



March 13-25, 2021

**Costa Rica: Monteverde And More
w/ Sarapiquí Extension**

With Carlos Sanchez and Johann Fernandez, with 12 participants: Nat, Mimi, Charles, Diane, Chris, Tony, Mike, Sheila, Rebecca, Deanna, Nancy, and Judy

Compiled by Carlos Sanchez

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

(I)= Introduced

(RE)= Regional Endemic

(E)= National Endemic

Summary: A fantastic route through northern Costa Rica, designed to sample several of the major habitat types and elevations that the country has to offer: Carara NP/Tarcoles (transitional tropical dry forest and mangroves), Monteverde (highland cloud forest), Celeste Mountain Lodge (mid-elevation rainforest), and Cano Negro (lowland wetlands and gallery forest). Over the course of the tour, trip participants got to sample most of the bird families one is able to see in the Neotropics, from trogons to toucans and puffbirds to potoos.

Costa Rica is an amazing country, with an ecotourism incredible infrastructure that has managed to survive through the massive COVID-19 crisis. Coupled with its small geographic size, Costa Rica is an excellent choice for first time travelers to experience the wonderous diversity of the Neotropics. However, with over 65 regional endemics and dozens of other specialties, Costa Rica offers well-seasoned birders a chance to see some really special species – and we did! Some of these include Resplendent Quetzal, Three-wattled Bellbird, Buff-fronted Quail-Dove, Jabiru, Yellow-breasted Crake, Great Potoo, Keel-billed Motmot, Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl, Thicket Antpitta, Rufous-winged Tanager, Long-tailed Manakin, Pinnated Bittern were all among the avian highlights of the tour.

BIRDS (353 species recorded, of which 15 were heard only):

TINAMOUS: Tinamidae (2)

Great Tinamou *Tinamus major* (HO)—heard the quavering call of this shy ground-dweller on our first full day of birding in Carara National Park and on the extension in La Selva (OTS)

Slaty-breasted Tinamou *Crypturellus boucardi* (HO)—heard on the extension ***extension only***

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (4)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*—lots of these handsome tropical ducks in Cano Negro, where they would gather in quiet areas of the river

Fulvous Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*—one seen briefly in flight from the observation tower in Cano Negro, a rare sight in Costa Rica

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*—hundreds in a large and secluded lake that had separated from the main river by falling water levels

American Wigeon *Mareca strepera*—a single bird trying its best to hide among all the Blue-winged Teal in the secluded lake, far south of this duck's normal winter distribution and an exciting find in Costa Rica

GUANS AND CURASSOWS: Cracidae (4)

Gray-headed Chachalaca *Ortalis cinereiceps*—a few on the grounds of the Hotel Montana Monteverde and in the Cano Negro region; more a bird of secondary forest and forest edge than the following three species

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens*—we saw the first of these nearly turkey-sized birds in the fruiting trees at Curi-Cancha Reserve in Monteverde, followed by additional sightings at Bijagua Bird Song Garden and Arenal Observatory Lodge (where they strut around fearlessly on the lawn!)

Black Guan (RE) *Chamaepetes unicolor*—our best views were in the fruiting trees at Curi-Cancha Reserve in Monteverde; this species is endemic to the high elevation cloud forests of Costa Rica and Panama

Great Curassow *Crax rubra*—several of these large gallinaceous birds on the grounds of the Arenal Observatory Lodge, where they are semi-tame

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae (1)

Black-breasted Wood-Quail (RE) *Odontophorus leucolaemus (HO)*—we heard the distinctive rolling calls of this pudgy quail at Curi-Cancha Reserve in Monteverde, but we were never able to catch sight of them

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (11)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia (I)*—seen on several days whenever we drove through cities or towns

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*—scope views of a single bird along the road back from Cano Negro; this pigeon prefers secondary forest and disturbed areas in the lowlands

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris*—common and widespread in Costa Rica, where we got especially good views at Hotel de Montana Monteverde, Celeste Mountain Lodge, and Hotel Bougainvillea

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*—distant flyover flocks of a couple dozen at a time at Curi-Cancha Reserve in Monteverde; this is the highest elevation arboreal pigeon in Costa Rica

Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea (HO)*—heard calling during our time in Monteverde

Short-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas nigrirostris*—heard during the main tour, but the group that continued on the extension saw them in the Caribbean lowlands

Inca Dove *Columbina inca*—always seen around buildings in drier areas, such as Hotel Bougainvillea, Villa Lapas, and the 'Walmart Woods' in Alajuela

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti*—the common and widespread small dove in lowland areas

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*—sporadic sightings of this subtly beautiful ground-dwelling dove at Curi-Cancha in Monteverde, La Ceiba de Orotina in the Pacific dry forest, and Tilajari Hotel Resort near Arenal

Buff-fronted Quail-Dove *Zentrygon costaricensis (RE)*—seen only on the extension at the Hummingbird Gallery at Cinchona; a large, pastel-colored dove that is usually hard to see well ***extension only***

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*—common and widespread

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae (3)

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*—these bizarre black cuckoos were numerous around the Cano Negro area and Celeste Mountain Lodge, where we saw them daily in small family groups

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*—singles of this charismatic cuckoo at Curi-Cancha Reserve and Celeste Mountain Lodge

Mangrove Cuckoo *Coccyzus minor*—one sneaky individual eventually showed well to the entire group at Cano Negro in the same place as in 2019, far away from any mangroves!

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (1)

Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*—two seen on a short night walk at Villa Lapas, where they often rest on the ground

POTOOS: Nyctibiidae (1)

Great Potoo *Nyctibius grandis*—our local guide for the day knew exactly where to find one, which happened to be right by the highway in the small town just before the Medio Queso Wetlands ***VOTED BIRD OF THE TRIP, TIED WITH LONG-TAILED MANAKIN!***

SWIFTS: Apodidae (3)

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*—large numbers of these flying boomerangs overhead at Curi-Cancha Forest Reserve in Monteverde

Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi*—a few of these small swifts at Curi-Cancha Forest Reserve and near Celeste Mountain Lodge

Gray-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris*—a small number zipping against the dark green mountain at Celeste Mountain Lodge

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (24)

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora*—great views of this striking hummingbird at Arenal Observatory Lodge, feeding from ornamental porterweed

Band-tailed Barbthroat *Threnetes ruckeri*—brief views as one hovered over a stand of *Heliconia* sp. at Sendero Quebrada Bonita in Carara National Park just as we were beginning our walk

Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy*—one visiting the flowers at Celeste Mountain Lodge and the feeders at the Hummingbird Gallery at Cinchona; the only mostly green hermit in Costa Rica

Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis*—seen at La Selva OTS ***extension only***

Brown Violetear *Colibri delphinae*—visiting the feeders at Curi-Cancha Reserve in Monteverde and the Hummingbird Gallery at Cinchona on the way back to Hotel Bougainvillea

Lesser Violetear *Colibri cyanotus*—seen daily at all the feeder sites around Monteverde, a common but beautiful species of higher elevations in Costa Rica

Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliostyris barroti*—one of these strikingly elegant forest sprites showed well for us at Sendero Quebrada Bonita at Carara National Park; not a hummingbird species that visits feeders

Green-breasted Mango *Anthracothorax prevostii*—one showed briefly while watching a mixed flock at Tilajari Hotel Resort; this is a common species of open agricultural areas in the lowlands

Green Thorntail *Discosura conversii*—one of these beautiful hummingbirds at the ornamental porterweed at Arenal Observatory Lodge

Black-crested Coquette *Lophornis helenae*—fantastic views of this stunning diminutive species in the porterweed at Arenal Observatory Lodge, including at least one male and one female

Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula*—we saw these iridescent green hummingbirds only at the feeders of Curi-Cancha in Monteverde and the cafe at Cinchona

White-bellied Mountain-gem *Lampornis hemileucus* (RE)—a bird of the higher Caribbean foothills of Costa Rica and a small part of Panama, seen only on the extension at the Hummingbird Gallery in Cinchona

Purple-throated Mountain-gem *Lampornis calolaemus* (RE)—small numbers at the various feeders throughout Monteverde; a higher elevation endemic of the montane cloud forests of Costa Rica and Panama

Magenta-throated Woodstar *Calliphlox bryantae* (RE)—we saw this lovely ‘bee-type’ hummingbird navigating around its larger cousins at Curi-Cancha and the Monteverde Hummingbird Gallery; another cloud forest hummingbird found only in Costa Rica and Panama

Violet-headed Hummingbird *Klais guimeti*—this tiny hummer loved the porterweed planted around the Arenal Observatory Lodge

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird *Phaeochroa cuvierii*—we saw this fairly large and dull hummingbird in the mangroves on our way between the Pacific Coast and Monteverde and again at the Tilajari Hotel Resort

Violet Sabrewing *Campylopterus hemileucurus*—the largest hummingbird by weight in Costa Rica; fortunately, this spectacular species was common at the feeders throughout Monteverde

Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer *Chalybura urochrysa*—a very territorial individual at the Arenal Observatory Lodge while we watched for smaller hummingbirds to visit the ornamental portwerweed

Stripe-tailed Hummingbird *Eupherusa eximia*—singles at Curi-Cancha and the Monteverde Hummingbird Gallery

Coppery-headed Emerald *Elvira cupreiceps* (E)—common at feeders around Monteverde; one of the two hummingbird species endemic to Costa Rica

Blue-vented Hummingbird *Amazilia hoffmanni*—once on the trails at Carara NP and a couple sightings around the porterweed at Hotel de Montana Monteverde

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl*—the most common and widespread hummingbird of Costa Rica, occurring in a variety of habitats and elevations except in the high montane cloud forest

Cinnamon Hummingbird *Amazilia rutila*—several individuals in the mangroves at Estero Mata de Limon as we were driving from the coast up into the mountains to Monteverde

Blue-throated Goldentail *Hylocharis eliciae*—one of these small yet beautiful hummingbirds at the Bijagua Bird Song Gardens near Celeste Mountain Lodge

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (4)

Russet-naped Wood-Rail *Aramides albiventris*—we only saw this large and colorful rail once on our trip, on a boat trip in the Cano Negro area; this species is a recent split from the former Gray-necked Wood-Rail

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica*—several of these multi-colored rails in Cano Negro and Medio Queso Wetlands

Yellow-breasted Crake *Hapalocrex flaviventer*—incredible views of one of these tiny crakes at the Medio Queso Wetlands; the Cano Negro region is perhaps the best place in Central America to observe this shy bird

White-throated Crake *Laterallus albigularis* (HO)—heard at the Medio Queso Wetlands, but we never caught a glimpse of it

FINFOOTS AND SUNGREBE: Heliornithidae (1)

Sungrebe *Heliornis fulica*—incredible views of this normally shy bird along the river at Cano Negro, allowing us to get quite close and observe it well – even some great photo opportunities!

LIMPKIN: Aramidae (1)

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*—a few of these bulky, snail-eating birds along the Cano Negro

THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae (1)

Double-striped Thick-knee *Burhinus bistriatus*—great views of two birds on a sandbar on our Tarcoles River boat trip; these large, terrestrial shorebirds are mostly nocturnal

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (1)

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*—a flock of at least two dozen on our boat trip in the Cano Negro

LAPWINGS AND PLOVERS: Charadriidae (3)

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*—first recorded in Costa Rica in 1997, this species has now become a regular part of the country's avifauna; several dozen individuals recorded in the Cano Negro region on our tour

Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris*—a total of six birds on the shores of the Tarcoles River on our boat afternoon boat trip

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*—nearly two dozen of these migratory plovers in the secluded lake on our Cano Negro boat trip

JACANAS: Jacanidae (1)

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa*—conspicuous and numerous in Cano Negro and Medio Queso Wetlands

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (10)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*—several near the mouth of the estuary of the Tarcoles River

Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus*—several dozen observed (scope views!) in the secluded lake on our Cano Negro boat trip

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*—several hundred between the Tarcoles and Cano Negro boat trips; the smallest of all the sandpipers in the world

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*—we managed to pick out two crisp individuals in the large Least Sandpiper flock along the shores of the Tarcoles River

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*—scope views of several individuals at the secluded lake with all the Blue-winged Teal in the Cano Negro area

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*—two individuals on the Tarcoles River boat trip

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*—several dozen individuals flying, feeding, and roosting along the Tarcoles River; also seen on the Caribbean rainforest extension and Cano Negro

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*—a few birds in the secluded lake with all the migratory birds in Cano Negro

Willet *Tringa semipalmata*—about twenty or so individuals on the Tarcoles River boat trip

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*—at least two birds in the secluded lake with all the Blue-winged Teal in the Cano Negro area

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (2)

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla*—several birds loafing on the beach right before lunch in the town of Tarcoles

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*—several mixed in with the Laughing Gulls right before lunch in the town of Tarcoles

STORKS: Ciconiidae (2)

Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria*—scope views of one towering over a nest on the road to Cano Negro – spectacular! This is the tallest bird species in North America

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*—several individuals in drying pools and wetlands in the Cano Negro region

FRIGATEBIRDS: Fregatidae (1)

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*—abundant along the Pacific Coast during our time there

ANHINGAS: Anhingidae (1)

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*—we saw a couple on the Tarcoles River boat trip and then several dozen more in the Cano Negro region

CORMORANTS Phalacrocoracidae (1)

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*—common and conspicuous on our boat trips in the Cano Negro and Tarcoles River

PELICANS: Pelecanidae (1)

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*—numerous and conspicuous on the Pacific Coast during our time there; this small pelican forages by plunge diving bill-first like a kingfisher, a hunting style shared only with the similar but much larger Peruvian Pelican

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (13)

Pinnated Bittern *Botaurus pinnatus*—good views of this uncommon bittern at Medio Queso Wetlands

Bare-throated Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum*—we saw this attractively patterned heron in small numbers along the Tarcoles River, Cano Negro, and Sarapiquí River

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*—ones and twos on the Tarcoles River and Medio Queso Wetlands; a winter migrant in Costa Rica that heads north in the spring to breed

Great Egret *Ardea alba*—ubiquitous wherever there was a body of freshwater

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*—several dozen of these yellow-slippered egrets heading to roost in the mangroves on the Tarcoles River

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*—several at Cano Negro, Tarcoles, and Medio Queso

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor*—several at Cano Negro, Tarcoles, and Medio Queso

Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens*—a single bird, an immature, at the mouth of the Tarcoles River was quite a special find in Costa Rica

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*—seen almost daily in pastures and open grassy areas throughout

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*—small numbers on the Cano Negro and Tarcoles River boat trips

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*—single birds on the Cano Negro and Tarcoles River boat trip

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*—about a half-dozen birds in the roosting area at the mouth of the Tarcoles River

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius*—several of these odd night-herons showed nicely in the trees along the Cano Negro; this species uses its expansive wide bill to capture fish and shrimp at night

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Theskiornithidae (3)

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*—numerous on our Tarcoles and Cano Negro boat trips

Green Ibis *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*—a bulky, tropical ibis of vegetated ponds and rivers; we recorded three birds in the Cano Negro area

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*—about a dozen or so of these gaudy pink spoonbills along the Cano Negro

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (3)

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*—common and widespread, seen daily

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*—common and widespread, seen daily

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus*—just one of these fish-eating vultures on our Cano Negro boat trip

OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*—singles on the Tarcoles River and Cano Negro

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (13)

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*—one along the road from the town of Tarcoles to Monteverde; known in Costa Rica as the ‘ballerina hawk’ due to its elegant hovering when hunting

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*—a few of these most elegant raptors soaring gracefully over the Curi-Cancha Reserve as we searched for quetzals

Ornate Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus ornatus* (HO)—heard only in the Monteverde area

Black-collared Hawk *Busarellus nigricollis*—a very cooperative individual on our Cano Negro boat tour; an uncommon and local raptor in Central America that specialized on hunting fish

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea*—one overhead on our Tarcoles boat trip

Common Black-Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus*—one on our Tarcoles boat trip; this hawk feeds primarily on crustaceans like crabs

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris*—seen on the roadside a couple times in the Arenal area; a small raptor that sits and waits for its prey, usually large insects, reptiles, and small mammals

Harris’s Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*—one of these strikingly colored raptors in the same field as the Nicaraguan Seed-Finch near Cano Negro

White Hawk *Pseudastur albicollis*—distant views from the verandah at Celeste Mountain Lodge

Semiplumbeous Hawk *Leucopternis semiplumbeus*—seen at La Selva OTS *extension only*

Gray Hawk *Buteo plagiatus*—common on the Caribbean slope at Celeste and in the Arenal area, although we also had one individual in a patch of mangroves in Tarcoles

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*—singles of this migratory raptor at Arenal Observatory Lodge and Tilajari Hotel Resort

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*—singles soaring overhead near Celeste Mountain Lodge

OWLS: Strigidae (5)

Tropical Screech-Owl *Megascops choliba*—one very cooperative bird on our evening walk at Hotel Bougainvillea put on a nice show for us

Pacific Screech-Owl *Megascops cooperi*—a roosting pair hidden among the leaves at the end of our Cano Negro boat tour

Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium costaricanum* (RE)—one of the less common cloud forest endemics Costa Rica shares only with Panama; great views of this cute little owl at the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve after a relatively short wait

Central American Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium griseiceps* (HO)—despite our best efforts, we only heard this species near Celeste Mountain Lodge; a pygmy-owl that usually stays high up in the forest canopy

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*—one perched quite nicely in the dry forest near Orotina as we drove from San Jose to Villa Lapas

TROGONS: Trogonidae (6)

Resplendent Quetzal *Pharomachrus mocinno*—fantastic views of at least three individuals (two males and one female) at Curi-Cancha Reserve on our second try, with one of the males sporting quite long and elaborate streamers; arguably, the most beautiful bird in the Americas

Slaty-tailed Trogon *Trogon massena*—seen well on our early morning walk on the road above Villa Lapas; a rather large trogon with an entirely black undertail

Black-headed Trogon *Trogon melanocephalus*—one along the Cano Negro on our boat trip

Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus*—several individuals seen on our tour, including one at Carara NP, Arenal Observatory Lodge, and La Selva OTS

Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus*—we saw this small and shy trogon on the trail below Celeste Mountain Lodge and La Selva OTS

Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris*—singles at Curi-Cancha and Reserva Santa Elena; the subspecies we observed was formerly known as Orange-bellied Trogon before it was lumped with Collared

MOTMOTS: Momotidae (6)

Tody Motmot *Hylomanes momotula (HO)*—we only heard this tiny motmot down a ravine near Celeste Mountain Lodge, but it was way too far down the slope for us to observe it

Lesson's Motmot *Momotus lessonii*—delightfully common at Hotel Bougainvillea, Villa Lapas, and around Monteverde; hard to believe that this colorful species is a 'yard bird' for many Costa Ricans!

Rufous Motmot *Baryphthengus martii*—seen at La Selva OTS ***extension only***

Keel-billed Motmot *Electron carinatum*—great views of a single individual on a targeted stop along the road in Arenal National Park; arguably the rarest of the motmots that occur in Costa Rica

Broad-billed Motmot *Electron platyrhynchum*—we had great luck with this uncommon and beautiful species on this tour, with multiple sightings throughout Celeste Mountain Lodge, Arenal Observatory Lodge, and La Selva OTS

Turquoise-browed Motmot *Eumomota superciliosa*—we saw this very handsome species really well several times, including Villa Lapas, along the Tarcoles River, and near the town of Orotina – a bird of drier forest than the other motmots

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (5)

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*—noisy and conspicuous along the Cano Negro and Rio Tarcoles

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*—one of these migratory kingfishers along the Cano Negro

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*—noisy and conspicuous along the Cano Negro and a nicely perched bird at the Medio Queso Wetland

American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea*—one of these tiniest of American kingfishers along the Cano Negro on our boat tour

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*—a single bird on the Rio Tarcoles and a half-dozen more on our Cano Negro boat trip

PUFFBIRDS: Bucconidae (2)

Pied Puffbird *Notharchus tectus*—one at Selva OTS ***extension only***

White-fronted Nunbird *Monasa morphoeus*—great views on our Arenal National Park stop right from the road; a very uncommon and local species in Costa Rica

JACAMARS: Galbulidae (1)

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda*—seen once, a pair along the road above Villa Lapas on a morning walk

TOUCAN-BARBETS: Semnornithidae (1)

Prong-billed Barbet *Semnornis frantzii* (RE)—a pair of noisy birds vocalizing above us at Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve gave us nice views; one of only two toucan-barbets, the other being found only on the Pacific slope of the Ecuadorian and Colombian Andes

TOUCANS: Ramphastidae (4)

Northern Emerald-Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus prasinus*—we saw this small, highland toucanet daily around Monteverde at most of the reserved we visited; take note, the form in Costa Rica is the Blue-throated Toucanet, a full species according to some

Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus*—seen on the grounds of the Tilajari Hotel Resort and on the extension

Yellow-throated Toucan *Ramphastos ambiguus*—the most common large toucan at Celeste Mountain Lodge, Villa Lapas, and on the extension

Keel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos sulfuratus*—great reviews of this colorful and charismatic toucan at Celeste Mountain Lodge, Curi-Cancha Reserve, and Tilajari Hotel Resort

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (8)

Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani*—we saw this handsome woodpecker daily in the wet forest around Celeste Mountain Lodge, including birds that attended the fruit feeder

Hoffmann's Woodpecker *Melanerpes hoffmannii*—a common woodpecker in the northern half of Costa Rica, seen daily in a variety of habitats and elevations (but never in undisturbed forest)

Smoky-brown Woodpecker *Dryobates fumigatus*—seen and heard only once by some at Reserva Santa Elena – not a cooperative individual!

Pale-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus guatemalensis*—close and prolonged views of this Ivory-billed Woodpecker relative at Arenal Observatory Lodge, apparently digging out a nesting cavity

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*—seen once along the road on the way out of Cano Negro, foraging in trees in the middle of a pasture

Chestnut-colored Woodpecker *Celeus castaneus*—this lovely woodpecker showed itself at La Selva OTS in the Caribbean lowlands *extension only*

Rufous-winged Woodpecker *Picus simplex*—seen once at La Selva OTS *extension only*

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus*—sporadic sightings at Hotel Montana Monteverde, Tilajari Hotel Resort, and Bijagua Bird Song Gardens – a widespread and adaptable woodpecker species

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (3)

Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway*—three roadside sightings during our travels in northern Costa Rica

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*—several of these scavengers seen well on the Rio Tarcoles boat tour

Bat Falcon *Falco rufifigularis*—one perched on a pole above the reception center at the Tilajari Hotel Resort – nice!

PARROTS: Psittacidae (11)

Orange-chinned Parakeet *Brotogeris jugularis*—our best views were in a bare tree while exploring the grounds of the Tilajari Hotel Resort

Brown-hooded Parrot *Pyrilia haematotis*—three flyover individuals at the Curi-Cancha Reserve

White-crowned Parrot *Pionus senilis*—two birds at the Hotel de Montana Monteverde were our only ones

Red-lored Parrot *Amazona autumnalis*—nice views at Celeste Mountain Lodge, visiting an old tree stump which may have been a nesting site

Yellow-naped Parrot *Amazona auropalliata*—we heard their loud yodeling in the late afternoon in the mangroves of the Rio Tarcoles, but we obtained only brief flyover views; a large *Amazona* parrot that is threatened by the pet trade

White-fronted Parrot *Amazona albifrons*—two birds on our first early morning walk at Hotel de Montana Monteverde

Mealy Parrot *Amazona farinosa*—a couple of these plain gray *Amazona* birds vlew over at the Tilajari Hotel Resort

Olive-throated Parakeet *Eupsittula nana*—a few in the Cano Negro region offered brief views

Orange-fronted Parakeet *Eupsittula canicularis*—our best views of this parakeet were in La Ceiba de Orotina, where they perched for us for scope views

Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao*—these amazing birds were conspicuous around the town of Tarcoles and Carara NP, one of their strongholds in Costa Rica

Crimson-fronted Parakeet *Psittacara finschi*—big flocks flew high overhead in the gardens at Hotel Bougainvillea on our first morning

ANTBIRDS: Thamnophilidae (8)

Fasciated Antshrike *Cymbilaimus lineatus*—observed at La Selva OTS ***extension only***

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus*—nice views of this striking bird at Celeste Mountain Lodge right around the feeders; the males are black and white; while the females are more rufous

Black-crowned Antshrike *Thamnophilus atrinucha*—observed only on the extension ***extension only***

Black-hooded Antshrike *Thamnophilus bridgesi* **(RE)**—several birds showed well for us on the Sendero Quebrada Bonita in Carara NP; one of the Pacific lowland endemics shared only with a small part of western Panama

Streak-crowned Antvireo *Dysithamnus striaticeps*—singles at Celeste Mountain Lodge and Arenal Observatory Lodge, both times in a passing mixed flock

Dusky Antbird *Cercomacroides tyrannina*—heard and seen well at Villa Lapas and Carara NP

Chestnut-backed Antbird *Poliocrania exsul*—several of these at Sendero Quebrada Bonita, moving deftly just above the forest floor in a family group; the bare skin around the eye is a brilliant blue

Dull-mantled Antbird *Sipia laemosticta*—could not ask for better views than the one we saw at Celeste Mountain Lodge, where it showed well for the entire group and even showed the brilliant white spot of feathers on its back

ANTPITTAS: Grallariidae (2)

Streak-chested Antpitta *Hylopezus perspicillatus* **(HO)**—we only managed to hear this antpitta at Quebrada Bonita in Carara NP this time around

Thicket Antpitta *Hylopezus dives*—through some careful maneuvering, the entire group got to enjoy this normally very secretive bird at Arenal Observatory Lodge

OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS: Furnariidae (8)

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*—a couple sightings during our time at Monteverde

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*—one in a mixed feeding flock at Arenal Observatory Lodge and another at La Selva OTS on the extension; this is the smallest of all the woodcreepers in the Americas

Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans*—scattered sightings throughout the tour (including the extension), but our best views as a group were at Quebrada Bonita in Carara NP

Spotted Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*—individuals on the nature trail at Celeste Mountain Lodge and the roadside stop inside Arenal National Park

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*—the most frequently seen woodcreeper on our tour, with scattered sightings on the Pacific and Caribbean slopes

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus*—a few individuals of this vaguely nuthatch-like bird at Sendero Quebrada Bonita and Arenal Observatory Lodge (and one on the extension, too!), always in mixed feeding flocks

Spotted Barbtail *Premnoplex brunnescens*—nice views at Reserva Santa Elena of this dark little furnariid

Ruddy Treerunner *Margarornis rubiginosus* (**RE**)—common in the highlands as they travel with mixed feeding flocks, foraging among the moss-laden branches; we saw them at Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve and Reserva Santa Elena

MANAKINS: Pipridae (2)

Long-tailed Manakin *Chiroxiphia linearis*—after several tries and some effort, the entire group got enjoy a brightly colored male with long streamers at Bajo del Tigre in Monteverde ***VOTED BIRD OF THE TRIP, TIED WITH COMMON POTOO***

White-collared Manakin *Manacus candei* (*HO*)—we only managed to hear them on the trails below Celeste Mountain Lodge

COTINGAS: Cotingidae (3)

Purple-throated Fruitcrow *Querula purpurata*—always a great species, seen at La Selva OTS ***extension only***

Rufous Piha *Lipaugus unirufus* (*HO*)—we heard its memorable wolf whistle call repeatedly at Carara NP and Arenal Observatory Lodge

Three-wattled Bellbird *Procnias tricarunculatus*—we had great luck with this highly charismatic species, seeing perched and vocalizing individuals at Curi-Cancha Reserve, Bajo del Tigre in Monteverde, and even on the grounds of Hotel de Montana Monteverde

BECARDS AND TITYRAS: Tityridae (5)

Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor*—seen only on the extension ***extension only***

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*—quite common around Monteverde and Arenal Observatory Lodge, where we saw this widespread species daily

Cinnamon Becard *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*—just one sighting at Celeste Mountain Lodge of this monochromatic species

White-winged Becard *Pachyramphus polychopterus*—one at Tilajari Hotel Resort as we birded the grounds one afternoon, a lucky find among a mixed feeding flock by the river

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae*—singles observed at Villa Lapas and Sendero Quebrada Bonita

SHARPBILL AND ALLIES: Oxyruncidae (1)

Royal Flycatcher *Onychorhynchus coronatus*—one elusive bird on our boat trip at Cano Negro was our only one, and it was difficult to get the entire group on this particular bird before it faded back into the dense vegetation

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (31)

Olive-striped Flycatcher *Mionectes olivaceus*—seen only once while exploring the wet cloud forest of Santa Elena Reserve

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant *Lophotriccus pileatus* (HO)—we only heard the sharp, raspy notes of this tiny flycatcher on our last outing near Celeste Mountain Lodge

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*—common and widespread, with good views of this colorful flycatcher on many days of the tour

Yellow-olive Flycatcher *Tolmomyias sulphurens*—sightings in the patch of woodland next to Walmart in San Jose and along the dirt road near Celeste Mountain Lodge, always on forest edge or secondary growth

Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet *Ornithion semiflavum*—a tiny flycatcher of the forest canopy with the same color scheme as a Great Kiskadee; one came down low to check us out along the dirt road near Celeste Mountain Lodge

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma imberbe*—a bird of scrubby secondary growth, with sightings in the forest patch next to the Walmart in San Jose, the mangroves near Tarcoles, and the agricultural area just outside of Cano Negro

Yellow Tyrannulet *Capsiempis flaveola*—great views of a calling bird in the wetland just as we were exiting the boat at Cano Negro

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*—seen multiple times throughout the tour, always in areas of secondary growth or forest edge; the most common and widespread *Elaenia* sp. in the Americas

Mistletoe Tyrannulet *Zimmerius parvus*—pairs seen well near Celeste Mountain Lodge and Tilajari Hotel Resort; formerly lumped together with three other tyrannulets as Paltry Tyrannulet before being split four ways

Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi*—we saw this migratory flycatcher at Reserva Santa Elena

Eastern Wood-Pewee *Contopus virens*—seen only on the last day of the tour ***extension only***

Tropical Pewee *Contopus cinereus*—a pair of birds were regulars at the Tilajari Hotel Resort, usually posing on the fence right by the parking area of our bus

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *Empidonax flaviventris*—seen only once, a lone bird on our bird walk near Villa Lapas one morning; this is the most numerous migratory *Empidonax* flycatcher wintering in Costa Rica

Yellowish Flycatcher *Empidonax flavescens*—seen daily at several sites around Monteverde

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*—one sallying for insects above a flowing river as we made our way along the Arenal Observatory Lodge entrance road

Northern Scrub-Flycatcher *Sublegatus arenarum*—two in the mangroves at Estero Mata de Limon while looking for Mangrove Hummingbird on the Pacific Coast

Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus*—two of these small and striking flycatchers at our Arenal National Park stop along the road

Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus*—one showed well for the group while birding the road above Villa Lapas, and we heard its distinctive call frequently elsewhere in the lowlands

Rufous Mourner *Rhytipterna holerythra*—nice views of the reddish-brown flycatcher along the road in Arenal National Park – that bend in the road had some really great birds!

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*—we saw this small and adaptable *Myiarchus* flycatcher at Villa Lapas, around Monteverde, and La Selva OTS

Panama Flycatcher *Myiarchus panamensis*—curiously restricted to mangroves on the Pacific Coast in its Costa Rican range; one individual in the mangroves at Estero Mata de Limon

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus*—we saw this migratory flycatcher at Estero Mata de Limon

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*—widespread, numerous, and vocal flycatcher – one of the most common songbirds in Costa Rica

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*—told apart from the similar and much more common Great Kiskadee by its larger bill and lack of rufous in the wings; we saw singles around Tarcoles and Curi-Cancha Reserve

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*—seen on every day of the trip

Gray-capped Flycatcher *Myiozetetes granadensis*—seen at Villa Lapas and the Tilajari Hotel Resort

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus*—nice views in the road above Villa Lapas and around Arenal Observatory Lodge

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher *Myiodynastes luteiventris*—we saw this migratory flycatcher at Curi-Cancha Reserve, Celeste Mountain Lodge, and Tilajari Hotel Resort; this species nests in Costa Rica during the northern summer months and migrates down to South America for the winter

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus*—another migratory flycatcher that had just arrived when we started the tour, becoming more common during the second half; common around Monteverde and Arenal Observatory Lodge

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*—common and widespread

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana*—one bird with very long tail streamers flying over Medio Queso Wetlands

VIREOS: Vireonidae (6)

Tawny-crowned Greenlet *Tunchiornis ochraceiceps*—one seen briefly in a mixed feeding flock at Sendero Quebrada Bonita in Carara NP

Lesser Greenlet *Pachysylvia decurtata*—we saw this very plain little vireo in small numbers throughout the tour, except in the higher elevations of Monteverde

Mangrove Vireo *Vireo pallens*—a single bird showed well for the entire group in the mangroves of Estero Mata de Limon on the Pacific Coast

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*—nice views at Hotel Bougainvillea and the Tilajari Hotel Resort; this relatively colorful migratory vireo seems to like the open parkland habitat of hotel gardens!

Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus*—seen only on the grounds of Hotel Bougainvillea, a reliable site for this uncommon migratory species in the boreal winter months

Yellow-green Vireo *Vireo flavoviridis*—great views of this migratory vireo in the woods by the Walmart in San Jose; very similar to the Red-eyed Vireo, with which it forms a superspecies along with the Black-whiskered Vireo found in the Caribbean

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (2)

White-throated Magpie-Jay *Calocitta formosa*—great views of this large and striking jay at Hotel de Montana Monteverde, where it is now a regularly occurring species as drier weather moves up the mountain slope

Brown Jay *Psilorhinus morio*—common and noisy in mid-elevation to higher elevation areas such as Hotel Bougainvillea and Monteverde, where we always saw them away from natural forest

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (6)

Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*—the common swallow of Hotel Bougainvillea and Monteverde

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*—we saw small numbers on the Rio Tarcoles, Celeste Mountain Lodge, and on the extension

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*—our best views were at the Tilajari Hotel Resort, where we were able to see the fieldmarks (pale rump and rufous throat) that differentiate this species from the northern

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*—we saw small numbers on the Rio Tarcoles and around Cano Negro

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea*—common around water such as the Rio Tarcoles and Cano Negro; they nest in the roof of the boat for the Rio Tarcoles tour!

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*—we saw several dozen of these familiar swallows near Orotina and Cano Negro, heading northward for the spring and summer months

GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae (3)

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus*—two birds seen in vine tangles at Arenal Observatory Lodge; a tiny, short-tailed bird with an impossibly long bill

White-lored Gnatcatcher *Poliioptila albiloris*—we saw this dry forest gnatcatcher at Estero Mata de Limon in the mangroves while searching for mangrove specialties on the Pacific Coast

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Poliioptila plumbea*—we saw this species only once, a single bird near the town of Tarcoles

WRENS: Troglodytidae (13)

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*—common and widespread, usually around buildings or other man-made structures

Rufous-naped Wren *Campylorhynchus rufinucha*—these large and boisterous wrens entertained the group at Hotel Bougainvillea and at sites we visited right along the Pacific Coast

Rufous-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius rutilus* (HO)—at least two heard along the trail at Sendero Quebrada Bonita in Carara NP, although they remained elusive to see

Spot-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius rutilus*—we saw one of these wrens on the shore of the river in the Cano Negro area; the Cano Negro region is the southernmost extent of its range

Black-throated Wren *Pheugopedius atrogularis* (HO)—this large and striking wren was only heard in dense vine tangles ***extension only***

Rufous-and-white Wren *Thryophilus rufalbus*—brief views at the Bajo del Tigre sector of the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, a rare example of higher elevation seasonally dry forest

Stripe-breasted Wren *Cantorchilus thoracicus*—seen by some right on the grounds of the Celeste Mountain Lodge

Cabanis's Wren *Cantorchilus modestus*—we saw this common wren of mid-elevation gardens and forest edge at Hotel Bougainvillea, Alajuela Walmart Woods, and Hotel Montana Monteverde; formerly known as "Plain Wren" until it was split into three species (all occur in different areas of Costa Rica)

Canebrake Wren *Cantorchilus zeledoni* (HO)—heard in the Cano Negro area; a recent split from the old "Plain Wren"

Riverside Wren *Cantorchilus semibadius* (RE)—seen at Quebrada Sendero Bonita in Carara NP

Bay Wren *Cantorchilus nigricapillus*—a couple sightings on the forest edge at Celeste Mountain Lodge

White-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucosticta*—seen only on the extension ***extension only***

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys*—two seen at Reserva Santa Elena, the high elevation version of the previous species

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (1)

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus*—a recent colonist of open areas and gardens in Costa Rica; we saw one bird right by the reception area at Tilajari Hotel Resort in the Caribbean lowlands

THRUSHES: Turdidae (8)

Black-faced Solitaire *Myadestes melanops* (RE)—a couple sightings while we were exploring the various cloud forest reserves in Monteverde; its slow and clear whistles are a regular part of the soundscape in the higher elevation forests of Costa Rica

Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus aurantiirostris*—seen by some at Bajo del Tigre, a drier sector of the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve

Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus fuscater*—one hopping along the trail in front of us at Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*—one migrant at Curi-Cancha Reserve

Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina*—one in the Caribbean lowlands ***extension only***

Mountain Thrush *Turdus plebejus*—the most common bird visiting the fruiting trees at Curi-Cancha Reserve while we were waiting for quetzals to appear

White-throated Thrush *Turdus assimilis*—much less numerous than Mountain Thrush, we saw at least two (maybe more) in the fruiting trees at Curi-Cancha

Clay-colored Thrush *Turdus grayi*—we saw the national bird of Costa Rica every single day

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (I)—a few seen at gas stations or around towns on travel days

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (7)

Golden-browed Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia callophrys* (RE)—we saw a trio of these fluorescent finches at Curi-Cancha Reserve near one of the fruiting trees, cooperating nicely for the entire group

Scrub Euphonia *Euphonia affinis*—seen in the scrubby dry forest across from the mangroves at Estero Mata de Limon

Yellow-crowned Euphonia *Euphonia luteicapilla*—seen at Hotel de Montana Monteverde and Tilajari Hotel Resort

Yellow-throated Euphonia *Euphonia hirundinacea*—the most common and widespread euphonia in northern Costa Rica; we saw them at all sites except for the higher elevation Monteverde area

Elegant Euphonia *Euphonia elegantissima*—we saw these azure-capped euphonias in a bright red tree at Curi-Cancha Reserve

Olive-backed Euphonia *Euphonia gouldi*—we saw these mossy green euphonias a couple times at Celeste Mountain Lodge

Tawny-capped Euphonia *Euphonia annae*—one bird in a mixed feeding flock of tanagers at Arenal Observatory Lodge

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (7)

Common Chlorospingus *Chlorospingus flavopectus*—formerly known as 'Common Bush-Tanager' until genetic studies showed it to be an arboreal tanager; one of the most common members of feeding flocks around Monteverde

Stripe-headed Sparrow *Peucaea ruficauda*—one singing in a palm in the dry forest near Orotina

Black-striped Sparrow *Arremonops conirostris*—regular below the feeders at Celeste Mountain Lodge, and we also saw them at the Tilajari Hotel Resort

Orange-billed Sparrow *Arremon aurantiirostris*—seen by some of the group on the trails at Carara NP, as well as on the extension; a tropical sparrow with a blazing orange bill!

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*—the 'House Sparrow' of high elevation areas, occurring in large numbers around Hotel Bougainvillea and Monteverde

White-eared Ground-Sparrow *Melospiza leucotis*—one furtive individual at Hotel de Montana Monteverde was a nice treat; an attractively patterned sparrow closely related to the North American towhees

White-naped Brushfinch *Atlapetes albinucha*—two of these handsome sparrows working the forest edge at Curi-Cancha Reserve in Monteverde

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (12)

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna*—one in a dry field near Orotina; the Eastern Meadowlark of the eastern USA actually ranges all the way down into the Llanos of Venezuela!

Chestnut-headed Oropendola *Psarocolius wagleri*—several birds perched in a fruiting tree at Curi-Cancha Reserve as an unusual, high elevation sighting of this species

Montezuma Oropendola *Psarocolius montezuma*—delightfully common and always wonderful species in the lower elevations of Costa Rica

Black-cowled Oriole *Icterus prothemelas*—we saw these black and yellow orioles at Celeste Mountain Lodge and Tilajari Hotel Resort

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius*—scattered sightings of this northern migrant: Hotel Bougainvillea, Alajuela Walmart Woods, Tilajari Hotel Resort, and Cano Negro

Streak-backed Oriole *Icterus pustulatus*—two birds in the mangroves near the town of Tarcoles, just south of the river

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*—common and ubiquitous migrant

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*—this familiar bird was common at wetland sites

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus*—small numbers at Hotel Bougainvillea, Monteverde, and Celeste Mountain Lodge

Melodious Blackbird *Dives dives*—singles at Hotel Bougainvillea, Tilajari Hotel Resort, and Cano Negro

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*—common and conspicuous large blackbird, seen daily

Nicaraguan Grackle *Quiscalus nicaraguensis* (**RE**)—we saw only one of this rare and localized endemic at Cano Negro

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (22)

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla*—one of these ground-dwelling warblers seen by some in the understory of Bajo del Tigre in Monteverde

Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla*—one observed from the bridge on the rocky stream that runs through the Villa Lapas property

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis*—numerous along both the Rio Tarcoles, Cano Negro, and Rio Sarapiquí boat tours, as well as a single bird at Tilajari Hotel Resort. Many more were only heard via the metallic ‘chink’ note

Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*—Costa Rica is part of the core wintering range of this threatened species; we had good luck with this species on this tour, observing singles at the Alajuela Walmart Woods, Celeste Mountain Lodge, and Tilajari Hotel Resort

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*—we observed this creeping warbler at Curi-Cancha in Monteverde, Celeste Mountain Lodge, and Tilajari Hotel Resort

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*—the individual foraging in the mangroves on the Rio Tarcoles was absolutely radiant, and we saw a second individual on the Cano Negro

Tennessee Warbler *Oreothlypis peregrina*—one of the most common migrant warblers in Costa Rica, recorded daily except during our time in Monteverde

Gray-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis poliocephala*—one in the cleared areas overgrown with ferns at Curi-Cancha Reserve

Kentucky Warbler *Geothlypis formosa*—one hard to see individual foraging on the leaf litter at Sendero Quebrada Bonita at Carara National Park

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiayumi*—observed a couple times at Celeste Mountain Lodge and again at Arenal Observatory Lodge

Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca*—seen at the Hummingbird Gallery at Cinchona ***extension only***

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia*—common and widespread wintering species in Costa Rica, recorded daily in numbers except at Monteverde; we also saw the ‘Mangrove’ Yellow Warbler (*S. petechia xanthotera*) on our Rio Tarcoles boat tour

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Setophaga pensylvanica*—Costa Rica is part of the core wintering range of this species; common and widespread on the tour, except during our time at Monteverde

Townsend’s Warbler *Setophaga townsendi*—one seen in the bamboo right at the entrance to Hotel de Montana Monteverde – nice!

Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens*—common only around Monteverde, where we saw it at Hotel de Montana Monteverde, Reserva Santa Elena, and Curi-Cancha Reserve

Rufous-capped Warbler *Basileuterus rufifrons*—we saw this charismatic species only at Hotel Bougainvillea in their award winning garden

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*—singles at Curi-Cancha Reserve and Celeste Mountain Lodge

Costa Rican Warbler *Basileuterus melanotis* **(RE)**—relatively common in the cloud forest understory in Monteverde, where we saw small family groups at Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve and Reserva Santa Elena

Buff-rumped Warbler *Myiothlypis fulvicauda*—singles on the dirt road near Celeste Mountain Lodge and the trails at Arenal Observatory Lodge (and also seen on the extension); this warbler habitually lives near water, flaring its tail and showing off its luminous orange-brown rump in the dark forest gloom

Wilson’s Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*—small numbers at Reserva Santa Elena and Hotel de Montana Monteverde; Costa Rica is part of the core wintering range for this species, but it tends to winter mostly in the highest elevations with most wintering above even Monteverde

Slate-throated Redstart *Myioborus miniatus*—common at Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve and Curi-Cancha, where it was one of the most common bird species in mixed feeding flocks

Collared Redstart *Myioborus torquatus* **(RE)**—two of these charming and splendidly colored warblers at Reserva Santa Elena

MITROSPINGIID TANAGERS: Mitrospingidae (1)

Dusky-faced Tanager *Mitrospingus cassinii*—seen at La Selva OTS ***extension only***

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (8)

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*—common and widespread wintering resident, recorded almost daily throughout the tour

Red-throated Ant-Tanager *Habia fuscicauda*—recorded at La Selva OTS ***extension only***

Carmioli’s Tanager *Chlorothraupis carmioli*—two observations of this very plain songbird at Celeste Mountain Lodge; an important flock leader of Caribbean foothill forests

Black-faced Grosbeak *Caryothraustes poliogaster*—seen only at La Selva OTS; an important feeding flock leader of Caribbean foothill forests ***extension only***

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*—two birds spending the winter in the garden at Hotel Bougainvillea

Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanoloxia cyanooides*—a male singing and seen well at Sendero Quebrada Bonita, and the mostly brown female observed at Celeste Mountain Lodge

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea*—a male-female pair observed at Alajuela Walmart Woods in urbanized San Jose – this tiny patch of woodland supports a remarkable variety of birds for its size

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*—singles on the road above Villa Lapas and Estero Mata de Limon

TANAGERS AND ALLIES: Thraupidae (27)

Gray-headed Tanager *Eucometis penicillata*—one along the road above Villa Lapas on our early morning walk; this tanager will often follow army ant swarms

White-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus luctuosus*—a single male at Sendero Quebrada Bonita

White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus*—one at La Selva OTS *extension only*

Crimson-collared Tanager *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*—a large and beautiful red-and-black tanager of Central American rainforests; seen in small numbers at the fruit feeders at Celeste Mountain Lodge and the Hummingbird Gallery at Cinchona

Scarlet-rumped Tanager *Ramphocelus passerinii*—abundant on the Caribbean slope of Costa Rica; it was one of the most common songbirds at Celeste Mountain Lodge, Arenal Observatory Lodge, Cano Negro, and on the extension

Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*—common and widespread, recorded daily

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*—common and widespread, recorded almost daily but in smaller numbers than the previous species

Golden-hooded Tanager *Tangara larvata*—common but not quite numerous at Celeste Mountain Lodge, Tilajari Hotel Resort, and Arenal Observatory Lodge; its regular patronage of fruit feeders made excellent views of this tanager possible

Rufous-winged Tanager *Tangara lavinia*—perhaps the least numerous *Tangara* tanager in Costa Rica; a single bird seen by all at Celeste Mountain Lodge

Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola*—a single bird observed in a mixed feeding flock during our visit at Arenal Observatory Lodge

Emerald Tanager *Tangara florida*—two of these vivid green tanagers observed in a mixed feeding flock at Arenal Observatory Lodge

Silver-throated Tanager *Tangara icterocephala*—several birds seemed to glow on the fruit feeders at the Hummingbird Gallery at Cinchona

Scarlet-thighed Dacnis *Dacnis venusta*—singles of this technicolor tanager at Curi-Cancha and Celeste Mountain Lodge

Shining Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes lucidus*—a pair of these tanagers at Bijagua Bird Song Gardens

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus*—recorded regularly at multiple sites throughout the lowlands

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza*—several observations at Celeste Mountain Lodge and Arenal Observatory Lodge

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*—about a dozen birds displaying in the grass growing along the Rio Tarcoles; several more birds feeding on the open lawn at Villa Lapas

Ruddy-breasted Seedeater *Sporophila minuta*—one along the road on our way to Cano Negro

Thick-billed Seed-Finch *Sporophila funerea*—a single bird seen on the extension *extension only*

Nicaraguan Seed-Finch *Sporophila nuttingi* (RE)—excellent scope views of a male in an overgrown field outside of the Cano Negro area

Variable Seedeater *Sporophila corvina*—numerous at lowland sites throughout the tour

Morelet's Seedeater *Sporophila moreletii*—singles at Rio Tarcoles and Celeste Mountain Lodge; formerly lumped together with Cinnamon-rumped Seedeater as White-collared Seedeater

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*—this widespread species was most common in open parkland habitats with planted flowers, such as at Tilajari Hotel Resort

Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus*—common in open, grassy habitats at Monteverde

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus*—we saw this large tanager at Hotel de Montana Monteverde, Celeste Mountain Lodge, and Arenal Observatory Lodge

Black-headed Saltator *Saltator atriceps*—seen only on the extension ***extension only***

Grayish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens*—the two we saw in the gardens of Hotel Bougainvillea were our only ones

MAMMALS (9 species recorded):

Nine-banded Armadillo *Dasypus novemcinctus*—great views at Curi-Cancha Reserve in Monteverde

Hoffmann's Toe-toed Sloth *Choloepus hoffmanni*—one seen from the road by our bus driver! So cool

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata*—common around Monteverde and Celeste Mountain Lodge; a smaller relative of the Capybara, although still quite large for a rodent

Variiegated Squirrel *Sciurus variegatoides*—the common squirrel of Costa Rica

Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis*

Lesser White-lined Bat *Saccopteryx leptura*—seen roosting in the roof of the restaurant at Villa Lapas

Central American Spider Monkey *Ateles geoffroyi*—a few sightings in and around Monteverde

Mantled Howler Monkey *Alouatta palliata*

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica*—a family group of these raccoon relatives on the trails at Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (12 species recorded):

Spectacled Caiman *Caiman crocodilus*—seen on our Cano Negro boat tour

American Crocodile *Crocodylus acutus*—seen on both the Cano Negro and Rio Tarcoles boat tour; the largest reptile species in Costa Rica by far

Emerald Swift *Sceloporus malachiticus*—we saw this colorful lizard on the walls of Hotel de Montana Monteverde

Black Spiny-tailed Iguana *Ctenosaura similis*—numerous around Carara National Park and the Rio Tarcoles; this species is much more carnivorous and terrestrial than the following species

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*—this large lizard is an arboreal herbivore, which we saw well on the shores of the Rio Tarcoles

Green Basilisk *Basiliscus plumifrons*—we saw one of these colorful, verdant lizards at Celeste Mountain Lodge

Common Basilisk *Basiliscus basiliscus*

Middle American Ameiva *Holcosus festivus*

Red-eyed Tree Frog *Agalychnis callidryas*—we went out at night to search for these in the small ponds at Celeste Mountain Lodge, and we managed to enjoy amazing views of several of these extremely charismatic and colorful frogs

Masked Tree Frog *Smilisca phaeota*—seen at Celeste Mountain Lodge while searching for Red-eyed Tree Frogs

Green-and-black Poison Dart Frog *Dendrobates auratus*—a couple of these technicolor frogs in the leaf litter at Sendero Quebrada Bonita in Carara NP

Giant Toad *Rhinella horribilis*