

COSTA RICA
A RELAXED & EASY TOUR
JUNE 17-25, 2017



Fiery-throated Hummingbird, *Panterpe insignis*. D. Ascanio.

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By David Ascanio

Photo album:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72157673867901083>

Our VENT tour to magic Costa Rica started in the beautifully arranged gardens of the Hotel Bougainvillea. Between native and exotic plants, small ponds, vines, bromeliads with brightly colored inflorescence and flowering orchids we came across our first target species of the tour, the Lesson's Motmot. This brought the opportunity to give a brief explanation of old and modern taxonomy and the challenges raised with the development of molecular biology. A good example was indeed this motmot, a species formerly considered as part of the Blue-crowned Motmot and now separated into five species. From San José we drove south, to the Cerro de la Muerte. Once we reached the ridge we took a short detour to the Paraiso Quetzal where hummingbird feeders provided views of the regional endemic Fiery-throated Hummingbird. There were also violetears and magnificent hummingbirds. Since the weather was in our side and there was no sign of rain, we decided to play with luck and drove to the highest point of the road, to the antennas. Soon after we arrived we noticed a pair of Volcano Junco hopping around the area. We also noticed the vegetation that is found above treeline and explored some of the commonest species, including a native bamboo. After quite a search we came across a pair of the secretive Timberline Wren, a species that everyone got to see very well.

But, the reason to come to Cerro de la Muerte wasn't only to find the extravagant tanagers or experience the secretive birds of the forest interior. We came to look for a bird named after the Aztec god of wind and learning, who was represented by the Resplendent Quetzal. To look for it we went out to the field prior to breakfast and waited at a location where *Persea sp.* trees were loaded with small avocados. First, we saw a female gulping an avocado and later a male flew across the road with its elongated upper tail covers moving as if it was swimming across the air. What a moment! As we enjoyed this wonderful bird in the scope a second male came and landed in an open branch allowing extended photo opportunities. Back to the hotel we enjoyed a suit and soft pineapple along with a great breakfast and later explored the forest understory where a group of about 6 Spotted Wood-Quail walked at a very close distance to us.

In the following morning, we visited the Forest garden. In this property, we enjoyed views of various tanagers, an astonishing Red-headed Barbet, the small and well-dressed Elegant Euphonia and 6 species of hummingbirds. An additional bonus was to see the diminutive Singing Mouse. Running between bunches of plants After leaving the hotel we paid a second stop to the quetzal site and enjoyed views of 2 males. Later, we explored the montane wet forest where a pair of Black-cheeked Warbler offered a nice show whilst the secretive Zeledonia was observed only by few of us. As we descended Cerro de la Muerte road we headed north, towards the Caribbean lowlands. This

change offered a contrast in temperature and humidity and allowed us to see Snowcap foraging in the vervain garden along with other hummingbird species. The day ended with views of 15+ Scarlet Macaw perched on a tree contiguous to the road. During the checklist session, we could not stop calling favorite birds and the one's that everyone agreed were the quetzal, the snowcap and the macaws.

In the lowlands we offered a varied

21 june Tapir, sunbittern and 2 sp owl

22 june Sloth, Cotinga, woodpeckers, woodcreepers and parrots and macaws



Our second-of-the-year Costa Rica *relaxed & easy* tour was, once again, a great success. How different can it be when such small country hosts an amazing mix of hummingbirds, tanagers, tyrant-flycatchers, toucans and great people?

We started the tour in the Hotel Bougainvillea, a unique place with an incredible set of gardens. There, and between flowering bushes, lilies, orchids and bromeliads we discovered a pair of White-eared Ground-Sparrow. We also enjoyed many Rufous-tailed Hummingbird and grasped (for seconds) a view of the Lesson's or Blue-diademed Motmot. After breakfast we started ascending the road to the infamously named Cerro de la Muerte and the goal was to reach montane wet forest (cloud forest).

This mountain (also known as Cerro Buena Vista) is part of the Cordillera de Talamanca in the central mountain range of Costa Rica. The cloud forest of it hosts one of the largest populations of Resplendent Quetzal anywhere in Central America and you bet we got to see it well. But Cerro de la Muerte is also a glorious location to look for hummingbirds and tanagers, all easy to see at eye level. In the *Restaurante Los Colibríes* we enjoyed a delicious lunch and likewise our eyes were delighted with views of the endemic Fiery-throated Hummingbird, the Magnificent Hummingbird and the always-territorial Green Violetear. The Flame-colored Tanager showed its unique plumage as we discussed the taxonomic changes including members of this genus, the *Piranga*, which are not anymore tanagers but cardinals.

After lunch we tried to reach the road to the subparamo vegetation to look for unique avifauna but the rain prevented us for leaving the bus. So, we decided to drive towards the Caribbean slope of the mountain and visit Miriam's feeders. This happened to be a great decision as a parade of tanagers, warblers and woodpeckers showed up timely. Also, a flowering bush was a magneto for a pair of Scintillant Hummingbird and the unique White-throated Mountain-Gem. If I had to compare this day with a baseball game I would say that our first day rounded-up a great first inning as we had batted many hits and doubles.

The second day started with great expectation. From the early morning we have heard about a fruiting tree (*Persea*, relative of the avocado) that was attracting quetzals. So, everyone ate breakfast fast and we drove to a mud trail with handrails that would allow us to reach the canopy of this tree thus seeing our targets at eye level. As we were reaching the upper part of the trail I saw an emerald green movement in the tree and after scoping it we realized it was a male Resplendent Quetzal. What a view! Everyone got superb views of it but, of course, we wanted more. So we reached the observation level of the trail and from there we gave time for these quetzals to show up. After a

while we saw no one, no two, but three quetzals, which at a time perched in the open showing all its incredible feathers and elongated uppertail coverts (in one of the males). Apart from seeing quetzals we also observed three Golden-browed Chlorophonia. But, the real surprise of the morning was a Townsend's Warbler exploring the bark and mosses of the tree. This is an uncommon to rare Neotropical migrant in Costa Rica. So, to give a score on this second inning, I will have to say that we batted a grand slam today!



The third day gave us a different perspective of the cloud forest in Cerro de la Muerte. In the forest garden we had close approach with Volcano Hummingbird and the unique Long-tailed Sylky-Flycatcher, the latter being closer to waxwings than to tyrant-flycatchers. Other species seen well were Slaty Flowerpiercer, Passerini's Tanager, Yellow-thighed Finch and Sooty-capped Chlorospingus (once believed to be a tanager). Close to midday we drove back to San José and continued to the Caribbean lowlands in Sarapiquí. A stop in the Vervain Garden provided another super-exciting moment for the trip. Look at the species we saw: a male Black-crested Coquette; a male, a subadult male and a juvenile Snowcap, various males of Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer, males and females Crowned Woodnymph and the ubiquitous Rufous-tailed Hummingbird. Such mosaic of hummingbirds rounded-up a third inning with two grand slams, several hits and scored a good number of runs.

The tour continued in the lowlands and mid-elevations of the Caribbean slope of Costa Rica, with visits to La Selva Field Station, the Aerial Tram in the buffer zone of the Braulio Carrillo national park, a boat trip to the Sarapiquí and Puerto Viejo rivers and the feeders of Cope, a local artist. All of these were complemented with birds in the feeders of our lodge, La Quinta, which allowed views of Collared Aracari, Red-throated

Ant-Tanager (another species that's not a true tanager!), Passerini's Tanager and Orange-billed Sparrow. Naming birds will only add more lines to this paragraph. Instead, I have to say that innings four; five and six were packed with doubles, triples, several runs and another grand slam!



For the last full day of birding in Costa Rica (and the last inning of this imaginary game) we decided to visit another hummingbird feeder, located in the mountains of La Virgen, in Cinchonta. The site was packed with two other birding groups and we played patience to find ourselves in a suitable place to see the feeders. Such time played in our side because only after the terrace was virtually for us we noticed a parade of hummingbirds coming to the feeders. That included the endemic Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, the commonest Green-crowned Brilliant as well as Green and Long-tailed hermits. This was a day with several hits, surely more runs and rounded-up a trip with such a mosaic of colors, plumages, experiences and people, that one would be unfair to pick one as a favorite. I believe that everyone agrees that the highlight of the tour was, in all, Costa Rica, a truly magical country. I hope to see you again!

I would like to invite you to consider some of the tours I lead in this bird-rich region and other equally interesting zones, as follows:

Cuba: Birds and people-to-people.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/sets/72157643519265893/>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIRHvB1jzdl>

Birding the Panama's Canal. A relaxed and easy tour.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/sets/72157648765567967/>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgnkUxwd5kw>

The Amazon Cruise

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72157663984130953>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1b3xYG0cPSo>

2016 VENT COSTA RICA

A relaxed & easy tour

MAP OF LOCATIONS



Itinerary:

- 12 November 2016. San José, Hotel Bougainvillea.
- 13 November 2016. San José to Cerro de la Muerte.
- 14 November 2016. Cerro de la Muerte.
- 15 November 2016. Cerro de la Muerte to Sarapiquí.
- 16 November 2016. Aerial Tram, Cope's and Braulio Carrillo national park.
- 17 November 2016. La Selva Field station. Farmland in Sarapiquí.
- 18 November 2016. Boat trip Sarapiquí river and farmland in Sarapiquí.
- 19 November 2016. La Virgen road and Poás volcano road.
- 20 November 2016. Departure.

2016 VENT COSTA RICA

A relaxed & easy tour

ABBREVIATIONS FOR LOCATIONS

SJ San Jose. Hotel Bouganvillea.
CM Cerro de la Muerte, Mirador de Quetzales, Savegre.
BC Aerial tram and Braulio Carrillo national park.
SA La Selva, La Quinta and, Sarapiquí and Puerto Viejo rivers.
CI La Virgen road, Cinchona, Poás volcano and vicinity.

THE BIRDLIST

Tinamous / Tinamidae

Great Tinamou. *Tinamus major*. Heard only. SA.

Guans, Chachalacas & Curassows / Cracidae

Gray-headed Chachalaca. *Ortalis cinereiceps*. SA.
Crested Guan. *Penelope purpurascens*. SA.

New World Quail / Odontophoridae

Black-breasted Wood-Quail. *Odontophorus leucolaemus*. Heard only. CM.

Cormorants / Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant. *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*. SA.

Anhingidae / Anhinga

Anhinga. *Anhinga anhinga*. Boat trip. SA.

Hérons, Egrets and Bitterns / Ardeidae

Fasciated Tiger-Heron. *Tigrisoma fasciatum*. CI.
Bare-throated Tiger Heron. *Tigrisoma mexicanum*. SA.
Great Blue-Heron. *Ardea herodias*. SA.
Great Egret. *Ardea alba*. SA.
Snowy Egret. *Ardea thula*. SA.
Little Blue-Heron. *Egretta caerulea*. SA.
Cattle Egret. *Bubulcus ibis*. Common and widespread in lowland open areas. SA.
Green Heron. *Butorides virescens*. SA.
Boat-billed Heron. *Cochlearius cochlearius*. Cope's house. SA.

New World Vultures / Cathartidae

Black Vulture. *Coragyps atratus*. Widespread.
Turkey Vulture. *Cathartes aura*. Widespread.

Osprey – Pandionidae

OSprey. *Pandion haliaetus*. SA.

Hawks, Eagles and Kites / Accipitridae

White Hawk. *Pseudastur albicollis*. CI.

Gray Hawk. *Buteo plagiatus*. CI.

Broad-winged Hawk. *Buteo platypterus*. SA, CI.

Red-tailed Hawk. *Buteo jamaicensis*. CM.

Rail, Gallinules, Crakes and Coots / Rallidae

Russet-naped Wood-Rail (Gray-necked Wood-Rail). *Aramides alvibentris (cajanea)*. SA.

Jacanas / Jacanidae

Northern Jacana. *Jacana spinosa*. SA.

Sandpipers and allies / Scolopacidae

Spotted Sandpiper. *Actitis macularia*. SA.

Pigeons and Doves / Columbidae

Rock Pigeon (I). *Columba livia*. Common in urban areas.

Pale-vented Pigeon. *Patagioenas cayannensis*. SA.

Red-billed Pigeon. *Patagioenas flavirostris*. SJ and along roads in urban areas.

Band-tailed Pigeon. *Patagioenas fasciata*. CM.

Short-billed Pigeon. *Patagioenas nigrirostris*. SA.

Inca Dove. *Columbina inca*. SJ.

Ruddy Ground-Dove. *Columbina talpacoti*. SA (open areas).

White-tipped Dove. *Leptotila verreauxi*. SA.

White-winged Dove. *Zenaida asiatica*. SJ and roads in urban areas.

Cuckoos / Cuculidae

Squirrel Cuckoo. *Piaya cayana*. SJ, SA.

Groove-billed Ani. *Crotophaga sulcirostris*. Open areas along the road. SA.

Owls / Strigidae

Spectacled Owl. *Pulsatrix perspicillata*. A pair was seen by Lilly and Steve at around 04.30AM in the lodge! SA.

Nightjars and allies / Caprimulgidae

Pauraque. *Nyctidromus albicollis*. Unfortunately, a flash view thus seen by about half of the group. SA.

Swifts / Apodidae

White-collared Swift. *Streptoprocne zonaris*. BC.

Vaux's Swift. *Chaetura vauxi*. SJ, La Selva entrance in SA.

Gray-rumped Swift. *Chaetura cinereiventris*. La Selva in SA.

Hummingbirds / Trochilidae

Hummingbirds were originally believed to be a cross between an insect and a bird. Furthermore, as a consequence of having such impressive plumage it is not surprising that a demand started for such fantastic creatures, thus pushing a trade business that shipped hundreds of thousands of hummingbird skins into Europe. By then, there were no common names associated to the hummingbirds. So, how these birds got such beautiful names? The person to give most common English name to the hummingbirds was J. Gould on his memorable *Monograph of Trochilidae* (1849-1861). But, did you know that until the publication of his renowned monograph Gould had never seen a hummingbird alive? Only after finishing such impressive work he visited the Americas in May 1857 and saw his first living *Trochilidae*, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. In our Costa Rica tour we managed to see 27 species of hummingbirds.

White-necked Jacobin. *Florisuga mellivora*. Cope's house. SA.

Green Hermit. *Phaethornis guy*. *Phaethornis guy*. BC, CI.

Long-billed Hermit. *Phaethornis longirostris*. BC.

Stripe-throated Hermit. *Phaethornis striigularis*. BC.

Green Violetear. *Colibri thalassinus*. CM, CI.

Purple-crowned Fairy. *Heliophryx barroti*. BC.

Black-crested Coquette. *Lophornis helenae*. Excellent views of a male. BC.

Green-crowned Brilliant. *Heliodoxa jacula*. CI.

Magnificent Hummingbird. *Eugenes fulgens*. CM, CI.

Fiery-throated Hummingbird. *Panterpoe insignis*. A regional endemic. CM.

White-bellied Mountain-gem. *Lampornis hemileucus*. CM, CI.

Purple-throated Mountain-Gem. *Lampornis calolaemus*. CI.

White-throated Mountain-Gem. *Lampornis castaneiventris*. CM.

Magenta-throated Woodstar. *Calliphlox bryantae*. A regional endemic. CI.

Volcano Hummingbird. *Selasphorus flammula*. Regional endemic. CM.

Scintillant Hummingbird. *Selasphorus scintilla*. Regional endemic. CM.

Violet-headed Hummingbird. *Klais guimeti*. One individual nesting. BC.

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird. *Pheochroa cuvierii*. Eco-observatory. SA.

Violet Sabrewing. *Campylopterus hemileucurus*. CI.

Stripe-tailed Hummingbird. *Eupherusa eximia*. CI.

Coppery-headed Emerald. *Elvira cupreiceps*. Endemic to Costa Rica. Superb views!
CI.

Snowcap. *Microchera albocoronata*. Another amazing hummingbird. We enjoyed views of a male, a young male and a female. BC.

Bronze-tailed Plumeleater. *Chalybura urochrysa*. BC.

Crowned Woodnymph. *Thalurania colombica*. Vervain garden. BC.

Blue-chested Hummingbird. *Amazilia amabilis*. SA.

Steely-vented Hummingbird. *Amazilia saucerottei*. CM. road back to San Jose.

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird. *Amazilia tzacatl*. CM, BC, SA, CI.

Trogon / Trogonidae

Slaty-tailed Trogon. *Trogon clathratus*. BC.

Black-throated Trogon. *Trogon rufus*. A female. SA.

Resplendent Quetzal. *Pharomachrus mocinno*. How can we describe seeing two males flying among branches to pick a ripe little avocado-relative and then gulp it from an exposed branch right in front of you? Magical! CM.

Motmots / Momotidae

Blue-crowned Motmot. *Momotus coeruliceps*. Hotel Bouganvillea. Currently called Lesson's or Blue-diademed Motmot (*Momotus lessonii*). SJ.

Rufous Motmot. *Baryphthengus martii*. Heard only in La Selva. SA.

Broad-billed Motmot. *Electron platyrhynchum*. SA.

Kingfishers / Alcedinidae

Ringed Kingfisher. *Megaceryle torquata*. SA.

Green Kingfisher. *Chloroceryle americana*. Boat trip. SA.

Puffbirds / Bucconidae

Pied Puffbird. *Notharchus tectus*. SA.

White-fronted Nunbird. *Monasa morphoeus*. Excellent views along the Sarapiquí river. SA.

Jacamars / Galbulidae

Rufous-tailed Jacamar. *Galbula ruficauda*. La Selva. SA.

Barbets / Capitonidae

Red-headed Barbet. *Eubucco bourcierii*. Amazing views of a male in a feeding flock. CM.

Toucans / Ramphastidae

Collared Aracari. *Pteroglossus torquatus*. SA.

Keel-billed Toucan. *Ramphastos sulfuratus*. SA.

Yellow-throated (Black-mandibled) Toucan. *Ramphastos ambiguus*. BC, SA.

Woodpeckers / Picidae

Acorn Woodpecker. *Melanerpes formicivorus*. CM.

Black-cheeked Woodpecker. *Melanerpes pucherani*. SA.

Hoffman's Woodpecker. *Melanerpes hoffmannii*. SJ.

Rufous-winged Woodpecker. *Piculus simplex*. CM.

Chestnut-colored Woodpecker. *Celeus castaneus*. SA.

Lineated Woodpecker. *Dryocopus lineatus*. SA.

Pale-billed Woodpecker. *Campephilus guatemalensis*. SA.

Falcons and Caracaras / Falconidae

Crested Caracara. *Caracara cheriwayi*. SA.

Yellow-headed Caracara. *Milvago chimachima*. SA, CI.

American kestrel. *Falco sparverius*. CI.

Bat Falcon. *Falco ruficularis*. Distant views. SA.

Parrots / Psittacidae

The parrots, parakeets, macaws and parrotlets are usually associated with tropical environments and the tropics of America are one of the regions where this family radiated in a prominent way. In our short Costa Rica tour we managed to see 8 species of this distinctive family.

Sulphur-winged Parakeet. *Pyrrhura hoffmanni*. CM.

Great Green Macaw. *Ara ambiguus*. Great views of a group along the Sarapiquí river. SA.

Crimson-fronted Parakeet. *Aratinga finschi*. SJ.

Orange-chinned Parakeet. *Brotogeris jugularis*. Small groups were observed in flight and perched. La Quinta. SA.

Blue-headed Parrot. *Pionus menstruus*. CI.

White-crowned Parrot. *Pionus senilis*. BC.

Red-lored Parrot. *Amazona autumnalis*. SA.

Mealy Parrot. *Amazona farinose*. SA.

Typical Antbirds / Thamnophilidae

Fasciated Antshrike. *Cymbilaimus lineatus*. Only a distant female. SA.

Great Antshrike. *Taraba major*. A female. SA.

Black-crowned Antshrike (Western Slaty-Antshrike). *Thamnophilus atrinucha*. BC.

Dusky Antbird. *Cercomacra tyrannina*. Heard only. SA.

Chestnut-backed Antbird. *Myrmeciza exsul*. SA.

Tapaculos / Rhinocryptidae

Silvery-fronted Tapaculo. *Scytalopus argentifrons*. Superb views of an individual! CM.

Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers / Furnariidae

Plain-brown Woodcreeper. *Dendrocinchla fuliginosa*. SA.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper. *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*. Feeding flock. BC.

Cocoa Woodcreeper. *Xyphorhynchus susurrans*. La Quinta lodge. SA.

Spotted Woodcreeper. *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*. Heard only. SA.

Spot-crowned Woodcreeper. *Lepidocolaptes affinis*. CM.

Tyrant Flycatchers / Tyrannidae

Mountain Elaenia. *Elaenia frantzii*. CI.

Torrent Tyrannulet. *Serpophaga cinerea*. CM, CI.

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher. *Mionectes oleagineus*. SA.

Paltry Tyrannulet. *Zimmerius vilissimus*. Feeding flock. BC.

Common Tody-Flycatcher. *Todirostrum cinereum*. CI.

Rudy-tailed Flycatcher. *Terenotriccus erythrurus*. Distant from one gondola. BC.

Olive-sided Flycatcher. *Contopus cooperi*. Seen from one gondola. BC.

Western Wood-Pewee. *Contopus sordidulus*. SA.

Tropical Pewee. *Contopus fumigatus*. SA.

Yellowish Flycatcher. *Empidonax flavescens*. CM.

Black Phoebe. *Sayornis nigricans*. CM.

Long-tailed Tyrant. *Colonia colonus*. SA.

Bright-rumped Attila. *Attila spadiceus*. Heard only. SA.
Rufous Mourner. *Rhyptiterna holerythra*. SA.
Great-crested Flycatcher. *Myiarchus crinitus*. SA.
Great Kiskadee. *Pitangus sulphuratus*. SJ, SA, CI.
Boat-billed Flycatcher. *Megarynchus pitangua*. La Selva. CM.
Social Flycatcher. *Myiozetetes similis*. SA.
Gray-capped Flycatcher. *Myiozetetes granadensis*. Several dozens eating fruits of a *Miconia* tree. SA.
Tropical Kingbird. *Tyrannus melancholicus*. Widespread.

Becards, Tityras & Allies / Tityridae

Cinnamon Becard. *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*. SA.
Masked Tityra. *Tityra semifasciata*. SJ (heard only), SA.

Cotingas / Cotingidae

Bare-necked Umbrellabird. *Cephalopterus glabricollis*. A female. BC.

Manakins / Pipridae

White-ruffed Manakin. *Corapipo altera*. BC.
White-collared Manakin. *Manacus candei*. SA.

Vireos / Vireonidae

Yellow-winged Vireo. *Vireo carmioli*. A regional endemic. Feeding flock. CM.
Lesser Greenlet. *Hylophilus decurtatus*. SA.

Swallows / Hirundinidae

Mangrove Swallow. *Tachycineta albilinea*. SA.
Blue-and-white Swallow. *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*. SJ, CM, CI.
Southern Rough-winged Swallow. *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*. SA.
Barn Swallow. *Hirundo rustica*. SA.

Wrens / Troglodytidae

House Wren. *Troglodytes aedon*. SJ, SA.
Rufous-naped Wren. *Campylorhynchus rufinucha*. Pairs at the gardens of the Hotel Bougainvillea. SJ.
Stripe-breasted Wren. *Pheugopedius thoracicus*. SA.
Cabanis's Wren (Split from Plain Wren). *Cantorchilus modestus*. Heard only. SA.
White-breasted Wood-Wren. *Henicorhina leucosticta*. Heard only. SA.
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren. *Henicorhina leucophrys*. Heard only. CM.

Gnatcatchers / Polioptilidae

Tropical Gnatcatcher. *Polioptila plumbea*. BC.

Mockingbirds / Mimidae

Tropical Mockingbird. *Mimus gilvus*. A rare visitor to the high elevations. CM.

Thrushes and Allies / Turdidae

Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush. *Catharus gracilirostris*. CM.

Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush. *Catharus fuscater*. CI.

Sooty Thrush. *Turdus nigrescens*. CM.

Mountain Thrush. *Turdus plebejus*. CM.

Pale-vented Thrush. *Turdus obsoletus*. BC.

Clay-colored Thrush. *Turdus grayi*. Widespread.

Silky-Flycatchers / Ptilionotidae

Black-and-yellow Silky-Flycatcher. *Phainoptila melanoxantha*. CM.

Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher. *Ptilionotus caudatus*. CM.

New World Warblers / Parulidae

Golden-winged Warbler. *Vermivora chrysoptera*. BC, SA.

Black-and-white Warbler. *Mniotilta varia*. SJ.

Flame-throated Warbler. *Oreothlypis gutturalis*. Very nice studies of a pair. CM.

Tennessee Warbler. *Oreothlypis peregrina*. CM, SA (feeding in fruits of a *Miconia* tree).

Kentucky Warbler. *Geothlypis formosa*. SA.

Yellow Warbler. *Setophaga petechia*. SJ, SA.

Chestnut-sided Warbler. *Setophaga pensylvanica*. SJ, BC, SA.

Townsend's Warbler. *Setophaga townsendi*. A rare migrant in Costa Rica. Seen very well at the quetzal site. CM.

Black-throated Green-Warbler. *Setophaga virens*. Feeding flock. CM.

Rufous-capped Warbler. *Basileuterus rufifrons*. Hotel Bouganvillea. SJ.

Buff-rumped Warbler. *Myiothlypis fulvicauda*. BC.

Wilson's Warbler. *Cardellina pusilla*. CM, CI.

Collared Redstart (Whitestart). *Myioborus torquatus*. CM.

Wrenthrush. *Zeledonia coronata*. Despite much efforts, only heard due to a heavy rain. CI.

Tanagers and Allies / Thraupidae

Blue-gray Tanager. *Thraupis episcopus*. Widespread.

Palm Tanager. *Thraupis palmarum* SA.

Golden-hooded Tanager. *Tangara larvata*. SA.

Spangled-cheeked Tanager. *Tangara dowii*. A regional endemic. CM.

Emerald Tanager. *Tangara florida*. Feeding flock. BC.

Silver-throated Tanager. *Tangara icterocephala*. Feeding flock in BC. CI.

Slaty Flowerpiercer. *Diglossa plumbea*. Regional endemic. CM.

Green Honeycreeper. *Chlorophanes spiza*. SA.

Black-and-yellow Tanager. *Chrysothlypis chrysomelas*. Feeding flock, aerial tram. BC.

Blue-black Grassquit. *Volatinia jacarina*. SA.

White-shouldered Tanager. *Tachyphonus luctuosus*. Feeding flock. BC.

Tawny-crested Tanager. *Tachyphonus delatrii*. Feeding flock. BC.

Crimson-collared Tanager. *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*. SA.

Passerini's Tanager. *Ramphocelus passerinii*. SA.

Shinning Honeycreeper. *Cyanerpes lucidus*. SA.

Red-legged Honeycreeper. *Cyanerpes cyaneus*. SA.
Bananaquit. *Coereba flaveola*. SA, CI.
Variable Seedeater. *Sporophila americana (corvina)*. SA.
Buff-throated Saltator. *Saltator maximus*. SA.
Grayish Saltator. *Saltator coerulescens*. CI.

Buntings, Sparrows and Allies / Emberizidae

Yellow-thighed Finch. *Pselliophorus tibialis*. A regional endemic. CM.
Large-footed Finch. *Pezopetes capitalis*. A regional endemic. CM.
Orange-billed Sparrow. *Arremon aurantiirostris*. SA.
Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch. *Arremon brunneinucha*. CM.
White-eared Ground-Sparrow. *Melospiza leucotis*. Gardens of Hotel Bougainvillea. SJ.
Rufous-collared Sparrow. *Zonotrichia capensis*. SJ.
Common Chlorospingus. *Chlorospingus flavopectus*. Feeding flock in CM, CI.
Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager. *Chlorospingus canigularis*. CM.

Cardinals and Allies / Cardinalidae

Summer Tanager. *Piranga rubra*. SJ, CM, SA, CI.
Flame-colored Tanager. *Piranga bidentata*. CM.
Red-throated Ant-Tanager. *Habia fuscicauda*. SA.
Black-faced Grosbeak. *Caryothraustes poliogaster*. Heard only. SA.

Troupials and Allies / Icteridae

Red-winged Blackbird. *Agelaius phoeniceus*. SA.
Melodious Blackbird. *Dives dives*. SJ.
Great-tailed Grackle. *Quiscalus mexicanus*. Widespread in open areas.
Black-cowled Oriole. *Icterus prosthemelas*. SA.
Baltimore Oriole. *Icterus galbula*. SJ, CM, SA, CI.
Scarlet-rumped Cacique. *Cacicus uropygialis*. BC.
Montezuma Oropendola. *Psarocolius montezuma*. Aerial Tram in BC, SA.

Siskins, crossbill and allies / Fringillidae

Olive-backed Euphonia. *Euphonia gouldi*. SA.
Tawny-capped Euphonia. *Euphonia annae*. Feeding flock. BC.
Golden-browed Chlorophonia. *Chlorophonia callophrys*. Superb views! CM.

MAMMALS

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth. *Bradypus variegatus*. SA.
Northern Tamandua. *Tamandua mexicana*. BC.
Mantled Howler Monkey. *Alouatta palliate*. BC.
Red-tailed Squirrel. *Sciurus granatensis*. CM, SA.
Variegated Squirrel. *Sciurus variegatoides*. SJ.
Long-nosed (Proboscis) Bat. *Rhynchonycteris naso*. SA.
White-nosed Coati. *Nasua narica*. CI.
Baird's Tapir. *Tapirus bairdii*. BC. This is probably the least known of all tapirs in our continent. It was named after American naturalist Spender Fullerton Baird when

reported in Mexico, in 1843. This is the largest tapir in the Americas and the largest native land mammal in Central America. Body mass in adults can reach to 800 lb!
Singing Mouse. *Scotinomys sp.* Seen in Cerro de la Muerte. I am not sure which of the two species occur here. There's a great story about behind this little mammals protecting its territory using its voice! See more at: <http://news.co.cr/mice-in-costa-rica-protect-their-turf-by-singing/27997/>

OTHER SPECIES

Eyelash Viper. *Bothriechis schlegelli*. BC.
Common House Gecko. *Hemidactylus frenatus*. SA.
Green Iguana. *Iguana iguana*. SA.
Green Basilisk Lizard. *Basiliscus plumifrons*. SA.
Whip-tailed Lizard. *Cnemidophorus sp.* SA.
Common Anole. *Norops sp.* SA.
Casque-headed Lizard. *Corytophanes cristatus*. BC.
House Gecko. *Hemidactylus frenatus*. Widespread.
Spectacled Cayman. *Caiman crocodilus*. SA.
American Crocodile. *Crocodylus acutus*. SA.
Black River Turtle. *Rhinoclemmys funerea*. SA.
Red-eyed tree-frog. *Agalychnis callidryas*. SA.
Strawberry poison dart-frog. *Oophaga pumilio*. SA.
Green-and-black poison dart frog. *Dendrobates auratus*. SA.
Arboreal termites. SA.
Fire ants. SA.
Leaf-cutter Ant. *Atta sp.* SA.
Blue Morpho. *Morpho sp.* Widespread.
Tarantula. SA.
Cicada. BC.