles geoffroyi* (1) Seen briefly in the forest canopy on the grounds of the Los Cusingos Bird Sanctuary.

Mantled Howler Monkey *Alouatta palliata* (4) Several small males were in the trees surrounding Agua Dulce—also seen (and heard) in the forests surrounding Tiskita Lodge.

Central American Squirrel Monkey *Saimiri oerstedii* (2) Large troops were common in the orchard area at Tiskita Lodge, and during one hike, monkeys would follow us by leaping from tree to tree as we walked along—very entertaining!

Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis* (1) Seen high in the forest above Tiskita Lodge.

Variiegated Squirrel *Sciurus variegatoides* (3) The common squirrel at Hotel Bougainvillea, also seen at Agua Dulce and Tiskita Lodge.

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctate* (4) Commonly seen at Talari Lodge, also wandering the grounds and in the forest at Tiskita.

Kinkajou *Potos flavus* (1) This lanky raccoon relative was spotted after dark as we drove towards Tiskita Lodge, when the animals lingered overhead on tree limbs—an excellent find and great views!

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica* (3) Often nocturnal, and also in the racoon family, several individuals roamed the grounds of Tiskita Lodge, often in broad daylight (the same species occurs in Arizona).

Common Bottle-nose Dolphin *Tursiops truncates* (1) Several were seen by the group during our boat tour on Golfo Dulce.

Pantropical Spotted Dolphin *Stenella attenuate* (1) More common than the preceding species during our time on the water, we saw dozens of spotted dolphins in several family groups—we had some really fantastic, close-up views of this species, as they swam by (and under) our boat.

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS (4 species recorded):

Common Basilisk *Basiliscus basiliscus* (3) Seen occasionally at Agua Dulce and at Tiskita—a medium-sized lizard, not as large as iguanas.

Black Spiny-tailed Iguana *Ctenosaura similis* (2) Several were seen perched on the roof near the pool area at Agua Dulce.

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana* (2) Common around the mangrove areas and by the beach (and in residential areas) near Agua Dulce.

Common House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus* (7) Around (and often inside) most of our rooms throughout our time in the lowlands—their nocturnal squeaks were a constant reminder that we were in the tropics.

Olive Ridley Turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea* (1) Hatchlings were being released on a beach near Tiskita Lodge, and we had the chance to participate.