

Costa Rica

Naturetrek Tour Report

28 January - 10 February 2007

Report compiled by Chris Kehoe



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour leaders: Chris Kehoe (Naturetrek)
Santiago (Birdwatch Costa Rica)
Carlos (Finca Mirador de Quetzales)
Bernal (Monteverde area)
Demetrio (Hacienda Solimar)
Luis (Selva Verde area)

Tour participants: Bernie Coffin
Vanessa Hoare
Maggie Jeavons
Margaret Jupe
Michael Jupe
Sandra Marley
Albert Percival
Hazel Percival
Sallyann Proud
Rod Pointer
Trish Pointer
Jenny Weeks

Day 0

Sunday 28th January

Outbound from UK to San Jose via Miami

Our 09.40 BA flight from Heathrow to Miami left about an hour late but it was a smooth run that included some decent views of the snowy eastern seaboard of North America and we were in no rush to sit in transit at Miami. The airport offered little to help pass the time in transit, but provided an opportunity to meet up with Rod and Trish who were already in Florida, before we caught an American Airlines flight to San Jose at just after 20.00 (local). About three hours later we arrived in Costa Rica at the scheduled time of 21.55 (local, GMT+6).

Once we had cleared immigration and collected our bags, Simon Ellis from Birdwatch Costa met us at arrivals and introduced us to our driver and guide, the excellent Santiago. At just after 23.15 we arrived at the very pleasant Hotel San Gildar in the San Jose suburbs where everyone quickly retired after the long journey and in the knowledge that we had an early start tomorrow.

Day 1

Monday 29th January

San Jose (c1000m a.s.l.); Finca Mirador de Quetzales (c2600m a.s.l.); San Gerardo Valley (c2200m a.s.l).

Weather: overcast then mostly fine and dry with intermittent low cloud and some drizzle late afternoon; warm in San Jose, fresher at higher elevations, a little breezy

Our first morning in Costa Rica dawned at 05.45 as we enjoyed coffee and sandwiches near the hotel pool. A couple of Crimson-fronted Parakeets in the half-light were followed by good views of Clay-coloured Thrushes,

Greater Kiskadees and Brown Jays in the garden and a Bat Falcon and two White-tailed Kites flew over. However, this was just a cursory birding session and we set off south into the nearby highlands soon after 06.00; the near empty roads of San Jose's suburbs allowing rapid progress. We began to ascend out of the Central Valley on the Pan American Highway, visibility varied somewhat with mizzly low cloud drifting in and out but it was reasonably bright (and dry) when we arrived at Finca Mirador de Quetzales around 07.30.

At 2600m the Finca was the highest place visited on the tour and held a range of localised upland species, indeed we saw many species today that we would not come across again. The 50m walk to the restaurant produced Sooty-capped Bush-Tanagers (which proved to be common here), Rufous-collared Sparrows and both Mountain and Sooty Thrushes. At the restaurant veranda Magnificent and Volcano Hummingbirds fed right next to us as Black-billed Nightingale-thrushes hopped about in a pasture beyond and Blue-and white Swallows wheeled around.

At 08.00 more coffee and a breakfast of rice and beans and scrambled eggs galvanised us for a walk along the nearby cloud forest trails. We went in search of various species but with a particular eye out for Resplendent Quetzals for which the Finca, as its name suggests, is renowned. Three hours later we returned Quetzal-less but having seen a fine cast of supporting characters. Almost as soon as we set off our local guide Carlos located a couple of Yellow-thighed Finches and soon after that our first-Fiery-throated Hummingbird appeared. We quickly came across a large mixed feeding flock, mainly containing exquisite Collared Redstarts but also several Black-cheeked Warblers and a couple of very localised Flame-throated Warblers and others. Ruddy Treerunners and Spot-crowned Woodcreepers were seen a couple of times and a Hairy Woodpecker showed well. Further highlights included several Black-and-yellow and Long-tailed Silky Flycatchers, Black-capped and Tufted Flycatchers, Mountain Elaenia, Slaty Flowerpiercers and several more Fiery-throated and Volcano Hummingbirds along with singing Green Violet-ears and more bossy Magnificents. A couple of scarce Large-footed Finches were near the restaurant where we enjoyed a midday lunch of baked-trout.

After a somewhat overcast morning the sky was now clearing nicely so before we left at 13.00 the Blue-and-white Swallows could be watched in full colour...and the hummers in glorious technicolor! Low cloud was still hanging about higher up so we forsook the option of a quick jaunt to the high elevation paramo habitat on Cerro de la Muerte and instead soon turned off the highway again and descended down a winding gravel road into the attractive San Gerardo Valley, reaching the valley bottom and Savegre Mountain Lodge 40 minutes later. The flowering plants, trees and hummingbird feeders at the lodge were home to a fabulous array of highland birds. Within minutes we had seen several Grey-tailed Mountain-gems and Scintillant Hummingbirds, a couple of Flame-coloured Tanagers and an Elegant Euphonia; then a Yellowish Flycatcher appeared and nearby three Acorn Woodpeckers shared a tree with dazzling male Baltimore Orioles, then behind them a small flock of Swallow-tailed Kites appeared...then, exhausted by the volume of new birds, it was time for a sit down!

We sipped drinks on the lodge patio as Scintillant Hummingbirds lived up to their name a few inches away. White-collared Swifts zoomed around with Vaux's Swifts and a pair of Red-tailed Hawks put on a good show. We began the return journey to San Jose at 15.30. Although it was sunny and warm as we left Savegre, low cloud and some drizzle soon blew in from the east, though it was bright again as we hit the heavier traffic in the Central Valley where one short jam allowed us to watch a Broad-winged Hawk sitting on a roadside wire. We arrived at the San Gildar in the half-light of dusk but with ample time to shower and change before enjoying a rather good meal at 19.30.

Day 2

Tuesday 30th January

En route to Villa Lapas via Rio Garita Reservoir, Orotina and Rio Tarcoles Bridge; Villa Lapas (<100m a.s.l); Tarcoles Estuary (<100m a.s.l)

Weather: Dry bright and sunny, rather hot and humid at Carara but pleasantly warm after dark, slight breeze

Those who woke early saw some birds in the hotel garden before breakfast at 06.30 with a Black-headed Saltator (unusual in San Jose) being the pick of the bunch. At just after 07.00 we boarded the bus for the journey to the Hotel Villa Lapas on the Pacific Coast, our base for the next two nights. There were several stops en route, first being on the roadside just west of the Central Valley where Rio Garita Reservoir was viewed below. Many Blue-winged Teals were on the water and after a little searching a few Least Grebes were found. A Masked Tityra appeared in a treetop and exotic looking Montezuma's Oropendolas were new before Santiago noticed a pair of Rufous-naped Wrens building a nest in a roadside tree. Some time was spent watching these attractive birds come and go as traffic rumbled past; also seen were Great-crested Flycatchers, a couple of Blue-grey Tanagers and Hoffman's Woodpeckers though a scarcer Blue-Grosbeak was the highlight.

A little while later we descended onto the coastal plain and arrived in the middle of the small town of Orotina. Even before we got off the bus to explore a busy little park, a Boat-billed Flycatcher was added to our list. The park is, somewhat bizarrely, a renowned site for Black-and-white Owls and we quite soon found the resident pair perched in clear views right next to one of the paths. Some of the locals came to have a look through the scope and to make sure we had also seen the 'Lazy Monkeys', a pair of Hoffman's Two-toed Sloths that were slumbering nearby. Social Flycatchers and Rose-throated Becards kept things moving along before we set off to the nearby Rio Tarcoles Bridge at 10.00. It was quite warm now so we headed for the shade and cold drinks of a small café before wandering across the bridge. A gathering of American Crocodiles drew locals and tourists alike and some had brought chicken scraps to throw to the 20 foot monsters below. Birds on the wide river included first looks at several waders and herons and a stunning Scarlet Macaw flew past and landed in a distant tree. Mangrove Swallows flew below us allowing their characteristic white rumps to be seen and our only Grey-breasted Swallow was watched.

Five minutes later we were at the Hotel Villa Lapas which is set in extensive wooded grounds beside the sedate Tarcolitas River. Everyone was issued with bracelets signifying all-inclusive status and as it was still a little early to check-in we took advantage of the free bar and sat in the garden for a while before lunch. Grey Hawk, Golden-hooded Tanagers and Chestnut-sided Warblers were some of the birds in the garden trees and Northern Waterthrush and Green Kingfisher were on the river before we settled down for a leisurely buffet lunch.

A little time was spent moving into our rooms but at 14.30 we drove for 30 minutes to the nearby Tarcoles Estuary where most of the group had opted for an extra curricular boat excursion around the Tarcoles mangroves. This was deemed a great success with masses of birds seen including several American Pygmy Kingfishers, along with more common Belted, Ringed and Green Kingfishers. Scarlet Macaws were watched at the nest, Mangrove Warblers and Vireos flitted about with Prothonotary Warblers and others in the mangroves. Bare-throated Tiger and Boat-billed Herons (and a further five heron species) fished with Ospreys, numerous Brown Pelicans and Neotropic Cormorants. Other raptors included Common ('Mangrove') Black Hawk, Crested and Yellow-headed Caracaras, Peregrine and Plumbeous Kite. Roseate Spoonbills glowed in the sunset as Magnificent Frigatebirds drifted overhead, it was an action packed three hours indeed. Those who remained

ashore explored the area inland of Tarcoles Lodge and saw some of the same species but an Orchard Oriole and, in particular, a perched Crane Hawk were the best find and the only ones seen. There was also ample time to study the waders on the shore that included 'Hudsonian' Whimbrels, Willet, Semi-palmated Plovers and Western, Semi-palmated and Least Sandpipers. As dusk approached a Lesser Nighthawk took to the air and as we returned towards Villa Lapas just after dark a Common Pauraque was flushed from the road. After such a busy, bird-filled day we hardly needed a free bar but took full advantage anyway.

Day 3

Wednesday 31st January

Carara National Park (<100m a.s.l.).

Weather: Dry and mostly sunny, hot in the middle of the day, otherwise pleasantly warm, slight breeze

Today was dedicated to exploration of the rich transitional forest at Carara NP, a few minutes drive away. As the park does not officially open until 07.00 there was time for a little birding at the Villa Lapas gardens before breakfast at 06.30 which produced a couple of Crested Guans and a Smoky-bellied Woodpecker as reward for early risers.

At Carara NP we set off along the broad 3km Oxbow Lake trail. Birds began to appear almost immediately, though sometimes elusive in the treetops, with the first major highlight being a great performance by a pair of Chestnut-mandibled Toucans in a bare tree. In deeper forest lurked Orange-billed Sparrows, Dot-winged Antwrens and Black-hooded and Barred Antshrikes among several others. A couple of Plain Xenops and Northern Bentbills were seen, as were subtle Scaly-bellied Hummingbirds and skulking Black-bellied Wrens; dazzling Blue Morpho butterflies occasionally glided by. At the oxbow a couple of Boat-billed Herons were roosting and various other waterbirds included a couple of American Purple Gallinules. Activity remained high as we slowly returned towards the bus with a particularly surprising find being a couple of female Turquoise Cotingas. Both Violaceous and Black-headed Trogons were noted and a roaming flock of Antbirds was accompanied by a Rufous-browed Peppershrike and a delightful Rufous-tailed Jacamar, the first of unusually large numbers of this species seen on the tour.

By late morning it was getting rather hot and we returned to Villa Lapas for a rest and lunch. Those with an interest in butterflies and reptiles had plenty to hold their interest with a couple of Basilisk lizards being highlights. At 15.00 most of the group returned to the Oxbow Lake trail while others chose to relax at the very pleasant hotel. In continuing bright, sunny and rather warm conditions birding was initially quite slow, at least compared to the morning, though we soon came across some Red-legged Honeycreepers and dust-bathing Rufous-breasted Wren. As the temperature began to fall, bird activity picked up with terrestrial species coming to the fore, Grey-chested Doves of the localised Pacific race showing particularly well. A shy Black-faced Antthrush was less cooperative but a pair of dust-bathing Rufous-and-white Wrens and two more Rufous-tailed Jacamars were very obliging. A small troop of White-faced Capuchins put on a good show and several Mantled Howler Monkeys and our first Coati were seen.

Day 4

Thursday 1st February

Above Villa Lapas (<100m a.s.l.); En route to Monteverde; Hotel Montana and Monteverde Hummingbird Gallery (c1400m a.s.l)

Weather: Sunny and hot then fresher and rather overcast at Monteverde where rather breezy

With breakfast at 08.15 there was time for those who wanted to drive up the road above Villa Lapas at dawn and walk down for breakfast. This gave us panoramic views of Carara NP and the Tarcoles River beyond. Good numbers of Chestnut-sided Warblers were in the roadside trees but Rufous-capped Warblers were new, as were several Western Tanagers, a Swainson's Thrush, a Blue-black Grosbeak and a couple of Buff-throated Saltators.

At 09.00 we boarded the bus for the three hour journey to Monteverde and its famous mid-elevation cloud forests. A quick leg stretch at Puntarenas and another higher in the hills, that gave panoramic views across the Pacific lowlands, produced a few birds before we watched an attractive Bat Falcon at a regular roadside site. Once at Monteverde we quickly checked-in at the scenic Hotel Montana and settled down for a lunchtime snack, somewhat distracted by Yellow-faced Grassquits and migrant warblers in the garden below.

At 15.00 we set off to the famous Hummingbird Gallery near the entrance to Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve. However, Santiago knew of a fruiting Fig Tree en route so we stopped for 30 busy minutes to enjoy views of a large gathering of stunning Golden-browed Chlorophonias and a couple of Blue-throated (Emerald) Toucanets and others tucking into the fruits. At the Hummingbird Gallery we were initially overwhelmed by the large numbers of hummers coming and going to feeders just inches away but soon settled down to enjoy the species present: huge Violet Sabrewings, mid-sized Green-crowned Brilliants and Purple-throated Mountain Gems, little Striped-tailed Hummingbirds and tiny, endemic Coppery-headed Emeralds. There was also time to browse in the gift shop or to admire a couple of Bananaquits that came and went. Back at the Montana there was just enough light left to add Blue-headed Motmot, Steely-vented Hummingbird and Chestnut-headed Oropendola to our growing list. Although we had forsaken our all-inclusive status on leaving Villa Lapas nobody seemed to notice!

Day 5

Friday 2nd February

Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve and Pig Farm Road (c1200m – 1400m a.s.l).

Weather: mostly fine and dry though with some damp low cloud in the morning, mild, light breeze increasing in afternoon

With Resplendent Quetzal a glaring omission from our list so far we visited Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve with a mix of anticipation and concern as this was our last good chance of this fabled beauty. Our guide, Bernal, seemed confident enough we'd find them and was soon pointing out numerous new birds as we strolled along a wide track through the dark interior of the forest. Ochraceous Wrens and Olive-striped Flycatchers showed well, our first Slate-throated Redstarts and Three-striped Warblers did likewise, though a Red-faced Spinetail and a few others were more fleeting. A showy pair of Prong-billed Barbets were welcome, as was a Slaty-backed Nightingale-thrush that hopped across the path before we reached a fruiting Avocado Tree where Quetzals might be attracted by the fruits.

Within a few minutes we had seen both male and female Resplendent Quetzals in the scope and over the next 40 minutes enjoyed repeated views of these and a second female as well as a Black-Guan that was sitting unobtrusively in the tree. With mission accomplished we walked slowly back to the car park with good views of Black-faced Solitaire and several others to keep us occupied. A return visit to the Hummingbird Gallery was inevitable and in addition to the species seen yesterday there were now Magenta-throated Woodstars at the feeders. A quick stop for shopping at the Casem gift shop conveniently placed us next to yesterday's fruiting Fig Tree, the Chlorophonias and others were now joined by obliging Yellow-throated Euphonias and a brief Silver-throated Tanager.

Our lunch-break at the Montana was punctuated by the appearance of Tennessee and Black-throated Green Warblers, Baltimore Orioles and House Wrens in the bushes below the veranda before we set off in bright and sunny but somewhat blustery weather for a stroll along the Pig Farm Road nearby, here a mix of pasture and woodland attracts various open country species. Blue-grey Tanagers were particularly prominent, as were Brown Jays but a Plain Wren and a group of Grey-headed Chachalacas were new and of several butterflies seen American Monarchs were highlights.

Day 6

Saturday 3rd February

Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve (c 1500m a.s.l); en route to Hacienda Solimar; Hacienda Solimar lodge and Colorado Salinas (<100m a.s.l).

Weather: dull and intermittently rainy at Santa Elena CR, otherwise dry and sunny, rather warm in the lowlands, light breeze then still

After a 06.30 breakfast we set off to Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve for a few hours before packing up and moving on to Hacienda Solimar. Bernal met us at Santa Elena with the welcome news that a male Quetzal was on view very nearby and we were soon enjoying excellent scope views of a perfect male complete with fluffy long tail (or, more accurately, tail-coverts). Hummingbird feeders attracted several of the species we had seen at Monteverde but also a rather fleeting Green Hermit. The weather was overcast and occasionally drizzly but this did not stop us seeing a foraging group of Spangle-cheeked Tanagers around the car park and a Streak-chested Treehunter behind the café. As rain began to fall more heavily the café proved too tempting and we had a cuppa and watched a very obliging Slaty-backed Nightingale-thrush hopping on the path a few feet away. Weather is so variable in the hills that it was bright and sunny back at the Montana where we quickly loaded the bus, picked up some provisions at a nearby supermarket and set off towards the lowlands of arid Guanacaste Province.

The route down to the coastal plain was just as bumpy as the one coming up but after an hour-and-a-half we were back on surfaced roads and half-an-hour later arrived at Hacienda Solimar, our base for three nights. It was rather hot so we settled down for lunch and lazed around for a while (seeing White-throated Magpie Jays and others as we did so) before setting off with Demetrio, our local guide, to the nearby small town of Colorado. En route a Double-striped Thick-kneed showed well in a roadside field but we soon arrived at Colorado Salinas, an expanse of salt pans bordering an extensive mangrove tract, where waders and terns gathered at their high tide roost.

Bird numbers were very impressive here; the rest of the afternoon was spent sifting through the masked ranks of Western, Semi-palmated, Least and Stilt Sandpipers amongst large numbers of Willets, Short-billed Dowitchers

and Red Knots and smaller numbers of Marbled Godwits and Lesser Yellowlegs. Plovers were represented by Grey, Semi-palmated and Wilson's. All-in-all there were about 1000 individuals of 16 wader species present, mostly at close range. Flocks of Gull-billed Terns wheeled around as did smaller numbers of Royal and Sandwich Terns and a superb flock of American Black Skimmers appeared. As the evening wore on a roost flight of flycatchers saw more than 50 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and almost as many Tropical Kingbirds winging their way into the mangroves to roost. A couple of Stripe-headed Sparrows showed well in a woodpile as the light began to fade and a flock of Lesser Nighthawks appeared hawking in the distance. A Common Pauraque was flushed by the bus as we returned to the Hacienda but as with the first was only seen by a few people.

Day 7

Sunday 4th February

Hacienda Solimar: Gallery Forest and Estero Madrigal wetlands (<100m a.s.l.).

Weather: Dry and sunny, rather hot and humid by late morning but cooler later, light breeze

Half an hour of light before breakfast at 06.30 gave early risers the chance to enjoy a couple of Cinnamon Hummingbirds feeding at flowers next to the pool and Demetrio showed us two roosting Pacific Screech Owls in a tree right next to some of our rooms; these became a fixture during our stay.

After breakfast a ten minute drive took us to an area of the ranch where open woodland and pasture adjoins an area of gallery forest. As soon as we descended from the bus birds came thick and fast with Tropical Gnatcatcher, Painted Bunting, Blue Grosbeak and White-collared Seedeaters prominent, especially when they gathered in a bare tree to mob a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl that Demetrio 'called-in'. A brief Long-tailed Manakin was another welcome addition to our list. Deeper in the gallery forest the birds came a little more slowly but included our first Flammulated (Bright-rumped) Attilas, Greenish Elaenias, Brown-crested and Streaked Flycatchers and Olive Sparrows. It was getting rather warm by the time we rendezvoused with Santiago at 11.30 and returned to the Hacienda for cold drinks and another fine home-cooked meal by Anna and her small staff.

At 15.00 the heat started to subside somewhat so we made our way to a shady wetland where large numbers of piscivores were congregated, including an amazing gathering of up to 50 Bare-throated Tiger Herons, Of the many other herons here a couple of Boat-billeds were seen very well. Raptors were represented by a Snail Kite and a very showy Roadside Hawk and some saw an Armadillo before we moved on. Soon after leaving the Hacienda we had chanced across a very close Jabiru on a roadside puddle with Wood Storks and Demetrio now pointed out a couple of active nests with just visible youngsters as we made our way to another marshy area of Estero Madrigal. A huge gathering of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks numbered about 4000 birds but also scattered about were several Blue-winged Teals and a couple of Muscovy Ducks, several Limpkins and others. Yellow-naped Parrots finally posed for the scope after many earlier flight views.

Day 8

Monday 5th February

Hacienda Solimar: Finca Pavones and Dry Forest (<100m a.s.l.).

Weather: fine and dry, rather hot by late morning but cooler by 15.00, light breeze

Another full day at Hacienda Solimar saw us exploring different woodland areas either side of siesta. In the morning Demetrio took us to Finca Pavones, an area of dry secondary forest which is being managed and replanted as wildlife habitat. The bus pulled up a few hundred metres short of the usual parking place when a large Boa Constrictor was spotted in a tree above the road where it took a photo call; we walked from there seeing several Grey-crowned Yellowthroats and a splendid perched Laughing Falcon before entering the woodland proper. Early highlights in the woods were a Banded Wren and a cooperative Mangrove Cuckoo but before we adjourned for a rest at 10.30 we had also seen a showy Long-tailed Manakin and another Ferruginous Pygmy Owl complete with a halo of mobbing warblers and others. The number and variety of butterflies here was particularly impressive and included a couple of huge Owl Butterflies.

Our midday break was punctuated by the appearance of a Fork-tailed Hummingbird amongst the numerous Ruby-throateds in the garden and, for those who managed to stay alert (not including the tour leader!), the spectacular sight of two Jabirus soaring overhead.

At 15.00 we were on our way to another area of nearby woodland in the hope of finding Spectacled Owl. Santiago duly located one after about 20 minutes and after manoeuvring ourselves into a position where we could see it properly we enjoyed prolonged scope views of this large and strikingly patterned species. Soon after, Demetrio called in a pair of Collared Forest-falcons, one of which showed superbly for what is often a difficult species to see well, and while looking for this a pair of White-necked Puffbirds also showed to perfection. A calling Violaceous Trogon then attracted attention and while looking for it a Common Pauraque was flushed. Santiago went off in pursuit of the Pauraque and somehow managed to track it down perched on a fallen log and we all had superb views after watching the Trogon.

It had been a particularly good afternoon's birding, rich in quality rather than quantity and we returned to the lodge in high spirits at the conclusion of a most enjoyable stay in the peaceful and varied surroundings of Hacienda Solimar.

Day 9

Tuesday 6th February

En route to Selva Verde via Lake Arenal and Tabacon (c 600m a.s.l); Selva Verde Lodge (<100m a.s.l).

Weather: fine and dry in the west, intermittently murky and damp around Arenal, overcast but bright and dry at Selva Verde.

Today was mostly a travelling day when we made our way from the dry lowlands of Guanacaste Province, across the mountains and into the moist lowlands of the Caribbean slope. A little pre-breakfast birding allowed final looks at Solimar garden birds such as Fork-tailed Emerald, Black-headed Trogons and Turquoise-browed Motmots before we said our goodbyes to Anna and Demetrio, loaded the bus and set off at 07.15.

Soon we were ascending the hills beyond Canas and Lake Arenal became visible as we went, in fact it was in view for much of the morning as we skirted its northern edge. A coffee stop broke the journey before we reached the east end of the lake where we spent 40 minutes birding along a quiet side road where a showy male Black-crested Coquette was an excellent find and another Violaceous Trogon performed well.

We ate packed lunches at the roadside nearby where a Coati relished our scraps and a Short-tailed Hawk flew over; a little rain fell and although Arenal Volcano remained mostly shrouded in cloud it did rumble occasionally. Another brief stop at Muelle allowed for use of the facilities in a café - outside, several large Green Iguanas posed at eye level in nearby trees. By 15.00 we arrived at Selva Verde lodge, our base for the final four nights of the tour. We quickly settled in and re-grouped at the riverside bar at 16.00. A speculative jaunt over the nearby suspension bridge revealed a superb Sunbittern, one of the primary targets here, while the verdant hotel garden and adjacent areas produced our first Collared Aracaris, Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Red-throated Ant Tanagers and a Green Hermit while Grey-headed Chachalacas bellowed away. At dusk Short-tailed Nighthawks appeared overhead and soon after dark a Kinkajou visited a banana-baited table near the bar; this, a Northern Raccoon and an Opossum became regular visitors in the coming days and some members of the group withstood long vigils at the bar in order to see them...

Day 10

Wednesday 7th February

Selva Verde Lodge (c100m a.s.l.).

Weather: early misty then bright, sunny and dry, quite hot early afternoon but fresher later

We awoke to a rather misty dawn after some heavy overnight rain but birds soon began to appear in the gloom and eventually resolved into identifiable shapes. Orange-billed Sparrows were new for most and Purple-crowned Fairy, Stripe-throated Hermit and Rufous-tailed Hummers were at the flowers with three species of Toucans and numerous Tanagers in the trees above. After breakfast at 07.00 our local guide Luis led us over the river into dense forest where, due to the rather late hour and bright sunshine, activity was a bit subdued, though a Rufous Motmot was good and some had glimpses of a White-collared Manakin. Back in the open areas of the hotel grounds, the bird tables attracted flocks of Blue-grey and Palm Tanagers, our first Olive-backed Euphonias and numerous other species while nearby shrubbery held Bay Wrens and Chestnut-mantled Antbirds. Red-legged and Green Honeycreepers were in the trees and Buff-rumped Warblers performed along a nearby stream. A Sunbittern gave stellar views near the bar after two had been seen flying past and a Neotropical River Otter was spotted.

At 15.00 Luis escorted us to the botanical gardens over the road where a number of good birds included Shining, Red-legged and Green Honeycreepers in close proximity, a couple of showy White-collared Manakins and new and exotically monikered hummers such as Band-tailed Barbthroat, Western Long-tailed Hermit, Red-footed Plumeleater and White-necked Jacobin.

Day 11

Thursday 8th February

Virgen De Socorro (c1100m a.s.l.); Vera's Hummingbird Restaurant (c1200m a.s.l.); Selva Verde area (<100m a.s.l.).

Weather: bright and sunny, dry, pleasantly warm but rather hot around midday

Breakfast at 05.30 allowed for an early departure on the 45 minute drive to Virgen De Socorro where a host of new species typical of mid-elevations on the Caribbean slope awaited us. New birds came regularly during the couple of hours it took us to walk the mile or so to the valley bottom, and often at eye level which was

something of a novelty. Dapper Silver-throated Tanagers were new for most and we enjoyed first (and sometimes last) looks at such stunners as Scarlet-thighed Dacnis, Bay-headed and Speckled Tanagers, Red-throated Barbets, Tropical Parulas and Violet-headed Hummingbirds. New migrant warblers included Blackburnian, Mourning and Golden-winged while a resident Golden-crowned was also new. Everyone got good looks at Red-faced Spinetail for the first time and from the bridges over the river we watched American Dippers, a Louisiana Waterthrush and Torrent Tyrannulets. Just before we left a fine Black-chested Hawk appeared over a nearby ridge.

Ten minutes later we were at Vera's Hummingbird Restaurant, teetering precariously on a steep valley side overlooking a dramatic waterfall. The well stocked feeders attracted a multitude of species, some old favourites at the hummingbird feeders were joined by Green-Thorntails, a White-bellied Mountain Gem and a Brown Violet-ear. Masses of Silver-throated Tanagers vied with Blue-grey Tanagers for the bananas provided, a Crimson-collared Tanager was new for most and Acorn Woodpecker, Blue-throated Toucanets and both Red-headed and Prong-billed Barbets added further variety as we enjoyed coffee and toasted cheese snacks – what a place!

During a tour in which the birding was often excellent this morning had been outstanding and we were almost in a state of shock when we finally dragged ourselves away from Vera's. We were back at Selva Verde in plenty of time for a rest, lunch and, for some, a little exploration of the hotel grounds where Northern Barred Woodcreeper and Rufous Mourner were highlights.

At 15.00 we drove a very short distance to an area of open farmland recommended by Luis where yet more great birds appeared. Yellow-crowned Euphonia and Plain Wren were new for most but Pale-vented Pigeon, Tropical Pewee, Northern and Southern Rough-winged Swallows, Cinnamon Becard, Cocoa Woodcreeper and Blue Dacnis were new for all and there was plenty to look at generally during our stroll along a quiet farm track.

Day 12

Friday 9th February

La Selva (<100m a.s.l.)

Weather: early mist then bright, sunny and warm/hot

Our final full day was devoted to exploration of the nearby La Selva Research Station. We arrived at the entrance road soon after 06.30. Misty conditions for the first 30 minutes or so hampered our attempts to find a calling Scarlet-rumped Cacique amongst the numerous and superficially similar Passerini's Tanagers but one eventually posed for the scope. As we slowly made our way along the approach road to the research station the mist burned-away and numerous good birds included our first Band-backed Wrens, Black-striped Sparrows and a brief Snowy Cotinga (with others were seen in flight later). Overhead, Grey-rumped and Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts showed well, as did both Red-lored and Mealy Parrots in the trees, while noisy Green Ibises strutted about in an adjacent pasture. Fruiting trees and flowering shrubs at the research station held large numbers of Passerini's Tanagers but mixed in were Ochre-bellied Flycatchers and Mistletoe Tyrannulets and our only Plain-coloured Tanagers.

After a coffee break most of the group explored the dense forest on the far side of the river with Luis for a couple of hours, a River Otter and various other tropical forest fauna and flora noted including several species of roosting bats and Poison Dart Frogs. An immature Ornate Hawk Eagle soared overhead at the research station

but activity started to wane as another day on the supposedly wet Caribbean slope turned out remarkably hot, bright and dry. We were not complaining and ate ice cream to celebrate the fine weather while watching Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds in the shrubbery.

Lunch and a siesta (or not) back at Selva Verde was followed by a return to La Selva where once again some chose to explore the denser forest with Luis while the rest concentrated on the entrance road and research station area. A couple of Central American Agoutis gave prolonged views along the entrance road as numerous Keel-billed and Chestnut-mandibled Toucans flew from tree to tree. A calling Dusky-capped Flycatcher was our first and a host of previously seen species were watched again. In the deeper forest Golden Orb Spiders were seen and just before dusk an obliging Great Tinamou made an appearance.

Days 13 and 14

Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th February

Selva Verde; En route to San Jose; En route to the UK via Miami

Weather: Dry, bright and warm

With a mid-afternoon flight to Miami we had time for some leisurely but productive birding in the lodge grounds before and after our 07.00 breakfast. Particular highlights were a Broad-billed Motmot (found the previous day by those who remained behind in the afternoon) and a Western Long-tailed Hermit but various Tanagers and Toucans, Bay Wrens, Orange-billed Sparrows and others kept us busy.

At 08.45 we boarded the bus for the 2.5 journey to the airport but stopped briefly to admire a superb pair of White Hawks in a roadside tree just beyond Vera's place and for a leg stretch and some pictures at La Paz waterfall. With mostly empty roads and no punctures we made good progress and even had time for a quick coffee stop at a plantation on the edge of the Central Valley. Simon Ellis was at the airport to meet us and to smooth over check-in procedures. We said fond farewells to Santiago who had become a good friend during the tour and commenced the journey home. A slightly delayed flight from San Jose and a relatively short transit time at the notoriously chaotic Miami International resulted in some rushing about there but we all made it onto our BA flight to Heathrow with time to spare, just. With a strong tail wind we crossed the Atlantic in about 7 hours, arrived at Heathrow an hour early at 09.45, collected our luggage and said our bleary-eyed goodbyes before dispersing to various corners of the UK.

Species lists

Birds

Taxonomy, species order and nomenclature generally follows Stiles and Skutch's *A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica*, Helm (1989) except when changes have been widely adopted. Names used by Stiles and Skutch are given when these are different from those used here, as are some other regularly used names. When known, the subspecies involved is indicated, some of these will inevitably be the subject of taxonomic adjustments in the future.

Species in square brackets are not included in the species total, either because they were not seen by any group members, were heard only, or were not fully confirmed. Species seen only by the tour leader or guides are marked (L/O) and species not seen by the leader or guides are marked (N/L)

Key for restricted ranges species:

[E]: Endemic to Costa Rica

[EBA 019]: confined to the Central American Caribbean slope Endemic Bird Area

[EBA 020]: confined to the Costa Rica and Panama highlands Endemic Bird Area

[EBA 021]: confined to the South Central American Pacific slope Endemic Bird Area

[C. Am]: confined to Central America (northern Mexico to southern Panama)

[C. Am+]: largely confined to Central America but also occurs marginally in North or South America (i.e. southern Arizona/ Texas or northern Colombia).

For more information on Endemic Bird Areas see: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/ebas/index.html>

TINAMIDAE

1 Great Tinamou *Tinamus major fuscipennis*

One was seen in the forest across the bridge at La Selva on our final evening; it or another was also heard

PODICIPEDIDAE

2 Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus brachypterus*

At least four were at Rio Garita Reservoir

PELECANIDAE

3 Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis carolinensis*

Up to 150 were around the Tarcoles Estuary with smaller numbers further up the coast near Puntarenas as we travelled towards Monteverde

PHALACROCORACIDAE

4 Neotropical Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus mexicanus* and/or *brasilianus*

Formerly Olivaceous Cormorant *P. olivaceus*

A couple at Rio Garita were followed by four at the Tarcoles Estuary and a couple at Selva Verde

ANHINGIDAE

5 Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga leucogaster*

Aka American Darter

A handful were found at the Tarcoles Estuary and Carara NP but wetlands at Hacienda Solimar held about 50

FREGATIDAE

6 Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*

Up to 20 soared around over the Tarcoles Estuary and nearby coastal sites and a couple more were over Colorado Salinas

ARDEIDAE

7 Fasciated Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum salmoni*

One, possibly two, showed rather distantly from the suspension bridge at Selva Verde on one occasion; not the easiest place to try to use a scope!

8 Bare-throated Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum*

After about six had been seen in the Carara area, an impressive gathering of up to 50 birds at Hacienda Solimar was particularly memorable; finally, an immature stalked through the botanical gardens at Selva Verde

9 Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli*

Small numbers, totalling about six, were divided between the Tarcoles Estuary and Hacienda Solimar

10 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea violacea*

Only seen at the Tarcoles Estuary when 10 were noted during the mangrove cruise

11 Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius phillipsi* and *panamensis*

Two were found at the Tarcoles Estuary, two were roosting at the oxbow at Carara NP (southern subspecies *panamensis*) and a couple more were at Hacienda Solimar (probably northern subspecies *phillipsi*)

12 'Western' Cattle Egret *Bubulcus (ibis) ibis*

Rather widespread in small numbers, usually in the vicinity of livestock but with some in most damp areas. There is an increasing trend for birds in Asia to be regarded as a separate species from those elsewhere

13 Green Heron *Butorides virescens virescens*

Formerly Green-backed (Striated) Heron *B. striatus virescens*

Small numbers, less than 20 in total, were seen at most wetlands in the west

14 Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*

The 40 or so noted were spread across a wide range of wetland sites with the largest concentration at the Tarcoles Estuary

15 Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor ruficollis*

About 10 were seen, most were at the Tarcoles Estuary but others were noted at Colorado Salinas and Hacienda Solimar

16 Snowy Egret *Egretta thula thula*

Most of the 20 or so recorded were at the Tarcoles Estuary with others at Hacienda Solimar, Colorado Salinas and Selva Verde

17 Great Egret *Ardea alba egretta*

Aka Great White Egret *Casmerodius* or *Egretta alba egretta*

The 30 or so recorded were at similar sites to the last species. Recent DNA work indicates that this species is better regarded as a white heron than a true Egret

18 Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias herodias*

About 15 were seen at similar sites to the last two species

CICONIIDAE

19 Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*

Up to 10 in the Rio Tarcoles/ Carara area were followed by over 100 at wetlands at Hacienda Solimar

20 Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria*

Three adults, and two nests containing at least three small chicks, were seen at Hacienda Solimar on our evening excursion to the wetlands there; next day two were seen soaring over the Hacienda itself. A good haul as this spectacular and declining species is not guaranteed

THRESKIORNITHIDAE

21 Green Ibis *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*

Three were feeding in damp pasture near the entrance gate at La Selva

22 White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*

20 or so at the Tarcoles Estuary and Carara were followed by eight around Hacienda Solimar

23 Roseate Spoonbill *Ajaia ajaja*

After four at the Tarcoles Estuary and Carara one was seen in flight at Hacienda Solimar

ANATIDAE

24 Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis autumnalis*

Up to 4000 formed an impressive sight at Estero Madrigal after six had been seen during the mangrove cruise at the Tarcoles Estuary

25 Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

Presumed feral birds (accompanied by dodgy-looking white domestic stock) were seen around San Jose and on Rio Garita Reservoir but eight wilder-looking individuals were at Hacienda Solimar and two more flew over La Selva

26 Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

About 100 at Rio Garita Reservoir were followed by about 20 at Estero Madrigal

CATHARTIDAE

27 Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura aura*

Quite common and widespread and found at, or over, all sites visited; marginally less common and gregarious than the next species

28 Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

Very common and widespread, many hundreds were seen

PANDIONIDAE

29 Osprey *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*

One at Rio Garita Reservoir and six over the Tarcoles Estuary were followed by another six at Hacienda Solimar

ACCIPITRIDAE

30 American Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus forficatus* or *yetapa*

Three of these stunningly elegant birds put on a good show over Savegre Mountain Lodge on our first afternoon

31 White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus majusculus*

Formerly included in Black-shouldered Kite *E. caeruleus*

Two over the Hotel San Gildar in San Jose on our first morning and one at Savegre Mountain Lodge were followed by one near Orotina and two at Hacienda Solimar. This species is expanding its range in the wake of deforestation, it was first recorded in Costa Rica as recently as the 1950's, coincident with the onset of extensive land clearances for farms and plantations

32 Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis sociabilis*

Two were found at Hacienda Solimar where one posed well for the scope

33 Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea*

One was seen from the boat on the Tarcoles Estuary

34 Crane Hawk *Geranospiza caerulescens nigra*

One showed well in woodland just north of Tarcoles Lodge

35 Black-chested Hawk *Leucopternis princeps*

Aka Barred Hawk

Singles were over Virgen De Socorro and nearby Vera's Hummingbird Restaurant

36 White Hawk *Leucopternis albicollis costaricensis*

Two perched in a roadside tree just south of Virgen De Socorro as we returned to San Jose at the end of the tour were an excellent final addition to our list

37 Common Black-Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus bangsi*

Including 'Mangrove' Black-Hawk *B. subtilis*

About six were seen in and around the Tarcoles Estuary. As these were in mangrove contexts it is tempting to assume that all were of the mangrove form *subtilis* but migrant Common Black Hawks regularly use such habitats in winter and there seems to be no safe way of distinguishing the two by appearance alone. Some authors treat 'Mangrove' Black hawk as a separate species (based on ecological differences) but others strongly dispute this

[Solitary Eagle *Harpyhaliaetus solitarius sheffleri*

A briefly seen raptor over Virgen De Socorro was suspected to be this species by Luis but it did not linger long enough to be positively identified]

38 Gray Hawk *Asturina nitida costaricensis*Formerly *Buteo nitidus*

A couple were occasionally seen in the grounds of Villa Lapas and four singles were at Hacienda Solimar. Birds of the southerly *nitida* group, including *costaricensis* are sometimes split from northerly birds and called Grey-lined Hawk A. *nitida*

39 Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris griseocauda*

One gave prolonged scope views at the first wetland site we visited at Hacienda Solimar

40 Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus platypterus*

One on roadside wires coincided with a timely traffic jam on the outskirts of San Jose and singles were subsequently seen over Selva Verde and Virgen de Socorro

41 Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus fuliginosus*

One flew over during our packed lunch stop at Tabacon near Mount Arenal

42 Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis costaricensis*

A displaying pair performed well over Savegre Mountain Lodge

43 Ornate Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus ornatus*

An immature bird showed rather distantly over La Selva

FALCONIDAE

44 'Northern' Crested Caracara *Polyborus plancus* (cheriway group)

Four in the Carara area were followed by singles when en route to Monteverde, at Hacienda Solimar and en route to Virgen De Socorro. Some authors regard northern populations as a separate polytypic species (*P. cheriway*) from birds found further south in South America. Conversely, others regard Crested Caracara as a very widespread monotypic species!

45 Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima cordata*

Up to half-a-dozen were found between the Tarcoles Bridge and the sea. This is a recent invader from Panama into the Pacific lowlands in the wake of deforestation.

46 Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans cachinnans*

One showed superbly in the scope at Finca Pavones, Hacienda Solimar and another was heard distantly at La Selva

47 Collared Forest-Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus naso*

Demetrio managed to call-in and track down two birds, one of which showed very well in the scope, at Hacienda Solimar

48 Bat Falcon *Falco rufigularis petoensis*

Singles in flight over the San Gildar Hotel and Savegre Mountain Lodge were followed by a perched bird at a traditional site as we approached Monteverde

49 Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus anatum*

A winter migrant at the Tarcoles Estuary was followed by another, a juvenile, in open country just east of Selva Verde

CRACIDAE

50 Gray-headed Chachalaca *Ortalis cinereiceps*

Flocks containing up to 10 birds were along the 'Pig Farm' road at Monteverde, nearby Hotel Montana and Selva Verde, at the latter they were easily seen around the bird tables

51 Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens aequatorialis*

Two were seen briefly at Villa Lapas around dawn (N/L)

52 Black Guan *Chamaepetes unicolor*

One showed reasonably well in a large avocado tree while we were watching Quetzals at Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve

ARAMIDAE

53 Limpkin *Aramus guarauna dolosus*

About six were seen in and around Estero Madrigal at Hacienda Solimar

RALLIDAE

54 American Purple Gallinule *Porphyryla martinica*

A handful at the Tarcoles Estuary were followed by a couple on the oxbow at Carara NP and two at the roadside near Selva Verde

EURYPYGIDAE

55 Sunbittern *Eurypyga helias major*

Singles (perhaps the same bird) were seen very well at Selva Verde on three occasions and two together were seen more briefly in flight there. This is always very high on the list of hoped-for but not guaranteed species in Costa Rica so we were privileged to see it repeatedly and very well, even stretching to reveal the dramatic wing pattern at times

JACANIDAE

56 Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa spinosa* [C. Am+]

Over 20 in the Carara area were eclipsed by about 60 at Estero Madrigal at Hacienda Solimar; a handful of others were scattered about

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

57 Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*

The largest gathering was of about 30 birds at Colorado Salinas with smaller numbers on the Rio Tarcoles and a couple of other sites. Most authors now regard this as a separate species from Old World Black-winged Stilt *H. himantopus*

BURHINIDAE

58 Double-striped Thick-Knee *Burhinus bistriatus bistriatus*

Two seen during the mangrove cruise at the Tarcoles Estuary were followed by one beside the approach road to Hacienda Solimar

CHARADRIIDAE

59 Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola cynosurae*

Aka Black-bellied Plover

Four at the Tarcoles Estuary were followed by about 10 in the large wader roosts at Colorado Salinas

60 Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*

20 or so at the Tarcoles Estuary were followed by about ten at Colorado Salinas and a couple at Estero Madrigal

61 Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia beldingi*

Two were found at Colorado Salinas

62 Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus vociferus*

A couple near Estero Madrigal, Hacienda Solimar were the only ones seen

SCOLOPACIDAE

63 Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa fedoa*

Up to 30 gathered with other shorebirds at the excellent Colorado Salinas

64 Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*

Twenty or more at the Tarcoles Estuary were followed by over 100 at Colorado Salinas. Dark-rumped American birds are sometimes regarded as specifically distinct from Old World populations and called Hudsonian Whimbrel *N. hudsonicus*

65 Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

At least 10 were at Colorado Salinas

66 Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*

Ten at the Tarcoles Estuary and a couple near Puntarenas were followed by at least 50 at Colorado Salinas

67 Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*

The most widespread wader species seen with most wetlands of any size holding at least a couple; in total over 50 were recorded

68 Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres interpres*

About 20 at the Tarcoles Estuary were followed by 50 or so at Colorado Salinas

69 Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*

About 100 roosting Dowitchers at Colorado Salinas were assumed to be mostly or wholly this species which is the only commonly occurring Dowitcher species in Costa Rica. None showed extremely long bills, a few showed noticeably short bills and no Long-billed Dowitcher calls were heard

70 Red Knot *Calidris canutus rufa*

Aka Knot

At least 50 were roosting with Dowitchers at Colorado Salinas

71 Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*

About 30 at the Tarcoles Estuary were eclipsed by 200 or more at Colorado Salinas. At least 500 mixed Semi-palmated and Western Sandpipers were present at the latter site, a third of these were obviously Western based on bill dimensions and a proportion of the intermediate-billed birds will also have been.

72 Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*

About a third of the assembled dark-legged small waders roosting at Colorado Salinas showed noticeably short and stout bills and were consequently this species. Just a couple were at Tarcoles

73 Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*

These heavily patterned, pale-legged midgets kept themselves to themselves more than the above two species, about 20 at Tarcoles were followed by about 50 at Colorado Salinas with a few elsewhere.

74 Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus*

At least 10 were at Colorado Salinas

LARIDAE

75 Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla megalopterus*

Twenty at the Tarcoles Estuary were followed by about 150 near Puntarenas and 300 at Colorado Salinas

76 Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica vanrossemi*

At least 50 flew in to roost at Colorado Salinas

77 Royal Tern *Sterna maxima maxima*

Ten at the Tarcoles Estuary and two near Puntarenas were followed by about 20 at Colorado Salinas

78 Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis acufflavida*

One was near Puntarenas and about 10 at Colorado Salinas

RYNCHOPIDAE

79 Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger niger*

A fabulous flock of about 100 birds swooped into Colorado Salinas where they gave grandstand views

COLUMBIDAE

Note: several former members of the genus *Columba* have now been re-designated as *Patagioenas*

[Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Some]

80 Scaled Pigeon *Columba speciosa*

Two flew over at La Selva

81 Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata crissalis*

Up to 20 were found in the highlands at Finca Mirador de Quetzales and Savegre Mountain Lodge

82 Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*

One showed well alongside Red-billed Pigeons just east of Selva Verde

83 Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris* [C. Am+]

A couple at the hotel San Gildar in San Jose were followed by regular sightings at Monteverde and in the Caribbean lowlands

[Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea*

Heard distantly but not seen at Finca Mirador de Quetzales]

84 Short-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas nigrirostris* [C. Am+]

After several had been heard at various lowland wooded sites this species finally showed itself at La Selva when a calling bird perched in full view

85 Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura turturilla*

A couple of flocks were seen in the suburbs of San Jose

86 White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica australis*

Most of the 15 or so seen were in and around San Jose with just a few singles elsewhere

87 Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerina neglecta*

Only found in the arid areas around Hacienda Solimar where four were certainly recorded and others may have been overlooked

88 Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti rufipennis*

Over 100 were seen at widespread sites and many of the unidentified Ground-doves noted were presumably also this species. Absent at higher elevations and scarce in the arid northwest

89 Inca Dove *Columbina inca* [C. Am+]

Up to 10 per day were noted around the Carara area and Hacienda Solimar but not elsewhere

[Blue Ground-Dove *Claravis pretiosa*

Heard but not seen at La Selva]

90 White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi verreauxi*

A handful at Villa Lapas were followed by about a dozen at Hacienda Solimar and six at Selva Verde and La Selva

91 Gray-chested Dove *Leptotila cassinii rufinucha* and *cerviniventris* [C. Am+]

Four birds of the distinctive (and near-endemic) race *rufinucha* (Rufous-naped Dove if split) were seen at Carara NP and about six of the duller-headed race *cerviniventris* were at La Selva and Selva Verde.

PSITTACIDAE

Note: members of the genus *Aratinga* are sometimes referred to as Conures rather than Parakeets and members of the genus *Amazona* are often known as Amazons. In addition to those listed below several unidentified Parrots and Parakeets were seen in flight at most sites

92 Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao macao*

We enjoyed many good sightings of flying and perched birds in the Carara area. At least 20 were seen and included birds watched attending a nest during the mangrove cruise on the Tarcoles Estuary

[Great Green Macaw *Ara ambigua ambigua*

Heard distantly but not seen at La Selva]

93 Crimson-fronted Parakeet *Aratinga finschi* [C. Am]

Twos were at Hotel San Gildar and in flight at Rio Garita Reservoir and two more flew over at Selva Verde. This is a common and increasing species in deforested areas but we visited relatively few such areas

94 Orange-fronted Parakeet *Aratinga canicularis canicularis* [C. Am]

A busy flock of over 50 birds were seen in flight at Carara on several occasions but never settled in view

95 Orange-chinned Parakeet *Brotogeris jugularis jugularis* [C. Am+]

Four in the Carara area were followed by regular encounters at Hacienda Solimar and the Selva Verde area

96 White-crowned Parrot *Pionus senilis rubigularis*

Only seen at and around Selva Verde where at least eight were seen and a couple posed for the scope

97 White-fronted Parrot *Amazona albifrons nana*

A total of eight were recorded at Hacienda Solimar but all were in flight

98 Red-Lored Parrot *Amazona autumnalis salvini*

After the first was positively identified at Hotel Montana, Monteverde this species proved quite common at La Selva in particular where up to 10 showed well

99 Yellow-naped Parrot *Amazona auropalliata auropalliata* [C. Am]

After a couple were seen around Carara this species was quite frequent at Hacienda Solimar where several of the 20 or so recorded gave good perched views

100 Mealy Parrot *Amazona farinosa virenticeps*

After one was heard at Carara and another glimpsed at Monteverde this became a regular sight at and around Selva Verde and La Selva with over 15 being seen

CUCULIDAE

101 Mangrove Cuckoo *Coccyzus minor* [C. Am+]
One gave prolonged scope views at Finca Pavones, Hacienda Solimar

102 Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana thermophila*
Almost 20 were seen at a wide range of sites

[Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia*
Heard distantly, but not seen, at a few lowland sites on both slopes]

103 Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*
Common in the lowlands of the Pacific slope and in the dry northwest, where over 100 were recorded, but very scarce on the Caribbean slope. It is conceivable that we overlooked some Smooth-billed Anis *Crotophaga ani* around Carara but the opportunity hardly arose to check each Ani carefully and all of those looked at closely were clearly *sulcirostris*

STRIGIDAE

104 Pacific Screech-Owl *Megascops cooperi cooperi* [C. Am]
Aka *Otus cooperi*
A pair roosted next to the Hacienda at Solimar each day and gave excellent views

105 Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata saturata*
A roosting bird eventually showed very well at Hacienda Solimar, at least once it had decided to turn and face us

106 Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum ridgwayi*
Two were whistled-in by Demetrio at Hacienda Solimar for good views; one was near the gallery forest and the other at Finca Pavones. There is some disagreement about Pygmy Owl taxonomy, many authors prefer to keep *ridgwayi* in the widespread Ferruginous Pygmy Owl but others split it as Ridgway's Pygmy Owl which would be virtually confined to Central America

107 Black-and-white Owl *Ciccaba nigrolineata*
The regular and much appreciated pair that inhabit the tiny town centre park at Orotina showed very well; another was heard at Hacienda Solimar

CAPRIMULGIDAE

108 Short-tailed Nighthawk *Lurocalis semitorquatus noctivagus*
At Selva Verde up to four appeared hawking over the river and garden trees at dusk

109 Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis littoralis*
One or two at dusk at the Tarcoles Estuary were followed by about 10 hawking over mangroves near Colorado Salinas. None were particularly close but this should be the only long-tailed Nighthawk species in Costa Rica between November and late-March, or at least the only one in flocks then

110 Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis intercedens*
Birds were flushed by the bus at Tarcoles and Hacienda Solimar but one tracked down at roost at the latter site gave fabulous views. Many were calling behind Hotel Montana, Monteverde and one was glimpsed there at dusk

APODIDAE

Note: several distant swifts remained unidentified, this was partly a product of the fine weather which meant many were flying very high

111 White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris bouchelli*
Up to 20 in the San Gerardo Valley were flying over ridges above Savegre Mountain Lodge

112 Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi richmondi*
Over 40 flew through the San Gerardo Valley during our short time there

113 Costa Rican Swift *Chaetura fumosa* [EBA 021]
Formerly included in Band-rumped Swift *C. spinicauda*
A handful of pale-rumped *Chaetura* Swifts over Villa Lapas must, based on location, be assumed to be this recently split and rather localised species

114 Gray-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris phaeopygos*
A handful over Selva Verde were followed by about 20 at La Selva

115 Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift *Panyptila cayennensis cayennensis*

One was glimpsed during our lunch stop at Tabacon but a couple gave extended views at La Selva

TROCHILIDAE

116 Band-tailed Barbthroat *Threnetes ruckeri ventosus*

One was seen at the botanical gardens opposite Selva Verde (N/L)

117 Western Long-tailed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris cephalus*

Formerly Long-tailed Hermit *P. superciliosus*

Singles were in the botanical gardens opposite Selva Verde and in the Selva Verde garden itself on our last morning. Long-tailed Hermit has been split into Western and Eastern species, the latter (*P. superciliosus*) occurs only in South America

118 Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy coruscus*

A fleetingly seen bird at Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve was followed by prolonged views of singles at Selva Verde and especially Vera's Hummingbird Restaurant where one fed just inches away

119 Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis saturatus* [C. Am+]

Formerly included in Little Hermit *P. longuemareus*

Singles were seen on three occasions at Selva Verde

120 Scaly-breasted Hummingbird *Campylopterus curvierii maculicauda* [C. Am+]

Only seen at Carara NP and nearby Villa Lapas where four were noted

121 Violet Sabrewing *Campylopterus hemileucurus mellitus* [C. Am]

Up to 10 of these impressively large and colourful hummers were at the Hummingbird Gallery at Monteverde with smaller numbers at Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve and Vera's Hummingbird Restaurant

122 White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora mellivora*

Singles put in brief appearances at Selva Verde and La Selva

123 Brown Violet-ear *Colibri delphinae*

At least one was seen at Vera's Hummingbird Restaurant

124 Green Violet-ear *Colibri thalassinus*

Fifteen attended feeders at Savegre Mountain Lodge but thereafter just a couple were seen at Monteverde

125 Green-breasted Mango *Anthracothorax prevostii gracilirostris*

Two in the Tarcoles mangroves were followed by one near the gallery forest at Hacienda Solimar

126 Violet-headed Hummingbird *Klais guimeti merrittii*

One appeared briefly at Virgen de Socorro

127 Black-crested Coquette *Lophornis helenae* [C. Am]

A male gave prolonged scope views as it returned to a favoured perch next to the road near Tabacon

128 Green Thorntail *Discosura conversii*

Two or more males visited the feeders at Vera's Hummingbird Restaurant

129 Fork-tailed Emerald *Chlorostilbon canivetti salvini* [C. Am]

One or more appeared occasionally at the garden flowers at Hacienda Solimar

130 Violet-crowned Woodnymph *Thalurania colombica venusta* [C. Am+]

Aka Crowned Woodnymph and Purple Crowned Woodnymph

Two females at Selva Verde were followed by a lovely male at Virgen De Socorro

131 Fiery-throated Hummingbird *Panterpe insignis insignis* [EBA 020]

Up to eight were found along the trails at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

[Mangrove Hummingbird *Amazilia boucardi* [E]

This notoriously elusive species was heard and glimpsed at the Tarcoles Estuary by Santiago and the boatman but not seen by any group members]

132 Steely-vented Hummingbird *Amazilia saucerrottei hoffmanni*

One at Villa Lapas was followed by one at Hotel Montana, Monteverde and two around Hacienda Solimar. Some authors think that Central American birds should be regarded as a separate species from populations in South America; the name Blue-vented Hummingbird *A. sophiae* has been proposed

133 Cinnamon Hummingbird *Amazilia rutila corallirostris* [C. Am]

At least two visited the flowers around the garden at Hacienda Solimar, though only in the early mornings

134 Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl tzacatl*

After a couple of singles on the Pacific slope this species proved to be quite common on the Caribbean slope with up to 10 per day recorded at Selva Verde and La Selva

135 Striped-tailed Hummingbird *Eupherusa eximia* [C. Am]

Only found at the Monteverde Hummingbird Gallery where up to six appeared at the feeders

136 Coppery-headed Emerald *Elvira cupreiceps* [E]

Up to six at the Hummingbird Gallery at Monteverde were followed by a couple more at Vera's Hummingbird Restaurant

137 Red-footed Plumeleteer *Chalybura urochrysis melanorrhoea*

Two territorial birds at the botanical gardens opposite Selva Verde eventually turned around to show us their little red feet. Although some authors name this species Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer that is not really appropriate in a Costa Rican context as the local subspecies *melanorrhoea* doesn't have a bronze tail

138 White-bellied Mountain-gem *Lampornis hemileucus* [EBA 020]

A female put in a couple of brief appearances at the feeders at Vera's Hummingbird Restaurant. This was new species, and just reward, for hard-working Luis

139 Purple-throated Mountain-gem *Lampornis calolaema* [C. Am]

Up to 10 were at Monteverde Hummingbird Gallery on each visit with a similar number at Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve

140 Gray-tailed Mountain-gem *Lampornis cinereicauda* [E]

Only seen at Savegre Mountain Lodge where up to ten gathered at the feeders and flowering shrubs. Some naughty authors regard all of the Mountain-gems as members of one species which they name Variable Mountain-gem *L. castaneiventris*

141 Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula henryi*

Up to 20 at Monteverde Hummingbird Gallery and Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve were followed by about 10 at Virgen de Socorro

142 Magnificent Hummingbird *Eugenes (fulgens) spectabilis* [C. Am (+)]

At least six were at Finca Mirador de Quetzales. Birds from northern Central America (and marginally the southern USA) are now often split as Rivoli's Hummingbird but retain the original scientific name *fulgens* so that Magnificent then becomes *E. spectabilis* and confined to Central America

143 Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliodytes barroti*

One showed well to some of the group at Selva Verde on one morning only

144 Magenta-throated Woodstar *Calliphlox bryantae* [EBA 020]

At least two were at the Hummingbird Gallery at Monteverde during our second visit there

145 Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*

At least ten, possibly twice that many, visited the flowers around the garden at Hacienda Solimar with another 10 elsewhere in the area. Very few were adult males

146 Scintillant Hummingbird *Selasphorus scintilla* [EBA 020]

Up to ten at flowering shrubs and feeders at Savegre Mountain Lodge included at least three dazzling males

147 Volcano Hummingbird *Selasphorus flammula torridus* [EBA 020]

Only seen at Finca Mirador de Quetzales where six were noted; most were females

TROGONIDAE

148 Resplendent Quetzal *Pharomachrus mocinno costaricensis* [C. Am]

Rather surprisingly we failed to connect with this dramatic species at Finca Mirador de Quetzales but three at Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve and a particularly obliging male at Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve more than made up for that; phew!

149 Slaty-tailed Trogon *Trogon massena hoffmanni*

At least one pair were resident in the grounds at Selva Verde and showed very well at times

150 Black-headed Trogon *Trogon melanocephalus* [C. Am]

After one at Carara NP this species proved to be rather common at Hacienda Solimar where up to ten gathered in a fruiting tree near the lodge and several others were seen scattered about

151 Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus tenellus*
A pair, the female scoped and the male more fleeting, were opposite Selva Verde

152 'Northern' Violaceous Trogon *Trogon violaceus concinnus*
Two at Carara NP preceded one at Hacienda Solimar and another near Tabacon. Some recent authors split northern populations from those further south in South America

ALCEDINIDAE

153 Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*
Formerly *Ceryle torquata*
A couple at Tarcoles/ Carara were followed one or two at Hacienda Solimar and up to three around Selva Verde

154 Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*
Formerly *Ceryle alcyon*
Singles were seen twice near Carara and another was at Selva Verde

155 Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*
Up to six at around Carara were followed by up to five at Selva Verde

156 Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana septentrionalis*
After eight at near Carara a further six were divided between Hacienda Solimar and Selva Verde

157 American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea aenea*
The high total of four were found during the boat trip through the Tarcoles Mangroves where this is one of the star attractions

MOMOTIDAE

158 Broad-billed Motmot *Electron platyrhynchum minor*
One showed well in riverside trees at Selva Verde on successive days

159 Turquoise-browed Motmot *Eumomota superciliosa australis* [C. Am]
After the first at the Tarcoles Estuary this stunning species became quite a regular sight in the coming days with a couple at Monteverde and up to four per day around Hacienda Solimar. However, none were found on the Caribbean slope

160 Rufous Motmot *Baryphthengus martii semirufus*
One was seen over the river at Selva Verde

161 Blue-crowned Motmot *Momotus momota lessonii*
Up to four were noted at Monteverde, mostly in the grounds of the Hotel Montana

GALBULIDAE

162 Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda melanogenia*
Up to six at Carara NP and two at La Selva represented a good haul of this stunning but easy to miss species

BUCCONIDAE

163 White-necked Puffbird *Bucco macrorhynchus hyperrhynchus*
Two posed on an exposed branch for ages at Hacienda Solimar while we were watching a Collared Forest Falcon there

164 White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis fuliginosa*
One showed briefly at Carara NP, unfortunately it flew just as the scope was trained on it

RAMPHASTIDAE

165 Red-headed Barbet *Eubucco bourcierii salvini*
A couple of superb males at Virgen De Socorro were followed by a showy pair or two at Vera's Hummingbird Restaurant, the females just as striking in their own way

166 Prong-billed Barbet *Semnornis frantzii* [EBA 020]
A couple at Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve were followed by a pair at the bird tables at Vera's Hummingbird Restaurant

167 'Blue-throated' Emerald Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus (prasinus) caeruleogularis*

Up to 10 at Monteverde were followed by a couple at Vera's Hummingbird Restaurant. Opinion is divided about whether Emerald Toucanet should be split into several species or not; if split, blue-throated caeruleogularis would become a species confined to EBA 020

168 Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus torquatus*

Up to eight were regularly to be found in the grounds of Selva Verde lodge; yet another stunning species

169 Keel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos sulfuratus brevicarinatus*

One as we approached Monteverde and a couple along the Pig Farm Road there preceded good numbers around Selva Verde and La Selva where at least 14 were recorded

170 Chestnut-mandibled Toucan *Ramphastos swainsonii* [C. Am+]

After the first two showed brilliantly well at Carara NP about 15 were seen at Selva Verde and La Selva

PICIDAE

171 Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus striatipectus*

Three at Savegre Mountain Lodge were followed by one at Vera's Hummingbird Restaurant

172 Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani*

In total eight were seen on the Caribbean slope at Selva Verde and La Selva

173 Hoffmann's Woodpecker *Melanerpes hoffmannii* [C. Am]

Only seen on the Pacific slope where it was quite common at Carara, Monteverde and Hacienda Solimar, over 30 were recorded

174 Hairy Woodpecker *Picoides villosus sanctorum*

Two were at Finca Mirador de Quetzales and one at Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve

175 Smoky-brown Woodpecker *Veniliornis fumigatus sanguinolentus*

Two briefly at Villa Lapas one early morning were followed by a similarly brief bird at La Selva

176 Rufous-winged Woodpecker *Piculus simplex* [C. Am]

Two were seen in rather misty conditions at La Selva early in the morning

177 Pale-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus guatemalensis guatemalensis* [C. Am]

One at Villa Lapas (with others heard at Carara NP) was followed by two that showed very well at Selva Verde

DENDROCOLAPTIDAE

Several Woodcreepers remained unidentified due to the brevity of views or dark viewing conditions in the forest interior

[Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus sylvioides*

Heard but not seen at Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve]

178 Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus sublestus*

One was noted at La Selva

179 Northern Barred Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae sanctithomae*

Formerly included in Barred Woodcreeper *D. certhia*

One or two were seen near the swimming pool at Selva Verde on a couple of occasions. Taxonomic revision means that Central American birds are now usually regarded as a separate species from birds from further south in South America

180 Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans costaricensis*

Formerly included in Buff-throated Woodcreeper *X. guttatus*

A calling bird was watched foraging in open farmland habitat just east of Selva Verde, a couple of others were heard on the Caribbean slope

181 Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii compressus*

Four at Carara NP were followed by a similar number at and around Selva Verde, others were heard

182 Spot-crowned Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes affinis neglectus*

This highland equivalent of the last species was seen at Finca Mirador de Quetzales and Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve, others were heard

FURNARIIDAE

183 Red-faced Spinetail *Cranioleuca erythroptus rufigenis*

A rather brief individual at Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve was followed by a much more obliging individual at Virgen de Socorro

184 Ruddy Treerunner *Margarornis rubiginosus rubiginosus* [EBA 020]
Three at Finca Mirador de Quetzales were followed by four at Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve

[Lineated Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla subalaris lineata*
Heard but not seen at Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve]

185 Streak-breasted Treehunter *Thripadectes rufobrunneus* [EBA 020]
A vocal individual showed on a couple of occasions at Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve

186 Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus ridgwayi*
Up to three were noted at Carara NP during our morning visit there

THAMNOPHILIDAE

187 Fasciated Antshrike *Cymbilaimus lineatus fasciatus*
Only seen at the La Selva entrance road where a pair performed nicely
188 Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus pacificus* and *intermedius*
Two at Carara NP and six at Hacienda Solimar belonged to the Pacific slope race *pacificus* and two on the Caribbean slope near Selva Verde were of the race *intermedius*

189 Black-hooded Antshrike *Thamnophilus bridgesi* [EBA 021]
At least eight were at Carara NP and another was at nearby Villa Lapas

190 Western Slaty Antshrike *Thamnophilus atrinucha atrinucha* [C. Am+]
Formerly included in Slaty Antshrike *T. punctatus*
One was with a mixed feeding flock at Carara NP

191 Dot-winged Antwren *Microrhophias quixensis virgatus*
Up to six were seen at Carara NP

192 Dusky Antbird *Cercomacra tyrannina crepera*
A couple were noted at Carara NP

193 Chestnut-backed Antbird *Myrmeciza exsul occidentalis*
A couple at Carara NP were followed by regular encounters with small numbers in the grounds at Selva Verde

FORMICARIIDAE

194 Black-faced Antthrush *Formicarius analis* probably *umbrosus*
One showed to some of the group at Carara NP in the evening as it strutted through the leaf litter like a forest rail

[Streak-chested Antpitta *Hyllopezus perspicillatus*
Aka Spectacled Antpitta
One was along the trails at Villa Lapas (L/O)]

RHINOCRYPTIDAE

[Silvery-fronted Tapaculo *Scytalopus argentifrons argentifrons* [EBA 020]
Heard but not seen on a couple of occasions at Finca Mirador de Quetzales and Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve]

TITYRIDAE

[Barred Becard Pachyramphus *versicolor costaricensis*
Heard but not seen at Finca Mirador de Quetzales]

195 Cinnamon Becard Pachyramphus *cinnamomeus fulvidior*
One showed well near Selva Verde

196 White-winged Becard Pachyramphus *polychopterus similis*
One at Villa Lapas was followed by a couple in the gallery forest at Hacienda Solimar

197 Rose-throated Becard Pachyramphus *aglaiae latirostris* [C. Am+]
After a couple in Orotina park one was at the Tarcoles Estuary and a total of eight were recorded at sites around Hacienda Solimar; birds of the local race *latirostris* lack a rosy throat

198 Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata costaricensis*

One at Rio Garita Reservoir was followed by five at Villa Lapas, a couple at Monteverde and five in the Caribbean lowlands around Selva Verde

199 Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor fraserii*

Two or three were seen at and near Selva Verde

COTINGIDAE

200 Turquoise Cotinga *Cotinga ridgwayi* [EBA 021]

Two females gave prolonged views near the oxbow at Carara NP, although a notable rarity in their own right it still would have been nice to see a male!

201 Snowy Cotinga *Carpodectes nitidus* [EBA 019]

A male seen briefly in a large bare tree at La Selva was followed by a couple more in flight there

PIPRIDAE

202 Red-capped Manakin *Pipra mentalis mentalis*

A male or two and several females were occasionally to be found around Selva Verde lodge

203 Long-tailed Manakin *Chiroxiphia linearis fastuosa* [C. Am]

Single males were seen on two occasions at Hacienda Solimar

204 White-ruffed Manakin *Corapipo altera altera*

Formerly *C. leucorrhoea*

A male was seen briefly at Virgen de Socorro

205 White-collared Manakin *Manacus manacus candei* [C. Am]

At least three males and twice that number of females were noted at Selva Verde and La Selva, others were heard 'wing-snapping'

TYRANNIDAE

Note: A total of six unidentified (and unidentifiable) migrant *Empidonax* flycatchers were noted at various sites, some looked like Least Flycatchers *E. minimus* and one like Yellow-bellied *E. flaviventris* but identification of non-singing migrant *Empidonax* is a major problem, even when a long-time can be devoted to studying one individual

206 Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans amnicola*

A distant bird on the river at Selva Verde was followed by two or three more obliging individuals at Virgen de Socorro

207 Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus leuconota*

We stopped to admire one on the roadside just west of Tabacon

208 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*

At least 50, probably closer to 100, flew over to roost in mangroves at Colorado Salinas

209 Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus satrapa*

Very common and widespread away from the highest elevations, one of the most frequently seen species, often on roadside wires as we travelled

210 Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus*

One was seen rather briefly and distantly in the botanical gardens opposite Selva Verde

211 White-ringed Flycatcher *Conopias albovittata distinctus*

Aka *Coryphotriccus albovittatus* and *Conopias parva*

Two or three were calling and flycatching from the top of a mist strewn tree early in the morning at La Selva

212 Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarhynchus pitangua mexicanus*

Small numbers were seen at a range of lowland sites on both slopes after the first at Orotina; in total about 20 were noted

213 Flammulated Attila *Attila flammulatus*

Formerly part of Bright-rumped Attila *A. spadiceus*

After a couple in the gallery forest at Hacienda Solimar this species was seen with some regularity in the grounds at Selva Verde and nearby sites.

214 Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus insolens*

Two at Villa Lapas were followed by two more at the Hacienda Solimar gallery forest

215 Gray-capped Flycatcher *Myiozetetes granadensis granadensis*

After a couple at Carara NP about 10 more were seen at La Selva; others may have been overlooked, we certainly didn't scrutinise every *Myiozetetes* Flycatcher in detail

216 Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis texensis*

Quite common with up to 10 per day noted at most sites away from the highest elevations and the arid northwest

217 Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus guatimalensis*

Very common, widespread and noisy away from the very highest elevations, about 10 per day was the norm

218 Rufous Mourner *Rhytipterna holerythra holerythra*

One was seen in the grounds at Selva Verde

219 Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus brachyurus*

Four around Carara were followed by at least 15 around Hacienda Solimar

220 Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus*

Two were noted at Villa Lapas and one at Hacienda Solimar

221 Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer connectens*

A calling bird was seen well along the entrance track at La Selva

222 Tropical Pewee *Contopus cinereus brachytarsus*

About four were seen and heard during our evening walk through farmland just east of Selva Verde

223 Yellowish Flycatcher *Empidonax flavescens flavescens* [C. Am]

One showed well at Savegre Mountain Lodge

224 Black-capped Flycatcher *Empidonax atriceps* [EBA 020]

Up to five were seen well during our morning hike at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

225 'Northern' Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus auraantiiventris*

Only seen at Finca Mirador de Quetzales where two showed well to most of the group

[Black-tailed Flycatcher *Myiobius atricaudus atricaudus*

One was along the trails at Villa Lapas (L/O)]

226 Yellow-olive Flycatcher *Tolmomyias sulphurescens cinereiceps*

At least two were seen at Virgen de Socorro after an earlier fleeting bird at Hacienda Solimar

227 Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum nigriceps*

One was seen on two occasions at Selva Verde

228 Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*

After the first near the Tarcoles Estuary this species was seen in small numbers at Villa Lapas, Hacienda Solimar and the Selva Verde area; about 10 were noted

229 Northern Bentbill *Oncostoma cinereigulare* [C. Am]

Three were recorded at Carara NP and along the road above Villa Lapas

230 Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilatriccus sylvia*

A couple were seen at Finca Pavones, Hacienda Solimar

231 Torrent Tyrannulet *Serpophaga cinerea*

Three were along the river below the bridge at Virgen de Socorro

232 Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster subpagana*

A pair were regularly to be found in the garden at Hotel Montana, Monteverde, with another at Selva Verde

233 Mountain Elaenia *Elaenia frantzii frantzii*

Only seen at Finca Mirador de Quetzales where a couple of noisy individuals gave themselves away

234 Greenish Elaenia *Myipagis viridicata*

One at Carara NP and a couple in the gallery forest at Hacienda Solimar were followed next day by at least 10 at nearby Finca Pavones

235 Mistletoe Tyrannulet *Zimmerius vilissimus* [C. Am+]

A couple showed well at La Selva after more fleeting individuals at Selva Verde and Virgen de Socorro

[Sepia-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon amaurocephalus*
One at Virgen de Socorro was only seen by Luis (L/O)]

236 Olive-striped Flycatcher *Mionectes olivaceus olivaceus*
Only seen at Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve where two or three showed well at times

237 Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus dyscolus*
One or two at Selva Verde were followed by a couple of more showy individuals at La Selva

HIRUNDINIDAE

238 Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea chalybea*
At least one was seen soaring around at the Tarcoles Bridge

239 'American' Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica erythrogaster*
Generally small numbers were over a range of lowland sites, especially on the Pacific slope. American birds seem to differ consistently from those in the Old World in underpart pattern and may warrant species status

240 Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis decolor*
At least one was with the next species near Selva Verde and ten or more were at La Selva

241 Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*
About 20 fed over fields near Selva Verde

242 Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca cyanoleuca*
Only seen in the hills, about 10 at Finca Mirador de Quetzales were followed by about 20 around Hotel Montana, Monteverde

243 Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea* [C. Am+]
Up to 10 were visible from the Tarcoles Bridge, a few others were over the nearby estuary and a couple perched on a bridge near Puntarenas

CORVIDAE

244 White-throated Magpie-Jay *Calocitta formosa pompata* [C. Am]
At least four were regular visitors to the trees and feeding table at Hacienda Solimar

245 'White-tipped' Brown Jay *Cyanocorax (morio) mexicanus* [C. Am+]
After the first at Hotel San Gildar in San Jose this noisy species proved to be locally common on the Pacific slope with particularly large numbers at Monteverde. Some authors suggest that birds with white-tipped tails would be better regarded as a full species rather than a subspecies of the more northerly dark-tailed populations

CINCLIDAE

246 'North' American' Dipper *Cinclus mexicanus ardesiacus*
Three were on the river at the bottom of the valley at Virgen de Socorro

TROGLODYTIDAE

247 Band-backed Wren *Campylorhynchus zonatus costaricensis*
Only found at La Selva where at least two were seen and heard in the vicinity of the entrance gate

248 Rufous-naped Wren *Campylorhynchus rufinucha capistratus* [C. Am]
Overall the most frequently seen wren species, at least on the Pacific slope. After the first at Rio Garita Reservoir we had regular encounters at Carara, Hotel Villa Lapas and Hacienda Solimar

249 Plain Wren *Thryothorus modestus modestus* and *zeledoni* [C. Am]
Singles were along the Pig Farm Road at Monteverde (subspecies *modestus*) and in farmland just east of Selva Verde where birds are of the larger race *zeledoni* that some regard as a separate species, Canebrake Wren

250 Rufous-and-white Wren *Thryothorus rufalbus castanonotus* [C. Am+]
A couple showed well dust-bathing on the track at Carara NP

251 Bay Wren *Thryothorus nigricapillus castaneus* [C. Am]
Several were around the gardens at Selva Verde lodge with another at Virgen de Socorro

[Riverside Wren *Thryothorus semibadius* [EBA 021]
A pair were along the trails at Villa Lapas (L/O)]

252 Banded Wren *Thryothorus pleurostictus ravus* [C. Am]
A couple showed nicely at Finca Pavones, Hacienda Solimar

253 Black-bellied Wren *Thryothorus fasciatoventris melanogaster* [C. Am+]
Rather skulking individuals were glimpsed on a couple of occasions at Carara NP

254 Rufous-breasted Wren *Thryothorus rutilus hyperythrus*
Up to four at Carara NP included a couple that obligingly dust-bathed on the path in front of us

255 'Southern' House Wren *Troglodytes (aedon) musculus (intermedius)*
Three or four were in the grounds of Hotel Montana, Monteverde with a couple more near Selva Verde. Some authors propose that this very widespread species should be split into several species

256 Ochraceous Wren *Troglodytes ochraceus ochraceus* [C. Am+]
Only seen at Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve where a couple gave themselves up and others were heard. This species is confined to highlands in EBA 020 and the Darien highlands EBA (024) on the Panama/ Columbia border

[White-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucosticta costaricensis* or *tropaea*
A couple were seen briefly at Selva Verde (L/O)]

257 Gray-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys collina*
At least two or three were seen during our morning at Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve

TURDIDAE

[White-throated Thrush *Turdus assimilis cnephosus*
Heard but not seen at Monteverde because we were trying to see our first Quetzal at the time]

258 Clay-colored Thrush *Turdus grayi casius* [C. Am+]
Aka Clay-colored Robin
Common and widespread but absent at the highest elevations where it was replaced by the next species; particularly common around the gardens at Selva Verde. This is the national bird of Costa Rica, presumably because Guatemala had already bagged Quetzal which is a much more obvious choice

259 Mountain Thrush *Turdus plebejus plebejus* [C. Am]
Aka Mountain Robin
Up to eight were seen during our morning at Finca Mirador de Quetzales and another was at Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve

260 Sooty Thrush *Turdus nigrescens* [EBA 020]
Aka Sooty Robin
At least four showed well near the restaurant at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

261 Black-faced Solitaire *Myadestes melanops* [EBA 020]
Although more often heard singing its haunting song than seen, at least six were observed at Monteverde and Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve

262 Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina*
Three or four were seen with some regularity in the grounds at Selva Verde

263 Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*
One was seen along the road above Villa Lapas

264 Slaty-backed Nightingale-thrush *Catharus fuscater hellmayri*
A rather fleeting bird at Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve was followed next day by a very showy individual near the café at Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve

265 Black-billed Nightingale-thrush *Catharus g. gracilirostris*
Up to eight were noted at and around Finca Mirador de Quetzales

SYLVIIDAE

266 Tropical Gnatcatcher *Polioptila plumbea superciliaris*
One seen briefly at Carara NP was followed by about half a dozen at Hacienda Solimar

PTILOGONATIDAE

267 Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher *Ptilogonys caudatus* [EBA 020]

Four or five were seen at Finca Mirador de Quetzales and Savegre Mountain Lodge

268 Black-and-yellow Silky-Flycatcher *Phainoptila melanoxantha* [EBA 020]

Three or four at Finca Mirador de Quetzales could have been more obliging but most people eventually had a decent view

VIREONIDAE

[Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis subflavescens*

One was seen briefly in a mixed species flock at Carara NP (L/O)]

269 Mangrove Vireo *Vireo pallens* [C. Am]

A couple were seen during the mangrove cruise on the Tarcoles Estuary

270 Yellow-winged Vireo *Vireo carmioli* [EBA 020]

At least three were seen during our morning at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

271 Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*

After one at Hotel Montana, Monteverde, a further three were recorded on the Caribbean slope

272 Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus*

A couple at Carara NP were followed by one at Monteverde and another at Virgen de Socorro

273 Lesser Greenlet *Hylophilus decurtatus decurtatus*

This unassuming species was seen in small numbers at most lowland and mid-elevation woodlands visited, in total about 15 were recorded

COEREBIDAE

274 Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola mexicana*

After the first half dozen were found at the Monteverde Hummingbird Gallery another handful were at Virgen de Socorro, Selva Verde and La Selva

PARULIDAE

275 Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*

The four noted were divided between Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve, Hotel Montana, Hacienda Solimar and Virgen de Socorro

276 Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*

Up to six were in mangroves at the Tarcoles Estuary with a couple in similar habitat besides Colorado Salinas

277 Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*

One at Virgen de Socorro was followed by two more at La Selva

278 Tennessee Warbler *Vermivora peregrina*

Most of the 30 or so recorded were around Monteverde but others were noted at Carara NP, Hacienda Solimar and, once, on the Caribbean slope

279 Flame-throated Warbler *Parula gutturalis* [EBA 020]

Only seen at Finca Mirador de Quetzales where two or three showed quite well

280 Tropical Parula *Parula pitiayumi speciosa*

At least four were seen at Virgen de Socorro, a couple were singing

281 Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* (aestiva group)

Fairly common and widespread with a total of over 30 noted at all sites except the highlands south of San Jose.

282 Mangrove Warbler *Dendroica erithachorides xanthotera*

At least six were found during the cruise through the mangroves at the Tarcoles Estuary. Opinion is divided about whether these striking birds should be regarded as a species in their own right or as a subspecies of Yellow Warbler as various intermediate populations exist; most recent authors support the split

283 Black-throated Green Warbler *Dendroica virens virens*

At least four at Finca Mirador de Quetzales were followed by another four around Monteverde

284 Blackburnian Warbler *Dendroica fusca*
A single bird was at Virgen de Socorro

285 Chestnut-sided Warbler *Dendroica pensylvanica*
Overall probably the commonest of the wintering warblers seen with at least 10 around Carara and well over 20 on the Pacific slope

[Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapillus*
One was below our rooms at Hotel Montana, Monteverde (L/O)]

286 Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis*
Quite common at Carara NP and Villa Lapas where about 20 were recorded

287 Louisiana Waterthrush *Seiurus motacilla*
One was on the river at Virgen de Socorro

288 Mourning Warbler *Oporornis philadelphia*
A male at Virgen de Socorro was the only one seen

289 Gray-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis poliocephala palpebralis* [C. Am]
Two or three were in rank grassland near Finca Pavones, Hacienda Solimar

290 Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla*
After about six at Finca Mirador de Quetzales, two were at Monteverde and another six or so at Virgen de Socorro

291 Slate-throated Redstart *Myioborus miniatus comptus* and *aurantiacus*
Aka Slate-throated Whitestart
About ten were seen around Monteverde (*M. m. comptus*) and a further four at Virgen de Socorro (*M. m. aurantiacus*)

292 Collared Redstart *Myioborus torquatus* [EBA 020]
Aka Collared Whitestart
Up to 10 of these stunning warblers were at Finca Mirador de Quetzales with a couple of others noted at Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve

293 Three-striped Warbler *Basileuterus tristriatus melanotis*
At least six at Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve were followed by one at Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve

294 Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culcivorus culcivorus*
One showed briefly but well at Virgen de Socorro

295 Black-cheeked Warbler *Basileuterus m. melanogenys* [EBA 020]
At least six at Finca Mirador de Quetzales were followed by a couple more at Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve

296 Chestnut-capped Warbler *Basileuterus delatirii delatirii* and *mesochrysus*
Formerly included in Rufous-capped Warbler *B. rufifrons*
Four were seen along the road above Villa Lapas (subspecies *mesochrysus*) and one of the nominate race was briefly seen at Finca Pavones, Hacienda Solimar

297 Buff-rumped Warbler *Phaeothlypis fulvicauda leucopygia*
At least four were occasionally seen in the garden of Selva Verde Lodge with others just east of there and at Selva Verde; heard at Virgen de Socorro

[Zeledonia *Zeledonia coronata* [EBA 020]
Aka Wrenthrush
Heard but not seen at Finca Mirador de Quetzales]

ICTERIDAE

298 Chestnut-headed Oropendola *Psarocolius wagleri ridgwayi*
Singles at Hotel Montana, Monteverde and La Selva were followed by a couple visiting bird tables at Selva Verde

299 Montezuma Oropendola *Psarocolius montezuma* [C. Am]
After the first at Rio Garita Reservoir this dramatic looking species was encountered quite frequently, especially around Selva Verde where it was a common garden bird

300 Scarlet-rumped Cacique *Cacicus microrhynchus pacificus*

Formerly included in Scarlet-rumped Cacique *C. uropygialis*
One was seen at La Selva entrance road

[Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus aeneus* [C. Am+]
Aka Red-eyed Cowbird
Probably seen, but not confirmed, just east of Selva Verde]

[Melodious Blackbird *Dives dives* [C. Am]
Probably seen, but not confirmed, just east of Selva Verde and at La Selva.
This species has extended its range from the north and now occurs regularly on both slopes]

301 Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus peruvianus*
Rather common throughout but especially around Tarcoles/ Carara, absent at the highest elevations south of San Jose but present at mid-elevation sites in good numbers

302 Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius spurius*
A male was just north of the Tarcoles Estuary

303 Black-cowled Oriole *Icterus prosthemelas* [C. Am]
Formerly *I. dominicensis*
One just east of Selva Verde was followed by about 10 at La Selva next day

304 Yellow-tailed Oriole *Icterus mesomelas salvinii*
A couple were at Selva Verde and La Selva

305 Spot-breasted Oriole *Icterus pectoralis espinachi* [C. Am+]
Only seen at Hacienda Solimar where a couple were regularly on show in the trees near the lodge

306 Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*
Formerly lumped with Bullock's Oriole *I. bullocki* and called Northern Oriole
Quite common and seen everywhere, about 60 were recorded

307 Streak-backed Oriole *Icterus pustulatus sclateri* [C. Am]
At least two came and went from trees at Hacienda Solimar lodge from time to time

308 Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus grinnelli*
About 20 were at the Tarcoles Estuary

309 Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna subulata*
A couple were seen in grassland below Hotel Montana, Monteverde (N/L)

THRAUPIDAE

310 Golden-browed Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia callophrys* [EBA 020]
At least 20 of these stunning birds were gathered in a fruiting Fig tree at Monteverde on two visits; a couple more were at the nearby Hotel Montana

311 Elegant Euphonia *Euphonia elegantissima elegantissima* [C. Am]
Aka Blue-hooded and Blue-rumped Euphonia
One showed occasionally in a tree in the grounds of Savegre Mountain Lodge

[Scrub Euphonia *Euphonia affinis affinis* [C. Am]
One on the edge of the gallery forest at Hacienda Solimar was only seen by Demetrio as we were too distracted by the other new species simultaneously on offer]

312 Yellow-crowned Euphonia *Euphonia luteicapilla* [C. Am]
The four seen were shared between Selva Verde and La Selva

313 Yellow-throated Euphonia *Euphonia hirundinacea gnatho* [C. Am]
A total of six were recorded in the Monteverde area and one was at Villa Lapas

314 Olive-backed Euphonia *Euphonia gouldi praetermissa* [C. Am]
A handful were seen in the garden at Selva Verde each day with a couple more at nearby sites

315 Speckled Tanager *Tangara guttata eusticta*
One was seen quite briefly at Virgen de Socorro

316 Silver-throated Tanager *Tangara icterocephala frantzii*

One at Monteverde was followed by about 10 at Virgen de Socorro and then, soon after, by about 20 very showy birds on the feeders at Vera's Hummingbird Restaurant

317 Golden-hooded Tanager *Tangara larvata centralis* and *franciscae*
Four in the Carara/ Villa Lapas area (*T. l. franciscae*) were followed by about 20 on the Caribbean slope (*T. l. centralis*)

318 Plain-colored Tanager *Tangara inornata rava* [C. Am+]
Two at La Selva were the only ones seen

319 Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola bangsi*
Up to half a dozen were found at Virgen de Socorro

320 Spangle-cheeked Tanager *Tangara dowii* [EBA 020]
A group of about six in trees around the car park at Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve were the only ones seen

321 Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza arguta*
One at Villa Lapas was followed by a further six on the Caribbean slope

322 Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus carneipes*
After the first couple at Carara NP a two more were at Monteverde and at least six around Selva Verde and La Selva

323 Shining Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes lucidus isthmicus* [C. Am+]
Two were noted at Selva Verde

324 Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana callaina*
A pair posed for the scope just east of Selva Verde

325 Scarlet-thighed Dacnis *Dacnis venusta venusta*
Up to six fed in a single fruiting tree at Virgen de Socorro before flying off together

326 Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus cana*
After the first were seen briefly at Savegre Mountain Lodge this species proved to be quite common and widespread with particularly large numbers in the garden at Selva Verde

327 Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum atripennis*
After a couple at Santa Elena this species was then common on the Caribbean slope with up to 30 regularly in the garden at Selva Verde Lodge and several others elsewhere

328 Passerini's Tanager *Ramphocelus passerinii* [C. Am]
Formerly part of Scarlet-rumped Tanager *R. passerinii*
After a couple near Tabacon, a handful near Selva Verde were followed by up to 30 at La Selva, many of which were attracted to flowering and fruiting trees

329 Cherrie's Tanager *Ramphocelus costaricensis* [EBA 021]
Formerly part of Scarlet-rumped Tanager *R. passerinii*
Only seen at Carara NP were four were noted

330 Crimson-collared Tanager *Phlogothraupis sanguinolenta* [C. Am]
One glimpsed from the bus at San Gerardo Valley on our first day was followed by a very obliging bird at Vera's Hummingbird Restaurant

331 Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra rubra*
Up to six at Hacienda Solimar were followed by about 10 on the Caribbean slope

332 'Highland' Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava testacea*
One was seen at Savegre Mountain Lodge (N/L)

333 Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*
At least four were found along the road above Villa Lapas; seemingly a regular location for this locally rather scarce species

334 Flame-colored Tanager *Piranga bidentata citrea* [C. Am]
Three or four were seen well at Savegre Mountain Lodge

335 Red-throated Ant-Tanager *Habia fuscicauda fuscicauda* [C. Am]
Groups of up to eight were occasionally encountered in the grounds at Selva Verde

336 White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus*

Two singles were noted at Carara

337 White-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus luctuosus*
One above Villa Lapas was the only record

338 Common Bush-Tanager *Chlorospingus ophthalmicus regionalis*
Several were found in mid-elevation forests at Monteverde and Virgen de Socorro; this species is replaced by the next at higher elevations

339 Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager *Chlorospingus pileatus pileatus* [EBA 020]
Quite common at Finca Mirador de Quetzales where over 30 were seen

EMBERIZIDAE

340 Black-headed Saltator *Saltator atriceps atriceps* [C. Am]
One was in the Hotel San Gildar garden briefly one morning

341 Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus magnoides*
Four above Villa Lapas were followed by about 10 around Selva Verde

342 'Northern' Grayish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens brevicaudus*
A couple in the grounds of the Hotel Montana were followed by one at Selva Verde.
Central American races are sometimes split as Middle American Saltator *S. grandis*

343 Black-thighed Grosbeak *Pheucticus tibialis* [EBA 020]
Two showed well at Virgen de Socorro

344 Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*
Up to six at and near Villa Lapas were followed by one at Virgen de Socorro

345 Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea lazula*
A male showed well at Rio Garita Reservoir and a couple of females were found at Hacienda Solimar

346 Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanocopsa cyanooides*
Females were seen above Villa Lapas, at Selva Verde and La Selva

347 Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris pallidior*
A male was seen near the Hacienda Solimar gallery forest

348 Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivacea pusillus*
Up to 15 were regularly in the grounds of the Hotel Montana in Monteverde with a few others at roadsides nearby

349 White-collared Seedeater *Sporophila torqueola moreletii* [C. Am+]
Over 30 were recorded at Hacienda Solimar over two dates

350 Variable Seedeater *Sporophila corvina corvina* and *aurita*
Formerly *Sporophila aurita*
One of the pied Pacific race *aurita* was seen at Carara NP and about 20 of the mostly black Caribbean nominate race were near Selva Verde and at La Selva

351 Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina splendens*
Up to 20 were noted in more open areas near Selva Verde and La Selva

352 Slaty Flowerpiercer *Diglossa plumbea plumbea* [C. Am]
Four at Finca Mirador de Quetzales were followed by two more at Savegre Mountain Lodge

353 Large-footed Finch *Pezopetes capitalis* [EBA 020]
Two showed well as we returned towards the restaurant for lunch at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

354 Yellow-thighed Finch *Pselliophorus tibialis* [EBA 020]
A couple showed well at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

[Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch *Buarremon brunneinucha brunneinucha*
Heard but only seen poorly in flight at Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve]

355 Orange-billed Sparrow *Arremon aurantirostris*
A fleeting bird at Carara NP (subspecies *rufidorsalis*) was followed by regular encounters with up to 10 nominate race birds at Selva Verde. Although the two races look very similar their voices are reportedly very different

356 'Pacific' Olive Sparrow *Arremonops rufivirgatus superciliosus* [C. Am]
About four were seen in woodlands at Hacienda Solimar where several more were heard

357 Black-striped Sparrow *Arremonops conirostris richmondi*
Two showed well along the entrance road at La Selva

[White-eared Ground-Sparrow *Melospiza leucotis leucotis* [C. Am]
Two were briefly below Hotel Montana, Monteverde (L/O)]

358 Stripe-headed Sparrow *Aimophila ruficauda ruficauda* [C. Am]
A couple briefly near Tarcoles and two more obliging birds at Colorado Salinas were the only ones seen. This species is expanding its range into formerly more humid coastal areas in response to deforestation.

359 Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis costaricensis*
Quite common at higher elevations at Finca Mirador de Quetzales and around Monteverde, about 20 were seen in total

PASSERIDAE

360 House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
A handful were largely almost ignored at Muelle. Introduced.

Mammals

Species order and nomenclature follows Fiona Reid's *A Field Guide to the Mammals of Central America and Southeast Mexico* (OUP) 1997

Opossum species
One showed a couple of times at the 'Kinkajou table' at Selva Verde; probably a Common Opossum *Didelphis marsupialis*

Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth *Choloepus hoffmanni*
Two were being slothful in the little park at the town square, Orotina

Armadillo species
One seen briefly at Hacienda Solimar was probably a Nine-banded Armadillo *Dasypus novemcinctus*

Bat species
None were identified to species but several roosting at Villa Lapas appeared to be Tent-making Bats (*Uroderma* sp.) and at least three different species were seen roosting at La Selva. Elsewhere, small- and medium-sized Bats were frequently seen

White-faced Capuchin *Cebus capuchinus*
Four or five showed very well during our afternoon visit to Carara NP

Mantled Howler Monkey *Alouatta palliata*
A total of over 60 were seen at widespread wooded sites

Variiegated Squirrel *Sciurus variegatoides*
These striking animals were seen well at Hacienda Solimar and around Selva Verde

Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis*
Only recorded on the Caribbean slope at Selva Verde and La Selva

Central American Dwarf Squirrel *Microsciurus alfari*
A handful were noted at Selva Verde

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata*
Two were watched on the La Selva entrance road

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica*
Quite a lot were seen after the first at Carara NP, especially along roadsides where they were attracted to scraps offered by motorists; about 50 were seen in total

Northern Raccoon *Procyon lotor*
One appeared once at the Kinkajou table

Kinkajou Potos flavus

A prehensile-tailed cutie appeared each evening to take banana from a bird table near the Selva Verde bar but didn't linger for a drink

Neotropical River Otter Lutra longicaudis

Aka Southern River Otter

Singles were seen on two occasions at Selva Verde and another one or two were at La Selva

Long-tailed Weasel Mustela frenata

One was seen at Selva Verde on our final morning

Coyote Canis latrans

Heard but not seen at Hacienda Solimar

[Collared Peccary Tayassu tajacu

The only one seen was a tame individual at Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve, it was raised with dogs when orphaned as a piglet and it shows]

Selected Other Fauna

Reptiles

American Crocodile Crocodyles acutes

At least 20 were under the road bridge over the Rio Tarcoles (some very large) with others on the nearby estuary and a couple more at Hacienda Solimar

Green Iguana Iguana iguana

Quite common and widespread with dozens seen at lower elevations, a large gathering in a tree at eye-level at Muelle was memorable, the adjacent café being named in their honour

Striped Basilisk Basiliscus vittatus

Seen several times at Villa Lapas, including some running across the water in characteristic 'Jesus Christ Lizard' fashion; also at Selva Verde

Boa Constrictor Boa constrictor

A rather large individual was seen at close range in a tree at Finca Pavones, Hacienda Solimar

Snake species

Unidentified small snakes were in the pool at Hacienda Solimar (heroically rescued) and along the footpath at Selva Verde

Various Lizards, Skinks and Geckos were seen but not specifically identified

Turtle species

At least three in the grounds of Selva Verde Lodge may have been Black River Turtles *Rhinoclemmys funerea*

Amphibians and Invertebrates

Amphibians were represented by some striking Poison Dart Frogs (*Dendrobates* sp.) of at least two species at Selva Verde and La Selva.

Amongst the numerous Butterflies seen, dramatic Blue Morphos were recorded at several wooded sites, Owl Butterflies were at Hacienda Solimar and American Monarchs were at Monteverde. Other invertebrates noted included several encounters with Leaf-cutter and Bullet Ants, a couple of Millipedes and a Red-kneed Tarantula was coaxed from its hole at Monteverde.