

Costa Rica Birding & Nature | Species List

January 5 – 12, 2020 | Compiled by James P. Smith



With local guide Johan Fernandez, driver Jorge Machado and host guide James P. Smith. Twelve participants joined the tour: Fran, Larry, Sandra, Jim, Robin, Matt, Betsy, Thane, Mary Anne, Glenn, Becky and Andrew.

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

(I)= Introduced

(RE)= Regional Endemic

(E)= National Endemic

Summary: The delightful Hotel Bougainvillia in the Central Valley provided the perfect venue to start to this tour. Quickly followed by a radical change of scenery (and elevation), we entered the Talamanca Mountains the next day and spent two nights amid the cloud forest in the enchanting Savegre Valley. Crossing back over the Continental divide, our sojourn through the Caribbean slope began in earnest at the exceptionally bird-rich environs of Rancho Naturalista before dropping down to the humid, rainforest habitats centered around Sarapiquí and La Selva. We enjoyed largely favorable weather throughout though did experience the passage of a cold front which brought blustery winds and rain for just one day though thankfully not interfering with our plans. Throughout the tour we were in exceptionally good hands. Jorge's stoic approach at the wheel gave us a seamless journey through the narrow, winding roads of rural Costa Rica. We arrived safely and on time at every single destination. In Johan Fernandez we were fortunate to have one of Costa Rica's leading bird guides. His skill, expertise and patience in the field were obvious from the outset and during the course of the trip other virtues came to the fore. His cool, calm and generous demeanor were very much appreciated in a leader and not to be taken for granted. Costa Rica justly lived up to its reputation for avian diversity. For many on the tour, the highlight could well have been the six Resplendent Quetzals that we logged in just one day, and for others it might have been the diminutive Torrent Tyrannulet perched on giant boulders in the Savegre River, or simply the astonishing diversity of hummingbirds - we found 27 species seen in all! This was a fantastic trip to be a part of, the spirit and camaraderie of the group wonderful throughout. It was

certainly a shame to see it all come to an end at Juan Santa Maria International Airport and only slightly tainted with an air of envy for those continuing onto the Pacific Extension.

BIRDS (275 species recorded, of which 10 were heard only):

TINAMOUS: Tinamidae (2)

Great Tinamou *Tinamus major*—(HO) surprisingly just the one observation, a calling bird heard from the entrance road to La Selva Biological Station on Jan 11th.

Slaty-breasted Tinamou *Crypturellus boucardi*—(HO) by the dirt road to La Selva on Jan 11th, heard and pointed out by Johan.

GUANS AND CURASSOWS: Cracidae (3)

Gray-headed Chachalaca *Ortalis cinereiceps*— small groups seen on at least five days with the first really good views at Guayabo National Monument on Jan 10th.

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens*— amazing views of about three of this impressive, near-prehistoric *cracid* at La Selva Biological Station on Jan 11th.

Black Guan (RE) *Chamaepetes unicolor*—recorded on four days with the best views being of nine birds foraging 'pheasant-like' in roadside meadows on the 'quetzal morning' in the Savegre Valley on Jan 7th.

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae (1)

Spotted Wood-Quail *Odontophorus guttatus*—only in the Savegre Valley. Heard very well on both Jan 7th and 8th, and seen by a few the group as we descended on the Camino 4 x 4 route from the observation deck above the Savegre Hotel on the 7th.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (11)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* (I)— seen while driving through the urban areas of San Jose and Cartago, perhaps as expected.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*—just the one spotted, on the morning bird walk at Sarapiquis Rainforest Lodge on Jan 10th.

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris*—with the exception of the Savegre Valley, we saw this bulky pigeon on a daily basis, usually around yards and gardens with perhaps the best views in the fabulous grounds of the Hotel Bougainvillia at beginning of the trip.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*—restricted to the Savegre Valley, fairly large flocks of this montane specialist were seen flying over numerous times but only seen perched (and scoped) on one occasion, on Jan 7th.

Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea*—this species might have been easy to overlook had it not been for the distinctive, rhythmic song heard above the cabins at the Savegre Hotel – about three seen on Jan 7th.

Short-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas nigrirostris*—two seen very well in fruiting ficus trees at La Selva Biological Station on Jan 11th.

Inca Dove *Columbina inca*—perhaps overlooked during the tour but only seen well in the grounds of the Hotel Bougainvillia.

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti*—often around habitation in the Cartago and Sarapiquí areas. Not seen in the highlands.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*— scarce and inconspicuous, seen on only three days of the tour the first birds being at the Hotel Bougainvillia.

Buff-fronted Quail-Dove *Zentrygon costaricensis* **(RE)**—what a treat! Close-up views of a 1 - 2 at the extra-ordinary feeders at Café Cinchona on Jan 12th.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*— seen almost daily with the exception of the Savegre Valley. Often perched on roadside wires around habitation.

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae (2)

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*— not recorded until that last full day when we came across two small roadside flocks near Puerto Viejo Sarapiquí.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*— singles noted on three days with the best views at Café Cinchona on Jan 12th

SWIFTS: Apodidae (3)

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*—this impressive aerial beast graced the tour on at least five days with flocks of up to 65 swarming ‘nighthawk-like’ on warm air thermals above the forest.

Gray-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris*— a good trip for swifts was neatly rounded off with about 30 of these feeding low over Sarapiqui Rainforest Lodge on the 11th. Other ‘*chaetura*’ swifts seen elsewhere on the tour were left unidentified due to possible confusion with the very similar **Vaux’s Swift**.

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift *Panyptila cayennensis* – it’s not easy to observe the features on flying swifts but we did have excellent views of this species just above tree-top level during our morning bird walk at Sarapiqui Rainforest Lodge on Jan 11th.

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (27)

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora*— this perennial favorite was recorded on three days and most numerous at the feeders at Rancho Naturalista, being both common and relatively easily identified.

Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy*— a large colorful hummer that thrilled us at the feeders at Rancho Naturalista and Café Cinchona.

Long-billed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris*— just a single, not especially co-operative bird, watched feeding in the residential area at La Selva biological station on the 11th.

Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis*— not an easy bird to see well but we had beautiful views of this fast-moving little hummer as it fed on Purple Verbana at the Erb family residence below Rancho Naturalista.

Green-fronted Lancebill *Doryfera ludovicae* – a male seen all-too-briefly on the narrow forest trail below Paraiso Quetzal on the first full day of the tour.

Lesser Violetear *Colibri cyanotus*— plentiful in the highlands at Paraiso de Quetzal and the Savegre Valley, most easily encountered at feeders.

Green-breasted Mango *Anthracothorax prevostii*— singles at the feeders at Rancho Naturalista and Café Cinchona. Seen on four days of the tour though somewhat over shadowed by the dazzling array of hummingbirds at each set of feeders we visited!

Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula*— saved until the last morning of the tour when at least five of these beauties were present around the wonderful feeders at Café Cinchona.

Green Thorntail *Discosura conversii* – this beautiful hummingbird showed best while feeding at flowering Purple Verbana in the gardens below Rancho Naturalista where we all had excellent views!

Talamanca Hummingbird *Eugenes spectabilis* (**RE**)—a montane specialist seen at the feeders at Paraiso de Quetzal and subsequently at the Savegre Hotel. Formerly ‘Magnificent Hummingbird’ but recently

split and now treated as two distinct species; **Talamanca** and **Rivoli's Hummingbirds**. The range of the latter occurs further north and reaches the Southern US in SE Arizona.

Fiery-throated Hummingbird *Panterpe insignis* (RE)—a high elevation specialist and much-anticipated stunner. First found at the balcony feeders at Paraiso de Quetzal Lodge where we saw upwards of a dozen, and then a few more later the same day on the Copey Road.

White-bellied Mountain-gem *Lampornis hemileucus* (RE)—yet another highlight from the feeders at Café Cinchona on the very last morning of the tour.

Purple-throated Mountain-gem *Lampornis calolaemus* (RE)—a couple of females at the feeders at Café Cinchona during an all-too-brief visit on the last morning of the trip.

White-throated Mountain-gem *Lampornis castaneiventris* (RE)—this rare endemic was found only in the gardens at the Savegre Hotel with 1 – 2 on Jan 7th and 8th.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*— singles of this familiar Nearctic migrant were present (seemingly spending the winter) in the gardens at the Hotel Bougainvillia and the Savegre Hotel.

Volcano Hummingbird *Selasphorus flammula* (RE)—another range-restricted highland endemic seen well at Paraiso de Quetzal, the Copey Road and the Savegre Valley.

Scintillant Hummingbird *Selasphorus scintilla* (RE) —difficult to clinch the identification being superficially similar to Volcano Hummingbird. However, we did find a couple around the Savegre Valley and a single feeding on Purple Verbana at Rancho Naturalista.

Garden Emerald *Chlorosilbon assimilis* (RE)— just the one seen, first spotted by Andrew feeding on Purple Verbana at the Erb family residence below Rancho Naturalista on Jan 9th.

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird *Phaeochroa cuvierii*—one of the more subtly plumaged hummingbirds seen on the trip, a highly co-operative perched individual at the entrance to La Selva Biological Station on Jan 11th.

Violet Sabrewing *Campylopterus hemileucurus*—it was difficult not to be 'wowed' by this large, bright, impressive species every time it appeared, especially during the feeder mayhem at Café Cinchona on Jan 12th.

Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer *Chalybura urochrysis*— just the one individual seen at the entrance to La Selva Biological Station on Jan 11th.

Crowned Woodnymph *Thalurania colombica*— a good showing of this species at Rancho Naturalista including a couple bathing at the famous 'hummingbird pools' on the evening of the 9th. Good, close views were also had at Café Cinchona on Jan 12th.

Stripe-tailed Hummingbird *Eupherusa eximia* (RE)—one seen briefly but well in the gardens at the Savegre Hotel on the 7th, with Andrew and Becky having views of a pair at Paraiso de Quetzal on the 6th.

Coppery-headed Emerald *Elvira cupreiceps* (E) — One of only a tiny handful of species endemic to Costa Rica specifically, we saw them aplenty at Café Cinchona on Jan 12th

Snowcap *Microchera albocoronata* (RE) – much anticipated and certainly a major target of the trip, Rancho Naturalista duly delivered with at least six of these beauties seen between the lodge and the Erb family residence on the 9th. All were on flowering Purple Verbana and put on a fantastic show feeding alongside Green Thorntail, Garden Emerald and Stripe-throated Hermit for company! One even appeared at the hummingbird pools on the same evening, the white cap ‘glowing’ in the dank, dark, rainforest light.

Blue-vented Hummingbird *Amazilia hoffmanni*— a major scoop for the tour and found only in the gardens of the Hotel Bougainvillia, Johan did well to point out a male on the afternoon of the 5th. Taxonomically, sometimes considered conspecific with **Steely-vented Hummingbird** *Amazilia saucerottei*.

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl*—common throughout the trip, seen on feeders and flowering shrubs alike, though scarce in the Savegre Valley.

LAPWINGS AND PLOVERS: Charadriidae (1)

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*— this species, along with **Northern Jacana**, only just made it on to the trip list with a pair seen by a flood meadow while driving along the ‘Corredor Noratlantico’ (Route 4) in Sarapiquí on the 11th.

JACANAS: Jacanidae (1)

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa*—a ‘drive-by’ observation of three along the ‘Corredor Noratlantico’ (Route 4) in Sarapiquí on the 11th.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (1)

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*—plentiful on the boat cruise along the Sarapiquí River on the 10th and a single seen on the Rio Tuis the previous day. A common migrant/winterer in appropriate habitat in Costa Rica.

SUNBITTERN: Eurypygidae (1)

Sunbittern *Eurypyga helias*— not only did we experience the thrill of finding a Sunbittern but we went one better and found a Sunbittern on a nest! Yes indeed, we found a nesting pair on the Rio Tuis, Turriabla on the 9th and scope views were hugely enjoyed by all.

ANHINGAS: Anhingidae (1)

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*— several observed at close range during the boat cruise along the Sarapiqui River and another seen the next day from Helliconia Island.

CORMORANTS Phalacrocoracidae (1)

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*— rather scarce with just two singles seen on the Sarapiqui River on the 10th and 11th.

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (8)

Fasciated Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum*— a pair spotted from the bus by Johan. The birds were resting in a boulder-strewn river, one of many that we passed through Turrialba on the way to Rancho Naturalista. Frustratingly, they could only be seen from the bus while ‘idling’ on the bridge! Safety and time constraints forced us to press on but scope views of this rare heron would have been appreciated.

Bare-throated Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum*— just the one seen though we did have very good views (and photos) from the boat on the Sarapiqui River on Jan 10th.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*— apparently a fairly common winter visitor from North America, we found just one for the tour during the boat cruise on the Sarapiqui River.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*—scattered birds on the Caribbean slope and lowlands, usually seen in wet meadows.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*— two single birds, one while driving in the Turrialba area and super views of another from the boat on the Sarapiqui River on Jan 10th.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*— two seen well on the boat cruise on the Sarapiqui River, and singles in Sarapiqui the next day.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*— small flocks often present around horses, sheep and cows on the Caribbean slope and lowland areas, especially around Selva Verde.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*—one perched in the open on a roadside cable as we passed through the town of La Suiza in the rain on the way to Rancho Naturalista – remarkable!

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (3)

King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa*— goodness, did we have great looks at this species as Becky spotted one soaring over the canopy at La Sleva Biological Station on the 11th. One of the highlights of the tour.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*— daily, most abundant in the Caribbean lowlands.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*— daily, most frequent in the Caribbean lowlands though certainly not as common as Black Vulture.

OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*— a single flying over the boat ramp at Puerto Veijo on the Sarapiquí River on the 10th.

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (12)

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*—(LO) JPS was lucky enough to see one quartering over the Santo Domingo neighborhoods from his balcony at the Hotel Bougianvillia on the 5th.

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*—two rather brief observations of this enigmatic species. Singles passing low over the canopy at Paraiso Quetzal on the 6th and the Savegre Hotel on the 8th.

Ornate Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus ornatus*— distant raptors aren't for everyone but we did have a soaring Ornate Hawk-eagle high over the Savegre Valley during our mid-morning bird walk on the 7th.

Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus*—sensational scope views of a perched adult at the entrance to La Selva Biological Station on Jan 11th.

Bicolored Hawk *Accipiter bicolor*—Mary Anne just happened to be in the right place at the right time when Harry Barnard, a gifted local guide from Rancho Naturalista, scoped a Bicolored Hawk from the lodge's balcony on the 10th. Johan heard (and mentioned) another calling from the Pepper Trail at Rancho on the same morning.

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris* - our first views of this well-named raptor came from the tiny settlement of Tayutic on the 9th with another at Guayobo National Monument the next day, and subsequently followed by scattered singles in the Sarapique region.

White Hawk *Pseudastur albicollis*— distant yet unambiguous scope views of a lone perched bird far across the Cinchona Valley on the last morning of the tour.

Semiplumbeous Hawk *Leucopternis semiplumbeus*—nice views of a single brooding bird at the nest, watched in the scopes as it turned its eggs at La Sleva Biological Station on the 11th. An uncommon raptor closely tied to the humid forests in the Caribbean lowlands.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*— observed on four days of the trip including one exceptionally close bird by the suspension bridge at La Sleva Biological Station on the 11th.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*— scarce, most often observed soaring amid kettles of Black and Turkey Vultures in the highlands and foothills on at least three days. More surprising was a deeply urban dark morph seen from the Basilica De Cartago on the 8th.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*—wonderful views of a strikingly marked individual over the Savegre Hotel on the 7th. Despite being one of the most frequently seen raptors in the US, the views of this bird soaring against a crisp, montane blue sky brought so much pleasure to the group. Not to be taken for granted, Red-tails are uncommon in Costa Rica and this bird proved to be of the local Costa Rican subspecies (*B. j. costaricensis*). A trip highlight for some.

OWLS: Strigidae (1)

Middle American Screech-Owl *Megascops guatemalae*— a pair observed roosting together in dense tangles and understory just off the main track at La Selva on the 11th. Owls are not easy to locate in the tropics and this pair was an absolute treat for us. Otherwise, it was a fairly low-key trip for owls and there was no attempt to do any dedicated night-birding during the tour.

TROGONS: Trogonidae (3)

Resplendent Quetzal *Pharomachrus mocinno*—remarkable! To have seen one pair of quetzals would have been a complete triumph but to finish a full day in the Savegre Valley with three different pairs seen was almost too good to be true. Quite naturally a much desired species and unquestionably a major highlight of the tour.

Slaty-tailed Trogon *Trogon massena*— good scope views of a single bird calling along the entrance road to La Selva Biological Station on Jan 11th.

Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus*—a pair observed near the Erb family residence at Rancho Naturalista on the 9th. Johan thought they may have been engaged in nesting behavior.

MOTMOTS: Momotidae (2)

Lesson's Motmot *Momotus lessonii*—the grounds of the Hotel Bougainvillia proved to be 'the' place to see this spectacular species. Another two were seen very well during lunch at Restaurante El Cas in Ujarras on the 8th.

Rufous Motmot *Baryphthengus martii*— a memorable cameo at La Sleva Biological Station on the 11th where we had two Rufous Motmots and a Rufous-tailed Jacamar in view at the same time!

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (3)

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*— one flew upriver at Helliconia Island on the 11th, surprisingly the only sighting of the tour.

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*— a couple seen on the river crossings as we traversed through Turriabla towards Rancho Naturalista on the 8th but the first 'real' views were enjoyed from the comfort of the boat on the Sarapiqui River cruise on the 10th.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*—excellent views and comparisons with the rather similar but much larger Amazon Kingfisher on the Sarapiqui River cruise on the 10th.

JACAMARS: Galbulidae (1)

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda*—staggering views of two individuals, at La Selva Biological Station and Helliconia Island, both on Jan 11th.

NEW WORLD BARBETS: Capitonidae (1)

Red-headed Barbet *Eubucco bourcierii*—well worth the wait. About five of these stunners entertained us at the Café Cinchona on the final morning of the tour.

Semnornithidae: Toucan-Barbets (1)

Prong-billed Barbet *Semnomis frantzii* (RE) – how lucky we were to find a couple of these at the feeders of Café Cinchona on Jan 12th. Restricted to cloud forest habitat, this species was a major scoop for the tour and didn't even appear on our checklists!

TOUCANS: Ramphastidae (4)

Northern Emerald-Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus prasinus*— this attractive species was initially seen in the Savegre Valley by Andrew and Becky but wasn't really clinched in full glory until several appeared at the feeders at Café Cinchona on Jan 12th.

Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus*—well seen at Cafe Christina, Ujarra, Rancho Naturalista and the Caribbean lowlands around Sarapiquí.

Yellow-throated Toucan *Ramphastos ambiguus*—this species, and Keel-billed Toucan, were both common and vocal on the Caribbean slope especially in the vicinity of Sarapiquí.

Keel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos sulfuratus*—common and vocal on the Caribbean slope and lowlands.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (8)

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus*— Andrew spotted the first at Empalme (elevation over 2000 meters!) along the Inter American highway on the 6th, after which this familiar species greeted us every day that we spent around the Savegre Valley and Hotel.

Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani*—not common and restricted to the Caribbean slope, we had our first in the Rancho Naturlista area with a few more scattered singles around Sarapiquí.

Hoffmann's Woodpecker *Melanerpes hoffmannii* **(RE)** —just one of the many benefits of staying at the magical Hotel Bougainvillia, we saw this species very well in the hotel gardens on the 5th and 6th, but had nary a single sighting after that.

Hairy Woodpecker *Dryobates villosus*— restricted to highlands, and approaching the southern limit of its range in Costa Rica. Fairly common in the Savegre Valley, the relatively uniform blackish upperparts and muddy, tan-colored underparts of the Central American shared little resemblance to the stark, black-and-white Hairy Woodpeckers we know from back home.

Smoky-brown Woodpecker *Dryobates fumigatus*— most of the group caught up with this tricky, aloof species at Heliconia Island on Jan 11th.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*—nice scope views in the grounds of Sarapiquí Rain Forest Lodge and at La Selva Biological Station on the 11th.

Cinnamon Woodpecker *Celeus loricatus*— very much at home in the humid lowlands of the Caribbean slope, we had excellent views at Heliconia Island on Jan 11th.

Rufous-winged Woodpecker *Picus simplex*—one excavating a nest hole right outside the main lobby of the Sarapiquí Rainforest Lodge on Jan 11th seemingly oblivious to the crowd of admirers gathered around it.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (4)

Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway*—(LO) a single noted by JPS as we skirted around the volcanic foothills of Turrialba on our way to Sarapiquí from Guayabo National Monument, and another along the Sarapiquí River on the same day, Jan 10th.

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*— one swept over the grounds of the Hotel Bougainvillia on a blustery afternoon during our first afternoon bird walk on the 5th.

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans*—heard, albeit distantly, at Rancho Naturalista on the 9th and seen, albeit briefly, on the lower slopes of Volcano Turrialba on our way to Sarapiquí on the 10th.

Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis* (LO) — JPS just happened to be looking up at the right moment when a Bat Falcon flew up the Sarapiquí River as we boarded the boat for the river cruise at Puerto Viejo on Jan 10th.

PARROTS: Psittacidae (9)

Barred Parakeet *Bolborhynchus lineola*— a tight flock of a dozen or so passed over Paraiso de Quetzal Lodge on the first full day just as we attempted to climb back into the bus. Had it not been for Johan's sharp field skills we might have missed them altogether. Just about the closest thing to feathered missiles that we saw on the whole tour and gone in the blink of an eye.

Orange-chinned Parakeet *Brotogeris jugularis* (HO) — heard during the Sarapiquí River cruise on Jan 10th but not seen, perhaps because we were focused on birds and mammals closer to the river.

White-crowned Parrot *Pionus senilis*—first encountered on a rainy afternoon around Ujarras and then almost daily thereafter. Though widespread, this was not an easy parrot to see well and close scope views of several foraging birds at Sarapiquí Rainforest Lodge were well received.

Red-lored Parrot *Amazona autumnalis*—raucous flying pairs were noted all over the Sarapiquí area on the 10th and 11th.

Yellow-naped Parrot *Amazona auropalliata*— another triumph for the Hotel Bougainvillia with three birds seen and heard in flight during our morning bird walk on the 6th, thanks to Johan's sharp hearing once again.

Sulphur-winged Parakeet *Pyrrhura hoffmanni* (RE)—exquisite views of this perky little parakeet above the cabins at the Savegre Hotel on Jan 7th and 8th.

Great Green Macaw *Ara ambiguus*—largely restricted to the humid Caribbean lowlands, we did exceptionally well to see this large, noisy *psittacid* on two consecutive days in the Sarapiqui area with especially good views near Puerto Veijo Police Station on the 11th.

Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao*— Johan pointed out a roadside roost of about a dozen birds in fading light at Chilamate on the 10th on our way to Sarapiqui Rainforest Lodge. The ‘scarlet’ plumage was somewhat lost in the poor light and it would have been nice to see them in brighter conditions.

Crimson-fronted Parakeet *Psittacara finschi* **(RE)**—loud, widespread and common. The most frequently seen parrot on the tour with over 100 recorded on some days.

ANTBIRDS: Thamnophilidae (4)

Fasciated Antshrike *Cymbilaimus lineatus*— a specialist of humid lowlands and one of the first birds seen on our early morning bird walk at Sarapiqui Rainforest Lodge on the 11th.

Plain Antvireo *Dysithamnus mentalis*— an early morning visitor to the moth/insect light at Rancho Naturalista on the 9th.

Dull-mantled Antbird *Sipia laemosticta* – of the four ‘antbirds’ recorded on the tour this species gave the best views (and vocals) on the Pepper Trail at Rancho Naturalista on Jan 10th.

Spotted Antbird *Hylophylax naevioides* – (HO) one calling on the Pepper trail at Rancho Naturalista on the 10th, pointed out by Johan.

TAPACULOS: Rhinocryptidae (1)

Silvery-fronted Tapaculo *Scytalopus argentifrons* **(RE)**—(HO) one sound recorded at exceptionally close range on the Los Robles trail high above the Savegre Hotel on the 9th. The chances of actually seeing this ultra-skulker were close to zero..... but we tried anyway.

OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS: Furnariidae (10)

Plain-brown Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla fuliginosa*— one visited with us two mornings in succession at the moth/insect light at Rancho Naturalista on the 9th and 10th.

Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans*— one of the more widespread in the genus, we came across 1 – 2 individuals at Rancho Naturalista and Sarapiqui.

Spotted Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*— another an early morning visitant to the moth/insect light at Rancho Naturalista on the 9th and 10th where we treated to excellent views.

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*— quite good numbers seen around mixed feeding flocks at Café Christina, the Ujarras squash fields, and Rancho Naturalista.

Spot-crowned Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes affinis*— singles on the high elevation forested trails at Paraiso Quetzal and Savegre Valley.

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus*—one observed with a mixed feeding flock right outside the main lodge at Rancho Naturlista on the 9th.

Buffy Tuftedcheek *Pseudocolaptes lawrencii* **(RE)** —our entire experience with this uncommon highlands endemic was packed into the first full day of the tour when we saw multiple individuals on the narrow trails below Paraiso de Quetzal and later on the Copey Road.

Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner *Automolus ochrolaemus*— only seen on the early morning visits to the moth/insect light at Rancho Naturalista on the 9th and 10th. Despite being relatively large, this shy species was actually quite difficult to see in the gloomy understory.

Spotted Barbtail *Premnoplex brunnescens*— we found a pair of this uncommon resident on the Los Pioneros trail during the afternoon bird walk above the Savegre Hotel on Jan 7th.

Ruddy Treerunner *Margarornis rubiginosus* **(RE)**—relatively plentiful around mixed feeding flocks at Paraiso de Quetzal, the Copey Road and the Savegre Valley.

MANAKINS: Pipridae (2)

White-ruffed Manakin *Corapipo altera*— a single male seen rather briefly at Tayutic on Jan 9th.

White-collared Manakin *Manacus candei*— a male was noted during our morning bird walk at Sarapiquí Rainforest Lodge on the 11th.

BECARDS AND TITYRAS: Tityridae (4)

Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor*—observed on two consecutive days at Rancho Naturalista, including once in the company of a Masked Tityra offering a nice comparison.

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*— a single at Rancho Naturalista on the 9th, and least two at La Selva Biological Station on the 11th.

Barred Becard *Pachyramphus versicolor*— a small, bright, montane becard seen on the trails below Paraiso de Quetzal on the 6th and a pair actively nest building close to the road in the Savegre Valley on the 8th.

Cinnamon Becard *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*— requiring a rather ‘subtle’ identification, this species was found amid mixed feeding flocks at Rancho Naturalista and Helliconia Island.

COTINGAS: Cotingidae (1)

Snowy Cotinga *Carpodectes nitidus*— two spotted by Becky at La Selva Biological Station on the 11th. One flew off rather quickly but the other remained for a while offering the whole group prolonged views in the scope. Unquestionably one of the best sightings of the tour.

SHARPBILL AND ALLIES: Oxyruncidae (1)

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher *Terenotriccus erythrurus*— singles of this small, unobtrusive flycatcher were seen at Rancho Naturalista on the 9th and 10th.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (29)

Olive-striped Flycatcher *Mionectes olivaceus* – (LO) Johan reported seeing/hearing this species at least twice, from Paraiso de Quetzal on Jan 6th and Savegre Valley on the 7th.

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*— small family groups showed well in Ujarras on the 8th and Sarapiquí on the 11th.

Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum nigriceps*— Johan found a pair in the mid-canopy on the approach road to the Erb family residence at Rancho Naturalista on the 9th. Through tricky to see at times, the whole group eventually managed to get some views.

Slaty-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon superciliaris* – something of a rare treat for those that lingered by the hummingbird pools at Rancho Naturalista on the 9th.

Yellow-olive Flycatcher *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*— one joined a very busy mixed feeding flock at Rancho Naturalista on the 9th.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*— one of the most widespread of the genus, we closed the tour with just the one seen, but did have pretty good views - in the squash fields just after our lunch stop in Ujarras on the 8th.

Mountain Elaenia *Elaenia frantzii*— a nice three-day sequence of sightings during our time at elevation at Paraiso Quetzal and the Savegre Valley.

Torrent Tyrannulet *Serpophaga cinerea*— one of the more delightful and distinctive passerines of the trip and, true to its name, found along the fast flowing Savegre River. Andrew and Becky came across

the first pair during the midday break on the 7th, and fortunately another was seen by the whole group during the morning bird walk the following day.

Mistletoe Tyrannulet *Zimmerius parvus*— rather inconspicuous but widespread, this species featured every day in the first half of the tour with several at Paraiso de Quetzal, the Copey Road, Savegre Valley and Rancho Naturalista.

Tawny-chested Flycatcher *Aphanotriccus capitalis* (RE)—(HO) one of the more frustrating species we tried for, heard early in the mornings around the insect light and bamboo stands at Rancho Naturalista. We never had much more than a fleeting glimpse as it bolted between the bamboo and the cabinas.

Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus*— a delightful, distinctive, rufous-toned flycatcher seen very well at Paraiso de Quetzal, the Copey Road and the Savegre Valley, all in the early part of the tour.

Dark Pewee *Contopus lugubris* (RE)— prolonged scope views of a single by the trout pond in the Savegre Valley on Jan 8th. Its dull, dark-gray appearance combined with poor light did little to generate excitement but this was actually one of the rarest species seen on the tour.

Ochraceous Pewee *Contopus ochraceus* (RE)— another rare pewee with a very limited range, Johan got especially animated about the bird we found on the Copey Road and scoped for all to enjoy. Only a few hours earlier, Andrew and Becky had seen one of their own at Paraiso de Quetzal.

Tropical Pewee *Contopus cinereus*— one observed at close range near Puerto Viejo Police Station on Jan 11th was the only sighting for the trip.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *Empidonax flaviventris*— described as a “prolific winterer” by one of the guides at Rancho Naturalista, the only individual that we managed to see was at the hummingbird pools on Jan 9th.

Acadian Flycatcher *Empidonax virescens*— a single visited the moth/insect light at Rancho Naturalista on Jan 9th and 10th. In poor early morning light, we relied heavily on Johan’s experience in identification cases such as this.

Yellowish Flycatcher *Empidonax flavescens*— a smart, bright *empidonax* seen only around the Savegre Valley on the 7th, though at least three individuals were found that day.

Black-capped Flycatcher *Empidonax atriceps* (RE)— we did incredibly well with this species on the first full day with multiples of this high elevation, range-restricted ‘*empid*’ seen at Paraiso de Quetzal and along the Copey Road.

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*—(LO) JPS noticed a single perched on boulders in the Rio Jimanez at Angelina during the long transfer in heavy traffic along Route 32 heading towards Sarapiquí on the 10th.

Though apparently fairly common near water in the Sarapiquí area, we never came across another during the remainder of our visit.

Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus*— fine scope views of a pair during a thrilling, bird-rich afternoon at Helliconia Island on Jan 11th.

Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus*— great views of an individual showing off the ‘bright rump’ while foraging underneath the squash vines at Ujarras on Jan 8th, plus others heard (and pointed out) by Johan at Rancho Naturalista on the 9th and 10th.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*— one or two visited the moth/insect light at Rancho Naturalista on the 9th and 10th, with others seen elsewhere on our walks around the lodge plus a single at Sarapiquí on the 11th.

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus*—(HO) the familiar drawn out, up-slurred “wheeeep” call could be heard from several spots around the forest at La Selva Biological Station on the 11th though none were actually seen. A common winter transient to Costa Rica, mostly in lower lying areas.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*—large, noisy and bright, scarcely a day went by without a Great Kiskadee being seen or heard somewhere along the route.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*— closely related to Great Kiskadee, this species was first seen well in Tayutic on the 9th, with several more seen and heard around Sarapiquí on the 10th and 11th.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*—common throughout most portions of the trip though curiously absent during our full day in the Savegre Valley.

Gray-capped Flycatcher *Myiozetetes granadensis*—very similar in overall appearance to Social Flycatcher but showing, well, a gray cap! Good views at Rancho Naturalista on the 9th, Guayabo on the 10th and Sarapiquí on the 11th.

White-ringed Flycatcher *Conopias albobittatus*— had it not been for Johan’s expertise we would have certainly missed this Social Flycatcher look-alike. A pair seen and heard very well at Puerto Veijo boat ramp shortly after our river cruise had concluded on Jan 10th.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*—very much a signature species for any trip to Central America, encountered throughout the tour though, like Social Flycatcher, appeared to be absent from the Savegre Valley.

VIREOS: Vireonidae (8)

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*—(HO) Johan tried his best to coax this beauty into view but it wasn't to be. Heard only in the Savegre Valley on Jan 7th.

Lesser Greenlet *Pachysylvia decurtata*— a small, warbler-like vireo with fairly non-descript features seen at Rancho Naturalista and La Selva Biological Station usually around mixed feeding flocks.

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*— a wide scatter of singles noted on four days of the tour after the first at Café Christina on Jan 8th. A familiar species to most and a fairly common winter migrant in Costa Rica.

Yellow-winged Vireo *Vireo carmioli* **(RE)**— a difficult species to see well, often remaining high in the canopy. Some of the group had views of one on the Copey Road on the 6th, but most eventually caught up with this highlands endemic in the Savegre Valley on 7th.

Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus*— we stumbled across a feeding flock of 'Philly Vireos' around the cabins at the Savegre Hotel on Jan 7th, a treat in itself because one only rarely sees 'flocks' of Philadelphia Vireos back home in the US. Other singles seen on subsequent days of the tour included birds at Café Christina on the 8th and Rancho Naturalista on the 9th.

Brown-capped Vireo *Vireo leucophrys*—the vireo 'action' was quite confusing at times especially when it comes to species as subtle as this one. However, Johan confidently pointed out singles below the Savegre Hotel on the 7th and at Café Christina on the 8th.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*— singles found around the squash fields at Ujarras on the 8th and at Rancho Naturalista on the 9th.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (1)

Brown Jay *Psilorhinus morio*— the only 'corvid' noted on the entire tour, being seen or heard on four days and most abundant in the hills around Rancho Natularista.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (5)

Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*— essentially the default swallow of the trip, seen from the outset at Hotel Bougainvillia on the 5th and common in the foothills and highlands. We had fun watching a nest-building pair in the cabins at the Savegre Hotel too. However, evidently scarce around Sarapiquí where Mangrove Swallow was the only common small *hirundine*.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*— seen daily after our first at Tayutic on the 9th. Rather widespread but unobtrusive.

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*— a puzzling ‘near miss’, only just making it on to the tour list by virtue of a single in Turrialba on the 8th and a pair on roadside wires at La Virgen on the 12th.

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea*— a charming, personable little swallow, common around Sarapiquí where we had some very close views from our boat cruise on Jan 10th.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*—(LO) one hawking over Sarapiquí Rainforest Lodge on Jan 11th, just before breakfast.

GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae (2)

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus*— a pair observed (with difficulty) working vine tangles at La Selva Biological Station on Jan 11th.

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Polioptila plumbea*— JPS saw a male on the Pepper Trail at Rancho Naturalista on the 10th followed by a much more satisfactory group observation along the main entrance road to La Selva Biological Station on the 11th.

WRENS: Troglodytidae (9)

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*— singles seen at the squash field in Ujarras on the 8th and Rancho Naturalista on the 9th. Apparently these birds are Costa Rican residents and do not involve migrants from further north.

Ochraceous Wren *Troglodytes ochraceus* (RE)— we found a pair while walking the Los Robles trail above the Savegre Hotel on Jan 7th. Yet another Central American endemic found only at elevation and another triumph for this trip.

Timberline Wren *Thryorchilus browni* (RE)— we must have heard five pairs or more before finally connecting with this devilish little skulker on the Copey Road on Jan 6th. An attractive wren when seen well.

Band-backed Wren *Campylorhynchus zonatus*— a pair played tag within the group until we finally clinched excellent views at Helliconia Island on the 11th. A large, striking species somewhat reminiscent of Cactus Wren.

Rufous-naped Wren *Campylorhynchus rufinucha*— large, bright and very vocal, this species entertained us at the Hotel Bougainvillia right at the start of the tour but, alas, wasn't seen after that.

Cabanis's Wren *Cantorchilus modestus*—Andrew and Becky found one in the front garden at the Hotel Bougainvillia as we loaded up the tour bus on the 6th, but the rest of the group had to wait until the 8th for fine views of a pair during lunch at the Restaurante El Cas in Ujarras.

Bay Wren *Cantorchilus nigricapillus*— close range views in the gardens at Helliconia Island on Jan 11th. A large attractive resident wren of lowlands and foothills on the Caribbean slope.

White-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucosticta*— Rancho Naturalista proved to be the key spot to see this beautiful species with a pair visiting the moth/insect light on mornings of the 9th and 10th and others seen elsewhere around the property.

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys*— only in the Savegre Valley. After hearing three on our full day there we finally clinched 'proper' views on our morning bird walk on the 8th.

THRUSHES: Turdidae (10)

Black-faced Solitaire *Myadestes melanops* (RE)—(HO) among the more frustrating birds of the tour. The beautiful, ethereal song of this species could be heard ringing through the cloud forest above the Savegre Hotel on the 7th and the 8th but despite Johan's best efforts, he couldn't bring forth an actual sighting.

Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus gracilirostris* (RE)—singles of this small, aloof thrush were seen quite well along the cloud forest trails at Paraiso de Quetzal and the Savegre Valley.

Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus aurantiirostris* – one 'popped' into view amid a mixed feeding flock at Café Christina, Cartago on the 8th. It was a surprise for Johan and not a species that appeared on our checklists, and it's always fun to have a write-in!

Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus frantzii*—reputedly uncommon and shy, we had several friendly close encounters with this highlands specialist on the trails around the Savegre Hotel on the 7th and 8th.

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*— a wintering bird showed briefly at the hummingbird pools at Rancho Naturalista on the evening of Jan 9th.

Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina*—nice views this familiar North American migrant at Sarapiqui Rainforest Lodge on the 11th.

Mountain Thrush *Turdus plebejus*—seen only at elevation at Paraiso de Quetzal and the Savegre Valley. We took care to separate them from the similar but much more abundant Clay-colored Thrush.

Pale-vented Thrush *Turdus obsoletus*—(LO) not seen on the tour specifically but one by the tennis courts in the grounds of the Hotel Bougainvillia on Jan 5th is worthy of mention.

Clay-colored Thrush *Turdus grayi*—daily throughout the tour, though slightly less common in the Savegre Valley.

Sooty Thrush *Turdus nigrescens* (RE)—a super male spent a good twenty minutes perched atop a utility pole in the Savegre Valley, seemingly oblivious to the pandemonium going on underneath it. With a pair Resplendent Quetzals and nine Black Guans on view at the same time this attractive montane *turdid* garnered little attention at the time but it proved to be the only sighting of the entire tour.

SILKY-FLYCATCHERS: Ptiliogonatidae (2)

Black-and-yellow Silky-flycatcher *Phainoptila melanoxantha* (RE)—two noted on the narrow trails below Paraiso de Quetzal on the 6th but not seen by the whole group, unfortunately.

Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher *Ptiliogonys caudatus* (RE)— this exceptionally attractive highlands endemic gave exquisite views in the Savegre Valley for three days in a row! A trip highlight for some.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (I)—no trip to Costa Rica would be complete without the familiar ‘chirp-chirp’ of *Passer domesticus* resonating from the local gas stations and markets around Puerto Viejo.

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (5)

Golden-browed Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia callophrys* (RE)—(HO) not the sort of species that we’d want to leave as a ‘heard-only’, this stunning endemic was pointed out a couple of times by Johan in the Savegre Valley but, alas, refused to show itself to the group.

Yellow-throated Euphonia *Euphonia hirundinacea*—the most frequently seen *euphonia* on the tour, Rancho Naturalista perhaps being the best place to catch up with it.

Olive-backed Euphonia *Euphonia gouldi*—at least half-a-dozen feeding on fruiting ficus trees at La Selva Biological Station on the 11th with others at Sarapiquí Rainforest Lodge and Heliconia Island.

White-vented Euphonia *Euphonia minuta*—uncommon and easily missed, the group did well to see this species feeding on fruiting ficus at La Selva Biological Station and at Heliconia Island on the 11th.

Tawny-capped Euphonia *Euphonia annea*—nice views of at least two right outside the restrooms at Guayabo National Park on the 10th.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (8)

Sooty-capped Chlorospingus *Chlorospingus pileatus* (RE)—often fabulous views of this highlands endemic around Paraiso de Quetzal and the Savegre Valley but not seen thereafter.

Common Chlorospingus *Chlorospingus flavopectus*— more widespread than its Sooty-capped cousin, we found them around mixed feeding flocks in the Savegre Valley and at Café Cinchona.

Orange-billed Sparrow *Arremon aurantiirostris*—this large, vividly marked sparrow was seen well and in numbers at Rancho Naturalista, Guayabo National Monument and Sarapiquí, usually around feeders.

Chestnut-capped Brushfinch *Arremon brunneinucha*—large with a conspicuous head pattern, this skulking brushfinch proved difficult to see well in the Savegre Valley, but actually gave wonderful views at the Café Cinchona on the last morning of the trip.

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*—a really sweet little songster, this smart sparrow featured prominently throughout the first half of the tour starting in the grounds of the Hotel Bougainvillia.

Large-footed Finch *Pezopetes capitalis* (RE)—another endemic restricted to the highlands (above 2000 meters). Though we didn't see many, we did have very good views at Paraiso de Quetzal and Savegre Valley early in the tour.

White-eared Ground-Sparrow *Melospiza leucotis*—largely restricted to the Central Valley in Costa Rica, and arguably 'the' key species to be seen on any visit to the Hotel Bougainvillia, most of the group caught up with a lingering pair frequenting the hotel grounds on the 6th. A boldly patterned ground dwelling sparrow and right up there among the highlights of the tour.

Yellow-thighed Finch *Pseliophorus tibialis* (RE)—we did fantastically well to see this highlands endemic in numbers at Paraiso de Quetzal, the Copey Road and the Savegre Valley on all three of our days at elevation.

WRENTHRUSH: Zeledoniidae (1)

Wrenthrush *Zeledonia coronata* (RE)—(HO) a calling bird pointed out by Johan on the narrow trails below Paraiso de Quetzal, a species that we would certainly have missed had it not been for his guidance.

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (7)

Chestnut-headed Oropendola *Psarocolius wagleri*— a large flock of around 40 swept through the feeders and surrounding forest at Rancho Naturalista on the 9th with smaller flocks noted on two subsequent days including at Sarapiqui.

Montezuma Oropendola *Psarocolius montezuma*— a favorite at the feeders at Rancho Naturalista we recorded this absolutely spectacular species on at least five days of the tour but only on the Caribbean Slope and lowlands.

Scarlet-rumped Cacique *Cacicus uropygialis*—(LO/HO) Johan mentioned hearing a couple at La Selva Biological Station on the 11th.

Black-cowled Oriole *Icterus prothemelas*—about three feeding high above the entrance to Ruinas de Ujarras on the 8th and another in Sarapiqui on the 11th.

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*— a common migrant and winter visitor, this species cropped up frequently and was often present in and around feeding flocks as well as being very attracted to Johan's oriole agitation calls!! Seen on every day of the tour.

Melodious Blackbird *Dives dives*— a small groups of 2 - 4 in the grounds of the Hotel Bougainvillia on the 5th and 6th, and several more at the Restaurante El Cas in Ujarras on the 8th.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*— widespread and seen almost daily with the exception of our full day in the Savegre Valley on the 7th.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (20)

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis*—the Savegre River provided the venue for the first sightings on the tour with others at Ujarras, the Rio Tuis and Rio Sarapique.

Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*—we had the pleasure of observing this stunning warbler three days in a row after the first at Rancho Naturalista on the 9th. All of them were adult males!

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*—often found amid feeding flocks at Savegre and Rancho Naturalista with 1 – 2 seen on three days of the tour.

Flame-throated Warbler *Oreothlypis gutturalis* (RE) — spectacular! We were treated to fabulous views of this high elevation specialist at Paraiso de Quetzal, Savegre Valley and Le Esperanza. Most often found around feeding flocks composed of other montane species.

Tennessee Warbler *Oreothlypis peregrina*—the most frequently encountered migrant warbler of the trip and recorded in numbers on at least five days of the tour.

Mourning Warbler *Geothlypis philadelphia*— a warbler with the reputation of being a skulker, we were 'gifted' some very close views at a male during lunch at the Restaurante El Cas in Ujarras on Jan 8th.

Kentucky Warbler *Geothlypis formosa*— a male was a nice reward for those that lingered at the hummingbird pools at Rancho Naturalista on the evening of the 9th.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*— at least two around the lodge at Rancho Naturalista on the 9th.

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiayumi*—(HO) Johan mentioned hearing one and attempted to coax it in to view at Guayabo National Monument on the 10th.

Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca*— a few single birds carefully picked out among mixed feeding flocks around Café Christina, Rancho Naturalista and Turrialba.

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia*—first seen at the Hotel Bougainvillia with singles on a further two days on the tour.

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Setophaga pensylvanica*—fairly common on the Caribbean slope especially around the Sarapiquí area. One of the more frequently seen migrant warblers on the trip.

Townsend's Warbler *Setophaga townsendi*—Andrew had the great fortune to see a male from the lodge balcony at Rancho Naturalista on the 9th

Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens*—several migrants seen at Le Esperanza, Café Christina and Ranch Naturalista though not encountered in the Caribbean lowlands.

Rufous-capped Warbler *Basileuterus rufifrons*— at least one pair of this resident warbler encountered in the grounds of the Hotel Bougainvillia on the 5th and 6th.

Black-cheeked Warbler *Basileuterus melanogenys* **(RE)**—we eventually pieced together good views of this highlands endemic over the course of two days and had most success with them in the Savegre Valley.

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*— Rancho Naturalista proved to be the key spot for this species with at least three individuals seen there on the 9th.

Buff-rumped Warbler *Myiothlypis fulvicauda*— one played hide n' seek with the group, flitting back and forth across the main trail at Guayabo National Monument on Jan 10th.

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*—overwintering birds were plentiful around the Savegre Valley but curiously absent on the Caribbean slope.

Collared Redstart *Myioborus torquatus* (RE)—attractive, entertaining and endemic, this sharp looking warbler featured during all of our days at elevation especially at Paraiso Quezta and the Savegre Valley.

CARDINALS, GROSBEEKS AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (6)

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*—a familiar migrant, wintering birds were plentiful in the grounds of the Hotel Bougainvillia on the 5th and 6th and several other widespread locations. Noted on at least five days of the tour.

Flame-colored Tanager *Piranga bidentata*—early morning bird walks around the Savegre Hotel offered fantastic views of this highly attractive tanager.

Red-throated Ant-Tanager *Habia fuscicauda*—this difficult-to-see understory species was found around the moth/insect light and the nearby trails at Rancho Naturalista on the 9th.

Black-faced Grosbeak *Caryothraustes poliogaster*—a fast-moving flock of perhaps a dozen or so in the bird-rich environs of Heliconia Island on the 11th. Eventually seen well by the whole group.

Black-thighed Grosbeak *Pheucticus tibialis* (RE)— this ‘beast’ of a grosbeak showed reasonably well on the trails below Paraiso de Quetzta on Jan 6th, and at Café Cinchona on Jan 12th as well as being heard by Johan on the Copey Road and in the Savegre Valley.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*—the gardens of the Savegre Hotel provided sightings of two different individuals of this familiar migrant on two consecutive days.

TANAGERS AND ALLIES: Thraupidae (22)

White-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus luctuosus*— singles were found at Rancho Naturalista and Guayabo National Monument.

White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus*— a cinnamon-colored female seen within a feeding flock near the Erb Family Residence at Rancho Naturalista on the 9th.

Crimson-collared Tanager *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*—one appeared rather briefly at Sarapiquí on the 11th, after which we were treated to up-close-and-personal views on the feeders at Café Cinchona on the 12th.

Scarlet-rumped Tanager *Ramphocelus passerinii*—a single fairly early in the tour at Ujarras, and then found to be fairly common in the humid Caribbean lowlands.

Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*— common and distinctive, seen on every single day of the trip.

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*—absent for the first few days of the tour but relatively common on the Caribbean slope especially at sites such as La Selva and Heliconia Island.

Golden-hooded Tanager *Tangara larvata*— a beautiful, bright tanager guaranteed to add a splash of color to any mixed feeding flock; we found them at Café Christina, Rancho Naturalista, Guayabo National Monument and several spots around Sarapiquí.

Plain-colored Tanager *Tangara inornata*—(LO) perhaps a surprising miss for the group but then with its small size and dull lead-gray plumage, perhaps not. But one was present around the fruiting ficus trees at La Selva Biological Station on the 11th.

Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola*— a small, highly attractive tanager found in mixed feeding flocks in the sub-canopy at Rancho Naturalista and Guayabo National Monument.

Silver-throated Tanager *Tangara icterocephala*—recorded on four days of the trip, the Savegre Valley and Rancho Naturalista being the key sites for this brightly plumaged tanager.

Scarlet-thighed Dacnis *Dacnis venusta*—yet another uncommon species found associating with the mixed feeding flocks near Erb Family residence at Rancho Naturalista and in Sarapiquí.

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza*— after a couple of distant birds at Rancho Naturalista, we finally caught up with a stunning pair right outside the main lobby at Sarapiquí Rainforest Lodge on the 11th.

Slaty Flowerpiercer *Diglossa plumbea* **(RE)**— a regional endemic with a very narrow range, we first found several using the feeders at Paraiso de Quetzal Lodge followed by multiple sightings around the Savegre Hotel on the following two days.

Peg-billed Finch *Acanthidops bairdi* **(RE)**— the rarity value of this species might have been carried along within the excitement of the first full day, but 2 – 3 of these were seen on the Copey Road just after our visit Paraiso de Quetzal on Jan 6th. A high elevation regional endemic with an extremely patchy World range, this was one of rarest species of the whole tour.

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*—just two single males for the whole tour; one foraging on a dirt road in Ujarras on the 8th and the other rather briefly at Heliconia Island on the 11th. Neither bird was seen by the whole group.

Thick-billed Seed-Finch *Sporophila funerea*—males were seen at Tayutic on the 9th and a memorable bird by Puerto Viejo Police Station on the 11th.

Variable Seedeater *Sporophila corvina*—Several noted around the squash farms at Ujarras while searching (unsuccessfully) for **Cabanis's Ground-sparrow**. Other sightings came from Tayutic, Guayabo and Sarapiqui.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*—plentiful at Rancho Naturalitsa and at several locations in Sarapiqui. Encountered around feeders, the sub-canopy and with mixed flocks.

Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus*— this tiny, inconspicuous greenish-olive, roadside 'finch' was found in the Savegre Valley, Ujarras and the greater Rancho Nauralista area.

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus*—the most frequently seen saltator on the tour, found on each of the last five days of the trip and especially numerous around Sarapiqui on the 11th.

Black-headed Saltator *Saltator atriceps*—(HO) heard reasonably well and glimpsed in flight, a calling bird frustrated Johan and the group at Tayutic on Jan 9th.

Grayish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens*—this subtle yet distinctive species arrived at the Cinchona feeders just in the nick of time as we were about to head for the airport.

Pacific Coast Extension (Jan 12 – 16, 2020)

With Johan Fernandez and four participants: Fran, Larry, Sandra and Jim.

The following additional bird species, listed and highlighted in red, were seen **only** on the Pacific Extension and not on the main tour.

Compiled by James P. Smith based on notes by Johan Fernandez

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

(I)= Introduced

(RE)= Regional Endemic

(E)= National Endemic

BIRDS (80 species recorded, of which 3 were heard only):

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (2)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*—

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*—

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (1)

Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerina*—

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae (2)

Lesser Ground-Cuckoo *Morococcyx erythropygus*—

Mangrove Cuckoo *Coccyzus minor*—

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (2)

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis*—

Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*—

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (4)

Long-billed Starthroat *Heliomaster longirostris*—

Canivet's Emerald *Chlorostilbon canivettii*—

Cinnamon Hummingbird *Amazilia rutila*—

Mangrove Hummingbird *Amazilla boucardi* -

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (1)

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*—

LAPWINGS AND PLOVERS: Charadriidae (2)

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*—

Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia*—

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (12)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*—

Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus* -

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa*—

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*—

Surfbird *Calidris virgata*—

Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus*—

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*—

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*—

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*—

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*—

Willet *Tringa semipalmata*—

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*—

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (4)

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla*—

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan*—

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*—

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*—

STORKS: Ciconiidae (1)

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*—

FRIGATEBIRDS: Fregatidae (1)

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*—

PELICANS: Pelecanidae (1)

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*—

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (3)

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor*—

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*—

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius*—

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Theskiornithidae (2)

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*—

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*—

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (1)

Common Black-Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus*—

OWLS: Strigidae (2)

Pacific Screech-Owl *Megascops cooperi*—

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*—

MOTMOTS: Momotidae (1)

Turquoise-browed Motmot *Eumomota superciliosa*—

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*—

PUFFBIRDS: Bucconidae (1)

White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis*—

PARROTS: Psittacidae (1)

Orange-fronted Parakeet *Eupsittula canicularis*—

ANTBIRDS: Thamnophilidae (4)

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus*—

Black-hooded Antshrike *Thamnophilus bridgesi* (RE)—

Dot-winged Antwren *Microrhopias quixensis*—

Chestnut-backed Antbird *Poliocrania exsul*—

ANTPITTAS: Grallariidae (1)

Streak-chested Antpitta *Hylopezus perspicillatus*—

ANTTHRUSHES: Formicariidae (1)

Black-faced Antthrush *Formicarius analis*—(HO)

OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS: Furnariidae (3)

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*—

Tawny-winged Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla anabatina*—

Chiriqui Foliage-gleaner *Automolus exsertus* (RE)—

MANAKINS: Pipridae (2)

Blue-crowned Manakin *Lepidothrix coronata*—

Red-capped Manakin *Ceratopipra mentalis*—

COTINGAS: Cotingidae (2)

Rufous Piha *Lipaugus unirufus*—(HO)

Three-wattled Bellbird *Procnias tricarunculatus*—

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (8)

Northern Bentbill *Oncostoma cinereigulare*—(HO)

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet *Tyrannulus elatus* -

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma imberbe*—

Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata*—

Northern Scrub-Flycatcher *Sublegatus arenarum*—

Panama Flycatcher *Myiarchus panamensis*—

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*—

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*—

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (1)

White-throated Magpie-Jay *Calocitta formosa*—

GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae (1)

White-lored Gnatcatcher *Polioptila albiloris*—

WRENS: Troglodytidae (2)

Banded Wren *Thryophilus pleurostictus*—

Riverside Wren *Cantorchilus semibadius* (RE)—

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (2)

Stripe-headed Sparrow *Peucaea ruficauda*—

Olive Sparrow *Arremonops rufivargatus*—

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (4)

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna*—

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius*—

Streak-backed Oriole *Icterus pustulatus*—

Spot-breasted Oriole *Icterus pectoralis*—

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (2)

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*—

Hooded Warbler *Setophaga citrina*—

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (1)

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*—

TANAGERS AND ALLIES: Thraupidae (1)

Morelet's Seed eater *Sporophila moreletii*—

MAMMALS (7 species were recorded on the main tour):

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth *Bradypus variegatus*— a mother carrying young was the third in a fantastic 'trifecta' of wildlife sightings within a few meters of the trail at La Selva Biological Station on the 11th. Only moments earlier we'd been watching a pair of roosting Middle American Screech-owls whilst a King Vulture soared overhead!

Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth *Choloepus hoffmanni*—not only did our driver, Jorge, get us to all our destinations in a safe and comfortable manner he also happened to be pretty good at spotting wildlife! No sooner had we stepped off the boat at Puerto Viejo, then Jorge showed us a two-toed sloth in the trees high above the dock. Moreover, it was on the move!

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata*— small numbers were often around the feeders at Rancho Naturalista.

Variiegated Squirrel *Sciurus variegatoides*—widespread; found at the Hotel Bougainvillia, Guayabo National Monument and Sarapiquí at the very least.

Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis*—noted on at least two days in the Savegre Valley.

Mantled Howler Monkey *Alouatta palliata*— we came across large numbers (15-20) in the forest alongside the Sarapaquí River during the boat trip Jan 10th.

Tayra *Eira Barbara* – this large, long legged member of the weasel family caused quite a stir when it leapt up onto one of the feeders at Rancho Naturalista on Jan 9th.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (4 species were noted on the main tour):

Emerald swift *Sceloporus malachiticus* – great views of one sunning itself around the cabins at Savegre Hotel on Jan 7th. Also known as **Green Spiny Lizard**.

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*—at least three seen riverside during the boat cruise on the Sarapiquí River on Jan 10th.

Green Basilisk *Basiliscus plumifrons*—Mary Anne and Glenn had the great fortune to come across and photograph this beauty right by the swimming pool at Sarapiquí Rainforest Lodge on the 11th.

Spectacled Caiman *Caiman crocodilus* – excellent views of one hauled up on a muddy river bank on the Sarapiquí River on Jan 10th.

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