

Costa Rica

Naturetrek Tour Report

12 - 29 January 2009



Green Violet-ear by Roger Parker



Emerald Toucanet by Jo Bentley

Report compiled by Chris Kehoe
Images by tour participants Roger Parker and Jo Bentley



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 Leader)
Santiago (Local driver/guide)

Participants: Sarah Barnes
Trevor Hatton
Jonathan Goldstraw
Roger Parker
Gordon Simpson
Jo Bentley
Janet Jackson
Owen Silver
Priscilla Silver

Day 1

Monday 12th January

Outbound to San Jose

The knock-on effects of a snow induced closure of Madrid Barajas Airport in the days preceding the tour caused some disruption to our outward journey. Our 06.20 Iberia flight from Heathrow to Madrid was cancelled due to the plane being stuck elsewhere and not all of the group were able to be accommodated on the next flight that connected with our (as it turned out) delayed onward flight to San Jose. The almost 11 hour long flight from Madrid finally left just short of two hours late and we arrived in the Costa Rican capital at 17.40 (local), 90 minutes behind schedule. Those unable to join us on the Iberia flights were re-routed via Houston or Newark. After a long day we were glad to reach the San Gildar Hotel in downtown San Jose, where we could re-charge our batteries before our tour programme commenced in earnest.

Day 2

Tuesday 13th January

Finca Mirador de Quetzales; Savegre Mountain Lodge

Weather: overcast but bright at Finca Mirador de Quetzales, sunny at Savegre, dry

Drinks and sandwiches were served at 0545 and by 0600 we were on the bus and driving south into the mountains of the Talamanca Cordillera on the Pan-american Highway. At 0740 we pulled into the car park at Finca Mirador de Quetzales. A short walk to the nearby restaurant allowed us to notch up a few birds, with Flame-coloured Tanager the pick of the bunch, before we sat down for breakfast at 0800. Jason, one of the local guides, then led a three hour walk in the cloudforest and open woodland nearby with particular highlights including fine views of a male Resplendent Quetzal, a couple of Flame-throated Warblers, Ruddy Treerunners, Large-footed Finch, Slaty Flowepiercers, both species of Silky-flycatcher, four species of Thrush (including several confiding Black-billed Nightingale Thrushes) and hummingbirds including Volcano, Fiery-throated and Magnificent.

After lunch back at the restaurant, during which cloud enveloped the area, we jumped back on the bus and drove for 45 minutes to Savegre Mountain Lodge in the San Gerardo Valley, arriving in pleasant sunshine at this lower elevation.

Ninety minutes around the lodge provided us with several new birds such as obliging Acorn Woodpeckers, Mountain Elaenia, Yellow-winged Vireo, Townsend's Warbler and two new hummers in the shape of Grey-tailed Mountaingem and Scintillant Hummingbird.

We set off back to San Jose at 1520 and arrived at the San Gildar at 17.45 where the Houston two had finally arrived. We sat down to dinner at 19.30 and followed this with the day's checklist.

Day 3

Wednesday 14th January

En route to Villa Lapas via Rio Garita Reservoir, Orotina and Rio Tarcoles Bridge; Tarcoles Estuary mangrove cruise

Weather: hot and sticky in the lowlands, overcast with occasional light rain in the evening

Breakfast at 06.30 preceded our 07.10 departure towards the Pacific coast. A couple of stops were made before we reached the Villa Lapas Hotel adjacent to Carara National Park. First stop was at Rio Garita Reservoir where a few Blue-winged Teal and a couple of Least Grebes were on the water and an Osprey and a Short-tailed Hawk joined the Black and Turkey Vultures rising on the first thermals of the day.

Next stop was at a small park in the centre of Orotina town where the hoped-for Black-and-white Owls duly posed for the scope and one of the resident pair of Hoffman's Two-toed Sloths was also seen, as was our first Hoffman's Woodpecker. Thirty minutes later we arrived at a small cafe at the Rio Tarcoles Bridge where we spent 30 minutes having a drink before crossing the bridge on foot. Good numbers of American Crocodiles were on view from the bridge with new birds seen before we got back on the bus an hour later including Bare-faced Tiger-heron and various other Heron species plus a few waders and a couple of Scarlet Macaws flying in the distance.

A very short drive then delivered us to Villa Lapas where we had lunch at noon before checking-in. Everybody opted to go on the mangrove boat trip from 15.00, before we returned just after dark at 18.00 masses of new birds had been seen including Green, Amazon and Ringed Kingfishers, seven species of herons and egrets, Double-striped Thick-knee, Yellow Warblers of the distinctive Mangrove race, Prothonotory Warblers, 'Mangrove' Black Hawks, Magnificent Frigatebirds, Keel-billed and Chestnut-mandibled Toucans and many Lesser Nighthawks. Back at Villa Lapas there was time for a shower and change before dinner.

Day 4

Thursday 15th January

Carara NP and Villa Lapas

Weather: hot and humid, a few spots of rain in the afternoon/ evening but generally bright.

Early risers were treated to a feast of birds in the trees around the hotel restaurant before breakfast at 06.30; pick of the bunch being three Fiery-billed Aracaris but other highlights included Black-headed, Violaceous and Slaty-tailed Trogons, all of which showed very well and several Chestnut-mandibled Toucans.

After breakfast a short drive delivered us to the start of the River Trail at Carara National Park where we spent the rest of the morning on a round trip of about five kilometres to and from the oxbow lake there.

Further good views of Violaceous Trogons and a skulking Wood Thrush came soon after we began our walk with an obliging pair or two of Chestnut-backed Antbirds and a couple of Rufous-breasted Wrens soon after. A Red-lored Parrot posed for the scope and several new species were seen by some of the group in the dense jungle where fleeting views are the norm for many species. A non-avian highlight before we reached the lake was a small troop of White-faced Capuchin Monkeys. Half-an-hour at the lake produced three species of Kingfishers, including the scarce American Pygmy, and various waterbirds, while a pair of Scarlet Macaws gave some good perched views.

The walk back in increasing heat was predictably less productive but highlights included good views of Dotted-winged Antwrens and Blue-throated Goldentails and a fabulous pair of Pale-billed Woodpeckers at point-blank range.

Those who explored the trails around the hotel during siesta time were rewarded with Orange-collared Manakins, Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher and White-whiskered Puffbird amongst others. Just over half of the group took the option of a return to the River Trail in the evening with new birds seen including Rufous-and-white Wrens and a smart Kentucky Warbler.

Day 5

Friday 16th January

Villa Lapas; en route to Monteverde; Monteverde Hummingbird Gallery

Weather: dry, bright and warm at Villa Lapas, cooler, breezy and rather overcast at Monteverde with occasional light drizzle

Birding at Villa Lapas either side of breakfast produced repeat views of many species and a few new ones such as Masked Tityra, Northern Barred Woodcreeper and Golden-hooded Tanager. At 09.30 we loaded the bus and set off on the three hour drive to Monteverde. On arrival at the Montana Hotel we checked in quickly and were soon sitting down to lunch. At 14.30 we set off on the 20 minute drive to the famous Hummingbird Gallery near the Cloudforest Preserve entrance, a journey punctuated by a stop to admire our first Blue-crowned Motmots in a roadside field.

At the Hummingbird Gallery a total of eight species of hummers came and went from the various feeders where they gave views down to a few inches: Violet Sabrewings, Green-crowned Brilliants, Green Violet-ears (the only species we'd seen previously), Magenta-throated Woodstars, Stripe-tailed Hummingbirds, endemic Coppery-headed Emeralds, Purple-throated Mountaingems and a single Green Hermit. Also attracted to the feeders were a couple of Bananaquits and a mammalian surprise in the shape of an Olingo.

Day 6

Saturday 17th January

Monteverde Cloudforest Preserve and Hotel Montana area

Weather: dry, intermittently overcast/misty and rather breezy.

Emerald Toucanets and Blue-crowned Motmots entertained early risers in the hotel grounds before our 06.30 breakfast and 07.00 departure for the Cloudforest Preserve in the company of Bernal, our local guide.

A couple of hours birding along the main trail through the cloudforest yielded excellent views of a male Resplendent Quetzal, Black Guan, Slate-throated Redstarts, Spangle-cheeked Tanagers and others with more fleeting views of Scale-crested Pygmy-tyrant and White-throated Spadebill. There was time too for a return visit to the Hummingbird Gallery before we returned to the hotel for lunch. Before returning to the Cloudforest Preserve at 1430 a quick look around the hotel grounds produced our first Yellow-bellied Elaenia and a few other bits and pieces.

Our afternoon walk took us along the Waterfall Trail where a couple of Slate-headed Nightingale-thrushes, Spotted Barbtails and a Tufted Flycatcher were new and several previously seen species were enjoyed before the temptation to return to the Hummingbird Gallery got the better of us again, both for the birds and the excellent coffee and cake on offer there!

Day 7

Sunday 18th January

Hotel Montana, Monteverde; en route to Hacienda Solimar; Finca Pavones

Weather: bright but breezy at Monteverde, hot and sunny at Hacienda Solimar

Birding around the hotel at Monteverde either side of breakfast produced a few new warblers in the shape of several Black-throated Greens and a scarce Yellow-throated, also new were Yellow-throated Euphonias. After a short stop to pick up provisions we were on our way to Hacienda Solimar at 09.30 and arrived there two-and-a-half hours later. Either side of lunch we notched up a few nice birds (Turquoise-browed Motmots, Stripe-headed Sparrows and White-throated Magpie-Jays) before setting off with local guide Demetrio to explore the dry secondary forest at nearby Finca Pavones. Highlights during the evening included excellent view of Lineated Woodpecker, Scrub Euphonias, Broad-winged Hawk, Olive Sparrows, Spot-breasted and Streak-backed Orioles and Ferruginous Pygmy-owl.

Day 8

Monday 19th January

Hacienda Solimar: Colorado Salinas and Estero Madrigal

Weather: fine, rather hot in the middle of the day

Early risers were treated to views of numerous Yellow-naped Parrots, a couple of Turquoise-browed Motmots, White-throated Magpie-jays and others near the Hacienda. After breakfast a 30 minute drive delivered us to Colorado Salinas to view the high tide roosts of waders and other waterbirds gathered there; amongst the many waders present were Marbled Godwits, Short-billed Dowitchers and Stilt Sandpipers, a group of 100 Black Skimmers formed an impressive site and our first Orange-fronted Parakeets were seen as we started back towards the Hacienda. A short diversion took us to a small stream crossing where the hoped-for American Pygmy Kingfisher soon appeared, as did a small group of Green-breasted Mangos.

Back at the Hacienda we sat out the midday heat or had a swim before regrouping at 15.00 and driving the short distance to the wetlands of Estero Madrigal. We were soon watching our first Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Limpkins and a Killdeer amongst the assembled waterbirds but pride of place went to a Jabiru foraging with a group of Wood Storks.

Pressing on, via another Jabiru sitting on a nest, we arrived at a more secluded wetland area where several Snail Kites showed well, as did two White-necked Puffbirds, a Lined Woodpecker and many other birds.

Day 9

Tuesday 20th January

Hacienda Solimar: Gallery Forest Walk and Dry Forest

Weather: fine, rather hot and humid later

After breakfast at 06.30, a 15 minute drive took us to the start of a walk through gallery forest bordering a stream. Before entering the forest proper we spent thirty minutes watching its scrubby periphery where the undoubted highlight was two occasionally showy Lesser Ground-cuckoos expertly 'whistled-in' by Demetrio but also present were a Painted Bunting and a mixed bag of warblers and finches. A two hour walk up and down the stream through the forest yielded a succession of excellent birds including a fabulous pair of Spectacled Owls at close range, an obliging Long-tailed Manakin, Northern Bentbills, Slate-headed Tody-flycatcher, Magnolia Warbler and many others. Our evening excursion took us to an area of dry forest where the highlight was several obliging Pauraques but also seen was another Spectacled Owl and a couple of Long-tailed Manakins. An adjacent wetland area held a large gathering of waterbirds including another Jabiru and up to five Muscovy Ducks.

Day 10

Wednesday 21st January

En route to Mt. Arenal; Mt. Arenal area

Weather: dry, somewhat overcast but bright and warm at Arenal

Having said our goodbyes to the staff at Hacienda Solimar we began our journey to Arenal at 07.30, our route taking us along the northern shore of Lake Arenal. A coffee/strudel stop at the German Bakery in Nuevo Arenal broke the journey nicely and we arrived at the east end of the lake at 11.00 and stopped to do some birding along a quiet back road near Tabacon for an hour or so. A Broad-billed Motmot was an early highlight here but other notables were our first Passerini's Tanagers, Crested Guans, Grey-headed Chachalacas, Long-tailed Tyrants and Rufous-tailed Jacamars. Thirty minutes later we were settling into our rooms at Arenal Observatory Lodge for a one night stay.

Lunch was enlivened by the appearance of some excellent birds on the feeders outside the restaurant with Crimson-collared Grosbeaks, Red-legged Honeycreepers and Black-cheeked Woodpeckers especially appreciated. After lunch the remainder of the afternoon was spent exploring the lodge grounds where some excellent birds were seen including Purple-crowned Fairy, Bay-headed Tanager, Short-billed Pigeons and Tropical Pewee. Although the top of Mt. Arenal was always obscured by cloud we heard some substantial rumbles and after dark saw some red hot boulders rolling down the slope before rain set in.

Day 11

Thursday 22nd January

Mt. Arenal area; en route to Selve Verde; Selve Verde

Weather: steady light rain until Muelle, then intermittent showers but dry with watery sunshine at Selve Verde

Rain scuppered our plans for a pre-breakfast walk in the lodge grounds so we positioned ourselves in a strategically dry area and watch the feeders. Our reward was a succession of great birds with Buff-rumped Warblers, Tawny-crowned Euphonia, Emerald Tanager and Black-striped Sparrows as highlights with a tame Kinkajou a mammalian surprise amongst the many Coatis. A three hour drive (incorporating a coffee stop at Muelle's Iguana Restaurant) delivered us to Selve Verde in time for lunch.

The rest of the afternoon and evening was spent exploring the lodge grounds with an impressive haul of birds seen including Sunbittern and Fasciated Tiger-heron on the river (rather muddy in the wake of a recent earthquake nearby) and Red-capped and White-collared Manakins, Stripe-throated Hermit, Red-throated Ant-tanagers and White-breasted Wood Wrens in and around the gardens.

Day 12

Friday 23rd January

Selve Verde

Weather: steady rain until midday, then dry and warm/ humid

With rain falling for most of the morning we concentrated our efforts on the lodge garden where a series of covered walkways allowed us to stay dry while enjoying the numerous good birds on offer. Feeding tables stocked with bananas attracted large numbers of Blue-grey and Palm Tanagers but highlights there were Shining Honeycreepers and Collared Aracaris and a Rufous Motmot. Near to our rooms a Northern Barred Woodcreeper showed well and a Great Tinamou was a surprise find as it crept about. Back near the lodge restaurant a few Snowy Cotingas posed for the scope in a bare treetop and during a brief lull in the rain a Semi-plumbeous Hawk sat in the open to dry off.

During lunch the rain stopped and while returning towards our rooms a large mixed feeding flock was found that contained such gems as Bay and Stripe-breasted Wrens, Kentucky Warblers, Orange-billed Sparrows and others while nearby a couple of White-necked Robins were a surprise find and another Red-capped Manakin was seen. At 15.00, after seeing Swallow-tailed Kites soaring over the lodge, we set off to a nearby farm road where a couple of Blue Dacnis were new for most and White-ringed Flycatchers were new for all. Back at the lodge a Neotropical River Otter performed well near the bar and during dinner a Northern Raccoon appeared at a feeding table below the restaurant.

Day 13

Saturday 24th January

La Selva

Weather: overcast and slightly drizzly for the first hour then dry, bright and rather warm and humid

After an early breakfast we drove for 20 minutes to the start of the entrance road to La Selva Biological Station. A slow walk to the station from 06.20 to 08.00 resulted in sightings of a Little Tinamou in roadside undergrowth and some flying Great Green Macaws amongst numerous other birds. At the station itself, more Great Green Macaws flew over, a White-collared Manakin was the first seen by most and our local guide, Rodolfo, pointed out a Mexican Porcupine slumbering in a tree.

After a coffee break Rodolpho led some of the group on a walk through the mature rainforest on the far side of the bridge while the rest explored the younger, but bird rich, forest nearer to the station. Rodolpho's group focussed on general natural history and were rewarded with Spider Monkeys amongst others while the birders saw several new species such as Rufous Mourner, Chestnut-coloured Woodpecker, Fasciated Antshrike and, for some, a fly-by Bare-necked Umbrellarbird. After lunch back at Selve Verde an hour was spent scanning the sky for raptors with highlights in the shape of Short-tailed Hawk, Swallow-tailed Kites and up to three King Vultures.

The remainder of the day was spent back at La Selva where we divided into two groups once more but all had further flight views of Great Green Macaws and other new birds seen included Scarlet-rumped Caciques, Rufous-winged Woodpecker and Cocoa Woodcreeper.

Day 14

Sunday 25th January

Selve Verde; en route to San Jose via La Tapir

Weather: wet until arrival in the Central Valley

Plans to explore the area near the chalets at Selve Verde were abandoned in the face of persistent heavy rain so we concentrated attention on the main lodge area where a Sunbittern on a flooded path near our rooms was a highlight and we were able to enjoy final looks at some Caribbean slope species from the covered path system. At 09.30 we loaded the bus and set off towards San Jose. An hour long stop at the abandoned butterfly farm at La Tapir allowed new additions to the list in the shape of Silvery-throated and Black-and-Gold Tanagers but few hummingbirds were active in the soggy weather.

After a final coffee stop on the outskirts of San Jose we made our way to the airport where check-in was quick and signalled the start of the long journey back to chilly Britain.

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Systematic Lists:

Birds

Species order, taxonomy and nomenclature follow the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) list of the Birds of the World (v-7) unless otherwise stated. Alternative names that differ substantially from IOC names are also given when there is a possibility of confusion. Species marked LO were seen only by the tour leader or local guides and are not included in the grand total; species marked NL were not seen by either the tour leader or local guides.

TINAMIDAE

Great Tinamou *Tinamus major fuscipennis*

One was seen near our rooms at Selve Verde, others were heard there and at Carara NP

Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui modestus*

A calling bird gave some fleeting views at La Selva

ANATIDAE

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna a. autumnalis*

Several hundred were seen at Hacienda Solimar

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

Birds showing characters of domestic or semi domestic stock were seen in San Jose and at Rio Garita Reservoir, six purer looking individuals were at Hacienda Solimar

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

About 10 were at Rio Garita Reservoir and up to 30 at Hacienda Solimar

CRACIDAE

Gray-headed Chachalaca *Ortalis cinereiceps*

Fairly common in the grounds of Selve Verde lodge after a couple of earlier birds near Arenal

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens aequatorialis*

Four were near Arenal and another at La Selva

Black Guan *Chamaepetes unicolor*

One showed well at Monteverde

PODICIPEDIDAE

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus brachypterus*

A couple of distant birds at Rio Garita Reservoir were followed by a group of six on a roadside pool near Hacienda Solimar

PELECANIDAE

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis carolinensis* ssp.

About 50 were at Rio Tarcoles with another at Colorado Salinas; the subspecific status of birds on the Pacific coast is unresolved

PHALACROCORACIDAE

Neotropical Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus mexicanus*

About 200 were seen on the Rio Tarcoles

ANHINGIDAE

Anhinga *Anhinga a. leucogaster*

Most lowland wetlands held a few, seen on four dates

FREGATIDAE

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*

About 100 at the Tarcoles estuary were followed by another 10 at Colorado Salinas

ARDEIDAE

Fasciated Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum salmoni*

One was seen on the river at Selve Verde

Bare-throated Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum*

Eight along the Rio Tarcoles were followed by 30 or so at Hacienda Solimar, another was at Selve Verde

Great Blue Heron *Ardea h. herodias*

Most of the 40 or so seen were at Hacienda Solimar with others at Rio Tarcoles and Carara NP

Great Egret *Ardea alba egretta*

Distribution and numbers were much as for the next species; formerly *Egretta alba*

Snowy Egret *Egretta t. thula*

All lowland wetlands contained a few birds, seen on eight dates

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*

Very widespread in small numbers throughout the lowlands, seen on six dates

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor ruficollis*

After the first at Rio Tarcoles Bridge, another 20 or so were noted at lowland wetlands, predominantly at Hacienda Solimar

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus i. ibis*

Common in the lowlands, especially in association with livestock

Green Heron *Butorides v. virescens / striatus*

Ones and twos were at widespread lowland wetland sites, seen on four dates

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax n. boactli*

Eight at Rio Tarcoles were followed by a similar number at Hacienda Solimar

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax v. violacens*

At least 30 were at Rio Tarcoles with a couple more at Carara NP and Colorado Salinas

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius c. panamensis*

Up to 10 at Rio Tarcoles were followed by another 10 at Carara NP and six at Hacienda Solimar

THRESKIORNITHIDAE

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*

Small numbers were at wetland sites throughout the lowlands, seen on five dates

Roseate Spoonbill *Ajaia ajaja*

Three were at Rio Tarcoles, one at Colorado Salinas and about eight at Hacienda Solimar

CICONIIDAE

Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria*

Three were seen at Hacienda Solimar where one was attending a nest

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*

Small numbers at Rio Tarcoles were followed by over 100 at Hacienda Solimar

CATHARTIDAE

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes a. aura*

Very common and widespread

American Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

Very common and widespread

King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa*

Up to four were over Selve Verde and a couple more over La Selva during our final (sunny) afternoon

ACCIPITRIDAE

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*

After one at Rio Garita a further 12 were seen at various lowland wetland sites,

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides f. forficatus / yetapa*

Up to four were seen over Selve Verde on two dates

White-tailed Kite *Elanus l. leucurus* / *majusculus*

A total of eight were seen at widespread lowland sites

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus s. sociabilis*

About 25 were seen at the Hacienda Solimar wetlands

[Barred Hawk *Leucopternis princeps*]

One was seen over Selve Verde (L/O)

Semiplumbeous Hawk *Leucopternis semiplumbea*

Perched birds were seen very well at Selve Verde and La Selva

'Mangrove' Black-Hawk *Buteogallus subtilis bangsi*

About eight were seen during our boat trip on the Rio Tarcoles; some authors regard this species as a subspecies of Common Black-hawk *B. anthracinus*

Harris' Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi*

Two were seen distantly at Hacienda Solimar

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo p. platypterus*

A perched bird was seen at Hacienda Solimar

Gray Hawk *Buteo nitidus plagiatus* / *costaricensis*

Two singles were seen at Villa Lapas and another at Hacienda Solimar

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus fuliginosus*

One was at Rio Garita with others at Hacienda Solimar and Selve Verde

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis costaricensis*

A couple were soaring at Savegre and another was at nearby Finca Mirador de Quetzales

FALCONIDAE

Collared Forest-Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus naso*

Birds were heard at two sites at Hacienda Solimar where one was seen very briefly in flight

Crested Caracara *Polyborus cheriway audubonii*

About 20 were seen at Hacienda Solimar

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima cordatus*

Singles were seen at Rio Tarcoles and Hacienda Solimar

[Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres c. cachinnans*]

One was heard but not seen at Carara NP

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* ssp.

Two were over the San Gildar in San Jose, one spooked the waders at Colorado Salinas, two more were at Hacienda Solimar and one was over La Selva

RALLIDAE

Purple Gallinule *Porphyryla martinica*

One was seen briefly at Rio Tarcoles and another showed well on a roadside pool near Muelle

EURYPYGIDAE

Sunbittern *Eurypyga helias major*

Singles were seen on two occasions at Selva Verde

ARAMIDAE

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna dolosus*

About 40 were seen in the wetlands at Hacienda Solimar

BURHINIDAE

Double-striped Thick-Knee *Burhinus b. bistriatus*

Singles were seen well at Rio Tarcoles and Hacienda Solimar

CHARADRIIDAE

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola cynosuroides*

Up to 100 were at Colorado Salinas

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*

A handful at Rio Tarcoles was followed by about 40 at Colorado Salinas

Killdeer *Charadrius v. vociferus*

One was seen at Hacienda Solimar

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*

Small numbers were at a wide range of lowland wetlands

JACANIDAE

Northern Jacana *Jacana s. spinosa*

All lowland wetlands with emergent vegetation held several birds

SCOLOPACIDAE

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*

Small numbers were seen at all wetland sites in the lowlands

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanolenca*

Singles were at Colorado Salinas and Hacienda Solimar

Willet *Catoptrophorus s. semipalmatus / inornatus*

About 50 were present at the high tide roost at Colorado Salinas

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

Up to a dozen were at Colorado Salinas and the Hacienda Solimar wetlands

'Hudsonian' Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*

A couple at the Rio Tarcoles were followed by about 15 at Colorado Salinas; these dark-rumped American birds are a potential split from Old World races

Marbled Godwit *Limosa f. fedoa*

Two were at Colorado Salinas

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*

Distribution and numbers were much as for the next species

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*

Up to 150 were roosting and feeding at Colorado Salinas

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*

About 10 on the Rio Tarcoles were followed by about 30 at Colorado Salinas and a similar number around the wetlands at Hacienda Solimar

Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus*

About 20 were at Colorado Salinas

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* ssp

Up to 40 were at Colorado Salinas

LARIDAE

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla megalopterus*

About 10 were at Colorado Salinas

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica vanrossemi*

Three or four were at Colorado Salinas

Royal Tern *Sterna m. maxima*

About 30 were at Colorado Salinas

Black Skimmer *Rynchops n. niger*

Up to 100 were roosting at Colorado Salinas

COLUMBIDAE

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis pallidicrissa*

A handful were seen as we left Arenal

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas f. flavirostris / minima*

One was at the San Gildar in San Jose and others at Arenal and La Selva

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata crissalis*

About 30 flew over at Finca Mirador de Quetzales and a couple posed for the scope at Savegre

Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas s. subvinacea*

Two or more showed well at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

Short-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas nigrirostris*

About six showed well at Arenal

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica australis*

Small numbers were seen in and around San Jose with another at Colorado Salinas

Inca Dove *Scardafella inca*

Up to 10 were seen at Hacienda Solimar after a couple of earlier birds at Villa Lapas

Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerina neglecta*

One was seen well at Hacienda Solimar, others may have been overlooked there

Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti rufipennis*

Common and widespread throughout the lowlands, especially numerous in the dry country at Hacienda Solimar

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila v. verreauxi / riottei*

Fairly common and widespread in the lowlands and at Monteverde, seen on seven dates

Grey-chested Dove *Leptotila cassini cerviniventris / rufinucha*

Heard but not seen for certain at Carara NP, a couple showed well near the birdtables at Arenal and at Selva Verde

[Ruddy Quail-Dove *Geotrygon m. montana*]

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

PSITTACIDAE

Crimson-fronted Parakeet *Aratinga finschi*

A couple of small groups flew over our hotel in San Jose and a perched bird was at Arenal

Orange-fronted Parakeet *Aratinga c. canicularis*

Half a dozen were at and around Hacienda Solimar and a couple more at Arenal

Great Green Macaw *Ara a. ambigu*

Groups of three or four were seen on five occasions at La Selva, also heard at Selve Verde

Scarlet Macaw *Ara m. macao*

A total of 20 or more were seen in the Villa Lapas/ Tarcoles/ Carara NP area, most were in flight

Orange-chinned Parakeet *Brotogeris j. jugularis*

Small, noisy groups were seen in flight several times in Caribbean lowlands

Brown-hooded Parrot *Pionopsitta b. haematotis*

Up to six were seen at Monteverde

White-crowned Parrot *Pionus senilis rubigularis*

A total of 50 were seen in the Caribbean lowlands, mostly in flight

White-fronted Amazon *Amazona albifrons nana*

Two at Monteverde were followed by four more at Hacienda Solimar

Red-Lored Amazon *Amazona autumnalis salvini*

Three were seen at Rio Tarcoles and Carara NP

Mealy Amazon *Amazona farinosa virenticeps*

Two at Arenal were followed by another 10 in the Caribbean lowlands

Yellow-naped Amazon *Amazona a. auropalliata*

Common at Hacienda Solimar were over 40 were recorded, less raucous than its relatives!

*CUCULIDAE*Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana thermophila*

After one at Carara NP, about six were at Hacienda Solimar with a further six in the Caribbean lowlands

Lesser Ground-Cuckoo *Morococcyx e. erythropygus*

One of two at Hacienda Solimar gave some excellent views for such a retiring species

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*

Small numbers were seen throughout the lowlands, seen on 10 dates

*STRIGIDAE*Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata saturata / chapmani*

Three, a pair and a singleton, were seen well at Hacienda Solimar at their daytime roosts

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum ridgwayi*

One was heard but not seen at Villa Lapas but up to eight were seen well and several more heard at Hacienda Solimar

Black-and-white Owl *Strix nigrolineata*

The famous pair in the town square in Orotina showed well during our short visit

CAPRIMULGIDAE

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis littoralis* etc

About 150 showed well in flight during our mangrove boat trip on the Rio Tarcoles

Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis intercedens*

Up to eight were seen in the dry forest at Hacienda Solimar, also heard near our rooms there

APODIDAE

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris bouchelli*

About 20 showed well at Finca Mirador de Quetzales with a similar number more distantly at Savegre. A distant group of swifts over Villa Lapas may also have been this species

Costa Rican Swift *Chaetura fumosa*

A handful were seen over Villa Lapas and nearby Carara NP

Gray-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris phaeopygos*

About 30 were seen over Selve Verde and La Selva

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift *Panyptila c. cayennensis*

Two were seen over Carara NP

TROCHILIDAE

Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy coruscus*

At least one showed well on three occasions at the Monteverde Hummingbird Gallery, another was at Selve Verde

Long-billed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris cephalus*

One was seen on a couple of occasions at Selve Verde

Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis saturatus*

Two were at Arenal and a couple more at Selve Verde

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird *Campylopterus curvieri roberti / maculicauda*

About three were seen during our final morning at Villa Lapas

Violet Sabrewing *Campylopterus hemileucurus mellitus*

Up to 10 were simultaneously in view at Monteverde Hummingbird Gallery

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga m. mellivora*

Two were along the La Selva entrance road

Green Violet-ear *Colibri thalassinus cabanidis*

A couple were seen at Finca Mirador de Quetzales (where many more were heard), about 10 showed well at Savegre and half that number were at Monteverde Hummingbird Gallery

Green-breasted Mango *Anthracoceros prevostii gracilirostris*

A total of five were seen at and around Hacienda Solimar

Violet-headed Hummingbird *Klais guimeti merrittii*

Half-a-dozen were at Arenal with a couple more at La Tapir

Salvin's Emerald *Chlorostilbon salvini*

One was seen on a couple of occasions at Hacienda Solimar; the taxonomic history of this species is rather complex and somewhat controversial but most authors now agree that what was once known as Fork-tailed Emerald (and subsequently as Canivet's Emerald in a Costa Rican context) is better viewed as several different species

[Violet-crowned Woodnymph *Thalurania colombica venusta*]

One was at La Tapir (L/O)

Fiery-throated Hummingbird *Panterpe i. insignis / eisenmanni*

Only seen at Finca Mirador de Quetzales where about five were found

Blue-throated Goldentail *Hylocharis e. eliciae*

Two singing birds posed for the scope at Carara NP

Steely-vented Hummingbird *Amazilia saucerrottei hoffmanni*

Singles were at Villa Lapas and Monteverde

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia t. tzacatl*

Three or four were seen briefly at Villa Lapas, one was at Monteverde but about 10 were seen at Arenal, Selve Verde and La Selva

Cinnamon Hummingbird *Amazilia rutila corallirostris*

Up to 10 were found at Hacienda Solimar

Stripe-tailed Hummingbird *Eupherusa eximia*

At least three were at the Hummingbird Gallery at Monteverde

Coppery-headed Emerald *Elvira cupreiceps*

About three were watched at Monteverde Hummingbird Gallery

[Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer *Chalybura urochrysis melanorrhoa*]

One was seen at Selve Verde (L/O)

Purple-throated Mountain-gem *Lampornis calolaemus* ssp

About a dozen attended the feeders at Monteverde Hummingbird Gallery

Grey-tailed Mountain-gem *Lampornis cinereicauda*

At least three were at Savegre; formerly considered part of White-throated Mountain-gem *L. castaneiventris* of Panama

Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula henryi*

Up to 20 showed well at Monteverde Hummingbird Gallery

Magnificent Hummingbird *Eugenes fulgens spectabilis*

Two or three were at both Finca Mirador de Quetzales and Savegre

Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliobryx barroti*

One was seen at Arenal

Magenta-throated Woodstar *Calliphlox bryantae*

Two were seen on a couple of occasions at Monteverde Hummingbird Gallery

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*

Only seen at Hacienda Solimar where up to six wintering birds gathered to feed on flowering shrubs below the swimming pool; remarkable to think that these tiny birds might migrate as far as Alaska

Volcano Hummingbird *Selasphorus flammula torridus*

About eight were at Finca Mirador de Quetzales with a couple more at Savegre

Scintillant Hummingbird *Selasphorus scintilla*

At least one male and one female were seen at Savegre

TROGONIDAE

Black-headed Trogon *Trogon melanocephalus*

At least six were at Villa Lapas and Carara NP with a similar number at Hacienda Solimar and one at La Selva

Violaceous Trogon *Trogon violaceus concinnus*

Up to six showed well at Villa Lapas and Carara NP and a handful more were on the Caribbean Slope

Orange-bellied Trogon *Trogon aurantiiventris*

A male showed well at Monteverde; many authors regard this species as a colour morph of Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris*

Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus tenellus*

A female posed for the scope at Carara NP

Slaty-tailed Trogon *Trogon massena hoffmanni*

A pair showed well on successive early mornings at Villa Lapas and another was at La Selva

Resplendent Quetzal *Pharomachrus mocinno costaricensis*

A male posed for the scope at Finca Mirador de Quetzales and another male (with full 'tail' regalia) showed well at Monteverde

ALCEDINIDAE

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*

A total of five were seen at Villa Lapas/ Carara NP/ Rio Tarcoles and another four at Hacienda Solimar and one near Selve Verde

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*

Two at Villa Lapas/ Carara NP were followed by about five at Selve Verde

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana septentrionalis*

At least five were at Villa Lapas/ Carara NP/ Rio Tarcoles with another four at and around Hacienda Solimar

American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle a. aenea*

Some of the group saw one at the oxbow in Carara NP and another was found along a roadside stream near Hacienda Solimar

MOMOTIDAE

Blue-crowned Motmot *Momotus momota lessonii*

Up to six showed well at Monteverde

Rufous Motmot *Baryphthengus martii semirufus*

One or two were seen on three occasions at Selve Verde

Broad-billed Motmot *Electron platyrhynchum minor*

One was seen well near Tabacon as we approached Arenal

Turquoise-browed Motmot *Eumomota superciliosa australis*

Two were regularly in view from the lodge at Hacienda Solimar with a couple more during excursions nearby

BUCCONIDAE

White-necked Puffbird *Bucco macrorhynchos hyperrhynchus*

Three were seen well at Hacienda Solimar

White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis inornata* / *panamensis*

One was seen along the Villa Lapas Trails and another at La Selva

GALBULIDAE

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda melanogenia*

Three were at Tabacon and at least six at La Selva

RAMPHASTIDAE

Blue-throated Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus caeruleogularis*

The first was at Finca Mirador de Quetzales with two further birds seen several times at Monteverde; some authors include this species in Emerald Toucanet *A. prasinus*

Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus t. torquatus*

A couple were seen briefly at Arenal but up to eight gave some great views at Selve Verde

Fiery-billed Aracari *Pteroglossus frantzii*

Up to three showed very well on successive mornings at Villa Lapas

Keel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos sulfuratus brevicarinatus*

Two were seen during our boat trip on the Rio Tarcoles then up to 10 in the Caribbean lowlands

Chestnut-mandibled Toucan *Ramphastos swainsonii*

Two along the Rio Tarcoles were followed by up to four at Villa Lapas, quite common on the Caribbean slope with up to 10 per day at Selve Verde and La Selva

PICIDAE

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus striatipectus*

Up to six showed well at Savegre

Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani*

Up to six per day were seen on the Caribbean slope after the first near Arenal

Hoffmann's Woodpecker *Melanerpes hoffmannii*

After the first in the town square in Orotina further birds were at Villa Lapas, Monteverde and Hacienda Solimar; about 25 were seen in total

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Piculus rubiginosus yucatanensis*

One was seen and another heard at Monteverde (N/L)

Rufous-winged Woodpecker *Piculus simplex*

One was seen at La Selva

Cinnamon Woodpecker *Celeus loricatus diversus*

One was seen at La Selva

Chestnut-colored Woodpecker *Celeus castaneus*

One was seen at La Selva; evidently a woodpecker hotspot

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus l. lineatus / similis*

Hacienda Solimar produced good views of three individuals with others at Arenal and near Selva Verde

Pale-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus g. guatemalensis*

Two of these spectacular birds showed very well at Carara NP

FURNARIIDAE

Spotted Barbtail *Premnoplex brunescens brunneicauda*

Two showed well at Monteverde

Ruddy Treerunner *Margarornis r. rubiginosus*

Three or four were seen at Finca Mirador de Quetzales and two more at Monteverde

Lineated Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla subalaris lineata*

Two were seen quite briefly at Monteverde

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus ridgwayi*

Two or three were seen at Carara NP and one at La Selva

[Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus sylvioides*]

One was seen briefly at Monteverde (L/O)

Northern Barred Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes s. sanctithomae / hesperius*

One was at Villa Lapas with three more were at Selva Verde and La Selva

Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans costaricensis*

Two were seen briefly at Villa Lapas and another at La Selva

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii compressus*

Two showed well at Villa Lapas, two more were at Hacienda Solimar and Monteverde and a final handful at La Selva

THAMNOPHILIDAE

Fasciated Antshrike *Cymbilaimus lineatus fasciatus*

Three were seen at La Selva

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus intermedius*

Two were at Carara NP, two at Hacienda Solimar and one at La Selva

Black-hooded Antshrike *Thamnophilus bridgesi*

Up to a dozen were seen at Carara NP and Villa Lapas

Dot-winged Antwren *Microrhopias quixensis virgatus*

About eight were seen at Villa Lapas and Carara NP

Dusky Antbird *Cercomacra tyrannina crepera*

About eight were seen and several more heard at Villa Lapas and Carara NP

[Bare-crowned Antbird *Gymnocichla nudiceps chiroleuca / erratilis*]

Heard but not seen at La Selva

Chestnut-backed Antbird *Myrmeciza exsul occidentalis / exsul*

Half a dozen were at Carara NP/ Villa Lapas with a similar number at Selve Verde

RHINOCRYPTIDAE

[Silvery-fronted Tapaculo *Scytalopus a. argentifrons*]

Heard but not seen at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

TYRANNIDAE

Northern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma imberbe*

A couple were seen at Hacienda Solimar

Greenish Elaenia *Myiagis viridicata accola*

One was seen at Hacienda Solimar

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster subpagana*

A couple at Monteverde were followed by one at La Selva

Mountain Elaenia *Elaenia f. frantzii*

One showed well at Savegre

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus assimilis*

One was seen at Selve Verde

Paltry Tyrannulet *Zimmerius vilissimus parvus*

Singles were seen at Hacienda Solimar and near Selve Verde

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant *Lophotriccus pileatus luteiventris*

A noisy individual gave a couple of fleeting views at Monteverde

Northern Bentbill *Oncostoma cinereigulare*

One at Villa Lapas was followed by two more at Hacienda Solimar

Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilatriccus sylvia*

One or two were seen at Hacienda Solimar

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum finitimum / wetmorei*

Ones and twos were seen at several sites throughout the lowlands

Yellow-olive Flatbill *Tolmomyias sulphurescens cinereiceps*

Three at Villa Lapas and Carara NP were followed by a couple more at Hacienda Solimar; also known as Yellow-olive Flycatcher

White-throated Spadebill *Platyrinchus mystaceus*

One of three calling birds at Monteverde was seen briefly

[Northern] Royal Flycatcher *Onychorhynchus (coronatus) mexicanus*

One gave a brief views at Carara NP

Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher *Myiobius sulphureipygius aureatus*

One was seen well at Villa Lapas

Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus aurantiiventris*

Two were seen at Monteverde

Tropical Pewee *Contopus cinereus rhizophorus* and *brachytarsus*

One showed well at Arenal

Black-capped Flycatcher *Empidonax atriceps*

Up to six showed well at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans amnicola*

One at Rio Garita Reservoir was followed by about five along the river at Selve Verde

Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus leuconota*

A couple were near Arenal with two more at La Selve

Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus flammulatus*

One or two were seen on several occasions at Selve Verde and another was at La Selva

Rufous Mourner *Rhytipterna b. holerythra*

A couple showed well at La Selva

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer littoralis* / *nigricapillus*

About 10 were seen at widespread lowland sites on both slopes

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus*

A couple were seen at Hacienda Solimar where a few more were heard

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus brachyurus*

One was at Villa Lapas and a couple more at Hacienda Solimar; a number of *Myiarchus* flycatchers were left unidentified due to brevity of views or because they were silent

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus guatemalensis*

Present everywhere in good numbers except at the highest elevations and in dense forest

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarhynchus pitangua mexicanus*

Two at Monteverde were followed by about six at Selve Verde, others were heard

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis texensis / columbianus*

Fairly common throughout the lowlands

Grey-capped Flycatcher *Myiozetetes g. granadensis*

Small numbers were at Villa Lapas and on the Caribbean Slope

White-ringed Flycatcher *Conopias albovittata distinctus*

Two were seen near Selve Verde

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus difficilis / insolens*

Ones and twos were seen at Villa Lapas and Hacienda Solimar

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus satrapa*

Ubiquitous

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*

A couple flew past the bus as we approached Monteverde and another was seen briefly near Colorado

INCERTAE SEDIS (relationships currently uncertain)

Cinnamon Becard *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus fulvidior*

Two or three showed well at La Selva

White-winged Becard *Pachyramphus polychopterus similis*

One was seen at La Selva

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae latirostris*

Small numbers were seen at widespread lowland sites, mainly on the Pacific slope

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata costaricensis*

Three at Villa Lapas were followed by seven more in the Caribbean lowlands

Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor fraserii*

Two were seen at Selve Verde and La Selva

COTINGIDAE

Snowy Cotinga *Carpodectes nitidus*

Up to eight posed for the scope at Selve Verde and a couple more were at La Selva

Bare-necked Umbrellabird *Cephalopterus glabricollis*

One was seen briefly but well in flight at La Selva

White-collared Manakin *Manacus candei*

One at Selva Verde was followed by two at La Selva, others were heard

Orange-collared Manakin *Manacus aurantiacus*

Up to four were at a lek at Villa Lapas with a couple more at Carara NP

Long-tailed Manakin *Chiroxiphia linearis fastuosa*

A briefly seen male at Villa Lapas was followed by three males at Hacienda Solimar

Red-capped Manakin *Pipra m. mentalis / ignifera*

A male showed on a couple of occasions near our rooms at Selva Verde

VIREONIDAE

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*

Small numbers were seen at four sites on the Pacific slope

Yellow-winged Vireo *Vireo carmioli*

One was seen at Savegre, a mysterious Vireo at Finca Mirador de Quetzales looked just like this species except for a complete absence of yellow tones, perhaps an aberrant individual

Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus*

One was at Villa Lapas and two or three at Hacienda Solimar

Lesser Greenlet *Hylophilus d. decurtatus*

Small numbers were seen at Hacienda Solimar, Arenal, Selva Verde and La Selva

CORVIDAE

White-throated Magpie-Jay *Calocitta formosa pompata*

Up to six were regularly near our lodge at Hacienda Solimar

Brown Jay *Cyanocorax (morio) mexicanus*

About 10 were seen at Monteverde with another eight at Arenal and Selva Verde

HIRUNDINIDAE

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea*

Fairly common along the Rio Tarcoles with a couple more at Selva Verde

Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon c. cyanoleuca*

About 20 were over Finca Mirador de Quetzales with smaller numbers at Monteverde and Arenal

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

A few were seen each day after the first near Arenal

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis decolor*

Found in the same places as the last species though in slightly larger numbers

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica erythrogaster*

Common at Hacienda Solimar with smaller numbers in open areas throughout

TROGLODYTIDAE

Band-backed Wren *Campylorhynchus zonatus costaricensis*

Four were at Arenal and two at La Selva

Rufous-naped Wren *Campylorhynchus rufinucha capistratus* & *nicoyae*

Small numbers were seen frequently on the Pacific slope with a few more on the Caribbean slope

Black-throated Wren *Thryothorus atrogularis*

A couple showed briefly at La Selva

Black-bellied Wren *Thryothorus fasciatoventris melanogaster*

Two were seen at Carara NP

Bay Wren *Thryothorus nigricapillus castaneus*

Up to four were at Selva Verde with a couple more at La Selva

[Riverside Wren *Thryothorus semibadius*]

Two were seen at Villa Lapas (L/O)

[Stripe-breasted Wren *Thryothorus thoracicus*]

One was seen at Selva Verde (L/O)

Rufous-breasted Wren *Thryothorus rutilus hyperythrus*

Ones and twos were seen on three occasions at Carara NP and Villa Lapas

Rufous-and-white Wren *Thryothorus rufalbus castanonotus*

One or two were seen at Carara NP

Southern House Wren *Troglodytes musculis* ssp

A couple were seen at Villa Lapas and Monteverde

White-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorbina leucosticta* ssp

Three or four were seen at Selva Verde

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorbina leucophrys collina*

A couple showed briefly at Monteverde

SYLVIIDAE

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus (melanurus) panamensis*

One was seen at Carara NP and another was heard at Hacienda Solimar

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Polioptila plumbea* ssp

About 10 were seen at Hacienda Solimar

TURDIDAE

Black-billed Nightingale-thrush *Catharus g. gracilirostris*

Some of the half dozen seen at Finca Mirador de Quetzales gave great views

Slaty-backed Nightingale-thrush *Catharus fuscater hellmayri*

Two or three were seen at Monteverde

Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina*

A couple were at Carara NP with another at Selve Verde

Sooty Thrush *Turdus nigrescens*

Up to 20 were seen in the highlands south of San Jose

Mountain Thrush *Turdus p. plebejus*

Half a dozen were at Finca Mirador de Quetzales with about 20 more at Monteverde

Clay-colored Thrush *Turdus grayi casius*

Ubiquitous

White-throated Thrush *Turdus assimilis cnephosus*

Two at Selve Verde were a surprise there, usually found at higher elevations

PTILOGONATIDAE

Black-and-yellow Silky-flycatcher *Phainoptila melanoxantha*

At least four were seen at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher *Ptilogonys caudatus*

A couple were seen at Finca Mirador de Quetzales and Savegre

PARULIDAE

Tennessee Warbler *Vermivora peregrina*

About 15 were seen at widespread sites

Flame-throated Warbler *Parula gutturalis*

Three or four of these stunners were at Finca Mirador de Quetzales; gorgeous birds!

Tropical Parula *Parula pitiayumi speciosa*

Four or five were seen at and near Arenal

Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* ssp.

Small numbers were seen at widespread lowland sites

Mangrove Warbler *Dendroica (p.) erithachorides*

At least four males were seen during our boat trip at Tarcoles and another was at Colorado Salinas

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Dendroica pensylvanica*

A couple were at Villa Lapas but this species was common on the Caribbean slope

Magnolia Warbler *Dendroica magnolia*

One or two were at Hacienda Solimar

Black-throated Green Warbler *Dendroica v. virens*

At least three were seen at Monteverde

Townsend's Warbler *Dendroica townsendi*

One at Savegre was a surprise find

Yellow-throated Warbler *Dendroica dominica albilora*

One at Monteverde was a surprise find

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*

One was seen at Carara NP

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*

Up to six were at Tarcoles with another six at Colorado Salinas

Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis*

Small numbers were seen at widespread wetland areas after the first at Villa Lapas

Louisiana Waterthrush *Seiurus motacilla*

One was at Selve Verde

Kentucky Warbler *Oporornis formosus*

One at Carara NP was followed by three or more at Selve Verde

[Olive-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis semiflava*]

Heard but not seen near Selve Verde

Gray-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis poliocephala* ssp C. Am

After a couple at Hacienda Solimar three more were seen near Arenal

Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla*

Fairly common in the highlands south of San Jose with a few more at Monteverde

Slate-throated Redstart *Myioborus miniatus*

Fairly common in the highlands south of San Jose and at Monteverde

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus* ssp

About six were seen at Monteverde

Rufous-capped Warbler *Basileuterus rufifrons delattri*

One was seen at Hacienda Solimar; sometimes split as Chestnut-capped Warbler *B. delattri*

Three-striped Warbler *Basileuterus tristriatus melanotis / chitrensis*

About 10 were seen at Monteverde

Buff-rumped Warbler *Phaeothlypis fulvicauda*

Two were at Arenal

Zeledonia (Wrenthrush) *Zeledonia coronata*

One was glimpsed by some at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

COEREBIDAE

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola mexicana*

Small numbers were seen at various sites on the Caribbean slope

THRAUPIDAE

Common Bush-Tanager *Chlorospingus ophthalmicus regionalis / novicius*

Small groups were seen on several occasions at Monteverde

Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager *Chlorospingus p. pileatus*

Small numbers were seen at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

Black-and-yellow Tanager *Chrysothlypis chrysomelas titanota*

Two or three were at La Tapir

Red-throated Ant-Tanager *Habia f. fuscicauda*

Common in the undergrowth at Selva Verde and La Selva

Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava testacea*

About six were seen at Arenal

Summer Tanager *Piranga r. rubra*

Small numbers were seen at most places visited

Flame-colored Tanager *Piranga bidentata citrea*

A couple were at Finca Mirador de Quetzales with another at Savegre

Crimson-collared Tanager *Phlogothraupis sanguinolenta*

Up to four showed well at Arenal

Passerini's Tanager *Ramphocelus passerinii*

Common at and around Arenal with a few more in the Caribbean lowlands

Cherrie's Tanager *Ramphocelus costaricensis*

One was seen at Carara NP; formerly considered part of the previous species under the name Scarlet-rumped Tanager

Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus cana*

Seen throughout in generally small number though common and conspicuous at Arenal and Selve Verde where many visited the bird tables

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum atripennis*

Fairly common in the Caribbean lowlands with a few elsewhere

Emerald Tanager *Tangara f. florida*

One showed well at Arenal

Silver-throated Tanager *Tangara icterocephala frantzii*

One or two showed briefly at La Tapir

Golden-hooded Tanager *Tangara l. larvata / centralis / franciscae*

Small numbers were seen at Villa Lapas, Arenal and on the Caribbean Slope

Spangle-cheeked Tanager *Tangara dowii*

Half a dozen were seen at Monteverde

Scarlet-thighed Dacnis *Dacnis v. venusta*

One was seen briefly near Selve Verde

Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana callaina*

A couple were at Villa Lapas and near Selve Verde

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza arguta*

One showed well at Arenal

Shining Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes lucidus isthmicus*

A pair came to the birdtables at Selve Verde on a couple of occasions

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus carneipes*

Two or three came to the birdtables at Arenal

EMBERIZIDAE

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina splendens*

About eight were seen at Hacienda Solimar

Variable Seedeater *Sporophila c. corvina* / *hoffmannii*

One was at Hacienda Solimar (subspecies *corvina*) and about 20 at Arenal and near Selve Verde (subspecies *hoffmannii*)

White-collared Seedeater *Sporophila torqueola moreletii* C. Am+

Up to 30 were seen at Hacienda Solimar

[Thick-billed Seed-Finch *Oryzoborus funereus salvini* / *ochrogynae*]

A couple were seen briefly near Selve Verde (L/O)

Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivacea pusillus*

Up to 10 were seen at Monteverde

Slaty Flowerpiercer *Diglossa p. plumbea*

A handful were seen at Finca Mirador de Quetzales and Savegre

Yellow-thighed Finch *Pselliophorus tibialis*

One was seen just as we were approaching Finca Mirador de Quetzales

Large-footed Finch *Pezopetes capitalis*

One or two were seen on a few occasions below the restaurant at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

Chestnut-capped Brush-finch *Buarremon b. brunneinucha*

A couple of typically elusive individuals were glimpsed at Monteverde

Orange-billed Sparrow *Arremon a. aurantirostris* and *rufidorsalis*

After a couple were glimpsed at Villa Lapas, this skulking species was seen best at Selve Verde with a couple more at La Selva

Olive Sparrow *Arremonops rufivirgatus superciliosus*

Three or four were seen and a few more heard at Hacienda Solimar

Black-striped Sparrow *Arremonops conirostris richmondi*

Up to eight showed well at Arenal

Stripe-headed Sparrow *Aimophila r. ruficauda*

About 10 were seen at Hacienda Solimar

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis costaricensis*

Fairly common at Finca Mirador de Quetzales and Savegre with smaller numbers around our hotel at Monteverde and at our final coffee stop near San Jose

CARDINALIDAE

Greyish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens brevicaudus*

A couple were seen at Monteverde

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus magnoides / intermedius*

Small numbers were seen at Monteverde, Arenal and in the Caribbean lowlands

Black-faced Grosbeak *Caryothraustes poliogaster scapularis*

Two showed well at La Selva

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

One or two were at scattered lowland sites

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*

Two females were at Hacienda Solimar

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris pallidior*

A male was seen briefly at Hacienda Solimar (N/L)

ICTERIDAE

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna* ssp.

A handful on the outskirts of San Jose were followed by about 10 at Hacienda Solimar

Melodious Blackbird *Dives dives*

About 10 were in the grounds of our hotel in Monteverde

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus peruvianus*

Common throughout the lowlands and at Monteverde

Black-cowled Oriole *Icterus dominicensis*

One was at Arenal and four at Selve Verde

Orchard Oriole *Icterus s. spurius*

One showed briefly at Hacienda Solimar

[Yellow-tailed Oriole *Icterus mesomelas salvini*]

Heard but not seen at La Selva

Streak-backed Oriole *Icterus pustulatus sclateri*
Half-a-dozen were seen at Hacienda Solimar

Spot-breasted Oriole *Icterus pectoralis espinachi*
About eight were seen at Hacienda Solimar

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*
Small numbers were seen at widespread sites after the first at Savegre

Scarlet-rumped Cacique *Cacicus uropygialis pacificus*
About eight were seen at La Selva

Chestnut-headed Oropendola *Psarocolius wagleri ridgwayi*
Four were seen at La Selva

Montezuma Oropendola *Psarocolius montezuma*
Fairly common and widespread away from the highest elevations, particularly obvious on the Caribbean slope

FRINGILLIDAE

Scrub Euphonia *Euphonia a. affinis*
Up to six were seen at Hacienda Solimar

Yellow-crowned Euphonia *Euphonia luteicapilla*
Two were seen at Monteverde

Yellow-throated Euphonia *Euphonia birundinacea gnatho*
Four showed well at Monteverde

Olive-backed Euphonia *Euphonia gouldi praetermissa*
A couple at Arenal were followed by regular sightings in the Caribbean lowlands

Tawny-capped Euphonia *Euphonia a. anneae*
One was seen briefly at Arenal

Golden-browed Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia callophrys*
Two or three gave some great views at Finca Mirador de Quetzales, always a favourite

PASSERIDAE

[House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*]
A few were at our coffee stop in Muelle; an introduced species

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 or two appeared around the bar area at Selva Verde on several occasions; one probably a Common Opossum *Didelphus marsupialis* and another probably a Central American Woolly Opossum *Caluromys derbianus*

Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth *Choloepus hoffmanni*

One was in the town square in Orotina and another two were at Selva Verde

Armadillo species

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

White-faced Capuchin *Cebus capuchinus*

Up to eight showed very well at Carara NP

Mantled Howler Monkey *Alouatta palliata*

Most woodland areas held these noisy animals, several gave good views

Spider Monkey *Ateles geoffroyi*

Six were seen on the mature forest at La Selva

Variegated Squirrel *Sciurus variegatoides*

These striking animals were seen well at Hacienda Solimar and around Selva Verde

Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis*

A couple were at Finca Mirador de Quetzales

Mexican Hairy Porcupine *Sphiggurus mexicanus*

A sleepy individual showed well in a tree at La Selva

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata*

A couple were seen at Carara NP, Arenal and La Selva

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 was at a feeding table near the bar at Selva Verde one evening

Kinkajou *Potos flavus*

One with a damaged tail attended the bird feeders at Arenal

Olingo *Bassaricyon gabbii*

One appeared at the hummingbird feeders at Monteverde on two occasions

Neotropical River Otter *Lutra longicaudis*

One was seen from the bar at Selve Verde one evening

Coyote *Canis latrans*

Heard but not seen at Hacienda Solimar, one was seen briefly at Monteverde

Collared Peccary *Tayassu tajacu*

Half-a-dozen were seen at Carara NP and a few more at La Selva

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*

One was seen at Carara NP

Other Fauna

Reptiles were represented by large numbers of American Crocodiles on the Rio Tarcoles and at Hacienda Solimar, Iguanas of at three species and a range of smaller unidentified lizards and geckos, a couple of snakes were seen but not identified.

Amphibians were represented by some spectacular frogs including Blue Jeans and Black and Green Poison Arrow Frogs.

Of the many invertebrates encountered most spectacular were several Blue Morpho and Owl Butterflies (amongst many other colourful species) while Leafcutter Ants and others were as entertaining as ever.