

FIELD REPORT

COSTA RICA: A RELAXED & EASY TOUR

NOVEMBER 16–24, 2024



Resplendent Quetzal © Brad McKinney

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By Brad McKinney

Photo gallery:

<https://ventbird.com/view-photo-gallery/674b4c6d7b58a012cce91e65/Costa-Rica-11162024-11242024>

Great weather, incredible birds, and wonderful camaraderie were the theme of the week as we began our Costa Rica Relaxed & Easy tour in San Jose. Nestled in the bustling Central Valley's ring of volcanoes lie the beautiful gardens of Hotel Bougainvillae where we were introduced to many beautiful Neotropical birds during our pre-breakfast bird walk, including Lesson's Motmot, Masked Tityra, and Chestnut-capped Warbler. Soon we were off to the scenic highlands of Cerro de la Muerte in search of the Resplendent Quetzal and other high-elevation specialties. It seemed that every other bend in the road had a fern-laden waterfall dripping down the cliff faces, and it wasn't long before our birding adventure began on an easy hike through primary forest that led to a delightful local restaurant with several hummingbird feeders out back. On our bird walk we got great looks at several regional endemics, birds found only in Costa Rica and western Panama, including Black-capped Flycatcher, Black-



Peace Waterfall ©Brad McKinney

billied Nightingale-Thrush, and Spangle-cheeked Tanager. As the light drizzle let up, the hummingbird feeders were buzzing with a frenzy of activity. Talamanca and Fiery-throated hummingbirds were perched just feet away, their dazzling iridescence making it difficult to sit down for lunch!



Fiery-throated Hummingbird ©Brad McKinney

After our delicious meal, we traveled to a beautiful private farm (finca) in a first attempt at finding our primary target of the Costa Rica highlands, the iconic Resplendent Quetzal. Although we were unable to find quetzals here, we had amazing studies of White-throated Mountain-gem, unobstructed views of the shy and beautifully-patterned Spotted Wood-Quail, and wonderful looks at both Yellow-thighed Brushfinch and Black-cheeked Warbler. What an amazing start to the tour! We soon checked in to the

Savegre Lodge, surrounded by beautiful cloudforest, ending our day with high anticipation of great birds to come!

The next morning, we traveled to a nearby finca in our quest for the Resplendent Quetzal. This time, luck was on our side. As we walked up to a lookout where quetzals had recently been seen, there was already a male Resplendent Quetzal perched on a distant branch. What unfolded over the next hour was truly memorable, as four quetzals, three males and a female, were in near constant view in glorious morning light, with some perched as close as 50 feet away! We were mesmerized by shimmering hues of emerald, ruby, and gold, their beauty amplified with scope views showing every feather detail. This amazing spectacle will long be remembered by all of us!



Resplendent Quetzal ©Brad McKinney

We then birded the high mountain trails of Savegre Lodge, the nearby Feather Gardens feeders, and the hotel grounds, all of which offered great birds. We had many highlights throughout our stay in San Gerardo de Dota, including Sulphur-winged Parakeet, Ruddy Treerunner, Yellow-winged Vireo, Black-faced Solitaire, Collared Redstart, and many others. As we shifted our attention to the diverse Caribbean lowlands, we rendezvoused with David Ascanio, VENT leader extraordinaire, who joined us for the remainder of the tour. Our success in the Talamanca highlands seemed to open the birding floodgates, with each day bringing new surprises and incredible experiences.



Baird's Tapir ©Brad McKinney

After checking in at La Quinta de Sarapiquí, we enjoyed a dazzling array of tanagers, honeycreepers, and others at the feeding stations. The following morning would be spent at the Rainforest Adventures tram near Braulio Carrillo National Park. As we checked in at the tram, a local guide nearby motioned for us to come quickly as a Baird's Tapir was foraging nearby. After observing this huge mammal at

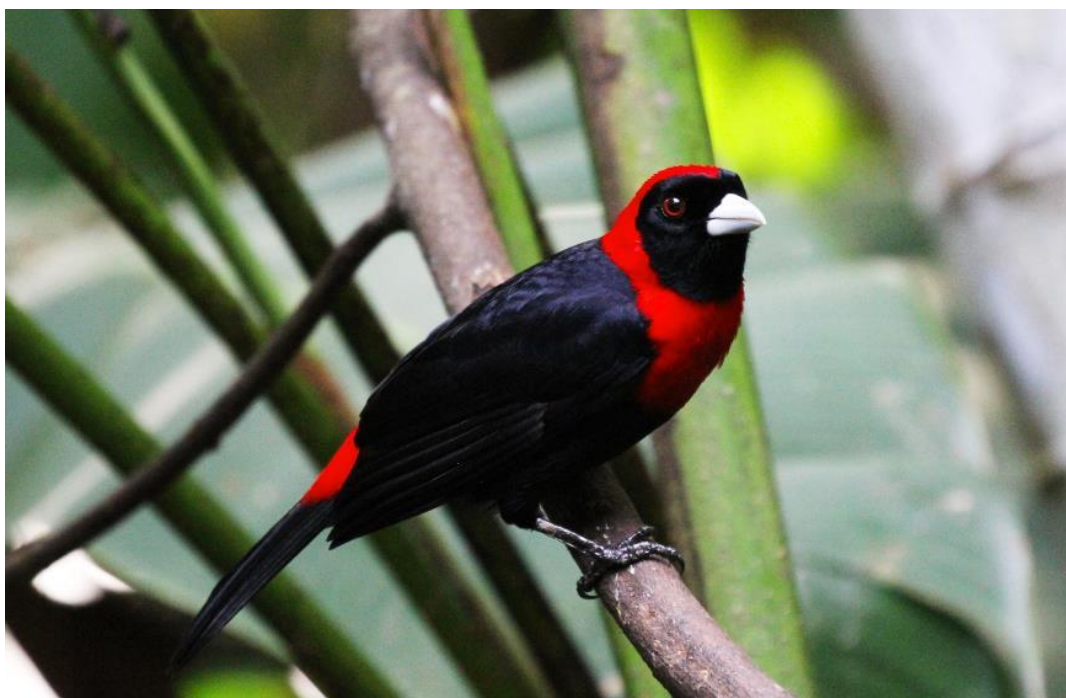
close range for nearly 10 minutes, we rode the tram, taking in the breathtaking views of pristine primary forest from above the



Bare-necked Umbrellabird © Brad

canopy. While riding the tram, we got incredible looks at birds in the canopy at eye level, with one group seeing a feeding flock consisting of Carmiol's, Tawny-crested, Speckled, Emerald, and Black-and-yellow tanagers. After exiting the tram at the turnaround point, we birded a winding trail and observed a variety of interesting birds, including Semiplumbeous Hawk, three manakin species, several flycatchers, antbirds, and warblers. As we were watching a Red-capped Manakin, one of the local guides informed us that he had just seen a Bare-necked Umbrellabird about 200 yards down the trail. As luck would have it, the bird was still present where it had last been seen, providing our group with outstanding looks at a locally rare species with a very limited range. What an incredible bird!

The following two days, we birded the rainforests of La Selva Research Station and the Las Flores region and had great looks at Middle-American Screech-Owl, Crested and Spectacled owls, Northern Black-throated Trogon, Rufous Motmot, White-whiskered Puffbird, Great Green Macaw, Black-cowled Oriole, and Crimson-collared and Golden-hooded tanagers, just to name a few. On our drive back to San Jose, we made a brief stop at Poas Volcano National Park and had one of the highlights of the tour, excellent studies of a pair of Wrenthrush, a very secretive regional specialty that is more often heard than seen. What a way to cap off the tour! Many thanks to local expert Esteban Biamonte, who provided outstanding guiding services throughout our tour, and to David Ascanio for his great guiding skills, expertise, and enthusiasm throughout. Our VENT participants were amazing, and I sure hope that we meet up again on the birding trail.



Crimson-collared Tanager © Brad McKinney

COSTA RICA RELAXED AND EASY

November 16–24, 2024

MAP OF LOCATIONS



ITINERARY:

- 16 November. Arrival to San José.
- 17 November. Hotel Bougainvillae gardens, Mirador de Quetzal, Hotel Gema del Bosque grounds, Savegre Lodge.
- 18 November. Casa Monge Lodge, Savegre Lodge grounds, La Quebrada Trail and Mirador (lookout), Feather Gardens, Miriam's Restaurant.
- 19 November. Savegre Lodge grounds, Providence Road at Quetzal NP, El Tigre Pond, and roadside stop at Chilamate.
- 20 November. La Quinta de Sarapiquí Lodge grounds, Rainforest Adventures tram near Braulio Carrillo NP.
- 21 November. La Quinta de Sarapiquí Lodge grounds, La Selva Research Station, El Commando Road, and La Selva entrance road.
- 22 November. La Quinta de Sarapiquí Lodge grounds, Cope's Garden and Las Flores Road, and Pierella Ecological Garden.
- 23 November. La Quinta de Sarapiquí entrance road, Cinchona, San Rafael de Vara Blanca, Corso Coffee Shop, road to Poas Volcano NP, Freddo Fresas, Doka Estate Coffee Tour, and Xandari Resort & Spa.
- 24 November. Departure.



All smiles on VENT Costa Rica R&E tour, Cope's Garden, 22 Nov 2024 ©David Ascanio

KEY

SJ: San Jose. Hotel Bougainvillae and vicinity, San Jose. Also coffee finca (Cartago).

BC: Rainforest Adventures tram/Braulio Carrillo National Park and Paso de Zurgi (lunch).

CM: Cerro de la Muerte, Mirador de Quetzales, Savegre Lodge and La Quebrada Trail.

SA: La Selva OTS, La Quinta de Sarapiquí, Guápiles (Cope's), and Pierella Ecological Garden.

CI: Cinchona, Finca Corzo, San Rafael de Vara Blanca, Doka Estate Coffee Tour, and Poás Volcano NP and vicinity.

(I): Introduced (but well-established) species.

Underlined. Endemic, regional endemic or difficult-to-see species.

260 bird species seen during VENT Costa Rica Relaxed and Easy Tour,
November 16-24, 2024

BIRDS:

Tinamous / Tinamidae

Slaty-breasted Tinamou, *Crypturellus boucardi*. Near La Selva at Comandancia de Sarapiquí Road. Heard only. SA.

Guans, Chachalacas & Curassows / Cracidae

Gray-headed Chachalaca. *Ortalis cinereiceps*. Seen well at Hotel Bougainvillae and at La Quinta de Sarapiquí. SJ and SA.

Crested Guan. *Penelope purpurascens*. Great looks at Pierella Ecological Garden and Road to San Rafael de Vara Blanca. SA and CI.

Black Guan. *Chamaepetes unicolor*. A regional endemic. One on the grounds at Savegre Lodge and four seen well at Cinchona. CM and CI.

New World Quail / Odontophoridae

Spotted Wood-Quail. *Odontophorus guttatus*. Seeing 12 birds well at Gema del Bosque were most unexpected. CM.

Pigeons and Doves / Columbidae

Rock Pigeon (I). *Columba livia*. Seen in urban areas including San Jose and Lomas Verdes.

Pale-vented Pigeon. *Patagioenas cayannensis*. First seen at El Tigre wet fields but great looks at Cope's garden. SA.

Red-billed Pigeon. *Patagioenas flavirostris*. Seen well at Hotel Bougainvillae, La Quinta de Sarapiquí, and Xandari Resort and Spa. SJ, SA.

Band-tailed Pigeon. *Patagioenas fasciata*. Four birds seen on the road from El Mirador to the Savegre Lodge grounds. CM.

Ruddy Pigeon. *Patagioenas subvinacea*. One heard from El Mirador. CM.

Short-billed Pigeon. *Patagioenas nigrirostris*. Scope views on El Commando Road. SA.

Ruddy Ground-Dove. *Columbina talpacoti*. Open areas at El Tigre wet fields, La Quinta de Sarapiquí, and Comandancia de Sarapiquí Road. SA.

Buff-fronted Quail-Dove. *Zentrygon costaricensis*. One seen briefly at Cinchona. CI.
White-winged Dove. *Zenaida asiatica*. Three at Hotel Bougainvillae. SJ.
Mourning Dove. *Zenaida macroura*. One bird at a finca in Cartago was unexpected. SJ.

Cuckoos / Cuculidae

Groove-billed Ani. *Crotophaga sulcirostris*. Along the road near La Selva. SA.
Squirrel Cuckoo. *Piaya cayana*. One bird at La Selva. Heard only. SA

Nightjars / Caprimulgidae

Lesser Nighthawk. *Lurocalis semitorquatus*. One bird at Hotel Bougainvillae. SJ.
Common Pauraque. *Nyctidromus albicollis*. Entrance road at La Selva. SA.

Potoos / Nyctibidae

Great Potoo. *Nyctibius grandis*. One bird on a daytime perch at La Selva and another off Las Flores Road. SA.

Swifts / Apodidae

Chestnut-collared Swift. *Streptoprocne zonaris*. Flock of 10 birds on Providence Road at Quetzales NP. CM.
White-collared Swift. *Streptoprocne zonaris*. Soaring birds seen at Savegre Lodge and La Quinta de Sarapiquí. CM, SA.
Gray-rumped Swift. *Chaetura cinereiventris*. Three birds at La Quinta de Sarapiquí. SA.
Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift. *Panyptila cayennensis*. One bird at La Quinta de Sarapiquí. SA.

Hummingbirds / Trochilidae

(Summary by D. Ascanio, 2022): Hummingbirds were originally believed to be a cross between an insect and a bird. Furthermore, as a consequence of having such impressive plumage, it is not surprising that a great demand started for feathers of such fantastic creatures, thus pushing a trade business that shipped hundreds of thousands of hummingbird skins into Europe. By then, there were no common names associated with the hummingbirds. So, how did these birds get such beautiful common names? The person to name most of the hummingbirds was John Gould on his memorable *Monograph of Trochilidae* (1849-1861). But, did you know that until the publication of his renowned monograph Gould had never seen a hummingbird alive? Only after finishing such an impressive work, he visited the Americas in May 1857 and saw his first living *Trochilidae*, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. During our Costa Rica tour we recorded 29 species of hummingbirds.

White-necked Jacobin. *Florisuga mellivora*. Rainforest Adventures, Cope's Garden, and Pierella Ecological Garden. BC, SA.
Bronzy Hermit. *Glaucis aeneus*. One at Cope's Garden. SA.
Band-tailed Barbthroat. *Threnetes ruckeri*. One at Cope's Garden. SA.
Green Hermit. *Phaethornis guy*. One at Cinchona. CI.
Long-billed Hermit. *Phaethornis longirostris*. Cope's Garden. SA.
Stripe-throated Hermit. *Phaethornis striigularis*. Rainforest Adventures tram and Cope's Garden. BC, SA.

Lesser Violetear. *Colibri cyanotus*. Multiple birds seen throughout the highlands. CM, CI.

Purple-crowned Fairy. *Heliothryx barroti*. One seen infrequently in canopy blooms in the gardens at La Quinta de Sarapiquí. SA.

Green-breasted Mango. *Anthracothorax prevostii*. Quick flyby battle with a Rufous-tailed Hummingbird at Hotel Bougainvillae. SJ.

Green-crowned Brilliant. *Heliodoxa jacula*. Female seen at Feather Gardens and three at Cinchona. CM, CI.

Talamanca Hummingbird. *Eugenes spectabilis*. A regional endemic. Great looks at several highland locations, including on the the hotel grounds of El Mirador de Quetzales, at Gema del Bosque, Feather Gardens, and Miriam's. CM.

Fiery-throated Hummingbird. *Panterpe insignis*. A regional endemic. Excellent looks at multiple birds on the hotel grounds and nearby trail at El Mirador de Quetzales, Gema del Bosque, and Miriam's. CM.

White-bellied Mountain-Gem. *Lampornis hemileucus*. A regional endemic. Brief but repeated views at Cinchona, CI.

Purple-throated Mountain-Gem. *Lampornis calolaemus*. A regional endemic. A female seen well by all at Freddo Fresas. CI.

White-throated Mountain-Gem. *Lampornis castaneoventris*. A regional endemic. Many seen in highland locales throughout. CM.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. *Archilocus colubris*. One seen by some during lunch at Paso de Zurgi. BC.

Volcano Hummingbird. *Selasphorus flammula*. A regional endemic. Seen at several spots in the Talamanca highlands, including the hotel grounds at El Mirador de Quetzales, Gema del Bosque, and Savegre Lodge. CM.

Scintillant Hummingbird. *Selasphorus scintilla*. A regional endemic. Two birds at Savegre Lodge in flowering shrubs near Feather Gardens. CM.

Violet-headed Hummingbird. *Klais guimeti*. Single birds at the Rainforest Adventures tram and at La Selva. BC, SA.

Violet Sabrewing. *Campylopterus hemileucurus*. Great views at Cinchona. CI.

Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer. *Chalybura urochrysis*. Seen at Rainforest Adventures tram and at Cope's Garden. BC, SA.

Crowned Woodnymph. *Thalurania colombica*. Two birds at Rainforest Adventures tram. BC.

Snowcap. *Microchera albocoronata*. One female feeding on verbena blooms at Rainforest Adventures tram garden. BC.

Stripe-tailed Hummingbird. *Eupherusa eximia*. Seen well at Savegre Lodge by many, and also perched at Freddo Fresas. CM, CI.

Black-bellied Hummingbird. *Eupherusa nigriventris*. A regional endemic. One male seen well at Cinchona. CI.

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird. *Phaeochroa cuvierii*. One at Cope's Garden. SA.

Blue-vented Hummingbird. *Saucerottia cuvierii*. One male at Doka Estate Coffee Tour. CI.

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird. *Amazilia tzacatl*. Many seen throughout. SJ, CM, SA, CI.

Blue-chested Hummingbird. *Polyerata amabilis*. One male seen well at Rainforest Adventures tram trail. BC

Rail, Gallinules, Crakes and Coots / Rallidae

Russet-naped Wood-Rail. *Aramides alvibentris*. Great looks at Cope's Garden; also seen at El Commando Road and at Pierella Ecological Garden. SA.

White-throated Crake. *Laterallus albigularis*. One seen briefly by some near dusk at El Commando Road. SA.

Plovers and Lapwings / Charadriidae

Southern Lapwing. *Vanellus chilensis*. Five birds seen at El Tigre wet fields. SA.

Jacanas / Jacanidae

Northern Jacana. *Jacana spinosa*. Three birds seen at El Tigre wet fields SA.

Sandpipers and Allies / Scolopacidae

Spotted Sandpiper. *Actitis macularia*. Lone bird seen at El Tigre wet fields. SA.

Anhingidae / Anhinga

Anhinga. *Anhinga anhinga*. Our only bird of the tour was one that Esteban spotted soaring near the entrance at La Selva. SA.

Ibises and Spoonbills

Green Ibis. *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*. Our first was a lone bird at El Tigre wet fields en route and great looks at four birds at Pierella Ecological Garden. SA.

Herons, Egrets and Bitterns / Ardeidae

Bare-throated Tiger Heron. *Tigrisoma mexicanum*. One on the highway near La Selva. Dan and Gloria's 1000th bird! SA.

Snowy Egret. *Egretta thula*. One at El Tigre wet fields. SA.

Green Heron. *Butorides virescens*. One at El Tigre wet fields. SA.

Western Cattle Egret. *Bubulcus ibis*. Seen throughout except in the highlands. SA.

Great Egret. *Ardea alba*. One at El Tigre wet fields. SA.

New World Vultures / Cathartidae

King Vulture. *Sarcoramphus papa*. Good looks at an adult bird soaring near the entrance to the Rainforest Adventures tram. BC.

Black Vulture. *Coragyps atratus*. Widespread.

Turkey Vulture. *Cathartes aura*. Widespread.

Hawks, Eagles and Kites / Accipitridae

Osprey. *Pandion haliaetus*. Good looks at a soaring bird near the entrance to the Rainforest Adventures tram and another on El Commando Road near La Selva. BC.

White-tailed Kite. *Elanus leucurus*. Two birds at a Cartago finca and another en route outside of San Jose. SJ.

Roadside Hawk. *Rupornis magnirostris*. Single birds seen en route in Cartago and near La Selva. SJ, SA.

White Hawk. *Pseudastur albicollis*. One adult seen from the Rainforest Adventures tram. BC.

Semiplumbeous Hawk. *Leucopternis semiplumbeus*. Two birds seen at the Rainforest Adventures tram. BC.

Gray Hawk. *Buteo plagiatus*. One seen briefly by some en route near La Selva. SA.

Broad-winged Hawk. *Buteo platypterus*. One bird seen at La Selva. SA.

Red-tailed Hawk. *Buteo jamaicensis*. One bird at Savegre Lodge and another near Poás Volcano NP. CM, CI.

Owls / Strigidae

Middle American Screech-Owl. *Megascops guatemalae*. Daytime roost at La Selva. SA.

Crested Owl. *Lophotrix cristata*. Superb views on a day roost in rain! Las Flores Road. SA.

Spectacled Owl. *Pulsatrix perspicillata*. Superb views of two birds on a daytime roost! Las Flores Road. SA.

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl. *Glaucidium brasilianum*. Heard only at Hotel Bougainvillae. SJ.

Mottled Owl. *Strix virgata*. Two birds on a daytime roost at Hotel Bougainvillae. SJ.

Trogons / Trogonidae

Resplendent Quetzal. *Pharomachrus mocinno*. Seeing this species was one of the most magical experiences of the tour. We saw four individuals at close range, three males and a female at Casa Monge Lodge. CM.

Lattice-tailed Trogon. *Trogon clathratus*. A regional endemic. Two individuals viewed by some at the Rainforest Adventures tram. BC.

Northern Black-throated Trogon. *Trogon tennelus*. Three birds at La Selva. SA.

Collared Trogon. *Trogon collaris*. One bird at Gemma del Bosque and another near Savegre Lodge. CM.

Motmots / Momotidae

Lesson's Motmot. *Momotus lessoni*. Seven birds seen at Hotel Bougainvillae gardens and another seen en route near Doka Estate Coffee Tour. SJ, CI.

Rufous Motmot. *Baryphthengus martii*. One bird seen from the suspension bridge at La Selva. SA.

Kingfishers / Alcedinidae

Ringed Kingfisher. *Megasceryle torquata*. One bird seen the entrance at the Rainforest Adventures tram. BC.

Green Kingfisher. *Chloroceryle americana*. One at Cope's Garden. SA.

Puffbirds / Bucconidae

White-whiskered Puffbird. *Malacoptila panamensis*. Two birds seen well at La Selva. SA.

Jacamars

Rufous-tailed Jacamar. *Galbula ruficauda*. One at El Commando Road. SA.

New World Barbets / Capitonidae

Red-headed Barbet. *Eubucco bourcierii*. Both male and female birds at Cinchona. CI.

Toucan-Barbets / Semnornithidae

Prong-billed Barbet. *Semnornis frantzii*. A regional endemic. Great looks at Cinchona. CI.

Toucans / Ramphastidae

Northern Emerald-Toucanet. *Aulacorhynchus prasinus*. Great looks at five individuals at Cinchona. CI.

Collared Aracari. *Pteroglossus torquatus*. Multiple birds seen at La Quinta de Sarapiquí, El Commando Road, and Cope's Garden. SA.

Yellow-throated Toucan. *Ramphastos ambiguus*. One or two birds seen at El Tigre wet fields and at Pierella Ecological Garden. SA.

Keel-billed Toucan. *Ramphastos sulfuratus*. Seen at El Tigre wet fields and at La Quinta de Sarapiquí Lodge. SA.

Woodpeckers / Picidae

Acorn Woodpecker. *Melanerpes formicivorus*. Seen at Gema del Bosque, Savegre Lodge, and near Poas Volcano NP. CM, CI.

Black-cheeked Woodpecker. *Melanerpes pucherani*. Seen daily at La Quinta de Sarapiquí. SA.

Hoffman's Woodpecker. *Melanerpes hoffmannii*. A regional endemic. Seen at Hotel Bougainvillae and Cope's Garden. SJ.

Hairy Woodpecker. *Dryobates villosus*. One bird seen at Gema del Bosque. CM.

Lineated Woodpecker. *Dryocopus lineatus*. Two birds seen on some mornings in the gardens at La Quinta de Sarapiquí. SA.

Cinnamon Woodpecker. *Celeus loricatus*. Two birds seen at La Selva. SA.

Rufous-winged Woodpecker. *Piculus simplex*. One bird seen at La Quinta de Sarapiquí. SA.

Falcons and Caracaras / Falconidae

Crested Caracara. *Caracara plancus*. Single birds seen at various locations in Caribbean lowlands. SA.

Bat Falcon. *Falco ruficularis*. Two birds seen well on the entrance road to La Quinta de Sarapiquí. SA.

African & New World Parrots / Psittacidae

Parrots, parakeets, macaws, and parrotlets are usually associated with tropical environments. The Tropics of America are one of the regions where this family radiated in a prominent way. In our Costa Rica R&E tour we managed to see 10 species of this distinctive family.

Orange-chinned Parakeet. *Brotogeris jugularis*. Outstanding views at Cope's Garden. Singles, doubles, and small flocks seen at several location in Caribbean lowlands. SA.

Brown-hooded Parrot. *Pytilia haematotis*. Small flock of seven birds seen from the Rainforest Adventures tram. SA.

White-crowned Parrot. *Pionus senilis*. Flock of seven seen flying overhead at La Quinta de Sarapiquí. SA.

Red-lored Amazon. *Amazona autumnalis*. Most common Amazona parrot in the Caribbean lowlands; seen daily. SA.

White-fronted Amazon. *Amazona albifrons*. A pair briefly seen flying overhead at the Hotel Bougainvillae gardens. SJ.

Mealy Parrot. *Amazona farinosa*. Two birds seen flying over the gardens at La Quinta de Sarapiquí. SA.

Sulphur-winged Parakeet. *Phyrrura hoffmanni*. A regional endemic. Excellent scope views of several perched birds at Savegre Lodge grounds. CM.

Great Green Macaw. *Ara ambiguus*. A great showing of this species with 21 individuals seen, including very close flight views at El Commando Road. SA.

Scarlet macaw. *Ara macao*. Three at a roadside stop near Chilamate were our only during the tour. SA.

Crimson-fronted Parakeet. *Aratinga finschi*. A regional endemic. About 50 individuals were seen in small and medium-sized flocks in several locations in San Jose (Hotel Bougainvillae and Xandari) as well as four individuals at La Quinta de Sarapiquí. SJ, SA.

Typical Antbirds / Thamnophilidae

Fasciated Antshrike. *Cymbilium lineatus*. One seen by some at La Selva. SA

Barred Antshrike. *Thamnophilus doliatus*. Heard only at El Commando Road near La Selva. SA.

Black-crowned Antshrike. *Thamnophilus atrinucha*. Seen at the Rainforest Adventures trail near tram turnaround and at La Selva. BC, SA.

Streak-crowned Antwreio. *Dysithamnus striaticeps*. One seen by some at Rainforest Adventures tram. BC.

Spotted Antbird. *Hylophylax naeviodes*. Great views from the Rainforest Adventures trail near tram turnaround.

Tapaculos / Rhinocryptidae

Silvery-fronted Tapaculo. *Scytalopus argentifrons*. One heard only bird from the road to Poas Volcano NP. CI.

Antthrushes

Black-faced Antthrush. *Formicarius analis*. One seen briefly by some at the Rainforest Adventures tram. BC.

Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers / Furnariidae

Scaly-throated Leaf Tosser. *Sclerurus guatemalensis*. One heard only bird at the Rainforest Adventures tram. BC.

Plain-brown Woodcreeper. *Dendrocincla fuliginosa*. One bird from La Selva. SA.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper. *Glyphorynchus spirurus*. One bird from the Rainforest Adventures tram. BC.

Streak-headed Woodcreeper. *Lepidocolaptes souleyetti*. Single birds seen at La Selva and the gardens at La Quinta de Sarapiquí. SA.

Spot-crowned Woodcreeper. *Lepidocolaptes affinis*. Birds seen at Savegre Lodge and at Miriam's. CM.

Buffy Tuftedcheek. *Pseudocolaptes lawrencii*. One bird seen briefly from the road to Poas Volcano NP. CI.

Spotted Barbtail. *Premnoplex brunnescens*. One bird from San Rafael Road. CI.

Ruddy Treerunner. *Margarornis rubiginosus*. A regional endemic. A whopping ten birds were seen in one flock at Providence Road in Los Quetzales NP. Also seen in other highland locales in San Gerardo de Dota. CM.

Red-faced Spinetail. *Cranioleuca erythrops*. Two birds seen well on San Rafael Road. CI.

Manakins / Pipridae

White-ruffed Manakin. *Corapipo altera*. One beautiful male at the Rainforest Adventures tram. BC.

White-collared Manakin. *Manacus candei*. Two birds at the Rainforest Adventures tram trails. BC.

Red-capped Manakin. *Ceratopipra mentalis*. Two birds at the Rainforest Adventures tram trails. BC.

Cotingas / Cotingidae

Bare-necked Umbrellabird. *Cephalopterus glabricollis*. A regional endemic. Wonderful, extended views of a most cooperative bird at the the Rainforest Adventures trail near the tram turnaround.

Tityras & Allies / Tityridae

Masked Tityra. *Tityra semifasciata*. One bird seen well at Hotel Bougainvillae gardens. SJ.

Northern Schiffornis. *Schiffornis veraepacis*. Heard only at Rainforest Adventures tram. BC.

Cinnamon Becard. *Pachyramphus cinnamomea*. Heard only at Rainforest Adventures tram. BC.

Tyrant Flycatchers / Tyrannidae

- Olive-streaked Flycatcher. *Mionectes olivaceus*. One at Savegre Lodge. CM.
- Ochre-bellied Flycatcher. *Mionectes oleagineus*. One bird seen well at a Rainforest Adventures tram trail. BC.
- Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant. *Lophotriccus pileatus*. One bird seen well at the Rainforest Adventures trail near the tram turnaround.
- Common Tody-Flycatcher. *Todirostrum cinereum*. Birds seen at La Selva and El Commando Road. SA.
- Yellow-bellied Elaenia. *Elaenia flavogaster*. Birds seen at Savegre Lodge and San Miguel gas stop. CM, SA.
- Mountain Elaenia. *Elaenia frantzii*. Seen at several highland locations in San Gerardo de Dota. CM.
- Mistletoe Tyrannulet. *Zimmerius parvus*. Birds seen at three locations: Paraiso Quetzal Lodge, Savegre Lodge, and Freddo Fresas lunch stop. CM, CI.
- Tufted Flycatcher. *Mitrephanes phaeocerus*. One seen near La Quebrada trailhead at Savegre Lodge. CM.
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. *Empidonax flaviventris*. One bird at Hotel Bougainvillae. SJ.
- Yellowish Flycatcher. *Empidonax flavescens*. Birds at Savegre Lodge and San Rafael Road. CM, CI.
- Black-capped Flycatcher. *Empidonax atriceps*. A regional endemic. Several in the Talamanca highlands. CM.
- Black Phoebe. *Sayornis nigricans*. One bird near Savegre Lodge. CM.
- Bright-rumped Attila. *Attila spadiceus*. Heard-only at La Quinta de Sarapiquí. SA.
- Dusky-capped Flycatcher. *Myiarchus tuberculifer*. Heard only at El Commando Road. SA.
- Great Crested Flycatcher. *Myiarchus crinitus*. Two birds at La Selva. SA.
- Great Kiskadee. *Pitangus sulphuratus*. Seen in most areas except highlands. SJ, SA, CI.
- Boat-billed Flycatcher. *Megarynchus pitangua*. Seen at Hotel Bougainvillae, Savegre Lodge, and San Miguel gas stop. SJ, CM, SA.
- Social Flycatcher. *Myiozetetes similis*. Seen at many locations from Central Valley to Caribbean lowlands. SJ, SA.
- Gray-capped Flycatcher. *Myiozetetes granadensis*. Seen at La Selva and El Commando Road. SA.
- White-ringed Flycatcher. *Conopias albobittatus*. Two birds at La Selva. SA.
- Golden-bellied Flycatcher. *Myiodynastes hemichrysus*. A regional endemic. One bird on San Rafael Road. CI.
- Tropical Kingbird. *Tyrannus melancholicus*. Widespread at all elevations.

Vireos, Shrike-Babblers & Erpornis / Vireonidae

Green Shrike-Vireo. *Vireolanius pulchellus*. One heard-only at the Rainforest Adventures tram. BC.
Lesser Greenlet. *Pachysylvia decurtata*. One bird at La Selva. SA.
Yellow-winged Vireo. *Vireo carmioli*. A regional endemic. Excellent views of a bird at Savegre Lodge. CM
Philadelphia Vireo. *Vireo philadelphicus*. Two birds at Hotel Bougainvillae. SJ.
Brown-capped Vireo. *Vireo leucophrys*. One bird on the road from La Quebreda trailhead to Savegre Lodge. CM.

Crows & Jays / Corvidae

Brown Jay. *Psilorhinus norio*. Five birds at Xandari Resort and Spa. SJ.

Swallows / Hirundinidae

Mangrove Swallow. *Tachycineta albilinea*. One at El Tigre wet fields. SA.
Gray-breasted Martin. *Progne chalybea*. Two en route near La Selva. SA.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. One at El Commando Road. SA.
Blue-and-white Swallow. *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*. Seen at several locations in the highlands and near Central Valley. SJ, CM, CI.

Gnatcatchers/ Polioptilidae

White-browed Gnatcatcher. *Polioptila bilineata*. Seen at Rainforest Adventures tram and La Selva. BC, SA.

Wrens / Troglodytidae

Nightingale Wren. *Microcerculus philomela*. One heard-only at Rainforest Adventures tram. BC.
Southern House Wren. *Troglodytes musculus*. One at Hotel Bougainvillae. SJ, SA.
Ochraceous Wren. *Troglodytes ochraceus*. A regional endemic. Two seen well at Providence Road at Los Quetzales NP. CM.
Rufous-backed Wren. *Campylorhynchus capistratus*. Common on hotel grounds at Hotel Bougainvillea. SJ.
Canebreak Wren. *Canthorchilus zeledoni*. A regional endemic. One seen at El Commando Road. SA.
Bay Wren. *Canthorchilus nigricapillus*. Two birds at Rainforest Adventures tram. SA.
White-breasted Wood-Wren. *Henicorhina leucosticta*. Birds seen at Rainforest Adventures and La Selva. SA.
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren. *Henicorhina leucophrys*. Several birds seen at Savegre Lodge grounds. CM, CI.

Dippers/Cinclidae

American Dipper. *Cinclus mexicanus*. One seen along the Savegre River near Savegre Lodge. CM.

Mockingbirds / Mimidae

Tropical Mockingbird. *Mimus gilvus*. One bird at a Cartago coffee finca and another near the Savegre Lodge. SJ, CM.

Thrushes and Allies / Turdidae

Black-faced Solitaire. *Myadestes melanops*. A regional endemic. Two birds seen well on the grounds of Savegre Lodge.

Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush. *Catharus gracilirostris*. A regional endemic. Seen at several locations in the Talamanca highlands with one exceptionally cooperative bird at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge. CM

Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush. *Catharus frantzii*. Our only bird of the trip was at La Quebrada trailhead. Nice spot by Deb! CM.

Wood Thrush. *Hylocichla mustellina*. One bird seen at the Rainforest Adventures tram and another at El Commando Road. BC, SA.

Mountain Thrush. *Turdus plebejus*. Many birds found in scattered highland and upper-middle elevations. CM, CI.

Pale-vented Thrush. *Turdus obsoletus*. Two birds seen on Rainforest Adventures tram. BC.

Clay-colored Thrush. *Turdus grayi*. The CR national bird found daily at all elevations.

Sooty Thrush. *Turdus nigrescens*. A regional endemic. Two birds at Gema del Bosque and another pair at Miriam's. Dean and Barb's 1,500th bird! CM

Silky-flycatchers / Ptiliogonatidae

Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher. *Ptiliogonys caudatus*. A regional endemic. Several small flocks in Talamanca highlands, including nice looks at Gema del Bosque, Savegre Lodge, and Miriam's. CM.

Old World Sparrows/Passeridae

House Sparrow (I). *Passer domesticus*. Although widespread in towns throughout, we glimpsed only a handful of birds en route. CI, SJ.

Finches, Euphonias and Allies / Fringillidae

Golden-browed Chlorophonia. *Chlorophonia callophrys*. A regional endemic. Great looks at a small flock at Savegre Lodge. CM.

Yellow-crowned Euphonia. *Euphonia luteicapilla*. A regional endemic. Great looks at birds at Rainforest Adventures tram and Pierella Ecological Garden. BC, SA.

Yellow-throated Euphonia. *Euphonia hirundinacea*. Single birds at La Quinta de Sarapiquí and at San Miguel gas stop and CI.

Olive-backed Euphonia. *Euphonia gouldi*. A few birds along the Rainforest Adventures tram trails and at scattered Caribbean lowland locales. BC, SA.

New World Sparrows / Passarellidae

Sooty-capped Chlorospingus. *Chlorospingus pileatus*. A regional endemic. Seen at several locations in the Talamanca highlands, including Paraiso Quetzal Lodge, Gema del Bosque, and Savegre Lodge. CM.

Common Chlorospingus. *Chlorospingus flavopectus*. Two birds at Cinchona. CI.

Black-striped Sparrow. *Arremonops conirostris*. One at El Commando Road. SA.

Orange-billed Sparrow. *Arremon aurantiirostris*. Single birds at Las Flores Road and at Pierella Ecological Garden. SA.

Chestnut-capped Brushfinch. *Arremon brunneinucha*. One bird near Poás Volcano NP. CI.

Rufous-collared Sparrow. *Zonotrichia capensis*. Seen in middle elevations and highlands throughout. CM, CI, SJ.

Large-footed Finch. *Pezopetes capitalis*. A regional endemic. Seen well at Gema del Bosque and Savegre Lodge grounds. CM.

Yellow-thighed Brushfinch. *Altapetes tibialis*. A regional endemic. Seen well at Gema del Bosque, Savegre Lodge grounds, and San Rafael Road. CM, CI.

Wrenthrush / Zelenodidae

Wrenthrush. *Zeledonia coronata*. A regional endemic. One of the tour highlights was the extensive close up study of two of these normally secretive birds near Poás Volcano NP. CI.

Troupials and Allies / Icteridae

Eastern Meadowlark. *Sturnella magna*. One perched on a wire at Cartago coffee finca. SJ.

Chestnut-headed Oropendola. *Psarocolius wagleri*. An astounding late afternoon (west to east) directional flight of an estimated 620 birds at El Commando Road. SA.

Montezuma Oropendola. *Psarocolius montezuma*. Birds seen at La Quinta de Sarapiquí and El Commando Road. SA.

Scarlet-rumped Cacique. *Cacicus uropygialis*. Seen at Rainforest Adventures tram and at Cope's Garden. BC, SA.

Black-cowled Oriole. *Icterus prosthemelas*. Two birds seen most mornings at the La Quinta de Sarapiquí gardens. SA.

Baltimore Oriole. *Icterus galbula*. Seen daily at most locales. SJ, BC, SA, CI.

Red-winged Blackbird. *Agelaius phoeniceus*. One bird at Cope's Garden. SA.

Melodious Blackbird. *Dives dives*. Single birds seen at La Quinta de Sarapiquí, Cope's Garden and roadside at Chilamate. (Also seen displaying at Hotel Bougainvillae pre-tour). SA, SJ.

Great-tailed Grackle. *Quiscalus mexicanus*. Widespread in open areas. SJ, SA, CI.

New World Warblers / Parulidae

- Golden-winged Warbler. *Vermivora chrysoptera*. Singles seen at Savegre Lodge, Rainforest Adventures tram trails, San Rafael Road, and Freddo Fresas. CM, BC, CI.
- Black-and-white Warbler. *Mniotilta varia*. Single birds seen at Savegre Lodge and at Rainforest Adventures tram trails. CM, CI.
- Flame-throated Warbler. *Oreothlypis gutturalis*. A regional endemic. Seen from El Mirador at Savegre Lodge but best views were along Providence Road at Los Quetzales NP. Nice find Dan! CM.
- Tennessee Warbler. *Oreothlypis peregrina*. Seen daily in most locales. SJ, SA, CI.
- Tropical Parula. *Setophaga pitiauyumi*. One bird at Cinchona. CI.
- Bay-breasted Warbler. *Setophaga castanea*. Seen well at Rainforest Adventures tram trails and El Commando Road. BC, SA.
- Chestnut-sided Warbler. *Setophaga pensylvanica*. Good numbers at both the Rainforest Adventures tram trails and at La Selva. BC, SA.
- Black-throated Green Warbler. *Setophaga virens*. Single birds at Savegre Lodge and at Providence Road at Los Quetzales NP. CM.
- Chestnut-capped Warbler. *Basileuterus delatarii*. One bird seen well at Hotel Bougainvillae. SJ.
- Black-cheeked Warbler. *Basileuterus melanogenys*. A regional endemic. One bird seen at Gema del Bosque with nice views from above at El Mirador at Savegre Lodge. CM.
- Buff-rumped Warbler. *Myiothlypis fulvicauda*. Single birds at the Rainforest Adventures tram trails and La Quinta de Sarapiquí. SA.
- Wilson's Warbler. *Cardellina pusilla*. Several birds seen in the highlands and middle elevations. CM, CI.
- Slate-throated Redstart. *Myioborus miniatus*. Birds seen at San Rafael Road at at Freddo Fresas lunch spot. CI.
- Collared Redstart. *Myioborus torquatus*. Regional endemic. Several birds seen well at both La Quebrada trailhead at Savegre Lodge and at Providence Road at Los Quetzales NP. CM.

Cardinals and Allies / Cardinalidae

Notice that the *Piranga* tanagers are not longer part of the tanager family and instead, they're cardinals. For now, they retain their common name (tanager) but expect some common name change in the future.

- Summer Tanager. *Piranga rubra*. Seen at many spots in the highlands and middle elevations. SJ, CM, BC, CI.
- Flame-colored Tanager. *Piranga bidentata*. Several of these striking birds were seen at Gema de Bosque, Savegre Lodge, and Miriam's. CM.
- Red-throated Ant-Tanager. *Habia fuscicauda*. Great looks at La Quinta de Sarapiquí and At Pierella Ecological Garden. SA.
- Carmioli's Tanager. *Chlorothraupis carmioli*. Nice looks at four individuals in a large feeding flock at the Rainforest Adventures tram trails. BC.
- Black-faced Grosbeak. *Caryothraustes poliogaster*. Five individuals seen by some at the Rainforest Adventures tram trails. BC.
- Blue-black Grosbeak. *Cyanocompsa cyanoides*. Nice find by Esteban at El Commando Road. SA.

Tanagers and Allies / Thraupidae

- White-shouldered Tanager. *Loriotus luctuosus*. Three birds seen in a feeding flock from the Rainforest Adventures tram trails. BC.
- Tawny-crested Tanager. *Tachyphonus delatrii*. Nice looks at some of the seven birds in a large feeding flock at the Rainforest Adventures tram trails. BC.
- Crimson-collared Tanager. *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*. Great looks at this stunning tanager at La Quinta de Sarapiquí. SA.
- Scarlet-rumped Tanager. *Ramphocelus passerinii*. A common yet beautiful species of the Caribbean lowlands. SA.
- Blue-gray Tanager. *Thraupis episcopus*. Widespread and seen daily.
- Palm Tanager. *Thraupis palmarum*. Fairly common throughout the lowlands and middle elevations. SA, CI.
- Speckled Tanager. *Ixothraupis guttata*. Seen by one group from the Rainforest Adventures tram. BC.
- Golden-hooded Tanager. *Tangara larvata*. A few of these stunning birds were seen at the Rainforest Adventures tram trails, La Quinta de Sarapiquí, and several other lowland locales BC, SA.
- Spangle-cheeked Tanager. *Tangara dowii*. First seen well at Paraiso Quetzal Lodge and two others moving quickly through the canopy at San Rafael Road. CI.
- Bay-headed Tanager. *Tangara gyrola*. Two beauties at Cinchona. CI.
- Emerald Tanager. *Tangara florida*. Three birds seen by some at Rainforest Adventures tram. BC.
- Silver-throated Tanager. *Tangara icterocephala*. Many seen throughout our tour. CM, BC, SA, CI.
- Scarlet-thighed Dacnis. *Dacnis venusta*. One at La Selva. SA.
- Blue Dacnis. *Dacnis cayana*. Three of these colorful birds were seen most days at La Quinta de Sarapiquí. SA.
- Shining Honeycreeper. *Cyanerpes lucidus*. Two seen at the Rainforest Adventures tram and a female made infrequent appearances at La Quinta de Sarapiquí. BC, SA.
- Red-legged Honeycreeper. *Cyanerpes cyaneus*. Seen in flowering trees at many lowland locales. SA.
- Green Honeycreeper. *Chlorophanes spiza*. Small numbers seen in many lowland locales, including great looks at Cope's Garden. SA.
- Black-and-yellow Tanager. *Chrysothlypis chrysomelas*. Regional endemic. One striking bird seen by some at the Rainforest Adventures tram. BC.
- Slaty Flowerpiercer. *Diglossa plumbea*. Regional endemic. Fairly common in the highlands at places like Paraiso Quetzal Lodge, Gema del Bosque, and Savegre Lodge but also at some middle elevations spots as well. CM, CI.
- Thick-billed Seedfinch. *Sporophila funereal*. Two birds seen at the San Miguel gas stop. CI.
- Variable Seedeater. *Sporophila corvina*. Seen at the Rainforest Adventures tram and at La Quinta de Sarapiquí and El Commando Road. BC, SA.
- Bananaquit. *Coereba flaveola*. Small numbers appeared at various nectaring locales at the Rainforest Adventures tram, La Quinta de Sarapiquí, and Cinchona. BC, SA.

Yellow-faced Grassquit. *Tiaris olivaceus*. Our only bird appeared on a fence at a Cartago coffee finca. SJ.

Buff-throated Saltator. *Saltator maximus*. A few seen at La Quinta de Sarapiquí and at Pierella Ecological Garden. SA.

Black-headed Saltator. *Saltator atriceps*. Two quick-moving birds at the gardens at La Quinta de Sarapiquí. SA.

Cinnamon-bellied Saltator. *Saltator grandis*. Two at Hotel Bougainvillae and a couple more at La Quinta de Sarapiquí. SJ, SA.

Slate-colored Grosbeak. *Saltator grossus*. One very vocal but slippery individual at the Rainforest Adventures tram lunch spot. BC.

MAMMALS:

Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth. *Choloepus variegatus*. BC, SA.

White-throated Capuchin. *Cebus capuchinus*. BC.

Mantled Howler Monkey. *Alouatta palliata*. SA.

Red-tailed Squirrel. *Sciurus granatensis*. CM, CI.

Variegated Squirrel. *Sciurus variegatoides*. SJ.

Honduran White (Tent-making) Bat. *Ectophylla alba*. SA.

White-nosed Coati. *Nasua narica*. SA.

Baird's Tapir. *Tapirus bairdii*. BC.

OTHER SPECIES:

Common House Gecko. *Hemidactylus frenatus*. SA.

Hognosed Viper. *Porthidium nasutum*. BC.

Green Iguana. *Iguana iguana*. SJ, SA.

Casque-headed Lizard. *Corytophanes cristatus*. SA.

Strawberry Poison Dart-Frog. *Oophaga pumilio*. SA.

Red-eyed Treefrog. *Agalychnis callidryas*. SA.

Machaca Fish. *Brycon guatemalensis*. SA.

Paper Wasp. (Vespidae). SA.

Leaf-cutter Ant. *Atta sp.* SA.

Army Ant. *Eciton sp?* SA.

Bullet Ant. *Paraponera clavata*. SA.

Tarantula Hawk or Tarantula Wasp. *Pompilidae*.

SELECTED LIST OF BUTTERFLIES:

Zebra Longwing. *Heliconius charithonia*.

Malachite. *Siproeta stelenes*.

Postman. *Heliconius Melpomene*.

Tiger-mimic queen. *Lycorea halia*.

Common Morpho. *Morpho helenor*.