

# Costa Rica



July 28th – Aug 18th 2022

## **General Info**

Our visit to Costa Rica was more of a family vacation than a birdwatching trip, but with a focus on nature observation. However, some of the destinations were not chosen with birding in mind, so we skipped some of the famous destinations and headed for other areas that were less bird-rich. Also, we sometimes started quite late in the day or didn't spend much time in the parks. Nevertheless, we were able to find 289 species in just under 3 weeks of vacation.

Observing in the forest areas is often tedious, especially if, like me, you don't know the voices. When you visit areas for which ebird lists more than 400 species and you hardly manage to find a two-digit number in the course of two hours, it's frustrating. In many places, however, it is possible to book guides on site, which we did in four places, although sometimes they were dedicated to flora and fauna in general and simply ignored some of the singing or hidden birds.

**Weather:** Our trip took place in summer - during the rainy season. Accordingly, it rained frequently, which meant that our activities were very limited in some places. In summer quite a number of migrants and winter visitors are not present. Weather may be a problem when birding causing the birds to hide, limits visibility or simply makes you feel unpleasant. At this time of year, the Pacific side is supposed to be a little less rainy, which is why we only visited places on the Pacific side, with one exception. In addition to the rain, we were surprised by the cool temperatures in the higher-lying places, especially as our accommodation often only had thin blankets and we were freezing at night. This also led to changes in plans, as not all family members could imagine staying at altitude any longer. It rained notably less in the lower-lying areas, but was hot and humid and therefore also quite stressful.

Dealing with the laundry is somewhat problematic. Whether in the rainy highlands or the humid lowlands. The laundry got wet quickly. The problem is that it doesn't dry due to the extremely high humidity. A T-shirt washed at the beginning of the vacation was just as damp after a week as it was on the day it was washed. Fortunately, two accommodations offered the opportunity to use the washing machine and dryer and replenish the laundry that was running low.

**Getting around:** We booked a car in advance and used a mixture of Waze and Google maps offline to get around. All destinations were found easily. The roads are in a reasonable condition but the occurrence of potholes should be kept in mind. On road 34 between Jacó and Sierpe, a few mounds of soil have just been removed, which had probably previously prevented further travel. This could possibly be a sporadic problem during the rainy season.

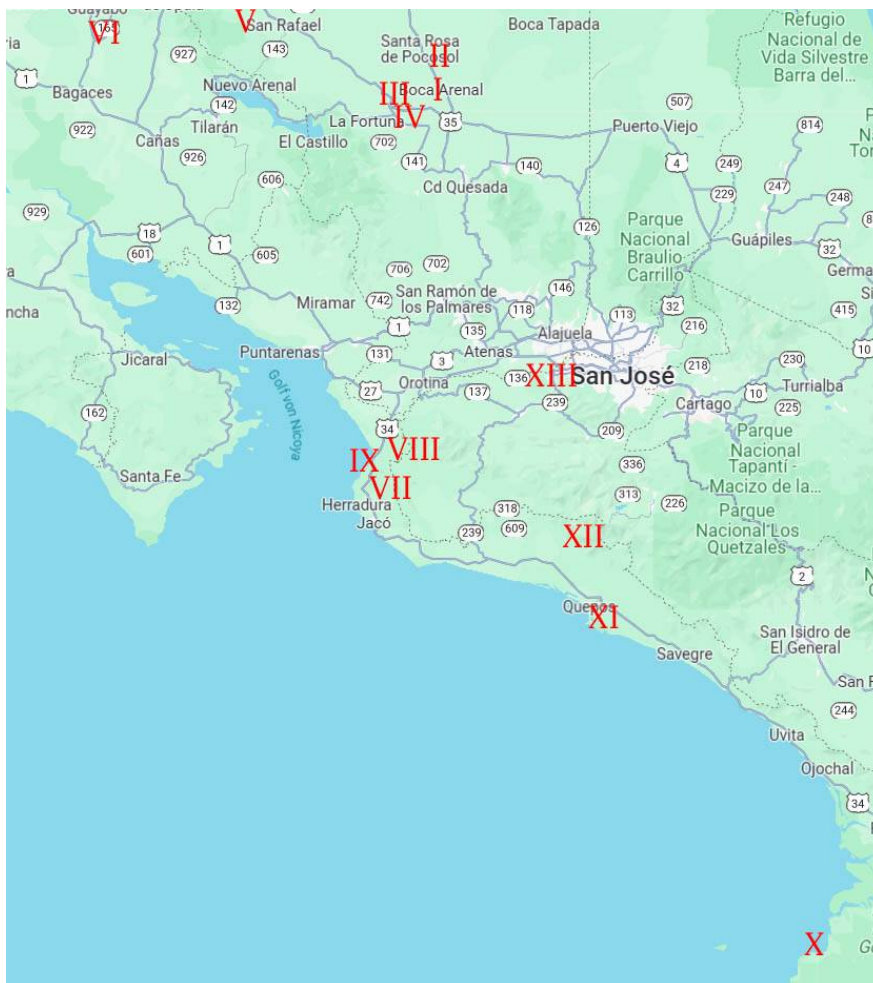
**Entry fees:** Many of the reserves and national parks have entrance fees. These are usually between \$ 10-30.

**Guides:** As mentioned before, guides usually can be booked on site. This is quite costly though, \$100 per person can quickly be exceeded. However, the quality varies considerably. Our guide in Curri Cancha was an extremely worthwhile investment, whereas our guide in Drake Bay tried to sell me a Southern Rough-winged Swallow sitting on a wire as a Costa Rican Swift.

**Birds:** There are only few true endemic bird species in mainland Costa Rica (Mangrove Hummingbird, Coppery-headed Emerald, Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager, Cabani's Ground-Sparrow). However, there is over a hundred species with limited range, many of them found in the highlands of Costa Rica and Panama. In his book, Barrett Lawson lists more than 230 species as sought-after species, not all of which can be mentioned here. Despite their small size, most species are not distributed nationwide, which is due to the fact that, depending on altitude and rainfall, there are several different lens areas, which can be roughly grouped into 5 regions: Central Valley, Highlands, Caribbean lowlands and foothills, North Pacific lowlands and foothills, south Pacific lowlands and foothills. Some species are restricted to one or two of these regions. The species printed in ***bold*** in this report have been seen by us, information on occurring species from other sources is not printed in *bold*. Near-endemic and endemic species plus a few species generally of higher interest are indicated in **red**.

## Itinerary

- July 28<sup>th</sup>: arrival at San José, drive to and overnight in Tiquicia Lodge  
July 29<sup>th</sup>: visit of La Paz Waterfall Gardens, birding Tiquicia Lodge  
July 30<sup>th</sup>: birding Tiquicia, drive to Villa Arboleda  
July 31<sup>st</sup>: visit of Poás Volcano  
August 1<sup>st</sup>: drive to La Tigra Rainforest Lodge with few stops, late afternoon birding La Tigra  
August 2<sup>nd</sup>: birding La Tigra Rainforest Lodge  
August 3<sup>rd</sup>: morning birding La Tigra, Drive to Monteverde  
August 4<sup>th</sup>: birding Monteverde entrance road and Curi Cancha, night walk Refugio de Vida Silvestre Monteverde  
August 5<sup>th</sup>: birding entrance road and Bajo del Tigre  
August 6<sup>th</sup>: birding Monteverde Coffee Tour  
August 7<sup>th</sup>: birding Monteverde entrance road; drive to Selva Color  
August 8<sup>th</sup>: birding Selva Color, visit of Carara National Park  
August 9<sup>th</sup>: birding Tárcoles  
August 10<sup>th</sup>: early morning birding Selva Color, drive to Sierpe  
August 11<sup>th</sup>: birding Drake Bay  
August 12<sup>th</sup>: birding Drake Bay  
August 13<sup>th</sup>: visit of San Pedrillo Biological Station  
August 14<sup>th</sup>: drive to Manuel Antonio National Park  
August 15<sup>th</sup>: birding Manuel Antonio National Park  
August 16<sup>th</sup>: birding Rainmaker Conservation Project  
August 17<sup>th</sup>: birding Manuel Antonio National Park, drive to El Rodeo  
August 18<sup>th</sup>: early morning birding El Rodeo; departure



## The sites (in chronological order)

### I. **Tiquicia Lodge** (<http://tiquicialodge.com/>)

Tiquicia Lodge is a small lodge with reasonably priced accommodation and access to a private secondary forest. Visits to La Paz Waterfall Gardens and the visit of the Parque Nacional Volcán Poás may be arranged at the reception.

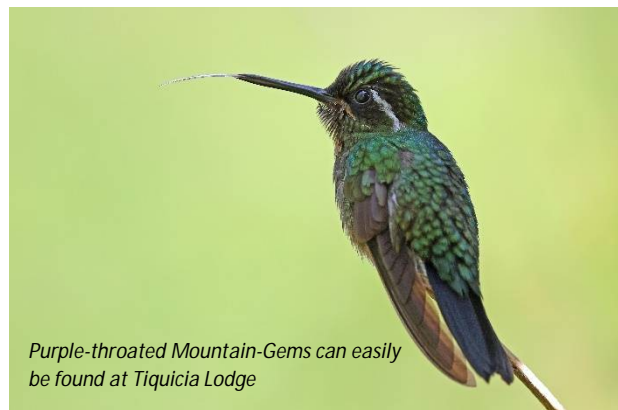
**Getting there:** The lodge lies around 30km north of San José. It is located along route 126. We arrived around 10pm. The gate was closed and knocking / ringing the bell was ignored for 15 minutes or so. Finally somebody showed up and opened the gate.

**What to see:** ebird lists 136 species. There is no real specialty but quite a few Costa Rican endemics/near endemics are likely to be seen. Among these were **Coppery-headed Emerald**, **Purple-throated Mountain-Gem**, **Scintillant** and **Volcano Hummingbird**, **Slaty Flowerpiercer** and **Yellow-thighed Finch**. **Yellow-bellied Siskin**, **Chestnut-capped Brushfinch** and **Cinnamon-bellied Saltator** and **Blue-and-Gold Tanager** were species not seen on many other occasions.



*Scintillant Hummingbirds were numerous in the Hummingbird Garden of the Lodge*

**Where to watch:** birding is best around the lodge and restaurant itself. The Hummingbird Garden had seven species of **Hummingbird** showing well. **Yellow-bellied Siskins** had a night roost here and left early in the morning. A **Chestnut-capped Brushfinch** was seen crossing a track right next to the reception on two mornings. **Slaty Flowerpiercers** were common. Our only observation of **Blue-and-gold Tanager** was also in the surrounding of the Lodge.



*Purple-throated Mountain-Gems can easily be found at Tiquicia Lodge*

There is a short round-track leading through the forest to a stream in the forest. Birding is of course much more difficult here and except for **Spotted Barbtail** and **Ruddy Treerunner** we found only species observed around the lodge itself.

**Species seen (39):** Red-billed Pigeon, White-winged Dove, Green Hermit, Lesser Violetear, **Purple-throated Mountain-Gem**, **Scintillant Hummingbird**, Violet Sabrewing, **Coppery-headed Emerald**, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Hairy Woodpecker, Crested Caracara, Brown-hooded Parrot, Spotted Barbtail, **Ruddy Treerunner**, Great Kiskadee, Social Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Blue-and-white-Swallow, House Wren, Gray-breasted Wood-Wren, Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush, Mountain Thrush, Clay-colored Thrush, Yellow-bellied Siskin, Common Chlorospingus, Chestnut-capped Brushfinch, Rufous-collared Sparrow, **Yellow-thighed Brushfinch**, Shiny Cowbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Slate-throated Redstart, **Blue-and-gold Tanager**, Blue-Gray Tanager, **Slaty Flowerpiercer**, Bananaquit, Yellow-faced Grassquit, Cinnamon-bellied Saltator

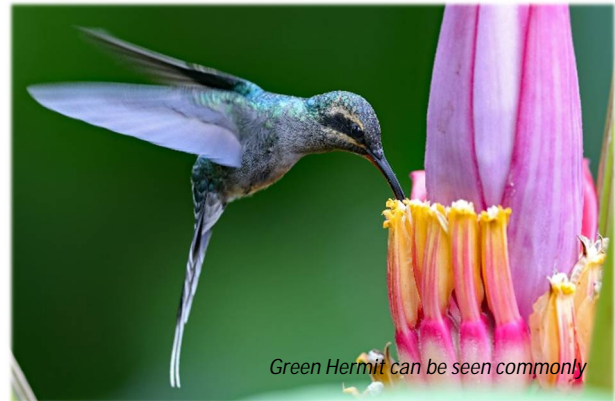
## II. **La Paz Waterfall Gardens** (<https://waterfallgardens.com/>)

This site is quite a tourist attraction as there is a little zoo, restaurants and a gift shop. Thus the paths can be quite crowded especially around the area of the hummingbird feeders. Entry is quite expensive (50\$) as well. However birdlife is quite diverse so many birdwatcher will visit nevertheless.

**Getting there:** The lodge lies along Route 126 another 10km or so north of Tiquicia Lodge.

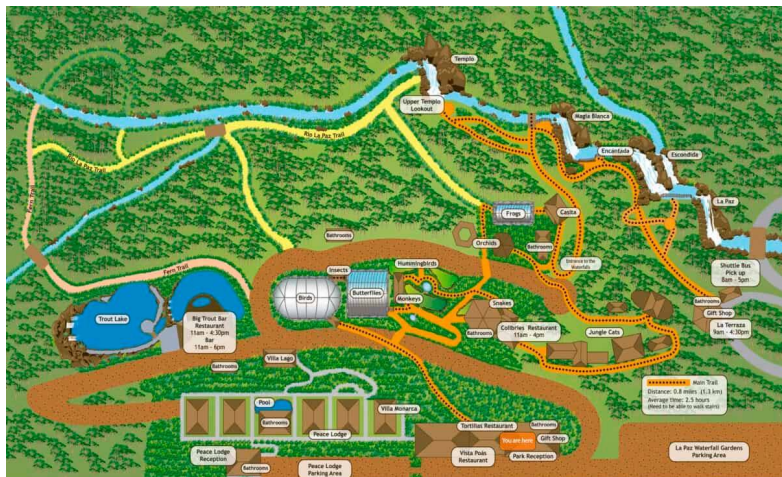
**What to see:** ebird lists 444 species. Quite a few species with only a small distribution occur.

**Where to watch:** Again, most of the birds can be seen along the tracks between the buildings. A major attraction is the area of the hummingbird feeders. 35 species of hummingbird turn up fairly regularly here with **Talamanca Hummingbird**, **Purple-throated** and



Green Hermit can be seen commonly

**White-bellied Mountain-Gem**, **Magenta-throated Woodstar**, **Volcano Hummingbird**, **Scintillant Hummingbird**, **Coppery-headed Emerald** and **Black-bellied Hummingbird** being species with a small distribution. During our visit the area near the Jungle cat enclosure were quite productive with **Prong-billed Barbet**, **Wedge-billed Woodcreeper**, **Tufted Flycatcher**,



**Red-faced Spinetail** and **Costa Rican Warbler** among other species.

There are tracks leading through the forest to a stream (Rio La Paz Trail). These offer good chances for finding species like **Black-breasted Wood-Quail**, **Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush** or **Sooty-faced Finch**. The stream itself has **American Dipper** and **Torrent Tyrannulet**.

**Species seen (38):** **Black-breasted Wood-Quail**, Red-billed Pigeon, Squirrel Cuckoo, Green Hermit, Brown Violetear, Green Thorntail, Green-crowned Brilliant, **Talamanca Hummingbird**, **Purple-throated Mountain-gem**, Violet Sabrewing, **Coppery-headed Emerald**, **Black-bellied Hummingbird**, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Barred Hawk, Red-headed Barbet, **Prong-billed Barbet**, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, Spotted Barbtail, Red-faced Spinetail, Tufted Flycatcher, Gray-breasted Wood-Wren, American Dipper, **Black-faced Solitaire**, Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush, Clay-colored Thrush, **Sooty Thrush**, Common Chlorospingus, **Sooty-faced Finch**, Rufous-collared Sparrow, **Costa Rican Warbler**, Scarlet-rumped Tanager, Blue-gray Tanager, **Spangle-cheeked Tanager**, Silver-throated Tanager, **Slaty Flowerpiercer**, Bananaquit

### III. Parque Nacional Volcán Poás

Poás Volcano is an active volcano north of San Juan. It has an elevation of roundabout 2500m and is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Costa Rica. Access to this highland site with its specialties is easy but visiting nevertheless is a bit complicated and can be quite frustrating:

It is not possible to enter without a reservation that can be obtained via <https://www.sinac.go.cr/ES/resvlinea/Paginas/default.aspx>. We've seen tourists being sent away because of not having done a correct booking. Helpful information for creating an account and for avoiding one of the many possible mistakes while doing so can be found here: <https://costa-rica-guide.com/nature/national-parks/poas-volcano-tickets-visitor-information/>.

It's not possible to visit the crater individually. For safety reasons, this is only possible with a group and a guide. In total one has 45 minutes to walk from the Visitor Center to the crater and back. This leaves few opportunities to stop to spot and identify birds plus there is a bunch of people around chattering and chasing wildlife away.

Open hours are from 8am to 4pm. Early morning visits are recommended as the weather usually gets cloudy and rainy later on.

**Getting there:** From San Jose, take the General Cañas highway to the city of Alajuela. From there, take Route No. 712 to Poasito, through Itiquís communities and Fraijanes, following the signs to the volcano.

**What to see:** With an altitude of 2500 this site offers good access to highland species. Birdlife is not as diverse as it is in lower sites but there are some interesting species difficult to find elsewhere. Ebird lists 222 species. **Sooty Thrush**, **Fiery-throated Hummingbird**, **Flame-throated Warbler**, **Large-footed Finch**, **Peg-billed Finch**, **Volcano Hummingbird**, **Highland Tinamou** or **Buff-fronted Quail-Dove** all occur here though we did not find all of these species.



Fiery-throated Hummingbird is quite common at Poás

**Where to watch:** As mentioned above, it is not easy to observe from the path to the crater. Nevertheless, it was possible to spot species like **Fiery-throated Hummingbird**, **Sooty-capped Chlorospingus** or **Flame-throated Warbler** here.

A little more time can be spent at the parking lots and their immediate surroundings. **Sooty Thrush**, **Yellow-thighed Brushfinch**, **Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush**, and **Mountain Elaenia** were common and easily observed here. There are also good opportunities for **Large-footed Finch**, but we could not spot the species.



Several Yellow-thighed Brushfinchs were seen in the Parking area

Several picnic areas exist between the park entrance and the Visitor Center, where a stop can be worthwhile. Here, besides the above-mentioned species, **Black Guan** is occasionally seen.

There is a track leading to Laguna Botos, but it was closed when we visited. It should have opened since August 2022 but again.

**Species seen (13):** Fiery-throated Hummingbird, Red-tailed Hawk, Acorn Woodpecker, Mountain Elaenia, Tropical Kingbird, Blue-and-white Swallow, Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush, Mountain Thrush, Sooty Thrush, Sooty-capped Chlorospingus, Yellow-thighed Brushfinch, Flame-throated Warbler, Slaty Flowerpiercer



*Sooty Thrush at the parking lot*



*Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush is a near-endemic of the highlands*

#### IV. Villa Arboleda

This place is not a birdwatching spot but a privately owned house that we booked via Airbnb. It is located south of Poás Volcano only few kilometers from Altura. There is a very large fenced area with scattered guesthouses and small cottages surrounded by small patches of forest. However, this area is well suited as a starting point for visits to Poás, for example, and is quite high up, so our stay was rather cold and rainy. As there are several accommodations to rent there, and the forested areas have some birdlife, it may be of interest to one or the other. We were somewhat frustrated by the weather, but in retrospect some beautiful species were encountered in the vicinity of the house.

**What to see:** The area is very human-influenced, so species of semi-open habitats are more likely to be found, but there are also opportunities for species of the highlands.

**Where to watch:** The settlement is essentially crossed by only one road, from which all species were observed. My birdwatching area is marked red on the map. The area was most productive in the higher sections, where the only fork in the road is (see "2" on the map).

Species like **Chiriqui Quail-Dove**, **Mountain Elaenia**, **Mistletoe Tyrannulet**, **Hoffman's Woodpecker**, **Spot-crowned Woodcreeper** and **Elegant Euphonia** were all seen near this fork. This is also a good place for **Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher** that we saw three times in two days. At night, we had a **Mottled Owl** hunting right in front of our window.

A bit further down below, where the road takes a curve within the forest (see "1" on map) was **White-eared Ground-Sparrow** on two occasions.



White-eared Ground-Sparrow at Villa Arboleda

**Species seen (25):** Red-billed Pigeon, Band-tailed Pigeon, **Chiriqui Quail-Dove**, White-crowned Parrot, Mottled Owl, Great Black Hawk, Acorn Woodpecker, **Hoffman's Woodpecker**, Spot-crowned Woodcreeper, Mistletoe Tyrannulet, Mountain Elaenia, Black Phoebe, Great Kiskadee, Tropical Kingbird, Brown Jay, House Wren, Clay-colored Thrush, Ruddy-capped Nightingale Thrush, **Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher**, Elegant Euphonia, White-naped Brushfinch, White-eared Ground-Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Slate-throated Redstart, Blue-gray Tanager



## V. **La Tigra Rainforest Lodge** (<https://latigralodge.com/>)

This was the only place on the Caribbean slope that we visited. As expected, it was very rainy, which often prevented bird watching. The lodge offers simple but nice accommodations and a good restaurant. There is a secondary rainforest around the cabins. Primary forests are nearby, but these probably cannot be entered. There are constructed pools with various frog species, including Red-eyed Tree-Frog. The restaurant has a feeder that attracts Thrushes and Tanagers allowing close-up views of some of the commoner species.

**Getting there:** On the homepage of the lodge, you can find directions (<https://latigralodge.com/how-to-get-here/>).

**What to see:** The lodge is not (yet) visited by many observers, perhaps that is why "only" 252 species are found on ebird. Not many of the Caribbean slope endemics are found, but for example *Bare-necked Umbrellabird*, *Black-throated* and *Stripe-breasted Wren* have been seen there several times.



Gray-headed Chachalacas were seen near the entrance to the lodge

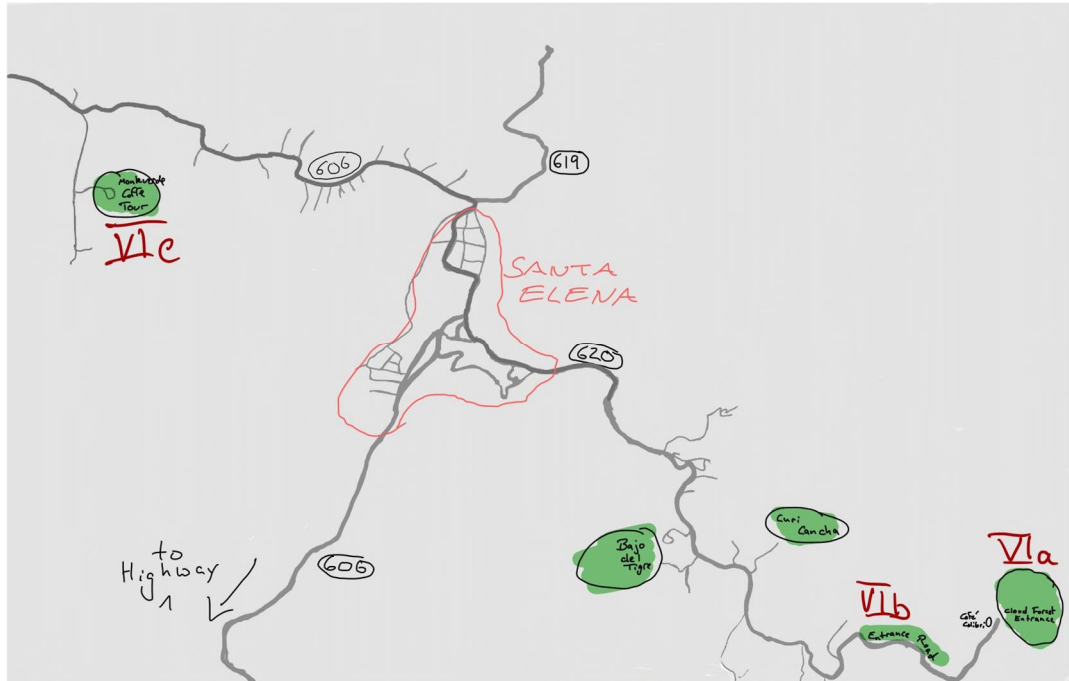
**Where to watch:** In the area around the cabins and the restaurant offer many species, but here were rather common species, moreover, really only the early morning hours were productive. At the feeder of the restaurant *Green Honeycreeper*, *Buff-throated Saltator* and *Palm Tanager* could be reliably observed. In addition, *White-tipped Sicklebill* appeared here briefly on two occasions. In quieter areas near the reception (parking lot, sports field), *Keel-billed* and *Yellow-throated Toucan* could be found besides the ubiquitous species like *Three-striped Sparrow*, *Common Tody-Flycatcher* or *Scarlet-rumped Tanager*. Flowering plants were especially found in the parking lot, with nearly all *hummingbird* species present. Most productive was the uphill road outside the lodge. All of the *woodpecker* species seen could be seen here, *Crested Guan* and *Gray-headed Chachalaca* were present on two mornings. The only *Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher* of the trip was also found here. The established trails through the forest are also interesting. While spotting birds is of course much more difficult here, species such as *Rufous-tailed Jacamar* and *Slate-colored Grosbeak* were only found there.

**Species seen (59):** Gray-headed Chachalaca, Crested Guan, Red-billed Pigeon, Short-billed Pigeon, Squirrel Cuckoo, White-tipped Sicklebill, Bronzy Hermit, Green Hermit, Long-billed Starthroat, Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer, Scaly-breasted Hummingbird, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Swallow-tailed Kite, Gray Hawk, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Gartered Trogon, Yellow-throated Toucan, Keel-billed Toucan, Olivaceous Piculet, Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Smoky-brown Woodpecker, Pale-billed Woodpecker, Red-lored Parrot, Cocoa Woodcreeper, Fasciated Antshrike, Barred Antshrike, Plain Xenops, White-collared Manakin, Common Tody-Flycatcher, Yellow Tyrannulet, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Great Kiskadee, Boat-billed Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Brown Jay, Southern Rough-winged Swallow, House Wren, Bay Wren, Clay-colored Thrush, *Yellow-crowned Euphonia*, Olive-backed Euphonia, Black-striped Sparrow, Melodious Blackbird, Buff-rumped Warbler, Crimson-collared Tanager, Scarlet-rumped Tanager, *Blue-and-gold Tanager*, Blue-gray Tanager, Palm Tanager, Golden-hooded Tanager, Green Honeycreeper, Variable Seedeater, Bananaquit, Yellow-faced Grassquit, Buff-throated Saltator, Cinnamon-bellied Saltator, Slate-colored Grosbeak

## VI. Monteverde

The Monteverde area is considered the origin of ecotourism in Costa Rica and is famous for its abundant wildlife. It consists of several areas that are worth visiting. Here, cloud forests, rainforests and even mountain dry-forest habitat meet in a rather small area due to their respective location and altitude. In addition, the nearby coffee plantations are also worthwhile for birdwatchers, as this is the only known location outside the Central Valley for *Cabanis's Ground-Sparrow*.

In the small town of Santa Elena, there are many options for finding accommodations of various price ranges. We booked a very nice accommodation (<https://www.casairrosa.com/>) on the entrance road through Airbnb. At this time of year it is often foggy and rains a lot, the nights are cool and the beds are partly equipped with very thin blankets.



### a. **Monteverde Cloud Forest**

This is the most popular spot but also the most expensive (\$25 for non-national adults) and the most crowded with sometimes more than 300 people per day. We have not visited this place but as it usually is of interest, it should also be mentioned here. Birding the trails is not as easy as in the other places mentioned below, as the forest is pretty dense and things are heard rather than seen. *Three-wattled Bellbirds* or *Resplendent Quetzals* are sought-after birds of the area but we found these in other spots.

### b. **Entrance Road**

The last 800m or so before reaching the park entrance are leading through the forest and offer plenty of opportunities to find some of the sought after species. Ebird lists more than 300 species though it's not so easy finding the birds in the tall canopy. *Resplendent Quetzal*, *Collared Trogon*, *Prong-billed Barbet*, *Highland Tinamou* or *Azure-hooded Jay* can



*Black-headed Nightingale-Thrushes* were active almost exclusively at dusk

be seen regularly though we did not find all of these species (here). 200m or so after passing Trapps Family Lodge there is a small house with a clearing on the left. This area was often productive with *Black* and *Crested Guan*, *Eye-ringed*

**Flatbill, White-naped Brushfinch** among others. Check the whole area for two-toed sloths; we found one close to the Trapps Family Lodge. Not to be missed is a visit to Café Colibri, which can be found just before reaching the entrance on the left. In addition to delicious food, there are also several feeders here, where all of the **hummingbird** species mentioned below could be found.

**Species seen (38):** Black Guan, Crested Guan, Chiriqui Quail-Dove, Collared Trogon, Lesson's Motmot, Green Hermit, Magenta-throated Woodstar, Lesser Violetear, Green-crowned Brilliant, Purple-throated Mountain-Gem, Violet Sabrewing, Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, Bicolored Hawk, Bat Falcon, Lesson's Motmot, Olivaceous Woodcreeper, Eye-ringed Flatbill, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Mountain Elaenia, Mistletoe Tyrannulet, Azure-hooded Jay, Brown Jay, Blue-and-white Swallow, House-Wren, Black-faced Solitaire, Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush, Mountain Thrush, White-throated Thrush, Clay-colored Thrush, Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Common Chlorospingus, White-naped Brushfinch, White-eared Ground-Sparrow, Golden-crowned Warbler, Slate-throated Redstart, Silver-throated Tanager, Yellow-faced Grassquit, Bananaquit

### c. Bajo del Tigre

We had only a short visit as we started rather late in the day and were driven away by heavy rain after an hour or so. Ebird lists 308 species. There are various trails (see trail map). The highlight was a **Three-wattled Bellbird** calling from very close by (near information sign 13), but it took us just under 20 minutes to spot it. Other species that we haven't seen on many other occasions were **Orange-billed Nightingale Thrush** and **Chestnut-capped Warbler**.



Conspicuous but difficult to spot: Three-wattled Bellbird in Bajo del Tigre



**Species seen:** White-tipped Dove, **Chiriqui Quail-Dove**, **Coppery-headed Emerald**, Turkey Vulture, Lesson's Motmot, White-fronted Parrot, Streak-headed Woodcreeper, Long-tailed Manakin, **Three-wattled Bellbird**, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Brown Jay, Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush, White-throated Thrush, White-eared Ground-Sparrow, Chestnut-capped Warbler, Slate-throated Redstart

**d. Curi Cancha**

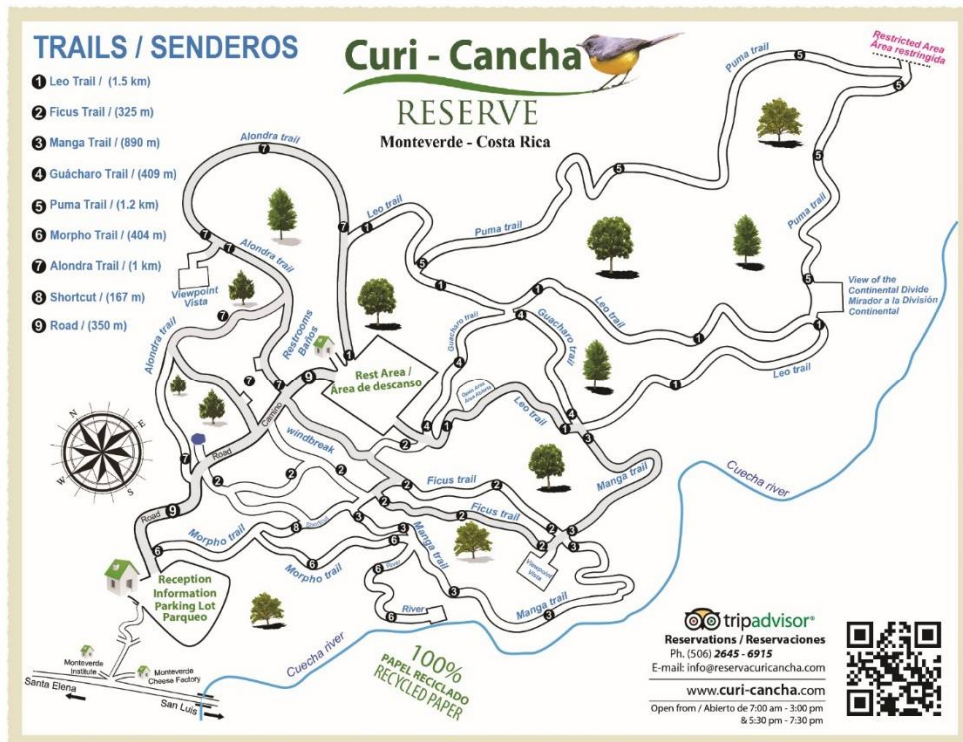
Although Curi Cancha is only a few kilometers from the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, it is somewhat lower in elevation and is a true rainforest. Entrance fee for this gem is a bit lower than for the cloud forest (20\$). The area is still well visited but there is usually quiet spots. Curi Cancha is somewhat park-like in some areas with clearings and large rest areas; the trails are often fairly broad making it easier to find the birds.



The chances of finding Resplendent Quetzal are good at Curi Cancha

**Getting there:** Curi Cancha is located close to Santa Elena and is signposted along rd. 620 to the cloud forest (but the sign is easy to miss).

**What to see:** Curi Cancha offers good chances of finding sought-after species like *Highland Tinamou*, **Black Guan**, **Resplendent Quetzal** and **Three-wattled Bellbird**. *Ornate Hawk-Eagle* and **Bare-necked Umbrellabirds** are possible. Opening hours are from 7am – 3pm. We booked a birdwatching tour here (quite costly: 100\$ pP for 4 hours, includes the entrance fee) which was very productive thanks to an excellent guide. Ebird lists 390 species.



**Where to watch:** Once you arrive you should take your time walking around in the parking lot area. The flowers attract Hummingbirds (we saw **Coppery-headed Emerald, Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, Lesser Violetear** and **Purple-throated Mountain-Gem** here), **Collared Trogons** and **Northern Emerald-Toucans** often show on the eastern edge of the parking lot near the house that is somewhat hidden there. The property should not be entered, as it is private. At the entrance of the parking lot there is a small



Golden-browed Chlorospingus was among the birds seen in Curi Cancha

path to a viewpoint behind a hedge overlooking the small valley. From here you can sometimes spot a **Three-wattled Bellbird** perched on one of the dead branches on the opposite slope. **Yellow-throated Toucans** can be spotted flying. Other species seen at the parking lot were **Yellow-throated Euphonia, Scarlet-thighed Dacnis, Mistletoe Tyrannulet,** and **Dusky-capped Flycatcher.**

There are several trails within the reserve (see trail map), and it is difficult to describe specific places that are worth visiting. The occurrence of the birds is anyway more linked to the particular food situation than to specific locations. Especially **Resplendent Quetzal** will be found where just ripe avocados are available.

On our visit, the Alondra trail was good for **Three-wattled Bellbird** (at least three singing birds). We found our **Resplendent Quetzal** in an avocado tree where Leo trail branches off from Alondra trail.

**Highland Tinamous** are most likely to be found along the Puma trail, unfortunately we had no luck.

**Species seen (60):** Gray-headed Chachalaca, Crested Guan, Green Hermit, **Purple-throated Mountain-Gem,** Violet Sabrewing, Lesser Violetear, **Coppery-headed Emerald,** Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, **Resplendent Quetzal,** Collared Trogon, Lesson's Motmot, Northern Emerald-Toucanet, Keel-billed Toucan, Pale-billed Woodpecker, Brown-hooded Parrot, White-fronted Parrot, Plain Antvireo, Slaty Antwren, Olivaceous Woodcreeper, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, **Three-wattled Bellbird,** White-throated Spadebill, Olive-streaked Flycatcher, Common Tody-Flycatcher, Masked Tityra, Eye-ringed Flatbill, Mountain Elaenia, Mistletoe Tyrannulet, Yellowish Flycatcher, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Lesser Greenlet, Azure-hooded Jay, Brown Jay, Blue-and-white Swallow, House Wren, **Ochraeous Wren,** Rufous-and-white Wren, White-breasted Wood-Wren, Gray-breasted Wood-Wren, **Black-faced Solitaire,** Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush, Mountain Thrush, **Golden-browed Chlorophonia,** Yellow-throated Euphonia, Common Chlorospingus, Chestnut-capped Brushfinch, White-eared Ground-Sparrow, White-naped Brushfinch, Melodious Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Louisiana Waterthrush, Golden-crowned Warbler, Slate-throated Redstart, Silver-throated Tanager, Blue Dacnis, Red-legged Honeycreeper, Bananaquit, Blue-black Grassquit

#### e. **Monteverde Coffee Tour**

Monteverde coffee tour is a coffee farm surrounded by plantations on the edge of the more densely populated Santa Elena area. What sounds like a rather monotonous place, however, currently offers the only known opportunity to find the endemic Cabani's Ground-Sparrow outside the Central Valley.

**Getting there:** From Santa Elena drive north on the 606. Stay on the main road. Shortly after passing a football field on your left, the road forks. Stay on 606 (turning left) and stay on the road for 2.8km. After another 450 meters you will find the entrance to the Monteverde Coffee Tour on the left side.

**What to see:** *Cabani's Ground-Sparrow* is the main attraction.

**Where to watch:** Most people find *Cabani's Ground-Sparrow* on the premises of Monteverde Coffee Tour though I really cannot tell, if they had permission to enter the paths between the plantations. It is likely that, when you ask, you might be able to walk freely. As there's quite many observations along the road leading to Monteverde Coffee Tour my strategy was to park the car and



keep on walking from the parking lot of Coffee Tour to the paved road, turn left and make my way along to road past the plantations. I did this several times for about 90 minutes until I finally spotted a bird along the graveled driveway leading to the parking lot, which unfortunately only showed up briefly on the ground next to the path. The other species in the area were rather common. The most interesting was the road north of Monteverde Coffee Tour. Here about 40 *White-fronted Parrots* were very conspicuous and easy to observe. Four *Orange-fronted Parakeets* could also be spotted in the flock, which were not seen anywhere else on our trip.

## VII. **Selva Color** (<https://www.selvacolor.com/>)

This lodge offers simple but neat accommodation for those wanting to give the Tárcoles area and NP Carara a visit. The small huts lie within a fenced and privately owned secondary forest giving the opportunity to find some of the commoner species right outside the window.

**Getting there:** Selva Color lies approx. 4 km south of the main entrance of Carara NP in a village called Quebrada Ganado close to route 34.

**What to see:** More than 200 species have been seen here (according to ebird), however no outstanding species have turned up so far. Several Trogon species (three in my case) can often be seen near the pool, including the near-endemic **Baird's Trogon**. **Crested Guan** can also be seen, especially in the early morning hours. **Scarlet Macaw** probably nests on the grounds, at least there is a nesting box, which was extensively inspected by a couple during my visit. **Northern Barred** and **Cocoa Woodcreepers** were seen daily close to the laundry-block, so was **White-whiskered Puffbird** and **Orange-billed Sparrow**. Our only sightings of **White-shouldered Tanager** and **Cabanis Wren** of the trip were also here.

**Where to watch:** Not many possibilities, all the roads and tracks are worth checking out.

**Species seen (38):** Crested Guan, Red-billed Pigeon, Ruddy Quail-Dove, Inca Dove, White-tipped Dove, White-winged Dove, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Groove-billed Ani, Stripe-throated Hermit, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Blue-throated Goldentail, Slaty-tailed Trogon, **Baird's Trogon**, Northern Black-throated Trogon, Lesson's Motmot, White-whiskered Puffbird, **Fiery-billed Aracari**, **Hoffmann's Woodpecker** (or hybrid X Red-crowned), **Scarlet Macaw**, Northern Barred-Woodcreeper, Cocoa Woodcreeper, Great Kiskadee, Boat-billed Flycatcher, Social Flycatcher, Streaked Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Lesser Greenlet, Rufous-naped Wren, Rufous-and-white Wren, Cabanis's Wren, Clay-colored Thrush, Orange-billed Sparrow, Yellow-throated Euphonia, Gray-headed Tanager, White-shouldered Tanager, Blue-gray Tanager, Buff-throated Saltator, Montezuma Oropendola, Great-tailed Grackle



*Ruddy Quail-Dove at Selva Color*



*The near-endemic Baird's Trogon was only found at Selva Color*

## VIII. Carara National Park

Carara National Park, just north of Jaco, is considered one of the country's best birding destinations. Over 400 species have been identified here. Carara sits in a transition zone and has some elements of various habitats making it a place of high diversity.

Our visit was intended to be family-friendly, i.e. not limited to bird-watching, and we joined a group with a guide called Maurice, who



knew a lot to discover and explain, but above all about the flora and fauna in general. We were able to see many species of frogs, tarantulas and two fer-de-lance, but unfortunately the birdlife was often ignored. Birdwatching can be quite difficult in the dense forest; knowledge of voices is helpful of course as is an early morning visit. Guides can be hired easily.

**Getting there:** The park is accessed from Route 34 near the town of Tárcoles and the Crocodile Bridge that spans the Tárcoles River. The main entrance is at the ranger station close to the Highway. The park is open from 7am to 4pm, the entrance fee is \$10.



**Where to watch:** There are two trail systems at Carara. One trail leaves from the HQ and has a few loops offering chances of finding more deep forest birds. Especially Quebrada Bonita trail is productive and offers chances of finding species like *Baird's Trogon*, *Marbled Wood-Quail*, *Great Tinamou* or *Black-hooded Antshrikes*. Perhaps because it was already quite late in the day, we only found the latter of these species. Our highlights were a group of *Yellow-naped Parrots*, several *Chestnut-backed Antbirds*, a *Velvety Manakin* and several *Buff-rumped Warblers* among other species.

The parking lot in front of the entrance offers chances to find some hummingbirds, *Blue-vented* was quite active during our visit.

The Laguna Meandrica, also known as the River Trail, leaves from a small, hidden parking area nearly a kilometer from the HQ heading north towards Crocodile Bridge. Carefully watch for the entrance to this trail on the right as it is easily overseen. Walking here requires rubber boots but there is a guy waiting in the parking area renting these and watching your car for a tip. This trail is usually considered the more prolific by birdwatchers. Though there is some overlap in species you can expect more edge



and second growth species on the Laguna trail. Early morning visits are said to be more important here than on the HQ trails. As our daughter didn't want to join and waited in the car, our visit was rather short. Nevertheless, we managed to find quite some nice species like **Black-throated Trogon**, **Turquoise-browed Motmot**, **Long-tailed Manakin**, **Orange-collared Manakin** or **Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher**.



Orange-collared Manakin was seen along the River trail

The nearby Crocodile Bridge should best be visited at dawn or in the late afternoon as birds come flying from or to roosting sites. *Boat-billed Herons* are known to occur, also *Yellow-billed Cotinga* has been seen from here. *Pearl Kite* is a possibility; **Mangrove Swallows** are all around.

**Species seen (21):** Groove billed Ani, White-tipped Dove, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Blue-vented Hummingbird, Northern Black-throated Trogon, Turquoise-browed Motmot, White-whiskered Puffbird, Pale-billed Woodpecker, **Yellow-naped Parrot**, **Scarlet Macaw**, **Black-hooded Antshrike**, Dusky Antbird, Velvety Manakin (split from Blue-crowned), Long-tailed Manakin, **Orange-collared Manakin**, Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher, Great Kiskadee, Rufous-naped Wren, Rufous-and-white Wren, Orange-billed Sparrow, Buff-rumped Warbler, Gray-headed Tanager



Black Iguana at the HQ of Carara NP



Fer-de-Lance was seen inside the park

## IX. Tárcoles – Village and surroundings

Tárcoles is a small town just south of the Crocodile Bridge, which crosses the Tárcoles River. A visit here is also worthwhile from an ornithological point of view, as in addition to some common species, there are also interesting areas where, with luck, Mangrove Hummingbirds, for example, can be found.

**Getting there:** Tárcoles is located on the Pacific Ocean north of Jacó and can be easily reached from road 34.

**What to see:** The marshy area around the village is a good place to see various species of **herons** and **kingfishers**. **Scarlet Macaw** is often observed flying. There are also opportunities to cross areas with mangroves with corresponding species and beach access.

**Where to watch:** Coming from the north, you should turn right just before crossing the Rio Tarcolitos. Turn right in the village and you will find marshy areas and small ponds on the right-hand side. Species such as **Anhinga**, **Roseate Spoonbill**, **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, **Ringed Kingfisher** or **Amazon Kingfisher** could be found here.

If you continue towards Rio Tárcoles, you should follow the road to the left just before the tours across the river. This road leads through swampy terrain and some mangroves. **Gray-cowled Wood-Rail**, **Barred Antshrike**, **Black-striped Woodcreeper**, **White-winged Becard**, **Scrub Euphonia**, **Northern Scrub-Flycatcher** and **Black-headed Trogon** can be found here. The road finally leads to the beach where a few **shorebirds** could be seen.

There are boat tours to see the crocodiles up close that take you to the coastal areas where you'll see **Frigatebirds** up close and, in my case, allows you to find **Mangrove Hummingbird**. You'll go upstream where there's mainly Hawks (**Common Black Hawk**, **Black Hawk-Eagle** and **Short-tailed Hawk** in my **tailed**), waders (**Southern Lapwing**, **Spotted & Least Sandpiper**) and **Egrets**. **Mangrove Swallows** should be no problem here as well.



Northern Scrub-Flycatcher has a limited distribution in Costa Rica

**Species seen (58):** Inca Dove, Ruddy Ground-Dove, White-tipped Dove, Groove-billed Ani, **Mangrove Hummingbird**, Gray-cowled Wood-Rail, American Oystercatcher, Northern Jacana, Southern Lapwing, Whimbrel, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Sanderling, Wood Stork, Anhinga, Magnificent Frigatebird, Neotropic Cormorant, Brown Pelican, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Green Heron, Western Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, White Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Black Hawk-Eagle, Common Black Hawk, Short-tailed Hawk, Black-headed Trogon, Gartered Trogon, Ringed Kingfisher, Amazon Kingfisher, **Hoffman's Woodpecker**, Orange-chinned Parakeet, **Scarlet Macaw**, Crested Caracara, Yellow-headed Caracara, Barred Antshrike, Black-striped Woodcreeper, Masked Tityra, White-winged Becard, Common Tody-Flycatcher, Northern Scrub-Flycatcher, Great Kiskadee, Mangrove Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Rufous-naped Wren, Scrub Euphonia, Great-tailed Grackle, Melodious Blackbird, Montezuma Oropendola, Blue-black Grassquit

## X. Osa Peninsula

Osa Peninsula is located in the southwest of Costa Rica and is a large peninsula mainly covered in lowland rainforest. Many visitors head for Puerto Jiménez, but we chose the small town of Drake Bay, which is located in the northwest of the peninsula, on the recommendation of a friend. Our accommodation, Hotel Casa Horizontes Corcovado (<https://casahorizontescorcovado.com>), offered great views from the balcony of the sea and the surrounding trees, which fortunately bore abundant fruit, so many of the observations were made from here. Drake Bay offers the opportunity to explore the surrounding area (and the forests) on foot, but the distances are quite long. Many tourist activities are available: nature-oriented horseback riding tours, ornithological tours, a trip to Cano Island or a visit to the San Pedrillo Biological Station/Corcovado National Park with an exploration of the surrounding area.

There are several lodges outside the village in the forest, which offer the opportunity to find rarer species on your doorstep, but are also considerably more expensive.

**Getting there (referring to Drake Bay):** Traveling by car is possible, but complicated and only advisable in the dry due to several river crossings using a 4X4. The most common way to reach Drake Bay is by boat from Sierpe. Boats usually leave twice a day from Oleaje Sereno Restaurant. We were told that it would be advisable to book the tickets in advance, but we were also able to buy tickets spontaneously. The trip itself ranges from fun to fast, depending on the boatman.

**What to see:** Osa Peninsula offers a very high biodiversity, including some species with a small distribution area. *Black-cheeked Ant-Tanagers* -endemic to CR and found almost exclusively on Osa- is a possibility, *Harpy Eagle* may be encountered by very lucky observers. Finding species like *Isthmian Wren* or the near endemic *Riverside Wren* and *Golden-naped Woodpecker* should cause no problem. *Scarlet Macaw* is seen frequently. Corcovado is home to numerous lowland rainforest species.

### Where to watch:

- a) **Boat Sierpe <-> Drake Bay:**  
it is certainly not easy to find and identify birds during the sometimes quite fast trip. Mostly larger species (herons, waders and birds of prey) are seen, but sought after species such as *Mangrove Humming-birds* can also be found with luck. However, there is a realistic chance of finding *Yellow-billed Cotinga*, which we managed to do on the return trip.



The near-endemic Golden-naped Woodpecker was common around Drake Bay

- b) **Drake Bay & surroundings:**  
Walk from the beach in the direction of Corovado, turn left after the bridge over the small stream and follow the path uphill. The path leads through a mixture of open and semi-open areas, but in some places also offers views over the treetops of smaller wooded areas. Turn



left at each junction to head back towards Drake Bay. We found 63 species on two visits.

**c) Drake Bay Hiking trail**

From Drake Bay it is possible to walk towards Corcovado National Park on a small path bordering the shoreline. You will be walking through closed forest and pass a few lodges and beaches. Birding here is more difficult but offers the chance of finding rarer and more elusive species. *Black-cheeked Ant-Tanagers* may be found here. During my one and only visit, we didn't find many species, but we saw all of the Antwren and Antbird species mentioned below here. However, this trail is also a good way to see howler monkeys, capuchin monkeys, basilisks or even tapirs, which sometimes come to the beach early in the morning.

**d) San Pedrillo Biological Station**

SPBS is located in the Corcovado National Park and may only be visited with a guide, however they usually don't focus on birdlife. The station is reached by boat from Drake Bay. It is possible to stay overnight here, but we only booked a day trip (\$120 per person including the guided tour and a snack). The boat trip itself offers opportunities to see sea-



*Finding Great Curassow is pretty likely around San Pedrillo*

birds (and whales), species such as **Brown Booby**, **Bridled Tern** or **Brown Noddy** have been seen here. The beach in front of the station was also home to the hoped-for **Collared Plover** plus a few more wader species. Species such as **Great Curassow**, **Gray-chested Dove**, **Bare-throated Tiger-Heron**, **White-whiskered Puffbird** or **Costa Rican Swift** were found on the network of paths around the station. **Charming Hummingbird** is not uncommon.

**Species seen (80):** Crested Guan, **Great Curassow**, Gray-headed Chachalaca, Marbled Wood-Quail, Pale-vented Pigeon, Short-billed Pigeon, White-tipped Dove, Gray-chested Dove, Squirrel Cuckoo, **Costa Rican Swift**, White-collared Swift, Stripe-throated Hermit, White-necked Jacobin, Purple-crowned Fairy, Green-breasted Mango, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, **Charming Hummingbird**, Blue-throated Golden-tail, Semipalmated Plover, Collared Plover, Wandering Tattler, Whimbrel, Spotted Sandpiper, Sanderling, Brown Noddy, Bridled Tern, Royal Tern, Magnificent Frigatebird, Brown Booby, Brown Pelican, White Ibis, Western Cattle Egret, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Common Black Hawk, Roadside Hawk, Slaty-tailed Trogon, Lesson's Motmot, White-whiskered Puffbird, White-necked Puffbird, **Fiery-billed Aracari**, Yellow-throated Toucan, Red-crowned Woodpecker, **Golden-naped Woodpecker**, Laughing Falcon, Crested Caracara, Orange-chinned Parakeet, Red-lored Parrot, Mealy Parrot, Scarlet Macaw, **Black-hooded Antshrike**, Dot-winged Antwren, Dusky Antbird, Chestnut-backed Antbird, Plain Xenops, Common Tody-Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Great Kiskadee, Social Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Southern Rough-winged Swallow, **Yellow-billed Cotinga**, White-browed Gnatcatcher, House Wren, **Riverside Wren**, **Isthmian Wren**, Clay-colored Thrush, Tricolored Munia, Black-striped Sparrow, Blue-black Grosbeak, Scarlet-rumped Tanager, Blue-gray Tanager, Palm Tanager, Golden-hooded Tanager, Bay-headed Tanager, Red-legged Honeycreeper, Variable Seedeater, Bananaquit, Buff-throated Saltator

## XI. **Manuel Antonio Park** (<https://manuelantoniopark.com/>)

With just 683 hectares of land, Manuel Antonio is the smallest of all the national parks in Costa Rica. It is located at the Pacific, just ten minutes from the port town of Quepos. This place is very crowded as there are several beaches that are well visited and it is fairly easy to find some of the sought-after mammals such as Three-toed Sloth or Howler Monkeys. From a birders point of view, there are many better areas to visit but you will find one or the other nice bird. I recommend going as early as possible (the park opens at 8:00) to avoid the crowds of visitors. The park is closed on Mondays.

**What to see:** *Black-hooded Antshrike* and *Riverside Wren* are near-endemics and common within the park. Great Tinamou was quite active during our visit, *Charming Hummingbird* occurs, so does *Mangrove Hummingbird*. A seabird colony exists on a small island nearby offering chances to find *Brown Booby* or *Bridled Tern*.



Scaly-breasted Hummingbird is the most common Hummingbird in the park.

**Where to go:** There are not many trails in the park, the Horseshoe loop will take you to all the relevant areas. It is most productive on the second half as it is broad here offering a better visibility. *Black-*

*hooded Antshrike* and *Riverside Wren* were commonly seen here, *Orange-billed Sparrow* and *Charming Hummingbird* were other species found here. Check the mangrove areas for *Gray-cowled Wood-Rail* and *Boat-billed Heron*; *Mangrove Hummingbird* is a possibility too. If you're out to get the better looks on the ocean, take the Punto Cathedral trail which will get you closest to Olocuita Island.

Be sure to check out the village as well. A point of interest is the small ponds near Restaurant Marlin. Here you will have chances finding *Boat-billed Heron*, *Green Heron*, or *White-throated Crake*.



**Species seen (14):** Great Tinamou, Gray-cowled Wood-Rail, Purple Gallinule, Green Heron, Great Blue Heron, Crowned Woodnymph, Scaly-breasted Hummingbird, *Mangrove Hummingbird*, Yellow-throated Toucan, Chestnut-backed Antbird, Plain Xenops, *Riverside Wren*, Yellow-throated Euphonia, Orange-billed Sparrow

## XII. Rainmaker Conservation Park (<https://rainmakercostarica.com/>)

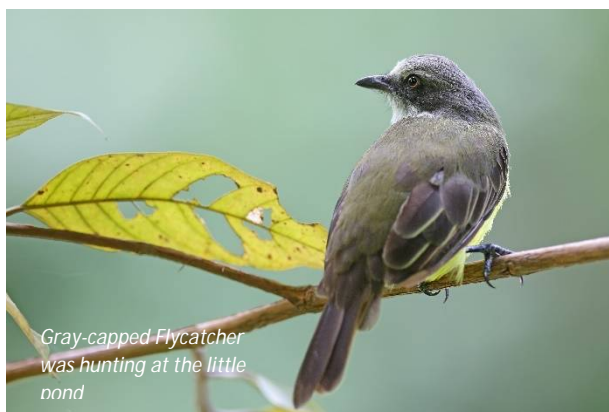
Rainmaker Conservation Park located just outside Quepos is a private nature reserve with a 2.5 km trail system, hanging bridges and waterfalls. It is not much visited by birdwatchers, though the tract of land is primary rainforest. Admission fee is \$20 pP.

**What to see:** As there is not much information available about the birds in the project, it is difficult to make any statements about the species being sought. eBird lists 221 species, but the number of checklists is rather low. *Long-billed Hermit* has been seen quite a few times, the same goes for *Fasciated Tiger-Heron*. Among the several Trogon species is *Baird's*. *Yellow-throated Toucan* and *Velvety Manakin* are other possibilities. **King Vulture** seems to be quite regular here.



**Where to watch:** The trail system is not long, so there are no real recommendations. Be sure to spend some time in the area near the entrance and pay a visit to the small pond nearby.

**Getting there:** From San Jose: Rainmaker is easily accessed by the main coastal road (the Costanera) on the Pacific side from the capital city of San Jose. Follow the road signs departing San Jose, for Quepos/Manuel Antonio. Continuing past the town of Parrita. Turn left at approx. 10 kilometers past Parrita. Rainmaker road sign will be visible. Follow signs through the Village of San Rafael Norte to the entrance, (seven kilometers).



From Quepos/Manuel Antonio: Depart the main highway to San Jose. Rainmaker sign is visible just after the town of Pocares. Turn right and follow signs to the entrance of Rainmaker through the village of San Rafael Norte. Rainmaker is 22 kilometers from the Center of Quepos.

**Species seen (24):** Inca Dove, Smooth-billed Ani, White-collared Swift, Stripe-throated Hermit, **King Vulture**, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Gray Hawk, Short-tailed Hawk, Hoffmann's Woodpecker (or hybrid), Great Kiskadee, Gray-capped Flycatcher, Streaked Flycatcher, Tropical Flycatcher, Rufous-naped Wren, Clay-colored Thrush, Stripe-headed Sparrow, Melodious Blackbird, Scarlet-rumped Tanager, Golden-hooded Tanager, Bay-headed Tanager, Silver-throated Tanager, Variable Seedeater, Bananaquit

### XIII. El Rodeo

El Rodeo is a small village in the Central Valley southwest of San José. We visited this place as we wanted to have a short drive before our departure and the grounds of the Universidad para la Paz located in the village are also considered a good birdwatching spot. We chose to stay at the Hotel Hacienda El Rodeo (<https://haciendaelrodeo.com/home/>), which has beautiful rooms, good food and private land that we were allowed to visit to look for birds.

**Getting there:** El Rodeo is located south of highway 27 and west of Ciudad Colón, which you have to drive through to get to El Rodeo. When you reach Ciudad Colón, turn right at the gas station and after one block turn left. Drive nine blocks south, turn left one block and then right again. The Universidad para la Paz is signposted from here.

**What to see:** Species of open and semi-open areas in particular can be found here. Secondary forest exists at the Universidad para la Paz hosting species like *Lesser Ground-Cuckoo*, *Fiery-billed Aracari*, *Long-tailed Manakin* or *Red-crowned Ant-Tanager*.



Blue-vented Hummingbirds came visiting the flowers near the hotel.

**Where to watch:** The road between Ciudad Colón and El Rodeo is considered a good birdwatching area. The small river, which is crossed about 1 km after Ciudad Colón, is said to be particularly attractive for many birds. We hardly spent any time here, but *Montezuma Oropendola* was very conspicuous.

Many species can be found along the road through the town, especially the immediate vicinity of our hotel was quite productive. A small pond behind the hotel was regularly visited by *Green Kingfisher* and *Gray-cowled Wood-Rail*, and our only *Green Ibis* and *Black-crowned Tityra* were also observed here. Gardens with flowering plants were visited by Colibris, *Canivet's Emerald* and *Blue-vented Hummingbird* were regularly seen here. Universidad para la Paz offers secondary forest with a good trail system allowing to find quite a number of species (297 according to ebird), we spent only little time searching for birds here.

**Species seen (43):** Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Red-billed Pigeon, Inca Dove, White-winged Dove, Groove-billed Ani, White-collared Swift, Vaux's Swift, Canivet's Emerald, Blue-vented Hummingbird, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Gray-cowled Wood-Rail, Southern Lapwing, Green Ibis, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Swallow-tailed Kite, Green Kingfisher, Keel-billed Toucan, *Hoffmann's Woodpecker*, Orange-chinned Parakeet, Crimson-fronted Parakeet, White-crowned Parrot, Streak-headed Woodcreeper, Common Tody-Flycatcher, Black-crowned Tityra, Great Kiskadee, Social Flycatcher, Piratic Flycatcher, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Brown Jay, Gray-breasted Martin, Blue-and-white Swallow, Rufous-naped Wren, Clay-colored Thrush, Yellow-throated Euphonia, Stripe-headed Sparrow, Montezuma Oropendola, Great-tailed Grackle, Gray-crowned Yellowthroat, Blue-gray Tanager, Bananaquit, Buff-throated Saltator

## The birds

1	Great Tinamou	The only observation was in Manuel Antonio Park.
2	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Widespread. Observations in Tárcoles, near Manuel Antonio NP and in El Rodeo.
3	Grey-headed Chachalaca	Not uncommon and usually seen in groups. Several observations at La Tigra Rainforest Lodge (site V), the Monteverde area (site VI) and on Osa Peninsula (site X).
4	Crested Guan	Seen on nine occasions at La Tigra Rainforest Lodge (site V), the Monteverde area (site VI), Selva Color (site VII) and on Osa Peninsula (site X).
5	<b>Black Guan</b>	Only one observation along the entrance road towards Monteverde Cloud Forest VIb).
6	Great Curassow	Only found near San Pedrillo Biological Station on Osa Peninsula (site Xd), where not uncommon.
7	Marbled Wood-Quail	Only heard on one occasion calling from a forest near Drake Bay (site Xb).
8	<b>Black-breasted Wood-Quail</b>	Near-endemic of middle elevations. Only seen at La Paz Waterfall Gardens (site II).
9	Pale-vented Pigeon	Lowland species, seen only on Osa Peninsula (site Xb).
10	Red-billed Pigeon	Restricted to the northern parts of CR, where not uncommon.
11	Band-tailed Pigeon	Highland species. Only observed in the Villa Arboleda-area (site IV).
12	Short-billed Pigeon	Not uncommon in lower wet forests, where heard more often than seen. Found only at La Tigra Rainforest Lodge (site V) and on Osa Peninsula (sites Xb & Xd).
13	Inca Dove	Not uncommon in open areas on the west slope.
14	Common Ground-Dove	Restricted to the north-west of CR. Found only in El Rodeo (site XIII).
15	Ruddy Ground-Dove	Supposed to be common in lowlands on both slopes. Quite common in the Tárcoles area (site IXa), not encountered otherwise.
16	Ruddy Quail-Dove	Lowland dove of wet forests on both slopes. One bird at Selva Color (site VII) was the only observation.
17	White-tipped Dove	Quite common and seen on various occasions.
18	Gray-chested Dove	Only one observation near San Pedrillo Biological Station (site Xd).
19	<b>Chiriqui Quail-Dove</b>	Near-endemic species of middle elevations. Found Monteverde area (XI b & c) and Villa Arborea (IV).
20	White-winged Dove	Found in the northwest of CR, where common.
21	Smooth-billed Ani	Common South Pacific
22	Groove-billed Ani	Common in the northern half in low and middle elevations.
23	Squirrel Cuckoo	Widespread
24	White-collared Swift	Widespread and fairly common
25	<b>Costa Rican Swift</b>	Near-endemic found in the South Pacific lowlands. Seen only at San Pedrillo Biological Station (site Xd)
26	Vaux's Swift	Seen Monteverde area (site VI9 and El Rodeo (site XIII).
27	White-necked Jacobin	Fairly common in lowlands on both slopes. Seen La Tigra Rainforest lodge (V) and on Osa (Xb).
28	White-tipped Sicklebill	Uncommon and easily overlooked. One bird was seen briefly near the feeder at La Tigra (V) on two days.
29	Bronzy Hermit	Only one bird at La Tigra Rainforest Lodge (V).
30	Green Hermit	Quite frequently in higher areas. The hummingbird feeder at La Paz Waterfall Gardens (II) was well visited by this species. Observations were also made at Tiquicia Lodge (I), La Tigra (V) and at several locations in Monteverde (VI)
31	Stripe-throated Hermit	Not uncommon in lower elevations but somewhat inconspicuous. Seen Selva Color (VII), Drake Bay (X) and Rainmaker (XII).



32	Brown Violetear	Prefers middle elevations on both slopes. we only found the species in La Paz Waterfall Gardens (II), where it was quite common.
33	Lesser Violetear	Found in Highlands, where it is quite common. Several observations at Tiquicia Lodge (I) and in the Monteverde area (VI).
34	Purple-crowned Fairy	Only one bird near Drake Bay (Xb).
35	Green-breasted Mango	Only one bird near Drake Bay (Xb).
36	Green Thorntail	Quite common in La Paz Waterfall Gardens (II), not seen elsewhere.
37	Green-crowned Brilliant	Another hummer of the middle elevations. Seen at the hummingbird feeders in La Paz Waterfall Gardens (II) and the Cafe Colibri in Monteverde (VIb).
38	<b>Talamanca Hummingbird</b>	Near-endemic of the highlands. Only one observation in La Paz Waterfall Gardens (II)
39	Long-billed Starthroat	One bird at La Tigra Rainforest Lodge (V).
40	<b>Fiery-throated Hummingbird</b>	Near-endemic found only at highland sites. A few individuals showed on Volcán Poás.
41	<b>Purple-throated Mountain-Gem</b>	Near-endemic bird of middle elevations and highlands thus seen only at higher elevated sites: Common at Tiquicia Lodge (I) and La Paz Waterfall Gardens (II), fewer in the Monteverde area (VIb & d).
42	<b>Magenta-throated Woodstar</b>	Another near-endemic bird of mountainous ranges. The only observation was on Monteverde entrance road (VIb) shortly before reaching Café Colibri.
43	<b>Scintillant Hummingbird</b>	Only seen at Tiquicia Lodge (I) where it frequently turned up in the Colibri Garden.
44	Canivet's Emerald	Restricted to the northwest of Costa Rica thus only one observation at El Rodeo (XIII).
45	Violet Sabrewing	Species of the middle elevations. Common at Tiquicia (I), La Paz Waterfall Gardens (II) and the Monteverde area (VI).
46	Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer	Restricted to Caribbean slope thus only seen at La Tigra (V).
47	Crowned Woodnymph	Common in lowlands on both slopes. One observation in Manuel Antonio (XI).
48	<b>Coppery-headed Emerald</b>	True Costa Rica endemic. Quite a few observations at at Tiquicia (I), La Paz Waterfall Gardens (II) and the Monteverde area (VI).
49	Stripe-tailed Hummingbird	Only seen in the Monteverde area (VI).
50	<b>Black-bellied Hummingbird</b>	Near endemic species of middle elevations. Only one observation at La Paz Waterfall Gardens (II).
51	Scaly-breasted Hummingbird	Only one observation at La Tigra (V).
52	Blue-vented Hummingbird	Seen at Carara NP (VIII, parking lot) and El Rodeo (XIII).
53	Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	Most common hummingbird encountered, seen at various locations.
54	<b>Mangrove Hummingbird</b>	Endangered Costa Rica endemic, confined to the mangroves along the Pacific coast. Seen Tárcoles (IX) and Manuel Antonio (XI).
55	<b>Charming Hummingbird</b>	Near endemic of the south Pacific lowlands. Seen Osa Peninsula only (Xb, Xd). Said to be common in Manuel Antonio.
56	Blue-throated Goldentail	Lowland species on both slopes, however rarer on the Caribbean side. Single birds at Selva Color (VII) and twice Drake Bay (Xb).
57	Gray-cowled Wood-Rail	Recently split from Gray-necked Wood-Rail and south of roundabout San José (while Russet-naped Wood-Rail replaces this species further north). Not uncommon. Seen Tárcoles (IX), Manuel Antonio (XI) and El Rodeo (XIII).
58	Purple Gallinule	Widespread.
59	American Oystercatcher	Uncommon resident on the Pacific Coast. Our only observation was on Tárcoles beach (IX).
60	Southern Lapwing	Rather common inhabitant of lowlands on both slopes. Several observations.

61	Collared Plover	Coastal species, our only observation was on Osa Peninsula (Xd).
62	Semipalmated Plover	One bird together with the latter species.
63	Northern Jacana	Widespread.
64	Whimbrel	One bird San Pedrillo (Xd), eight birds Tárcoles beach (IX).
65	Sanderling	the same places as the previous species.
66	Least Sandpiper	Common migrant but not (yet) many present.
67	Spotted Sandpiper	Widespread migrant, not (yet) many present during my stay
68	Wandering Tattler	Uncommon migrant on Pacific coast but usually later in the year. One bird at Drake Bay was a big surprise.
69	Willet	Migratory bird on both coasts. Seen Tárcoles beach (IX) only.
70	Brown Noddy	Didn't do much seawatching thus a single observation offshore on the way from Drake Bay to San Pedrillo by boat (site X).
71	Bridled Tern	Same as Brown Noddy.
72	Royal Tern	Same as Brown Noddy.
73	Wood Stork	Seen daily in Tárcoles (IX), also one bird near Quepos (vicinity of Manuel Antonio).
74	Magnificent Frigatebird	Common coastal
75	Brown Booby	Same as Brown Noddy.
76	Anhinga	Seen daily in Tárcoles, also one bird en route near Quepos
77	Neotropic Cormorant	Quite common
78	Brown Pelican	Quite common at coastal sites.
79	Bare-throated Tiger-Heron	Quite common along streams in the lowlands.
80	Great Blue Heron	Only seen in the Tárcoles area.
81	Great Egret	Only seen in the Tárcoles area.
82	Snowy Egret	Only seen in the Tárcoles area.
83	Little Blue Heron	Only seen in the Tárcoles area.
84	Cattle Egret	Only seen in the Tárcoles area and Drake Bay.
85	Green Heron	Several sightings at different locations.
86	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Only seen in the Tárcoles area.
87	White Ibis	Only seen in the Tárcoles area and on Osa Peninsula.
88	Green Ibis	only on the Caribbean side. The only observation on the land of the Hacienda El Rodeo was probably lucky.
89	Roseate Spoonbill	Only seen in the Tárcoles area.
90	King Vulture	One of the surprises when I was back home as it turned up on one photo. The only sighting was of one overflying bird at the rainmaker project.
91	Black Vulture	Very common.
92	Turkey Vulture	Very common.
93	Swallow-tailed Kite	Observations at La Tigra (V) and El Rodeo (XIII).
94	Black Hawk-Eagle	the only observation was from the boat trip on the Tárcoles (IX).
95	Bicolored Hawk	Uncommon and barely visible in mature forests. Two birds calling (one seen) at Monteverde entrance road in the forest adjacent to Café Colibri (VIb).
96	Common Black Hawk	Common coastal species near in / near mangroves. Several birds in Tárcoles (IX) and on Osa (X).
97	Great Black Hawk	One bird soaring high at Villa Arboleda (IV).
98	Barred Hawk	Only one bird at La Paz Waterfall Gardens (II).
99	Roadside Hawk	Common in lower areas. Several observations.
100	Gray Hawk	Several observations, including at La Tigra Rainforest Lodge (V) and Rainmaker Conservation Park (XII).
101	Short-tailed Hawk	Like many other hawks only seen flying by very high. Two observations: Tárcoles boat tour (IX) and Rainmaker Conservation Park (XII).
102	Red-tailed Hawk	A single observation at Volcán Poás (III).
103	Mottled Owl	As we hardly did any night tours, this was our only owl. One bird was successfully hunting right in front of our window at Villa Arboleda (IV).

104	Resplendent Quetzal	A highland species that is best found in fruit-bearing avocado trees. Seen twice in Curi Cancha (VIId) but not elsewhere.
105	Slaty-tailed Trogon	Rather common lowland species. Found Selva Color (VII) and on Osa (Xb).
106	Black-headed Trogon	Only in Northern Pacific lowlands thus only seen once in Tárcoles (IX).
107	<b>Baird's Trogon</b>	Near-endemic, which is only found in the South Pacific lowlands. Only seen in Selva Color (VII), Carara National Park (VIII) and Osa Peninsula (X) are other possibilities.
108	Gartered Trogon	One of the commoner trogons. Seen La Tigra (V) and Tárcoles (IX).
109	Northern Black-throated Trogon	Lowland species in wet areas. Seen Selva Color (VII) and Tárcoles (IX).
110	Collared Trogon	Highland species. Frequently seen in the Monteverde area (VIb & d) but not elsewhere.
111	Lesson's Motmot	Seen on many occasions.
112	Turquoise-browed Motmot	A single observation along the River trail in Carara NP (VIII).
113	Ringed Kingfisher	Seen Tárcoles (IX) only.
114	Amazon Kingfisher	Seen Tárcoles (IX) only.
115	Green Kingfisher	A pair near Hacienda El Rodeo (XIII).
116	White-necked Puffbird	Uncommon in the lowlands. Only one observation on Osa Peninsula (Xb).
117	White-whiskered Puffbird	Inhabits mature forest below 1000m on both slopes. We found single birds in the Tárcoles area (Selva Color (VII), Carara NP (VIII; River trail) and on Osa (Xd).
118	Rufous-tailed Jacamar	A single bird on the trails around La Tigra (V) was the only observation.
119	Red-headed Barbet	Only seen in a mixed flock at La Paz Waterfall Gardens (II).
120	<b>Prong-billed Barbet</b>	A bird together with the latter species.
121	Northern Emerald Toucanet	Seen twice at different locations in the Monteverde area (VI).
122	<b>Fiery-billed Aracari</b>	Near-endemic of the South Pacific lowlands. Seen Selva Color (VII). Great views from our balcony in Drake Bay (X).
123	Yellow-throated Toucan	Avoids higher elevations. Seen La Tigra (V), Drake Bay (Xb) and Manuel Antonio (XI).
124	Keel-billed Toucan	Another species of rather low elevations but starting to climb up. Now regular in the Monteverde area (VI), also seen at La Tigra (V) and El Rodeo (XIII).
125	Olivaceous Piculet	One observation at La Tigra (V).
126	Acorn Woodpecker	Common in the highlands. Seen Poás Volcano (III) and Villa Arboleda (IV).
127	<b>Golden-naped Woodpecker</b>	Near-endemic of wet forests in the South Pacific lowlands. Quite common on Osa (X).
128	Black-cheeked Woodpecker	Species of the Caribbean lowlands, therefore only seen at La Tigra (V).
129	<b>Hoffman's Woodpecker</b>	Near-endemic of the Northern Pacific and the Central Valley. Quite common and frequently seen in the respective places. Not checked for hybrids though (see next species).
130	Red-crowned Woodpecker	Replaces the latter species in the South Pacific. However, birds from Tárcoles/Carara to Quepos are mainly hybrids. Not uncommon in Drake Bay (X).
131	Hairy Woodpecker	The only bird of the trip was found early morning at Tiquicia lodge (site I)
132	Smoky-brown Woodpecker	Mainly Caribbean slope, therefore only seen at La Tigra (V).
133	Pale-billed Woodpecker	Impressive bird. Showing well at Curi Cancha (VIId), also seen at La Tigra (V) and in Carara (VIII).
134	Laughing Falcon	Only one bird in Drake Bay (Xb).
135	Crested Caracara	Seen on various occasions.
136	Yellow-headed Caracara	Pacific side only where it is not uncommon. Several sightings in Tárcoles (VII), Drake Bay (Xb) and in Quepos near Manuel Antonio National Park (XI).

137	Bat Falcon	One bird hunting in Santa Elena / Monteverde area (VI).
138	Orange-chinned Parakeet	Common and widespread in lowlands and foothills.
139	Brown-hooded Parrot	A group of three at Tiquicia (I), also a small group from the parking lot in Curi Cancha (VI d).
140	White-crowned Parrot	Two observations (Villa Arboleda (IV) and El Rodeo (XIII)).
141	Red-lored Parrot	Several observations in Drake Bay (Xb), also seen La Tigra (V).
142	Yellow-naped Parrot	Rare and declining. At least two birds on the HQ-trails in Carara NP (VIII).
143	White-fronted Parrot	Seen in the Monteverde area only. Especially common at Monteverde Coffee tour (VI e).
144	Mealy Parrot	Difficult to tell apart from Red-lored Parrot. Our only secure observation was at Drake Bay (Xb).
145	Orange-fronted Parrot	Only found in the Northern Pacific and Central Valley. The only observation was at the Monteverde Coffee Tour (VI e), where three birds were spotted among the large number of White-fronted Parrots.
146	Scarlet Macaw	Patchily distributed along the Pacific coast. Should be no problem when visiting Carara /Tárcoles (VIII & IX) or Osa Peninsula (X).
147	Crimson-fronted Parakeet	Unlike other Parakeets fairly easy to ID in flight. Observations in El Rodeo (XIII) and near Poás Volcano, also seen in San José.
148	Fasciated Antshrike	Restricted to the wet Caribbean lowlands. Only one observation at La Tigra (V).
149	Barred Antshrike	Widespread and more common than the latter species. Two observations: La Tigra (V) and Tárcoles IX).
150	<b>Black-hooded Antshrike</b>	Near-endemic of the Southern Pacific lowlands and foothills. Seen Carara National Park (VIII) and on Osa Peninsula (Xb).
151	Plain Antwreio	Only one observation in Curi Cancha (VI d).
152	Slaty Antwren	Only one observation in Curi Cancha (VI d).
153	Dot-winged Antwren	Seen in Drake Bay only (Xb & c), quite common here.
154	Dusky Antbird	Species of the foothills and lowlands of both slopes. Seen Carara (VIII) and on Osa Peninsula (Xb).
155	Chestnut-backed Antbird	Quite common in south Pacific lowlands. Common in Carara (VIII), on Osa (X) and in Manuel Antonio (XI).
156	Olivaceous Woodcreeper	Mainly middle elevations on both slopes. Found in the Monteverde area only (VI b & d).
157	Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	Two observations: La Paz Waterfall Gardens (II) and in Curi Cancha (VI d).
158	Northern Barred-Woodcreeper	Common in wet forests of the lowlands. Seen twice at Selva Color (VII).
159	Cocoa Woodcreeper	Common in wet forests of the lowlands. Seen twice at La Tigra (V) and Selva Color (VII).
160	Black-striped Woodcreeper	Many of the stripe-headed Woodcreepers were left unidentified. The only secure observation, due to a reasonable photo, was in Tárcoles (IX).
161	Streak-headed Woodcreeper	Savely identified only in Bajo del Tigre (VI c) and El Rodeo (XIII).
162	Spot-crowned Woodcreeper	Highland species. Our only observation was at Villa Arboleda (IV).
163	Plain Xenops	Rather common in lowlands and foothills especially of southern Pacific. Several observations in La Tigra (V), Drake Bay (X) and in Manuel Antonio (XI).
164	Spotted Barbtail	Two observations: Tiquicia Lodge (I) and La Paz Waterfall Gardens (II).
165	<b>Ruddy Treerunner</b>	Near-endemic of the highlands. Only found at Tiquicia, where seen twice.
166	Red-faced Spinetail	Two birds building a nest in La Paz Waterfall Gardens (II) near the Jaguar cage.

167	Long-tailed Manakin	Restricted to northern Pacific and Central Valley. Two observations: Bajo del Tigra (VIc) and along River trail in Carara NP (VIII).
168	Velvety Manakin	Only one male at HQ-trails in Carara (VIII).
169	White-collared Manakin	Caribbean slope only. Quite common at La Tigra (V) sometimes close to the feeder.
170	<b>Orange-collared Manakin</b>	Near-endemic of the south Pacific lowlands. One male along River trail in Carara NP (VIII).
171	<b>Three-wattled Bellbird</b>	Breeds in higher elevated sites disperses to lower elevations from July on. Seen in the Monteverde area only. Both Curi Cancha (VIId) and Bajo del Tigra (VIc) were pretty reliable.
172	<b>Yellow-billed Cotinga</b>	Near-endemic of south Pacific wet forests and mangroves. One individual showed on a boat trip on Rio Sierpe.
173	Black-crowned Tityra	Widespread but uncommon below 1200m. One observation at El Rodeo (XIII).
174	Masked Tityra	Common and widespread. Several observations.
175	White-winged Becard	Rather uncommon bird in wet lowlands. One observation in Tárcoles (IX).
176	Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher	Only one bird at River trail in Carara (VIII).
177	White-throated Spadebill	Two birds in Curi Cancha (VIId).
178	Olive-streaked Flycatcher	One observation in Curi Cancha (VIId).
179	Common Tody-Flycatcher	Common and widespread. Various observations.
180	Eye-ringed Flatbill	Uncommon and easily overlooked. Seen twice in Curi Cancha (VIId).
181	Yellow-olive Flycatcher	Common and widespread.
182	Yellow Tyrannulet	Quite common La Tigra (V), not seen elsewhere.
183	Yellow-bellied Elaenia	Widespread, however, only one observation in Drake Bay (Xb).
184	Mountain Elaenia	Common in highlands and thus found Volcán Poás (III), Villa Arboleda (IV) and in the Monteverde area (XIb, d).
185	Mistletoe Tyrannulet	Widespread but easily overlooked. Several sightings at Villa Arboleda (IV) and in the Monteverde area (XI).
186	Tufted Flycatcher	Only observed in La Paz Waterfall Gardens (II).
187	Yellowish Flycatcher	Seen Monteverde (XIb & d) only.
188	Black Phoebe	Only one observation at Villa Arboleda (IV).
189	Northern Scrub-Flycatcher	Range in Costa Rica restricted to the mangroves on the Pacific coast. One bird in Tárcoles (IX) was the only observation.
190	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	Widespread, but only found in the Monteverde area (VIb & d).
191	Great Kiskadee	Very common.
192	Boat-billed Flycatcher	Widespread but hard to tell from Great Kiskadee. Maybe for this reason only found in Selva Color (VII) and La Tigra (V).
193	Social Flycatcher	Common and widespread.
194	Gray-capped Flycatcher	Only one bird at Rainmaker Conservation Park (XII).
195	Streaked Flycatcher	Found in Pacific slope foothills and lowlands. Securely identified only Selva Color (VII) and Rainmaker Conservation Park (XII).
196	Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	Passage migrant / summer visitor. Seen La Tigra (V), Monteverde (VIb) and El Rodeo (XIII).
197	Piratic Flycatcher	Only seen El Rodeo (XIII).
198	Tropical Kingbird	Very common.
199	Lesser Greenlet	Common but overlooked unless you know the voices. Seen Curi Cancha (VIId) and Selva Color (VII) but widespread.
200	Azure-hooded Jay	Rather uncommon in higher elevated sites. A group of seven showed well in Monteverde (VIb).
201	Brown Jay	Quite common.
202	Blue-and-white Swallow	Quite common.
203	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	not really paid attention to this species, only written down in Tárcoles.
204	Southern Rough-winged Swallow	Seen La Tigra (V) and Drake Bay (X).

205	Gray-breasted Martin	Quite widespread.
206	Mangrove Swallow	Contrary to its name, it can also be found outside mangroves. Common in Tárcoles (IX), not seen elsewhere.
207	White-browed Gnatcatcher	Seen on Osa Peninsula only though said to be common.
208	House Wren	Common and widespread.
209	<b>Ochraeous Wren</b>	Near-endemic of the highland. Three birds at different places in Curi Cancha (VI d) were the only observations.
210	Rufous-naped Wren	Restricted to the northern Pacific and western Central Valley. Common and conspicuous in the Tárcoles area (sites VII, VIII & IX), also seen El Rodeo (XIII).
211	Rufous-and-white Wren	Not uncommon within its range. Seen Curi Cancha (VI d), Selva Color (VII) & Carara (VIII).
212	Cabanis's Wren	In Costa Rica mainly in the Northern Pacific. Only seen Selva Color (VII).
213	<b>Isthmian Wren</b>	Replaces Cabanis's Wren in the Southern Pacific. Seen only Drake Bay (X).
214	<b>Riverside Wren</b>	Near-endemic of the southern Pacific. Quite common on Osa (Xb, c & d), also seen Manuel Antonio (XI).
215	Bay Wren	Caribbean slope only. Quite common in La Tigra (V).
216	White-breasted Wood-Wren	Only seen Curi Cancha (VI d).
217	Gray-breasted Wood-Wren	Quite common at higher elevated sites (I, II & VI d).
218	American Dipper	One bird at La Paz Waterfall Gardens (II) was the only observation.
219	Tropical Mockingbird	Widespread in urban regions. Seen Sierpe.
220	<b>Black-faced Solitaire</b>	Near-endemic found in montane wet forests. Several observations in the Monteverde area (VI b & d), also La Paz Waterfall Gardens (II).
221	<b>Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush</b>	Near-endemic of the highlands. Only seen at Poás Volcano (III), where it was found easily in the parking lot.
222	Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush	Only found in the Monteverde area, in Bajo del Tigre (VI c), where it is quite common.
223	Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush	Only found in La Paz Waterfall Gardens (II).
224	Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush	Highland species. Altogether three observations in two sites (I, IV).
225	Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush	Seen only in Monteverde (VI b, d).
226	Mountain Thrush	Seen in higher elevated sites only (I, III, VI b & d).
227	White-throated Thrush	Another bird seen in the Monteverde (VI b & c) area only.
228	Clay-colored Thrush	National bird of Costa Rica, a really very unspectacular choice. Widespread and common.
229	<b>Sooty Thrush</b>	Near-endemic of very highly elevated sites. Common and easily found at Poás Volcano (III).
230	<b>Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher</b>	Near-endemic highland species. Seen only at Villa Arboleda (IV).
231	Tricolored Munia	Observed in Drake Bay.
232	House Sparrow	Common in urban areas.
233	Elegant Euphonia	One observation at Villa Arboleda (IV).
234	<b>Golden-browed Chlorophonia</b>	Near-endemic bird of middle and high elevations. Quite common in the Monteverde area (VI b, c & d), not seen elsewhere.
235	Scrub Euphonia	Restricted to the northern Pacific. Four birds in Tárcoles were the only observation.
236	<b>Yellow-crowned Euphonia</b>	Near-endemic of foothills and lowlands on both slopes. The only observation was at La Tigra (V).
237	Yellow-throated Euphonia	Occurs Pacific slope only, common in the north but getting rarer in the south. Observations in Curi Cancha (VI d), Selva Color (VII), Manuel Antonio (XI) and El Rodeo (XIII).
238	Olive-backed Euphonia	Caribbean species, only seen in La Tigra (V).
239	Yellow-bellied Siskin	Highland species. Only seen at Tiquicia Lodge (I), where a flock came roosting every night and left early morning.
240	<b>Sooty-capped Chlorospingus</b>	Near-endemic of highlands above 2000m. A few birds were seen at Poás Volcano (III).

241	Common Chlorospingus	Far more common than the latter species. Several observations from Tiquicia Lodge (I), La Paz Waterfall Gardens (II) and the Monteverde area.
242	Stripe-headed Sparrow	Common in north Pacific lowlands and western Central Valley. Seen Rainmaker Conservation Park (XII), El Rodeo (XIII) and somewhere along the Pacific coast while approaching Tárcoles.
243	Black-striped Sparrow	Common bird of the lowlands. Several observations.
244	Orange-billed Sparrow	Not uncommon in the lowlands. Observations from Selva Color (VII), Carara (VIII) and Manuel Antonio (XI).
245	Chestnut-capped Brushfinch	Not uncommon but quite secretive. Observations from Tiquicia Lodge (I) and Curi Cancha (VI d).
246	<b>Sooty-faced Finch</b>	Near-endemic that we saw only at La Paz Waterfall gardens (II).
247	Rufous-collared Sparrow	Very common in middle and upper observations.
248	White-eared Ground-Sparrow	Very limited range in Costa Rica but not uncommon in humid woodlands. Observations are from Villa Arboleda (IV) and in the Monteverde area (VI b, c & d).
249	<b>Cabani's Ground-Sparrow</b>	Costa Rica endemic. Apart from its occurrence in the central valley there is one spot in the Monteverde area (VI e) from which this species is known.
250	White-naped Brushfinch	Fairly common in second growth and forest edge at middle elevations. Several sightings at Villa Arboleda (IV) and the Monteverde area (VI b & d).
251	<b>Yellow-thighed Brush-Finch</b>	Near-endemic of higher elevated areas, where not uncommon. Observations only from Tiquicia Lodge (I) and Poás Volcano (III).
252	Eastern Meadowlark	Widespread and common in open grassy areas. As we hardly ever visited these habitats, the only observation comes from Villa Arboleda (IV).
253	Montezuma Oropendola	Several observations in Selva Color (VII) and El Rodeo (XIII).
254	Shiny Cowbird	Caribbean slope, however a bird near Tiquicia Lodge was photographed and confirmed as this species by a local guide.
255	Giant Cowbird	At least one bird seen on a football field in San Juan Norte, a small village close to Villa Arboleda.
256	Melodious Blackbird	Quite common. Several observations.
257	Great-tailed Grackle	Very common.
258	Louisiana Waterthrush	The earliest passerine from northern America to arrive and thus the only one we saw. One bird in Curi Cancha was the only observation.
259	<b>Flame-throated Warbler</b>	Near-endemic in forests of the highlands. Known to occur at Poás Volcano (III), where we saw one bird.
260	Gray-crowned Yellowthroat	Quite common but we have not visited appropriate habitats, maybe therefore the only observation was on the farmland of Hacienda El Rodeo (XIII).
261	Chestnut-capped Warbler	Central Valley and Pacific slope only. One bird in Bajo del Tigre (VI c) was the only observation.
262	Golden-crowned Warbler	Only observed in the Monteverde area (VI b & d).
263	<b>Costa Rican Warbler</b>	Near-endemic in forests at middle elevations. One bird at La Paz Waterfall Gardens (II).
264	Buff-rumped Warbler	Quite common in wet lowlands. Seen La Tigra (V) and Carara (VIII).
265	Slate-throated Redstart	Common and conspicuous at middle elevations. Observations from Tiquicia Lodge (I), Villa Arboleda (IV) and the Monteverde area (VI b, c & d).
266	Blue-black Grosbeak	Common in lowlands, we only found it in Drake Bay (X), where we could observe it from our balcony daily.
267	Gray-headed Tanager	Restricted to the Pacific lowlands. Observations from Selva Color (VII) and Carara (VIII).

268	White-lined Tanager	Only one observation at Selva Color (VII).
269	Crimson-collared Tanager	Caribbean foothills and lowlands only. Several sightings at La Tigra (V).
270	Scarlet-rumped Tanager	Passerini's and Cherrie's Tanager are now lumped and form this species. The most common Tanager within it's range.
271	<b>Blue-and-gold Tanager</b>	Seen on two occasions: 1 bird at Tiquicia lodge (site I) was quite a surprise, another three birds at La Tigra Rainforest lodge (site V).
272	Blue-gray Tanager	Common and widespread.
273	Palm Tanager	Less observations than the latter species but still common.
274	Golden-hooded Tanager	Common in lowlands and foothills. Found in La Tigra (V), on Osa (Xb) and at Rainmaker Conservation Park (XII).
275	<b>Spangle-cheeked Tanager</b>	Near-endemic of higher elevations. Only found in La Paz Waterfall Gardens (II).
276	Bay-headed Tanager	Altogether four observations from Drake Bay (Xb) and at Rainmaker Conservation Park (XII).
277	Silver-throated Tanager	Quite common from foothills to middle elevations. Seen in La Paz Waterfall gardens (II), the Monteverde area (VIb & d) and Rainmaker Conservation Park (XII).
278	Scarlet-thighed Dacnis	The only observation is from the parking lot at Curi Cancha (VI d).
279	Red-legged Honeycreeper	Pretty common. Several seen in the Monteverde area (VIb & d) and in Drake Bay (Xb).
280	Green Honeycreeper	Fairly common below 1500m. Excellent views from the feeder at La Tigra (V), also seen on Osa (Xb).
281	<b>Slaty Flowerpiercer</b>	Near-endemic found at higher elevations. Common sight at Tiquicia Lodge (I), La Paz Waterfall gardens (II) and Poás Volcano (III).
282	Blue-black Grassquit	Quite common.
283	Thick-billed Seed-Finch	Only one secure observation at a river called Rio Tapezco on our way to La Tigra.
284	Variable Seedeater	Quite common. Funny to have two completely different looking subspecies.
285	Bananaquit	Quite common, often found at feeders.
286	Yellow-faced Grassquit	Quite common. Several sightings.
287	Buff-throated Saltator	Several sightings in four different locations: La Tigra (V), Selva Color (VII), Drake Bay (X) and El Rodeo (XIII).
288	Cinnamon-bellied Saltator	Two observations: Tiquicia Lodge (I) and La Tigra (V). Uncommon pacific slope.
289	Slate-colored Grosbeak	Caribbean slope only. One pair was heard and seen along the trails at La Tigra (V).