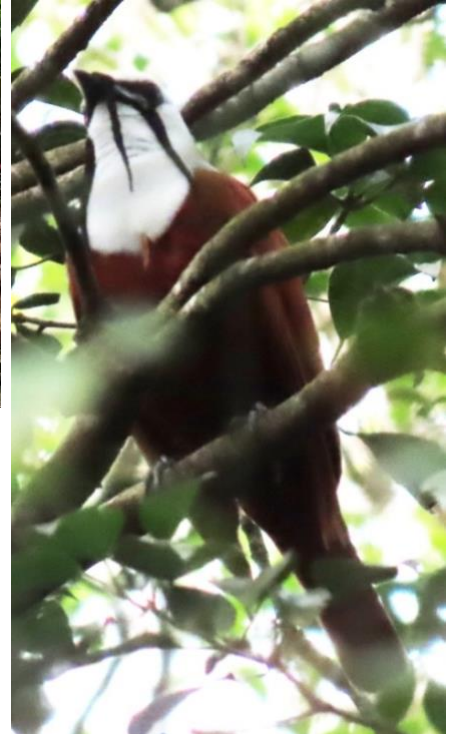


Summer in Costa Rica | Trip Report

July 21-30, 2023 | by Robert Gallardo



With Naturalist Journeys guide Robert Gallardo, local guide Johan Fernandez, and participants Peter, Adrienne, Avril, Michael, Janet, Peggy, William, Donna, Robert, Judith and Rose.



Costa Rica: A Naturalist's Paradise

A trip to Central America to revel in natural history must include Costa Rica. It has long been a favorite destination for many travelers and is considered one of the most eco-friendly nations on the planet. Although only about the size of West Virginia, Costa Rica packs a punch in that it harbors high levels of biodiversity in its many different habitats. These range from dry Pacific lowlands to mist-covered cloud forests. National parks and other reserves dot the countryside, each one offering something a little different than the other.

Fri., Jul. 21 Arrivals | Hotel Bougainvillea

Today the trip began. Participants arrived throughout the day at the lovely Hotel Bougainvillea. The charming, tree-filled grounds were filled with a wide variety of plants and benches. It provided for a relaxing late afternoon walk after everyone had arrived. The cacophony of Rufous-naped Wrens greeted us along with the noisy Social Flycatcher. Rufous-tailed Hummingbird would be the first of many species that would be seen on this trip.



The widespread Hoffman's Woodpecker was there and would be a constant companion during much of the trip. However, the gigantic Lineated Woodpecker appeared and worked a large, dead tree filled with cavities. We also got our first looks at the handsome Lesson's Motmot which was seen feeding on fruits and even a frog. The brilliantly colored Scarlet-rumped Tanager would also be a common sighting on the trip and made its first showing today. An amazing Darkened Rusty Clearwing was spotted feeding on an aster and would be the first of many beautiful butterflies we would see on the trip.

Johan, our expert local guide, showed up and we had a relaxed trip orientation then welcome dinner. Our group was now complete and we were ready to commence the journey.

Sat., Jul. 22 La Selva Biological Station | Arenal Observatory Lodge

We had an early morning walk on the grounds before departing and breakfast. Small numbers of Blue-and-white Swallows came in and out of the garden while flocks of Crimson-fronted Parakeets flew by. A few of the latter landed low down in a nearby where we got scope views. The cute, and tiny, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl was spotted high up in a tree as well as Masked Tityras. A Crested Caracara was seen perched atop a tall palm and would be the first of many seen. A great sighting was our first Squirrel Cuckoo and one confiding White-tipped Dove. Two look-alike flycatchers came into view; the Boat-billed Flycatcher and Great Kiskadee. Although they look alike, their vocalizations are quite distinct. We were off to a great start!



We had breakfast then said 'good-bye' to the city. We were off to the rainforest in the Sarapiquí lowlands on the Caribbean side. By late morning we reached the entrance of the famous La Selva Biological Station. Everyone was ready for some birding. Before reaching the main center, we unloaded along the forested road. It wasn't long at all before we encountered a large canopy and understory mixed flock. We suddenly shifted from 'easy' garden birding to the sometimes-crazy world of rainforest birding. Johan and Robert were helping spot some of the species as the flock shifted around in the canopy. A pair of Bay Wrens was working the understory. The handsome Chestnut-colored Woodpecker was spotted nearby, and we got views before it disappeared. An even better one, the Cinnamon Woodpecker, was heard calling amidst the flock but never came into view. A third species, the Rufous-winged Woodpecker, was heard and with patience we got to see this range-restricted species. A bit further down the road we came across a young White-necked Jacobin and Crowned Woodnymph feeding on a firebush (*Hamelia patens*). Despite it being late morning, we were seeing a lot of birds.

We reached the main center in the bus and from there continued on another short walk. Adjacent to the buildings was a small soccer field with forest behind it. We noticed that there was a lot of commotion in the trees and *Heliconia* thickets. Some Collared Aracaris, Keel-billed Toucans, and Yellow-throated Toucans were all foraging alongside Montezuma Oropendolas. It appeared that they were all searching for large insects and waiting for them to be dislodged. One giant katydid flew out of the forest toward the soccer field and was followed by oropendolas; one of which was able to catch up to it. A bit further down the forested trail we came across a few Olive-backed Euphonias that were feeding on *Miconia* fruits. The plant belongs to the Melastomataceae family and wherever they occur and are fruiting, they usually bring in a lot of birds. We then spotted a handsome male Slaty-tailed Trogon high in the subcanopy and we were afforded scope views. Another canopy-dwelling species made an appearance; the Scarlet-rumped Cacique. Its blue eyes, yellow bill, and scarlet rump render it quite different than other caciques in the region. The often-timid Gray-chested Dove was also spotted walking the trail ahead of us. To finish up the mornings' bird encounters were Rufous and Broad-billed Motmots. But we still had one last amazing critter to see. Some faint cricket-like sounds were originating from Strawberry Poison Dart Frogs. We saw several of these tiny, brightly colored, and very poisonous rainforest denizens. It was a star-studded morning!



*Central American
Spider Monkey*



*Yellow-throated
Toucan*

We left La Selva and just down the road had lunch at a nice little restaurant. Common Tody-Flycatchers were bopping around in a small tree where they had an active nest. More Scarlet-rumped Tanagers were eating a fruit feeder.

We continued down the road and found a pair of Harris's Hawk. It was a seemingly strange place to see this species. As we were getting close to the Arenal Observatory Lodge we stopped at a bridge above a fast-flowing river. We spotted both the Amazon and Green Kingfishers. We reached the Lodge as the clouds began to close in on us and the rain came down. We scrambled a bit to get to our rooms under the cover of umbrellas and raingear. These are the tropics.....and it's green for a reason. We had a delicious dinner in the main dining area and called it a night.

Sun., Jul. 23 Arenal area

Arenal was a special place. Each morning we woke up to the cacophony of rainforest sounds, including the cackling of Crested Guans and other birds such as Bright-rumped Attila. The towering and majestic volcano was our backdrop as we looked through the windows of our back porch.

We started the first morning with an early walk near the rooms before breakfast. We were treated with a Purple-crowned Fairy as it gleaned insects and nectared in a nearby tree. It would be the only sighting of this lovely species for the trip. A fruiting tree related to avocados was attracting a wide variety of birds including Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, the regionally endemic Golden-bellied Flycatcher, Piratic Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Euphonia, Buff-throated Saltator, and many Masked Tityras. We also spied a female Lovely Cotinga high atop a nearby snag which was seen leaving the same tree. This is a rare species that far south. A pair of Buff-rumped Warblers walking along the pathway and lawns would be constant companions during our stay. What a way to start the day!

We went to breakfast and got sidetracked by the fruit feeders off the restaurant deck. Along with a variety of fruit-feeding tanagers and Bananaquit, were several Great Curassows that stole the show. Once atop the feeder,



no one else could fit! Nearby, several Central American Spider Monkeys were feeding on the fruits of a *Cecropia* tree. Behind the feeder was a fruiting fig and we could see shadows of birds bouncing all around. One of the species was the multicolored Bay-headed Tanager. Then, just as we were about to go inside and have breakfast, a Yellow-throated Toucan came in and perched in a nearby *Cecropia* and began to call. Wowza!

We were finally able to sit down and have breakfast that morning. Afterwards, we began a walk on the grounds before entering a trail into the rainforest. There were large swaths of purple Porterweed that attracted a small variety of hummingbirds including the tiny Stripe-throated Hermit and Violet-headed Hummingbird. Rufous-tailed's were there, along with the larger Scaly-breasted Hummingbird. Some *Trema* trees were fruiting and were hosting some shimmering birds including Green Honeycreeper, Golden-hooded Tanager, Crimson-collared Tanager, Cinnamon Becard, and the stunning Scarlet-thighed Dacnis. The colorful males of this latter species are literally jaw-dropping. In a nearby tree a Rufous Mourner also showed up.

Just as we were about to enter the forest, a large group of White-nosed Coati came strolling by. They were digging for earthworms or anything else edible. Just we began the forest walk; the orange-colored form of the Collared Trogon was spotted and we got scope views. Just a bit further we spotted something strange alongside the trail. It was a female Great Curassow laying down sunning itself and was totally confiding in our presence. It demonstrates what real conservation measures can do for wildlife and eco-tourism. We were afforded terrific views of this spectacular bird.

As we continued down the trail Johan made a great find under a leaf (on cover). It was a Dinora Metalmark butterfly; a transparent member of this family. The morning was coming to an end so we turned around only to be met by a Spectacled Owl that had flushed up and disappeared into the forest. We came across a fairly large mixed canopy flock and provided for some tough birding. Some of the species present included the Slate-throated Redstart, White-throated Shrike-Tanager, Olive Tanager, Russet Antshrike, Plain Xenops and Tawny-capped Euphonia. We were able to see a few wrens before leaving the forest which included Stripe-breasted Wren, White-

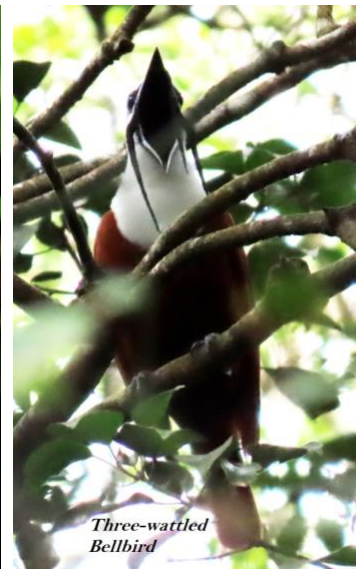


breasted Wood-Wren, and the whimsical Song Wren. It was a great way to wrap up a super productive morning. Right before lunch Robert found a female Black-crested Coquette that was hanging out along a more secluded section of Porterweed where no bully hummingbirds were present. After lunch, most everyone went to see this tiny jewel. We had some downtime then went out in the afternoon. Just below the lodge was an elegant Gray Hawk perched on an electric line. But a bit further down the road, by a low-lying bridge was waiting a prized bird. A Sunbittern was sitting calmly in a shaded pool on the far side of the river. Eventually, it began to walk along the vegetated shoreline and decided to fly across to the right side of the river. Peter was able to capture it in flight, showing perfectly where its' name is derived from. We drove further down the road to a patch of forest and encountered a few White-throated Magpie-Jays before it started to rain. On the way back to the hotel we found a small flock of Gray-headed Chachalacas.

We had a bit of downtime before doing our checklist then dinner. Each day was getting better and better. After dining, we were just about ready to head to our rooms when Robert noticed something small on a sign near the trailhead. It ended being a small, gray-colored Eyelash Viper. It was waiting for some unsuspecting victim. What we didn't know at that moment was that a Red-eyed Tree Frog was on the back side of the sign very close to it. It was an awesome way to end the day.

Mon., Jul. 24 Caño Negro Wetlands

Today we headed out for a different destination and experience, a boat ride at a wetland reserve. We departed right after breakfast and made the 3 ½ hour drive to the Caño Negro refuge. The last few miles were bumpy, and we were glad when we arrived.



We hopped on a boat and began seeing a lot of birds. Mangrove Swallows would be our constant companion during the boat ride. A couple Southern Lapwing and Northern Jacanas were along a grassy shoreline. We began to see one Anhinga after another. We saw numerous Bare-throated Tiger-Herons; both adults and juveniles. A few Green Ibis were also spotted high up in a tree by our boat captain. An immature Black-collared Hawk was also seen down a dead-end channel. The captain even knew where to find a pair of Pacific Screech-Owl, of all things to see in a wetland. We were told, however, that during the dry season much of the area does dry up. We saw three species of Kingfisher including the Ringed, Amazon, and Green. We heard a Pygmy, but it escaped us this time around. Robert spotted a distant Bat Falcon atop a snag, but we would get closer looks later on in the trip. A lone Spot-breasted Wren was foraging adjacent to the channel and would be the only one seen on the trip. Toward the end of the ride, we found a lone Nicaraguan Grackle which barely enters Costa Rica. A pair of small Spectacled Caiman would top off the boat trip.

At a nearby village we had lunch then begun to make our way back to Arenal. We made a couple of quick stops in the wet lowlands and found some Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Muscovy Duck, White-tailed Kite, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, and a male Ruddy-breasted Seedeater. There was one more stop in the parking lot of an outdoor outfitter. Johan got out of the van to see if he could find what he was looking for. It was there. We all got out and got the scopes on a roosting Great Potoo. It was a 'great' way to end the day. We made our way back to the lodge, had dinner and called it a night.

Tues., Jul. 25 Travel to Monteverde | Children's Eternal Rainforest

We woke up to cloudy, cool morning. We had breakfast then went out on one last walk before departing. On a nearby trail below the lodge we encountered a Dull-mantled Antbird before getting rained out. We packed up the bus and said 'good-bye' to this wonderful place.



Down at the nearby Lake Arenal we boarded a large pontoon boat for an aquatic transfer. As we skirted the edge of the lake we found Green Kingfisher, a nesting Tropical Kingbird, Spectacled Caiman, Amazon Kingfisher, Osprey, and White-collared Swifts. We reached the far side of the lake and boarded our transportation to make the last leg toward our next destination. We reached the crest that divided the Caribbean from the Pacific slopes and made a short stop at a small butterfly house along the way. In the parking lot we found a male Canivet's Emerald, Cinnamon-bellied Saltator, and White-throated Magpie-Jays. As we were approaching our destination, Robert spotted something white flying in the distance. We stopped and found a perched White Hawk.

We finally reached Monteverde where we would spend the next three nights. After lunch we settled into our accommodations. From here we would explore numerous highland sites in search of colorful highland endemics and other prized species. After a short break we went to the nearby Children's Eternal Rainforest reserve. This is the time of year when the iconic Three-wattled Bellbird begins its sojourn up the mountains from the low-lying Pacific coast. Right when we stepped outside the bus, we could hear its telltale metallic sounds. It was perched just inside the forest and took Johan nearly 20 minutes to triangulate its location. Even then, the view wasn't very good. The bird then took off, flew across the parking lot, and landed in a much better spot. We all got great scope views of this spectacular bird. Some flute-like sounds were coming from the nearby forest and belonged to the Rufous-and-White Wren. A pair of the resident Chestnut-capped Warblers also made an appearance. We checked into the office then walked down one of the trails. We came across the giant Crested Guan after only hearing it at Arenal. The charismatic Long-tailed Manakins were calling throughout but seeing them in the thick understory was another story. It took some searching before getting one in the scope. A young Three-wattled Bellbird made an appearance and made odd sounds, very unlike the adults. We also got brief looks at a White-throated Thrush and the ground-dwelling Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush. A small troop of White-throated Capuchins was also seen and some curious White-nosed Coatis. One even sniffed out the scope tripod. It was a great way to start our visit to this world-famous area.

Wed., Jul. 26

Monteverde Cloudforest Reserve | Curi-Cancha Reserve

Before breakfast we did some bird watching around the hotel. Some fruiting melastomes and figs were attracting many birds including a group of Gray-headed Chachalaca. From some low-lying bushes appeared the White-eared Ground-Sparrow; the most colorful species in the region. A small flock of White-fronted Parrots also zoomed by. We had breakfast then made the short drive to the Monteverde Cloudforest Reserve. This world-famous site is the result thanks to the visionary efforts of early foreigners who settled this area before the turn of the century.

We got checked in and began our walk up the wide trail. There were hundreds of visitors, most there to revel in the iconic rainforest. We were on a different mission. At the onset of the walk, we found a large mixed canopy flock that was feeding on large fruiting fig trees. For the most part it was neck-breaking views of species that included Silvery-throated Tanager, Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Common Chlorospingus, and Scarlet-thighed Dacnis. The chlorospingus is one of the most common and abundant species seen in cloud forest across the region. We then came across a couple of young Resplendent Quetzal feeding on an unknown fruiting tree. We were hoping to see a male with its long tail streamers. Johan also noted some dark objects amidst the thick foliage. It was a pair of the regionally endemic Black Guans and we were afforded scope views. A noisy pair of Prong-billed Barbets also came in as well as a Yellowish Flycatcher. We were seeing some incredible birds. We came across a spot where a fair number of people were scoping out a large fruiting tree in the distance. It was a wild avocado that produced small fruits that are a favorite food source for the quetzal. We were told that a young Ornate Hawk-Eagle was seen there earlier and may have scared off the quetzals. While we had little luck spotting quetzals, we did see Northern Emerald Toucanet and Masked Tityras.

We continued to walk up further and came across a pair of Ruddy Pigeon, Black-faced Solitaire, noisy Gray-breasted Wood-Wren, and the dazzling Spangle-cheeked Tanagers. A small mixed flock also got our attention as things were moving in and out of the dappled sunlight. We were seeing the Costa Rican Warbler at a distance until one decided to fly right at us and land in the shrubs adjacent to the trail. It caught an insect and we got great looks at this regionally endemic species. We also got glimpses of the diminutive Ochraceous Wren; a sister species of the widespread House Wren. We could see numerous brown-colored birds creeping around and could identify Spotted Woodcreeper, Spotted Barbtail, Streak-breasted Treehunter, and Ruddy Treerunner, the latter two being regionally endemic species. It was an outstanding morning for sure.

Most of returned to where there were some hummingbird feeders down by the visitor center. They were buzzing with activity that included Green Hermit, Lesser Violetear, Green-crowned Brilliant, Purple-throated Mountain-gem, Violet Sabrewing, and Stripe-tailed Hummingbird. We got one quick look at the Coppery-headed Emerald (a country endemic) before it disappeared but would catch up to it soon enough. An occasional Bananaquit popped in as well. Johan had returned to the trails with a few of the participants to try and get a better look at the Resplendent Quetzal and maybe find a male. They took a different trail that passed below the fruiting avocado tree and did, in fact, find a male. Great job!



We were getting ready to leave when we got word that someone had found a cool snake nearby. It ended up being a small Green Palm Pit-Viper stretched out on a limb near a bathroom door. Wowza! What a way to end the morning!

We returned to the hotel for lunch and had a little downtime before resuming with the days' activities. In the afternoon we visited a private reserve located nearby. The afternoons are almost always quieter, in terms of bird activity, but nonetheless we did see some notable birds. A few Band-tailed Pigeons were seen flying overhead as well as a pair of White-naped Brush-finch and Collared Trogon down a side trail. An upper garden was filled with purple Porterweed that was attracting a small assortment of hummingbirds. We saw the ever-present Lesser Violetear and the less common Stripe-tailed Hummingbird. A couple of less common species included the Purple-throated Mountain-gem (a regional endemic) and the Coppery-headed Emerald. Although the male mountain-gem was less than cooperative, a female was more obliging and perched low to the ground close to us. It made for some wonderful photos. A pair of the emeralds was also sparring and getting good photos of this country endemic was a bit more challenging. Nearby, a pair of Bat Falcon was perched on a leafless tree. Some of the participants went further up the trail with Johan and found a Mountain Thrush and heard a Barred Forest-Falcon calling. Rain was threatening so we headed down the trail and headed out. Near the main road there was a Lesson's Motmot sitting on a fence right next to the bus and another in a tree behind it. It was a fabulous way to end a great day.

Thurs., Jul. 27 Santa Elena Cloudforest Reserve | Butterfly Farm

After breakfast we set out for another jaunt into the cloud forest. We travelled to the nearby private reserve of Santa Elena only to find it raining. So, we had some hot chocolate and coffee and hung out on the cafeteria balcony and waited for the rain to cease. In the meantime, a lovely Black-faced Solitaire came bopping in to feed on some nightshade fruits. The rain let up so we headed out to explore the trail system. We soon saw a Green Hermit feeding on Heliconias and a bit further a couple more Prong-billed Barbets. The angry call notes of a nearby Smoky-brown Woodpecker got our attention, but it never came into view. A bit further up we came



Purple-throated Mountain-gem



Black-thighed Grosbeak

across a small mixed flock where we saw Ruddy Treerunner, Red-faced Spinetail, several Slate-throated Redstarts, and two Collared Redstarts (regional endemic). Some movement close by deep inside the forest caught Robert's attention. It was three Azure-hooded Jays foraging amongst the thick moss and epiphyte-laden branches fairly low. What a wonderful bird! We continued upward and encountered a lone Tufted Flycatcher that was perched upslope and it sallied out for bugs. We came to a small overlook and stopped to see if anything was present. And there was. A pair of the regionally endemic Black-thighed Grosbeak was perched atop a tree drying out from the previous rain. We got scope views of this colorful bird. We continued our trek upward and ran into a cooperative Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush as it bounced along the trail. Not far from that was the colorful Chestnut-capped Brushfinch, another cloud forest denizen. Atop the hill was a canopy tower where that rendered demanding views in all directions. The forest was now quite so we headed down the trail to head out for lunch. As we were waiting for the last of the participants, Robert noticed a butterfly in the parking lot that was in search of its hostplant to oviposit eggs. It turned out to be a Cloud-forest Beauty (*Pycina zamba*) and it's not called a beauty for nothing. This is an uncommon highland species and to actually find it laying eggs was a real treat. We returned to the hotel for lunch, most delighted with the morning's findings.

After a bit of rest, we headed to a nearby butterfly exhibit where we received an informative guided tour of the facilities. Afterwards, we heard the familiar sounds of the Three-wattled Bellbird. Johan was already on it and we got the scope on the bird. It was a male, close to having adult plumage. It went through its repertoire of sounds numerous times before flying away. Nearby, in some shrubs, we saw a Lesson's Motmot and two colorful White-eared Ground-Sparrows. We returned to the hotel after our last day in the highlands.

Fri., Jul. 28 Travel to Pacific Coast | Boat ride on Tarcoles River

Early this morning we did some bird watching around the hotel before leaving. We found another Squirrel Cuckoo, White-fronted Parrots, Cabanis's Wren, and a colorful Variegated Squirrel. We had breakfast, packed up, and headed out. Just around the corner from the hotel we stopped to see a pair of Blue-vented Hummingbirds feeding on Porterweed. We began to descend the mountain toward the Pacific coast and encountered some Swallow-tailed Kites.

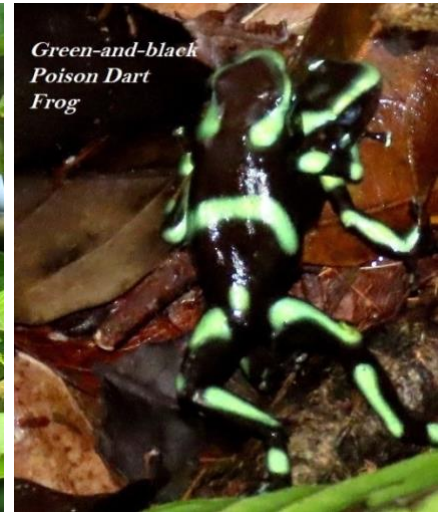


By midday we reached our final destination; Cerro Lodge, located close to the Pacific coastline. After lunch, we checked into our rooms then had some downtime while it cooled down a bit.

We made the short trip to the nearby Tarcoles River where we embarked on another boat trip in the mangroves. We quickly saw a few Muscovy Ducks and small numbers of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks. Careful scrutinizing of different mud flats revealed many species of shorebirds including Collared Plover, Whimbrel, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Willet. Many species of waders were seen including Tricolored Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-heron, and the charming Boat-billed Heron. We also saw small numbers of the colorful Roseate Spoonbill. We encountered four species of kingfishers, but the one that put on a show was a male American Pygmy. It is not very often when one gets close-up views of the tiniest kingfisher in the Americas. Adrienne also spotted a sleeping Crab-eating Raccoon high in the trees. To top off the reptile list were a couple of gigantic American Crocodiles, which can reach a ton in weight. Toward the very end of our fine boat ride we came across an adult Common Black-Hawk. As we were getting off the boat, we heard a Striped Cuckoo in the distance and Johan actually found its perch. We returned to the hotel and enjoyed a nice dinner.

Sat., Jul. 29 Carara National Park | Arenal Observatory Lodge

On our last full day, we drove out to visit the well-known Carara National Park. There were no other visitors, so we had the trails to ourselves. We came across a Ruddy Quail-Dove which is typically a shy forest bird. A colorful male Black-throated Trogon and Orange-billed Sparrow were a treat as well. Johan heard the call of a special bird which turned out to be a Black-hooded Antshrike, a regional endemic. It came in close for great views. Further down the trail we got great looks at a Chestnut-backed Antbird. A Streak-chested Antpitta called incessantly nearby from the forest floor, but we could never see it. Johan then saw a Golden-crowned Spadebill, a tiny understory flycatcher. Toward the very end of the walk, we heard the buzzing sound of a fascinating amphibian, the Green-and-black Poison Dart Frog. A pair was found as they were engaging in a courtship ritual. Alejandro had moved the bus closer, so we boarded and headed out.



In the afternoon we returned another section of Carara N.P. We saw some good numbers of both the Keel-billed and Yellow-throated Toucans. Our driver, Alejandro, spotted a White Hawk perched on the side of a mountain. A Gray Hawk was chased away by a Yellow-throated Toucan. We heard numerous species of wrens, but most of them remained hidden deep inside the vegetation. However, we did get looks at the distinct Riverside Wren.

Sun., Jul. 30

Departures from San Jose

As our trip drew to an end, we decided to look for birds one last time. We loaded the bus and went down the dirt road below the hotel. Upon reaching the flatlands we stopped to see what was stirring. There were four Scarlet Macaws feeding in small trees next to a cattle pasture. They were almost tame and allowed everyone to get photos. It was amazing to see the results of effective conservation measures. Just around the corner was another great find, a Crane Hawk. We were able to get scope views before it took off across the pasture. To end the trip and this fine morning was a lone Double-striped Thick-Knee in a weedy field. We packed up the bus, departed the lodge, and travelled to Alajuela for international departures.

Trip Highlights Include:

Avril-American Pygmy Kingfisher, Swallow-tailed Kites, Squirrel Cuckoo, food and company great.
 Judy-Birthday surprise, Great Potoo, Three-wattled Bellbird, Scarlet Macaws, boat ride on Tarcoles River.
 Rose-American Pygmy Kingfisher, White Hawk, good hotels, food phenomenal.
 Peg-Seeing giant eyes and bill of Boat-billed Heron, American Pygmy Kingfisher.
 Bill-Scarlet Macaws, American Pygmy Kingfisher.
 Michael-Sunbittern, American Pygmy Kingfisher, Hepatic Tanager, Emerald Tanager.
 Janet-American Pygmy Kingfisher, Great Potoo, Sunbittern, Three-wattled Bellbird.
 Bob-American Pygmy Kingfisher, Three-wattled Bellbird.
 Donna-male Resplendent Quetzal, Great Potoo.
 Peter-Sunbittern, Bare-throated Tiger-heron, Swallow-tailed Kite.
 Adrienne-Sunbittern, Bare-throated Tiger-heron, American Crocodile.
 Johan-Cloud-forest Beauty.

Robert G.-Small flock of Spangle-cheeked Tanager with Adrienne, Eyelash Viper with Red-eyed Treefrog, photographing Three-wattled Bellbird.