

TRIP REPORT

COSTA RICA 29/10 - 20/11 2000

BY MARKUS LAGERQVIST

INTRODUCTION

Although there are an overwhelming amount of trip reports on Costa Rica to be found on the Internet I hope there might be some new input, or at least inspiration, to be found in this one. Even though quite a few of the places visited are on the standard repertoire, others are seldom visited or commented upon.

Another aspect is that very few birders visit Costa Rica during October - November since these months coincide with the culmination of the rainy season. My reason for choosing this season is that I really didn't have any choice! My father had been working in Central America for a while and suggested to me that I should come down for a few weeks at the end of his contract.

The trip report consists of three parts; a diary, a summary of my impressions with a few recommendations and finally a trip list of all the birds recorded - all in all 426 species.

29/10 SWEDEN - CASA RÍO BLANCO

Arriving at Aeropuerto Juan Santamaría before schedule (18.15) gave us ample time to drive to Casa Río Blanco - just some 65 km away - so that we didn't have to spend the first valuable morning hours in the car.

However we soon learned not to depend upon everything turning out as planned. Driving north from San José into Parque Nacional Braulio Carrillo we were pulled over by a police officer informing us that the road was closed due to a landslide (we later learned they are quite common on this road). Since we didn't want to spend the night in some hotel hoping for the road to be cleared by the morning our only other option was to take the 130-km detour over Turrialba in the middle of the night. This took some five extra hours and we just barely found the lodge arriving after midnight. What a start!

30/10 CASA RÍO BLANCO (EXCURSION TO QUEBRADA GONZALES)

After a few hours of sleep we woke up to the sound of pouring rain smattering on our roof. Venturing out into the rain I soon found my first Costa Rican record - an **Orange-billed Sparrow**.

Getting an early breakfast proved quite difficult and a little later than preferable we started out on the lodge's short trail system - by now the rain had seized and the forest was really beautiful with the rocky Río Blanco running through it. Unfortunately it was also very quiet and most birds were seen in the

cultivated areas close to the lodge or in the lodge's garden, these included **Keel-billed Toucan**, **Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer**, **White-necked Jacobin**, **Long-tailed Hermit**, **Buff-rumped Warbler** and **Olive-backed Euphonia**.

Since the trails proved unproductive we decided to head over to the nearby Quebrada Gonzales in the Parque Nacional Braulio Carrillo. Unfortunately the rain started pouring down quite heavily but we headed out on the well-signed loop-trail anyway and managed to see a few species like **Yellow-crowned Euphonia**, **Black-faced Grosbeak**, **Collared Aracari** and a pack of Central American Spider Monkeys. However, the forest was splendid and I'd really like to return here an early morning under better conditions.

31/10 CASA RÍO BLANCO - RANCHO NATURALISTA (EXCURSION TO COLONIA VIRGEN DEL SOCORRO/EL MIRADOR)

This morning we decided to head to Colonia Virgen del Socorro some 80 km away. Due to the late breakfast (07.30) and the driving distance we again missed out on the early morning birding and upon our arrival the forest was all but alive. Still a very pleasant forest and we did get **Slate-coloured Grosbeak** and **Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant**.

Finding the way is a bit tricky. If you're driving south from La Virgen you should pass Cariblanco and then look out for a small toll station in the middle of the road (!). Drive pass it and over a small bridge then turn to the left shortly after on to a very steep and un-signed dirt road. Keep on driving till you come to an old rusty bridge and park before it (you wouldn't like to pass, trust me) and the short dead-end trail is to the right just before the bridge.

After spending the morning at La Colonia we decided to have lunch at the Restaurante El Mirador in nearby Cinchona. Although the food was good the place owes its fame to the all but unpopular hummingbird feeders. During lunch we recorded no less than ten species (!) e.g. **Brown Violet-ear**, **Green Thorntail** and the endemic **Coppery-headed Emerald**. We later heard from our guide in Monteverde that many feeders are poorly maintained and transmit parasites to the hummingbirds that can prove fatal. I *don't know* if this is the case with El Mirador but it certainly makes you think twice about promoting the business. Close to Cinchona you find the Cascada La Paz which is a reliable locale for the **Torrent Tyrannulet**.

Back at Casa Río Blanco we did a last scan of the gardens hoping to find the resident Keel-billed Motmot before heading to Rancho Naturalista. We still didn't have any luck with the species but did find a **Rufous Motmot** perched just outside the cabin.

The distance to Rancho Naturalista is only about 60 km but the last 20 km the road slowly winds itself through the mountains and again we had to find our way in the darkness. Arriving at Rancho we got a splendid reception with a family style dinner waiting for us.

1/11 RANCHO NATURALISTA

The routine at Rancho is to start the day at 06.00 birding from their balcony. This can be a very rewarding experience and we quickly recorded about thirty species e.g. **Grey-headed Chachalaca**, the beautiful **Snowcap**, the sought after **Black-crested Coquette**, **Violet-headed Hummingbird**, **White-naped Brush-Finch** and **Melodious Blackbird**.

After an excellent breakfast we headed out on the extensive trail system with the resident guide Matt Denton. The weather was fair with only some occasional light rain and the birding was great. Thanks to Matt we were also able to identify quite a few species we would probably have missed without his extraordinary skills. After lunch we took a new turn on the property's trail system – the weather was less co-operative but we still got some neat sightings including a rare perched **Chuck-will's-widow** and boosted the day-list to 112 species! Among the species recorded on the trails were **Great Tinamou**, **Purplish-backed Quail-dove**, **Broad-billed Motmot**, **Cocoa Woodcreeper**, **Brown-billed Scythebill**, **Fulvous-breasted Antpitta**, **White-collared** and **White-crowned Manakin**, **Eastern Wood-pewee** and **Tawny-chested Flycatcher**. In the evening we had another lavish dinner together with the owner Cathy Erb and her family – they really make you feel welcome!

2/11 RANCHO NATURALISTA (EXCURSION TO PARQUE NACIONAL TAPANTÍ)

Since Rancho Naturalista specialises in accommodating bird-watchers they can arrange breakfast at any time. This morning we started out with oatmeal and tropical fruits at 03.30 in order to get to Parque Nacional Tapantí at a decent hour. Matt accompanied us and showed us a good spot for **Dark Pewee** at a bridge crossing before entering the park.

Tapantí is a very wet high altitude forest and you mainly bird it going by car on a gravel road that passes through it, making stops to walk short trails. The forest is loaded with epiphytes, mosses and tree ferns and is perhaps the most beautiful we saw in Costa Rica – not to be missed!

The birding proved excellent and we could tick off both **Red-headed** and **Prong-billed Barbets** already at the entrance! The next stop was the Sendero Árboles Caídos that offered great views of the **Streak-breasted Treehunter**.

Next stop was the Sendero La Pava, and just at the beginning of the trail we found a perched **Green-fronted Lancebill** and further down **White-throated Spadebill** and **Black-faced Solitaire**.

Along the gravel road we suddenly heard a **Yellow-eared Toucanet** calling. It was too far away to be seen but while looking for it we discovered two radiant **Golden-browed Cholorophonias** and an **Emerald Toucanet**. A bit further on you pass an "authorised personnel only" sign but the park rangers didn't seem to mind us passing it. Just past an iron bridge (supposedly a good spot for Sooty-faced Finch although we missed it) you can park the car and walk up a trail to the right. As we had walked a few km it started to rain heavily (expect it in Tapantí) and we got really soaked. The trail was still very rewarding and we managed to see e.g. **Red-faced Spinetail**, **Scarlet-thighed Dacnis**, the target **Silvery-fronted Tapaculo** and **Eye-ringed Flatbill**.

On the way back we had planned to stop at the Kiri Lodge just outside the park to look for the Black-bellied Hummingbird but the rain was too heavy. This was probably the worst setback of the trip since I really wanted that species! The rain also deterred us from seeing the Bat Falcons at the Cachí dam but we did get a lone **Killdeer** at the nearby Río Birris Reservoir.

3/11 RANCHO NATURALISTA - SAVEGRE MOUNTAIN LODGE

Coffee on the balcony and a couple of hours on the trails produced some new species like **Sulphur-winged Parakeet**, **Dot-winged** and **Checker-throated Antwren** and **White-ruffed Manakin** and as we were preparing to leave we heard a **Black Hawk-eagle** that was soaring over the tree tops.

In order to get to the Savegre Mountain Lodge in good time we left before lunch and ate a picnic style lunch from Rancho by the road. Since the lodge was marked on our road map we didn't bother to read any instructions on how to get there. From the map you got the impression that you should go to Providencia – which we did. This turned out to be a big mistake and the detour along the almost uninhabited never-ending and progressively deteriorating dirt road cost us many hours – again we arrived after dark! Make sure to fill up the tank at Cartago since there are no gas stations in the mountains!

4/11 SAVEGRE MOUNTAIN LODGE (EXCURSION TO CERRO DE LA MUERTE)

There was no guide available for the morning so we decided to explore the immediate surroundings of the lodge and tick off some of the easier species like **Grey-tailed Mountain-gem**, **Volcano** and **Scintillant Hummingbird** but also found a **Western Wood-Pewee** and the rare **Peg-billed Finch**.

After a good lunch we met up with Marino Chacón, not only one of the owners but an avid and very enthusiastic birder! Before we headed up to Cerro de la Muerte he showed us a **Fiery-throated Hummingbird** just outside one of the cabins. Along the gravel road just a few km from the lodge we then stopped at some fruiting trees frequented by **Resplendent Quetzals** and found no less than seven females and two males – quite a treat! A bit further on we found a beautiful **Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher**.

When we reached Cerro de la Muerte at about 3 500 m it had started to rain and was quite chilly. We pulled the car over just a few hundred metres after the turnoff from the Interamericana and stumbled over our main target bird – the **Volcano Junco**. Before we headed back we also saw **Timberline Wren**, **Sooty Robin** and **Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush**.

5/11 SAVEGRE MOUNTAIN LODGE

Before breakfast we checked out the flowering and fruiting trees close to the diner and found a male **Flame-throated Warbler** and a **Yellow-winged Vireo**. We then decided to do some more birding by car along the gravel road up to the Interamericana. At one point a couple of **Yellow-thighed Finches** flew across the road just in front of the car and we pulled over to get a better look. This turned out to be a terrific spot and we could tick off species like **Buffy Tuftedcheek**, **Brown-capped Vireo**, **Townsend's Warbler** and **Elegant Euphonia**.

The afternoon we spent on the lodge's trail system going up through the majestic oak forests. Marino really proved his enthusiasm venturing straight through the thick vegetation trying to find a calling **Spotted Wood-quail**. We never saw the bird but did get a splendid view of the difficult **Wrenthrush**.

Back down at the lodge it started to rain again but I did find two **Large-footed Finches** just outside our cabin! This is a species that you normally find up at the páramo.

6/11 SAVEGRE – SAN ISIDRO – EL BRUJO – ESQUINAS RIVER LODGE

Since we had a rather long drive (app. 220 km) to the Esquinas River Lodge we decided to leave right after breakfast and maybe do some stops on the way.

We had lunch at the Hotel del Sur in San Isidro de El General – supposedly one of the best sites in the country for the Snowy-bellied Hummingbird. We didn't have any luck but did find a **Charming Hummingbird**. We also made a short stop at El Brujo in search of the Wedge-tailed Grass-finch but still didn't have any luck.

When we arrived at Esquinas later in the afternoon it was raining heavily. We thought it was just the usual afternoon shower but were informed that it had rained almost without a break for the last week. Not what we wanted to hear!

7/11 ESQUINAS RIVER LODGE / PARQUE NACIONAL PIEDRAS BLANCAS

When we woke up in the morning it had ceased to rain the sun was shining! We decided to walk the Sendero los Pájaros before breakfast. Since it was the rainy season the nearby biological station was closed and the only guide available turned out to be more into plants than birds. When he misidentified a **Rose-throated Becard** as a Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher (!) we decided not to trust his "birding skills". Still it was nice to have a guide who knew his way through the somewhat badly signed trail.

The Sendero los Pájaros goes through secondary forest and orchards and is pretty easy to bird. Among the birds sighted were **Spectacled Owl**, **Fiery-billed Aracari**, **Black-throated Trogon**, **Chestnut-backed Antbird**, **Orange-collared Manakin** and **White-vented** and **Spot-crowned Euphonia**.

After breakfast we decided to head into the primary forest on the trails leading into Parque Nacional Piedras Blancas in search of the endemic Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager. The trails were steep and muddy and the sun kept shining relentlessly. The forest was very quiet and in the first hour we hardly saw any birds at all and soon started to despair. However the day was to be saved as we heard an Ant-tanager up ahead. We soon located the bird – a much-appreciated **Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager** showing itself off just a few metres from the trail in clear sight! The only other new species we saw on the trail, apart from a lethally venomous Eyelash Viper, was a **Black-striped Woodcreeper**!

After lunch we decided to try out the shortcut dirt road leading to Golfito. This turned out to be quite a bad choice as the road was terribly muddy and almost too much even for our jeep. When we were finally approaching Golfito the road just disappeared due to a landslide and we had to go back the same way. As to the birding it wasn't that good but we did get e.g. **Laughing Falcon**, **Yellow-headed Caracara** and **Southern Beardless Tyrannulet**.

8/11 ESQUINAS RIVER LODGE (EXCURSION TO WILSON BOTANICAL GARDEN / GOLFITO)

Since the trails at Esquinas didn't prove that productive we decided to head up to the Wilson Botanical Garden in San Vito for some of the regional specialities. We were especially hoping for some good hummingbirds. However most of the Heliconias weren't flowering and the result was pretty meagre.

After a good lunch at Pizzería Lilliana in San Vito we went down to Golfito (by the main road) where we had both **Ringed**, **Belted** and **Amazon Kingfisher** in the mangroves. We also took a short drive up into Reserva Forestal Golfito that surrounds the entire town but didn't find any new species.

On the way back we were pulled over by a bunch of heavily armed police officers that insisted on searching through our jeep – including our bags – not very pleasant.

9/11 ESQUINAS RIVER LODGE - TARCOL LODGE

This night I got some sort of stomach disease and felt quite nauseous in the morning. Therefore we decided not to do any early morning excursions but instead head for Tárcoles right away. We had read that parts the coastal road was in quite bad condition but we decided to take it anyway since it is much shorter. This turned out to be a good choice – most of the road was excellent and the only bad part was the 40 km between Dominical and Quepos. En route we made a short stop on the bridge over Río Barú to stretch our legs and scan the riverbed, little expecting to find what might be the rarest bird of the trip - a **Hudsonian Godwit**!

Tarcol Lodge wasn't signed and we had to ask our way through Tárcoles in order to find the place. Upon arrival we were received by Cathy from Rancho Naturalista and had a light lunch with her and the resident guide Andrew Wheelan. Scanning the mudflats from the lodge's balcony turned out quite productive and we could add e.g. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, **American Golden**, **Semipalmated**, **Wilson's** and **Collared Plover**, **Greater Yellowlegs** and **Caspian Tern** to the growing trip list.

10/11 TARCOL LODGE / RESERVA BIOLÓGICA CARARA

Before breakfast we took a walk on the lodge's short trail looking for some of the mangrove specialities. We didn't find the target Mangrove Hummingbird but did see **Scaly-breasted Hummingbird** and **Yellow-throated Vireo**. Another, less desired acquaintance were the chiggers that frequent the grassy areas along the trail. Chiggers are mites that won't do you any real harm but whose "bites" will itch for weeks.

After breakfast we drove to Reserva Biológica Carara to walk the HQ Trail. The trail is pretty difficult to bird and since Andrew had arrived from the US only a week ago it was quite a test for him as well. We found the birding pretty slow but did see a few nice species like **Royal Flycatcher**, **Golden-crowned Spadebill**, a lek of **Orange-collared Manakins** plus a Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth. Back at the lodge we had a **Panama Flycatcher** almost at the doorstep.

After a good lunch we once again headed to Carara – this time to try out the Sendero Natural Laguna Meandrica (River Trail). When we arrived at Carara it had started to rain quite heavily but we decided to try it out anyway. Here you really needed rubber boots since parts of the trail were hard to distinguish from a river! In spite of the bad weather we did see quite a few good birds including **Boat-billed Heron**, **Crane Hawk** and **Least Flycatcher**.

11/11 TARCOL LODGE / RESERVA BIOLÓGICA CARARA

Since the River Trail was that promising the day before in spite of the rain we decided to try it out once more. This time the weather was co-operating and we had a really good morning with species such as **Little Tinamou**, **Least Grebe**, the rare **Lesser Scaup**, **Double-toothed Kite**, **Purple-crowned Fairy**, **Blue-throated Goldentail**, **Long-tailed Manakin** and **Northern Bentbill**.

In the afternoon we tried out the road up by the Hotel Villa Lapas where they were constructing a system of canopy walks. We were allowed to try the only completed one without charge and it might be pretty neat when it's completed. As for the birding it was pretty bad, the only new species being a **White-tailed Hawk** and a two **Canada Warblers**. We also made a short stop at the bridge over Río Tárcoles where you can sometimes see Yellow-billed Cotingas – we didn't.

12/11 TARCOL LODGE - PLAYA GRANDE

Before leaving Tárcoles we made a last scan from the balcony and once again walked the mangrove trail. We still couldn't find the Mangrove Hummingbird but did see **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl**, **Black-headed Trogon**, **Northern Scrub Flycatcher** and "**Mangrove Warbler**".

Our next stop was Playa Grande on the Península de Nicoya – famous as a nesting ground for the gigantic Leatherback Turtles. Although we had to wait until 02.00 for them to show up it was definitely worth it!

13/11 PLAYA GRANDE - HACIENDA SOLIMAR

After a few extra hours of sleep we had breakfast and then left for Hacienda Solimar since the birding at Playa Grande didn't seem worth the effort. We decided to head south over Santa Cruz and the Tempisque Ferry and the road turned out to be quite good.

We arrived at Hacienda Solimar after lunch and had time to take a short walk in the vicinities where we found e.g. **Cinnamon Hummingbird**, **Canivet's Emerald** and **Acadian Flycatcher**. In the garden we had an odd-looking, roosting **Pacific Screech-Owl**, **Plain-capped Starthroat** and **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**.

14/11 HACIENDA SOLIMAR

After breakfast we headed out into the tropical dry forest with the resident guide Demitrio Peralta. He turned out to be terrific at imitating birdcalls. Every once in a while he stopped and started calling like a Pygmy-owl and within minutes the trees around us were full of angry birds looking for the owl! This way he attracted Guanacaste specialities like **Scrub Euphonia**, **Northern Beardless Tyrannulet** and **Spot-breasted Oriole**. Along the road we also found two **Double-striped Thick-knees** and a whole family of **Crested Bobwhite**.

After lunch we put on our rubber boots (a loan from Tarcol Lodge) and drove to the nearby Laguna. Here Demitrio led us straight through a swamp full of thorny vegetation. You had to watch every step not to get stuck in the mud or get your boots over-flooded! On one occasion I nearly stepped on a Crocodile only exposing itself by a few water bubbles from its breathing! Quite an adventure but lots of fun! The birds sighted included **Purple Gallinule**, **Snail Kite**, **Pale-billed Woodpecker** and **Red-winged Blackbird**.

15/11 HACIENDA SOLIMAR

This morning we headed to the mangroves bordering the Parque Nacional Palo Verde for our last shot at the endemic Mangrove Hummingbird. Demitrio started his usual Pygmy-Owl routine and soon we had a somewhat bewildered **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** staring down at us accompanied by a couple of angry **Mangrove Hummingbirds**!

The afternoon we spent relaxing by the swimming pool at the Hacienda waiting for the tide to come in so that we would catch as many shorebirds as possible at the salt pans at the nearby Finca Conchal. The tide was quite late but in the last hour of daylight we saw lots of shorebirds, gulls and terns like e.g. **Marbled Godwit**, **Long-billed Dowitcher**, **Least**, **Western** and **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, **Gull-billed** and **Royal Terns** and **Black Skimmers**. We also saw at least fifty (!) **Lesser Nighthawks** hunting at dusk.

16/11 HACIENDA SOLIMAR - MONTEVERDE

Before leaving Hacienda Solimar we had time for a last excursion through the dry forest looking for the few target birds we were still missing. Demitrio promised to find at least one of them and did find the sought after **Lesser Ground-Cuckoo**!

After an early lunch we left for Monteverde tackling the notoriously bad road. It didn't take as long as feared and we arrived at Hotel El Bosque in good time and decided to head up to the famous Hummingbird Gallery. Here we saw two new hummingbird species - **Stripe-tailed Hummingbird** and **Magenta-throated**

Woodstar. We later learned that the feeders at the gallery are badly maintained and some of the guides don't want to bring people there!

Back at the hotel we tried to arrange a guide for the reserve for the next day but all the good ones were already booked so we decided to wait another day and go by ourselves to the Reserva Santa Elena instead.

17/11 MONTEVERDE (RESERVA SANTA ELENA / FINCA ECOLÓGICA)

This morning the weather was bad with quite heavy rain – we headed up to Santa Elena anyway but didn't see anything special (partly because we did so well with the high altitude species at Tapantí and Savegre).

After a rather overpriced pizza at Pizza Johnny we went to the Finca Ecológica – supposedly a good spot for Orange-bellied Trogon. By now the weather was sunny but our bad luck continued and we had to end the day without a single new species recorded! Quite a new experience that made us decide to leave Monteverde the next day – one day earlier than planned – and head down to the Caribbean lowlands instead.

18/11 MONTEVERDE (RESERVA BOSQUE NUBOSO MONTEVERDE) – EL GAVILÁN LODGE

We met up with our guide Samuel Arquedas outside our hotel and headed up to Reserva Monteverde. Since the reserve doesn't officially open until 07.00 we did some birding in the area close to the entrance and did find a **Black Guan** in a fruiting tree – one of the species we dipped in Savegre – and heard a **Grey Leaf-tosser**. We then had a quick breakfast and paid the entrance fee before we headed up towards the Continental Divide – a good place to find our main target bird – the Black-and-yellow Silky-flycatcher. There are several trails to choose from but we decided to take the Camino since it is more open and easier to bird than the other ones. The weather wasn't great – the light rain didn't bother us as much as the strong wind did. Up at the continental divide we were fascinated by the windswept dwarf forest. We heard several **Black-and-yellow Silky-flycatchers** calling but they wouldn't come out from their hiding. We did see two North American migrants – **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** and a young female **Yellow-rumped Warbler**. Samuel proved to be a good birder but I think he was a bit disappointed that he didn't manage to find us more than five new species.

At 11.00 we checked out from our hotel and headed towards the Caribbean lowlands. We decided to go to the El Gavilán lodge at Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí since it had been recommended to us. The 220 km drive was pretty tiresome – especially the heavily trafficked Carretera 1 between Barranca and Naranjo. At Aguas Zarcas we had to wait for an hour due to a traffic accident and we once

again arrived after dark – but this time unannounced. However we were the only guests so getting a room wasn't a problem.

19/11 EL GAVILÁN LODGE – INBIOPARQUE – SWEDEN

Our last day in Costa Rica and we had hoped to get some of the Caribbean lowland species we didn't see at Casa Río Blanco. Unfortunately the weather gods had other plans for us! At one point the rain actually seemed to recede and we headed out on the property – consisting of orchards and other man-made habitats bordering the Río Sarapiquí. During the short break we managed to see the lodge's main attraction – the **Green Ibis** and our last hummingbird – the **Band-tailed Barbthroat** – bringing our hummingbird count to 39 species – not too bad!

However the rain soon started pouring down again and we got totally soaked and decided to have some breakfast – consisting of oranges with orange juice and some old bread with orange marmalade! Well I guess we couldn't ask for more just turning up like this! As we were preparing to leave we discovered that one of the jeep's tyres was flat and we had no choice but to change it in the rain – once again getting totally soaked!

Leaving Puerto Viejo our bad luck continued as we were pulled over by two armed police officers wanting to inspect our car. As we were heading to the airport we had all our equipment in the car and as the officers searched through our luggage they got mighty interested in our cameras, binoculars and spotting scope. One of them even suggested that I should donate my binoculars to him! Quite an unpleasant experience but after 15 minutes of questioning they let us drive on – with all our equipment!

Since we had ample time to get to the airport we stopped for lunch at the nearby INBioparque in Santo Domingo de Heredia – a botanical garden showing the different habitats of the country and also a good place to see the Costa Rican subspecies of Prevost's Ground Sparrow. Although we didn't find the Ground-sparrow it's definitely a good place if you have a few hours to kill and they also serve a really good buffet-style lunch. Before we left we noted our last Costa Rican record – a **Red-eyed Vireo**.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Thus the time has come to summarise my impressions and try to deliver some discerning words of advice!

My major worry before departure was to what extent we would be inhibited by the weather. Well, I have to say that most of my concern came to nought. Sure, we had our share of tropical rain but most days only for one or two hours in the afternoon and I would definitely not hesitate to return any time of the year.

Another concern was that mosquitoes and other nasty bugs would thrive this time of the year. My conclusion from this trip is that if you really want to see mosquitoes you should go to the northern parts of Sweden instead! The only place in Costa Rica where they really thrived was in the dry tropical forest at Solimar.

A third concern was that the trails would be impassable, or at least would demand rubber boots, which I didn't want to bring. In retrospect that was the right choice. On 95 % of the trails your best choice would be a pair of Gore-Tex boots. They will keep you dry both from the outside and the inside and are much more comfortable to walk in. The only trails you really needed rubber boots on were the River Trail at Carara and Sendero los Pájaros at Esquinas and, of course, when venturing out into swamps or mangroves at Tarcol and Solimar.

Since I've raised the issue of what to bring I might as well make some remarks on the literature used. All you really need to bring is Stile's and Skutch's classic **A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica**. However the book has some drawbacks. The most obvious one is that some of the information is out-dated, both when it comes to the status of the species in Costa Rica and to the taxonomic information. Another drawback is that some of the plates aren't really up to standards – the worst case is probably the Greenish Elaenia – but also the shorebirds should be improved and you really wish that all the Birds of Prey were depicted in flight.

As for site guides I brought Taylor's **A Birders & Ecotourists Guide to Costa Rica** which can be ordered on CD from <http://members.home.net/birdersguide>. I found it to be a nice companion although we often saw a very different set of birds than the ones listed in the guide.

Another CD that might come in handy is the **Costa Rican Bird Song Sampler** which contains 184 of the most often heard Costa Rican birds as well as some speciality birds – like Silvery-fronted Tapaculo, Wrenthrush and Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager. It can be ordered from www.wildsounds.co.uk.

As for the itinerary as a whole I'm quite satisfied but if I were to give some recommendations to a first time visitor I'd do a few minor changes. The major

alteration would be not to include Monteverde but instead spend some more time in the Caribbean lowlands or in the Pacific Southwest. Most of the species of Monteverde you'll find at the more easily accessible and less overcrowded sites of Tapantí and Savegre.

As for the Caribbean lowlands I'm not sure what to recommend. **Casa Río Blanco** (<http://compusource.net/rioblanco>) was pleasant enough but the birding was a bit disappointing. The short time spent at **El Gavilán** (www.gavilanlodge.com) was rained in so I really can't rate the place but you won't get any primary forest there. However it's pretty strategically located close to many well-known sites such as Quebrada Gonzales and La Selva.

Another place I'm not really sure about is **Esquinas River Lodge** (www.regenwald.at). The lack of guides during the rainy season is a drawback and the trails were very steep and not that pleasurable but we did find what we came for – the Black-cheeked Ant-tanager – so I'm really glad we went there!

As for the other places I have nothing but praise. **Rancho Naturalista** (www.ranchnaturalista.com) was possibly the best lodge I've stayed at and their trails are great. It's also close enough to Tapantí. I'd stay at least three nights here – although the price is a bit hefty.

Savegre Mountain Lodge (www.ecotourism.co.cr or www.ranchnaturalista.com) was also great with good trails, great birding along the gravel road up to the Interamericana and close to the páramo at Cerro de la Muerte.

Tarcol Lodge (www.ranchnaturalista.com) has a low-key profile and feels more like a bed-and-breakfast than the other lodges. Although it's more expensive than the nearby Hotel Villas Lapas it has the added bonus of shore bird watching from the balcony and neighbouring mangroves.

As for the Guanacaste our first intention was to stay at Hacienda La Pacífica which would give you access to Palo Verde but since they've recently closed down we opted for **Hacienda Solimar** (book through Costa Rica Expeditions www.crexped.co.cr) instead. In retrospect this turned out very well and I have nothing but good things to say about the place.

Finally a note on transportation – you'll definitely feel a lot better with a 4WD with good road clearance. We rented a Jeep Cherokee from Economy Rent A Car for USD900 for three weeks. This turned out to be the perfect car and really saved us a few times – especially once in Savegre when we drove into a ditch but managed to reverse it without calling for assistance!

Anyone interested in going to Costa Rica who has any queries about the contents of this report or need telephone numbers or other details are welcome to write me at markus.lagerqvist@usa.net and I'll do my best to assist you!

TRIP LIST

Species follow Clements, families according to Sibley-Monroe. Records outside main destinations only noted when of special interest. Heard-only species indicated by *.

Tinamous

Great Tinamou

Naturalista

Little Tinamou*

Carara

Tinamidae

Tinamus major

Crypturellus soui

Guans

Grey-headed Chachalaca

Naturalista

Black Guan

Monteverde

Cracidae

Ortalis cinereiceps

Chamaepetes unicolor

New World Quails

Crested Bobwhite

Solimar

Spotted Wood-Quail*

Savegre

Odontophoridae

Colinus cristatus

Odontophorus guttatus

Whistling-Ducks

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

Tarcol, Solimar

Dendrocygnidae

Dendrocygna autumnalis

Ducks and Allies

Blue-winged Teal

Tarcol

Lesser Scaup

Carara

Anatidae

Anas discors

Aythya affinis

Woodpeckers

Acorn Woodpecker

Savegre

Black-cheeked Woodpecker

Naturalista

Red-crowned Woodpecker

Boca Río Barú

Hoffmann's Woodpecker

Naturalista, Tarcol, Solimar

Picidae

Melanerpes formicivorus

Melanerpes pucherani

Melanerpes rubricapillus

Melanerpes hoffmannii

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Monteverde

Hairy Woodpecker

Savegre

Smoky-brown Woodpecker

Naturalista

Golden-olive Woodpecker

Carara

Lineated Woodpecker

Tarcol

Pale-billed Woodpecker

Solimar

Sphyrapicus varius

Picoides villosus

Veniliornis fumigatus

Piculus rubiginosus

Dryocopus lineatus

Campephilus guatemalensis

New World Barbets and Allies

Red-headed Barbet

Tapantí

Prong-billed Barbet

Tapantí, Monteverde

Emerald Toucanet

Tapantí, Savegre, Monteverde

Collared Aracari

Naturalista

Fiery-billed Aracari

Esquinas, Golfito, Carara

Yellow-eared Toucanet*

Tapantí

Keel-billed Toucan

Río Blanco, Naturalista

Chestnut-mandibled Toucan

Río Blanco, Esquinas, Carara

Ramphastidae

Eubucco bourcierii

Semnornis frantzii

Aulacorhynchus prasinus

Pteroglossus torquatus

Pteroglossus frantzii

Selenidera spectabilis

Ramphastos sulfuratus

Ramphastos swainsonii

Jacamars

Rufous-tailed Jacamar

Naturalista, Carara, El Gavilán

Galbulidae

Galbula ruficauda

Trogon

Black-headed Trogon

Tarcol, Solimar

Violaceous Trogon

Río Blanco, Carara

Collared Trogon

Naturalista, Tapantí, Savegre

Black-throated Trogon

Esquinas

Trogonidae

Trogon melanocephalus

Trogon violaceus

Trogon collaris

Trogon rufus

Slaty-tailed Trogon

Carara

Trogon massena

Resplendent Quetzal

Savegre

Pharomachrus mocinno

Motmots

Blue-crowned Motmot

Esquinas, Wilson, Monteverde, I N Bioparque

Momotidae

Momotus momota

Rufous Motmot

Río Blanco

Baryphthengus martii

Broad-billed Motmot

Naturalista

Electron platyrhynchum

Turquoise-browed Motmot

Tarcol, Solimar

Eumomota superciliosa

Cerylid Kingfishers

Belted Kingfisher

Esquinas, Golfito, Tarcol

Cerylidae

Ceryle alcyon

Ringed Kingfisher

Golfito

Ceryle torquata

Amazon Kingfisher

Esquinas, Golfito, Solimar

Chloroceryle amazona

Green Kingfisher

Tarcol, Solimar

Chloroceryle americana

American Cuckoos

Squirrel Cuckoo

Río Blanco, Naturalista, Tarcol, Solimar

Coccyzidae

Piaya cayana

Anis and Allies

Smooth-billed Ani

Esquinas

Crotophagidae

Crotophaga ani

Groove-billed Ani

Río Blanco, Naturalista, Tarcol, Solimar, Monteverde

Crotophaga sulcirostris

Roadrunners

Lesser Ground-Cuckoo

Solimar

Neomorphidae

Morococcyx erythropygus

Parrots

Scarlet Macaw

Tarcol, Carara

Psittacidae

Ara macao

Crimson-fronted Parakeet

Naturalista, Carara

Orange-fronted Parakeet

Tarcol, Solimar

Sulphur-winged Parakeet*

Naturalista

Orange-chinned Parakeet

Golfito

Brown-hooded Parrot

Naturalista, Tarcol, Carara

White-crowned Parrot

Naturalista

White-fronted Parrot

Monteverde

Red-lored Parrot

Carara

Yellow-naped Parrot

Solimar

Mealy Parrot

Carara

Aratinga finschi

Aratinga canicularis

Pyrrhura hoffmanni

Brotogeris jugularis

Pionopsitta haematotis

Pionus senilis

Amazona albifrons

Amazona autumnalis

Amazona auropalliata

Amazona farinosa

Typical Swifts

White-collared Swift

Río Blanco, Tapantí, Solimar

Band-rumped Swift

Carara

Apodidae

Streptoprocne zonaris

Chaetura spinicauda

Hummingbirds

Bronzy Hermit

Esquinas

Band-tailed Barbthroat

El Gavilán

Green Hermit

El Mirador, Naturalista, Wilson, Monteverde

Western Long-tailed Hermit

Río Blanco, Esquinas, Carara

Stripe-throated Hermit

Río Blanco, Naturalista

Green-fronted Lancebill

Tapantí

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird

Tarcol

Violet Sabrewing

El Mirador, Monteverde

Trochilidae

Glaucis aenea

Threnetes ruckeri

Phaethornis guy

Phaethornis longirostris

Phaethornis striigularis

Doryfera ludovicae

Phaeochroa cuvierii

Campylopterus hemileucurus

White-necked Jacobin Río Blanco, Naturalista	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>
Brown Violet-ear El Mirador	<i>Colibri delphinae</i>
Green Violet-ear El Mirador, Savegre, Monteverde	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>
Green-breasted Mango Naturalista, Tarcol, Carara, Solimar	<i>Anthracothorax prevostii</i>
Violet-headed Hummingbird Naturalista	<i>Klais guimeti</i>
Black-crested Coquette Naturalista	<i>Lophornis helenae</i>
Green Thorntail El Mirador, Naturalista	<i>Discosura conversii</i>
Canivet's Emerald Solimar	<i>Chlorostilbon canivetii</i>
Fiery-throated Hummingbird Savegre	<i>Panterpe insignis</i>
Coppery-headed Emerald El Mirador, Monteverde	<i>Elvira cupreiceps</i>
Stripe-tailed Hummingbird Monteverde	<i>Eupherusa eximia</i>
Violet-crowned Woodnymph Naturalista, Tapantí	<i>Thalurania colombica</i>
Blue-throated Goldentail Carara	<i>Hylocharis eliciae</i>
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird Very common species	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>
Cinnamon Hummingbird Solimar	<i>Amazilia rutila</i>
Charming Hummingbird San Isidro, Esquinas	<i>Polyerata decora</i>
Mangrove Hummingbird Solimar	<i>Polyerata boucardi</i>
Steely-vented Hummingbird Solimar	<i>Saucerottia saucerrottei</i>
Snowcap Naturalista	<i>Microchera albocoronata</i>
Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer Río Blanco	<i>Chalybura urochrysia</i>
White-bellied Mountain-gem El Mirador, Tapantí	<i>Lampornis hemileucus</i>
Purple-throated Mountain-gem Tapantí, Monteverde	<i>Lampornis calolaema</i>

Grey-tailed Mountain-gem

Solimar

Green-crowned Brilliant

El Mirador, Naturalista, Monteverde

Magnificent Hummingbird

El Mirador, Savegre

Purple-crowned Fairy

Carara

Plain-capped Starthroat

Solimar

Magenta-throated Woodstar

Monteverde

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Naturalista, Solimar

Scintillant Hummingbird

Savegre

Volcano Hummingbird

Savegre

Lampornis cinereicauda

Heliodoxa jacula

Eugenes fulgens

Heliothryx barroti

Heliomaster constantii

Calliphlox bryantae

Archilochus colubris

Selasphorus scintilla

Selasphorus flammula

Typical Owls

Pacific Screech-Owl

Solimar

Spectacled Owl

Esquinas, El Gavilán

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl

Tarcol, Solimar

Strigidae

Otus cooperi

Pulsatrix perspicillata

Glaucidium brasilianum

Nightjars and Allies

Lesser Nighthawk

Finca Conchal

Pauraque

Naturalista, Esquinas, Solimar

Chuck-will's-widow

Naturalista

Caprimulgidae

Chordeiles acutipennis

Nyctidromus albicollis

Caprimulgus carolinensis

Pigeons and Doves

Rock Dove

San Isidro

Red-billed Pigeon

Naturalista, Carara, Monteverde

Short-billed Pigeon

Carara

Ruddy Pigeon

Tapantí, Savegre

Columbidae

Columba livia

Columba flavirostris

Columba nigrirostris

Columba subvinacea

White-winged Dove*
Solimar
Common Ground-Dove
Solimar
Plain-breasted Ground-Dove
Esquinas
Ruddy Ground-Dove
Esquinas, Tarcol, Carara, Solimar
Inca Dove
Tarcol, Solimar
Blue Ground-Dove
Solimar
White-tipped Dove
Carara, Solimar
Grey-chested Dove
Naturalista, Esquinas, Carara
Purplish-backed Quail-Dove
Naturalista

Limpkin

Limpkin*
Solimar

Rails

Grey-necked Wood-Rail*
Carara
Purple Gallinule
Solimar

Snipe and Allies

Long-billed Dowitcher
Finca Conchal
Hudsonian Godwit
Boca Río Barú
Marbled Godwit
Finca Conchal
Whimbrel
Tarcol
Greater Yellowlegs
Tarcol
Lesser Yellowlegs
Tarcol, Finca Conchal
Spotted Sandpiper
Savegre, Tarcol, Finca Conchal

Zenaida asiatica
Columbina passerina
Columbina minuta
Columbina talpacoti
Columbina inca
Claravis pretiosa
Leptotila verreauxi
Leptotila cassini
Geotrygon lawrencii

Aramidae

Aramus guarauna

Rallidae

Aramides cajanea
Porphyryula martinica

Scolopacidae

Limnodromus scolopaceus
Limosa haemastica
Limosa fedoa
Numenius phaeopus
Tringa melanoleuca
Tringa flavipes
Actitis macularia

Willet

Tarcol, Finca Conchal

Ruddy Turnstone

Tarcol, Finca Conchal

Sanderling

Tarcol

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Finca Conchal

Western Sandpiper

Finca Conchal

Least Sandpiper

Tarcol, Finca Conchal

Pectoral Sandpiper

Río Tárcoles Bridge

Catoptrophorus semipalmatus

Arenaria interpres

Calidris alba

Calidris pusilla

Calidris mauri

Calidris minutilla

Calidris melanotos

Jacanas

Northern Jacana

Carara, Solimar

Jacanidae

Jacana spinosa

Thick-knees

Double-striped Thick-knee

Solimar

Burhinidae

Burhinus bistriatus

Plovers and Allies

Black-necked Stilt

Tarcol, Finca Conchal

American Golden-Plover

Tarcol

Black-bellied Plover

Tarcol, Finca Conchal

Semipalmated Plover

Tarcol, Finca Conchal

Wilson's Plover

Tarcol

Killdeer

Río Berris Reservoir

Collared Plover

Tarcol

Charadriidae

Himantopus mexicanus

Pluvialis dominica

Pluvialis squatarola

Charadrius semipalmatus

Charadrius wilsonia

Charadrius vociferus

Charadrius collaris

Gulls and Allies

Black Skimmer

Finca Conchal

Laughing Gull

Finca Conchal

Laridae

Rynchops niger

Larus atricilla

Gull-billed Tern
Finca Conchal
Caspian Tern
Tarcol
Sandwich Tern
Finca Conchal
Royal Tern
Tempisque Ferry, Finca Conchal

Hawks and Allies

Osprey
Tarcol, Solimar
White-tailed Kite
Tapantí, Esquinas, Finca Conchal
Snail Kite
Solimar
Double-toothed Kite
Carara
Crane Hawk
Carara
Mangrove Black-Hawk
Boca Río Barú, Solimar
Harris' Hawk
Solimar
Grey Hawk
Tárcoles, Solimar
Roadside Hawk
Carretera 34 close to Parrita
Broad-winged Hawk
Tapantí, Carara
Short-tailed Hawk
Solimar
White-tailed Hawk
Hotel Villa Lapas
Red-tailed Hawk
Savegre
Black Hawk-Eagle*
Naturalista

Falcons

Crested Caracara
Tárcoles, Carara, Solimar
Yellow-headed Caracara
Esquinas

Sterna nilotica
Sterna caspia
Sterna sandvicensis
Sterna maxima

Accipitridae

Pandion haliaetus
Elanus leucurus
Rostrhamus sociabilis
Harpagus bidentatus
Geranospiza caerulescens
Buteogallus subtilis
Parabuteo unicinctus
Asturina nitida
Buteo magnirostris
Buteo platypterus
Buteo brachyurus
Buteo albicaudatus
Buteo jamaicensis
Spizaetus tyrannus

Falconidae

Caracara cheriway
Milvago chimachima

Laughing Falcon

Esquinas, Carara, Solimar

Collared Forest-Falcon

Solimar

American Kestrel

Solimar

Peregrine Falcon

Río Tárcoles Bridge

Herpetotheres cachinnans

Micrastur semitorquatus

Falco sparverius

Falco peregrinus

Grebes

Least Grebe

Carara, Solimar

Podicipedidae

Tachybaptus dominicus

Anhingas

Anhinga

Carara, Solimar

Anhingidae

Anhinga anhinga

Cormorants

Neotropic Cormorant

Tarcol

Phalacrocoracidae

Phalacrocorax brasilianus

Hérons

Great Blue Heron

Tarcol, Finca Conchal

Great Egret

Tarcol, Solimar

Tricoloured Heron

Tarcol, Solimar

Little Blue Heron

Esquinas, Tarcol, Solimar

Snowy Egret

Esquinas, Tarcol, Solimar

Cattle Egret

Naturalista, Esquinas, Tarcol, Solimar

Green Heron

Esquinas, Tarcol, Solimar

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Solimar

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Tarcol, Finca Conchal

Boat-billed Heron

Carara

Bare-throated Tiger-Heron

Tarcol, Solimar

Ardeidae

Ardea herodias

Ardea alba

Egretta tricolor

Egretta caerulea

Egretta thula

Bubulcus ibis

Butorides virescens

Nycticorax nycticorax

Nyctanassa violacea

Cochlearius cochlearius

Tigrisoma mexicanum

Ibises

Green Ibis

El Gavilán

White Ibis

Tarcol, Solimar

Roseate Spoonbill

Tarcol, Solimar

Pelicans and Allies

Brown Pelican

Golfito, Tarcol

Storks and Allies

Black Vulture

Very common species

Turkey Vulture

Very common species

Wood Stork

Esquinas, Carara, Solimar

Jabiru

Esquinas

Frigatebirds

Magnificent Frigatebird

Golfito, Tarcol

Tyrant Flycatchers and Allies

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet

Solimar

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet

Esquinas

Greenish Elaenia

Tárcoles, Solimar

Yellow-bellied Elaenia

Monteverde

Torrent Tyrannulet

Cascada La Paz, Savegre

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher

Naturalista

Olive-striped Flycatcher

Naturalista, Tapantí, Monteverde

Slaty-capped Flycatcher

Naturalista, Solimar

Threskiornithidae

Mesembrinibis cayennensis

Eudocimus albus

Ajaia ajaja

Pelecanidae

Pelecanus occidentalis

Ciconiidae

Coragyps atratus

Cathartes aura

Mycteria americana

Jabiru mycteria

Fregatidae

Fregata magnificens

Tyrannidae

Camptostoma imberbe

Camptostoma obsoletum

Myiopagis viridicata

Elaenia flavogaster

Serpophaga cinerea

Mionectes oleagineus

Mionectes olivaceus

Leptopogon superciliaris

Paltry Tyrannulet Naturalista, Tapantí, Savegre	<i>Zimmerius vilissimus</i>
Northern Scrub-Flycatcher Tarcol, Solimar	<i>Sublegatus arenarum</i>
Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant Colonia Virgen del Socorro	<i>Myiornis atricapillus</i>
Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant* Naturalista, Tapantí	<i>Lophotriccus pileatus</i>
Northern Bentbill Carara, Solimar	<i>Oncostoma cinereigulare</i>
Slate-headed Tody-Tyrant Solimar	<i>Poecilotriccus sylvia</i>
Common Tody-Flycatcher Naturalista, Esquinas, Carara, Solimar	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>
Eye-ringed Flatbill Tapantí, Monteverde	<i>Rhynchocyclus brevirostris</i>
Yellow-olive Flycatcher Naturalista, Solimar	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>
Golden-crowned Spadebill Carara	<i>Platyrinchus coronatus</i>
White-throated Spadebill Tapantí	<i>Platyrinchus mystaceus</i>
Royal Flycatcher Carara	<i>Onychorhynchus coronatus</i>
Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher Naturalista	<i>Myiobius sulphureipygius</i>
Black-tailed Flycatcher Carara	<i>Myiobius atricaudus</i>
Tawny-chested Flycatcher Naturalista	<i>Aphanotriccus capitalis</i>
Tufted Flycatcher Tapantí, Savegre	<i>Mitrephanes phaeocercus</i>
Dark Pewee Tapantí, Savegre	<i>Contopus lugubris</i>
Western Wood-Pewee Savegre	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>
Eastern Wood-Pewee Naturalista	<i>Contopus virens</i>
Tropical Pewee Río Blanco, Naturalista, Tarcol	<i>Contopus cinereus</i>
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Naturalista, Carara	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>
Acadian Flycatcher Solimar	<i>Empidonax virescens</i>

Least Flycatcher Carara	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>
Yellowish Flycatcher Tapantí, Savegre, Monteverde	<i>Empidonax flavescens</i>
Black-capped Flycatcher Savegre	<i>Empidonax atriceps</i>
Black Phoebe Tapantí, Savegre	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>
Dusky-capped Flycatcher Naturalista, Tarcol, Carara, Solimar	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>
Panama Flycatcher Tarcol	<i>Myiarchus panamensis</i>
Great Crested Flycatcher Carara, Solimar	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>
Brown-crested Flycatcher Solimar	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>
Great Kiskadee Very common species	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>
Boat-billed Flycatcher Very common species	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>
Social Flycatcher Very common species	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>
Grey-capped Flycatcher Savegre	<i>Myiozetetes granadensis</i>
Golden-bellied Flycatcher Tapantí	<i>Myiodynastes hemichrysus</i>
Streaked Flycatcher Tarcol, Solimar	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>
Tropical Kingbird Very common species	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Tarcol, Solimar, Finca Conchal	<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>
Cinnamon Becard Naturalista	<i>Pachyramphus cinnamomeus</i>
Rose-throated Becard Esquinas, Tarcol, Solimar	<i>Pachyramphus aglaiae</i>
Masked Tityra Naturalista, Monteverde	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>
Black-crowned Tityra Naturalista, Esquinas	<i>Tityra inquisitor</i>
White-collared Manakin Naturalista	<i>Manacus candei</i>
Orange-collared Manakin Esquinas, Carara	<i>Manacus aurantiacus</i>

White-ruffed Manakin

Naturalista

Long-tailed Manakin

Carara, Solimar

White-crowned Manakin

Naturalista

Corapipo altera

Chiroxiphia linearis

Pipra pipra

Typical Antbirds

Barred Antshrike

Tarcol, Carara, Solimar

Black-hooded Antshrike

Esquinas, Tarcol, Carara

Russet Antshrike

Naturalista

Plain Antvireo

Naturalista

Checker-throated Antwren

Naturalista

Slaty Antwren

Naturalista

Dot-winged Antwren

Naturalista, Esquinas, Carara

Dusky Antbird

Carara

Chestnut-backed Antbird

Esquinas, Carara

Dull-mantled Antbird*

Naturalista

Immaculate Antbird*

Naturalista, Tapantí

Spotted Antbird

Naturalista

Thamnophilidae

Thamnophilus doliatus

Thamnophilus bridgesi

Thamnistes anabatinus

Dysithamnus mentalis

Myrmotherula fulviventris

Myrmotherula schisticolor

Microrhophias quixensis

Cercomacra tyrannina

Myrmeciza exsul

Myrmeciza laemosticta

Myrmeciza immaculata

Hylophylax naevioides

Ovenbirds and Allies

Slaty Spinetail*

Naturalista

Red-faced Spinetail

Tapantí, Monteverde

Spotted Barbtail

Tapantí, Savegre, Monteverde

Ruddy Treerunner

Tapantí, Savegre, Monteverde

Plain Xenops

Naturalista, Carara

Furnariidae

Synallaxis brachyura

Cranioleuca erythrops

Premnoplex brunnescens

Margarornis rubiginosus

Xenops minutus

<p> Buffy Tuftedcheek Savegre </p>	<p> <i>Pseudocolaptes lawrencii</i> </p>
<p> Streak-breasted Treehunter Tapantí </p>	<p> <i>Thripadectes rufobrunneus</i> </p>
<p> Lineated Foliage-gleaner Tapantí, Monteverde </p>	<p> <i>Syndactyla subalaris</i> </p>
<p> Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner Naturalista </p>	<p> <i>Automolus ochrolaemus</i> </p>
<p> Grey-throated Leaf Tosser* Monteverde </p>	<p> <i>Sclerurus albigularis</i> </p>
<p> Tawny-winged Woodcreeper Carara </p>	<p> <i>Dendrocincla anabatina</i> </p>
<p> Plain-brown Woodcreeper Naturalista </p>	<p> <i>Dendrocincla fuliginosa</i> </p>
<p> Olivaceous Woodcreeper Naturalista </p>	<p> <i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i> </p>
<p> Wedge-billed Woodcreeper Naturalista </p>	<p> <i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i> </p>
<p> Cocoa Woodcreeper Naturalista </p>	<p> <i>Xiphorhynchus susurrans</i> </p>
<p> Black-striped Woodcreeper Esquinas </p>	<p> <i>Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus</i> </p>
<p> Spotted Woodcreeper Naturalista, Tapantí </p>	<p> <i>Xiphorhynchus erythropygius</i> </p>
<p> Streak-headed Woodcreeper Naturalista, Esquinas, Carara, Monteverde </p>	<p> <i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i> </p>
<p> Spot-crowned Woodcreeper Savegre </p>	<p> <i>Lepidocolaptes affinis</i> </p>
<p> Brown-billed Scythebill Naturalista, Tapantí </p>	<p> <i>Campylorhamphus pusillus</i> </p>
<p> Ground Antbirds </p>	<p> <i>Formicariidae</i> </p>
<p> Fulvous-bellied Antpitta* Naturalista </p>	<p> <i>Hylopezus dives</i> </p>
<p> Tapaculos </p>	<p> <i>Rhinocryptidae</i> </p>
<p> Silvery-fronted Tapaculo Tapantí, Savegre, Monteverde </p>	<p> <i>Scytalopus argentifrons</i> </p>
<p> Vireos </p>	<p> <i>Vireonidae</i> </p>
<p> Yellow-throated Vireo Naturalista, Tarcol, Solimar </p>	<p> <i>Vireo flavifrons</i> </p>
<p> Yellow-winged Vireo Savegre </p>	<p> <i>Vireo carmioli</i> </p>

Brown-capped Vireo

Savegre

Vireo leucophrys

Red-eyed Vireo

INBioparque

Vireo olivaceus

Tawny-crowned Greenlet

Naturalista

Hylophilus ochraceiceps

Lesser Greenlet

Tapantí, Tarcol, Solimar

Hylophilus decurtatus

Rufous-browed Peppershrike

Tapantí, Monteverde

Cyclarhis gujanensis

Crows and Allies

White-throated Magpie-Jay

Tarcol, Solimar

Corvidae

Calocitta formosa

Brown Jay

Río Blanco, Naturalista, Monteverde

Cyanocorax morio

Azure-hooded Jay

Tapantí, Monteverde

Cyanolyca cucullata

Waxwings and Allies

Black-and-yellow Silky-flycatcher*

Monteverde

Ptilogonatidae

Phainoptila melanoxantha

Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher

Savegre

Ptilogonys caudatus

Dippers

American Dipper

Providencia, Savegre

Cinclidae

Cinclus mexicanus

Old World Flycatchers and Allies

Black-faced Solitaire

Tapantí, Monteverde

Muscicapidae

Myadestes melanops

Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush

Wilson, Monteverde

Catharus aurantiirostris

Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush

Tapantí, Monteverde

Catharus fuscater

Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush

Cerro de la Muerte

Catharus gracilirostris

Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush

Savegre

Catharus frantzii

Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush*

Naturalista

Catharus mexicanus

Swainson's Thrush

Naturalista

Catharus ustulatus

Wood Thrush

Monteverde

Sooty Robin

Cerro de la Muerte

Mountain Robin

Tapantí, Monteverde

Clay-coloured Robin

Very common species

Hylocichla mustelina

Turdus nigrescens

Turdus plebejus

Turdus grayi

Northern Creepers and Allies

Rufous-naped Wren

Tarcol, Solimar

Black-throated Wren

Naturalista

Black-bellied Wren

Carara

Rufous-breasted Wren

Carara

Riverside Wren

Esquinas

Stripe-breasted Wren

Naturalista

Banded Wren

Solimar

Rufous-and-white Wren

Solimar, Monteverde

Plain Wren

Naturalista, Solimar, Monteverde

House Wren

Naturalista, Esquinas, Monteverde

Ochraceous Wren

Naturalista, Tapantí, Savegre

Timberline Wren

Cerro de la Muerte

White-breasted Wood-Wren

Río Blanco, Naturalista

Grey-breasted Wood-Wren

Tapantí, Savegre, Monteverde

Scaly-breasted Wren

Esquinas

Long-billed Gnatwren

Naturalista, Carara, Solimar

White-lored Gnatcatcher

Solimar

Certhiidae

Campylorhynchus rufinucha

Thryothorus atrogularis

Thryothorus fasciatoventris

Thryothorus rutilus

Thryothorus semibadius

Thryothorus thoracicus

Thryothorus pleurostictus

Thryothorus rufalbus

Thryothorus modestus

Troglodytes aedon

Troglodytes ochraceus

Thryorchilus browni

Henicorhina leucosticta

Henicorhina leucophrys

Microcerculus marginatus

Ramphocaenus melanurus

Polioptila albiloris

Tropical Gnatcatcher
Esquinas, Solimar

Polioptila plumbea

Swallows and Allies

Grey-breasted Martin
Boca Río Barú
Mangrove Swallow
Boca Río Barú, Tarcol
Blue-and-white Swallow
Savegre
Cliff Swallow
Río Tárcoles Bridge
Barn Swallow
Solimar

Hirundinidae

Progne chalybea

Tachycineta albilinea

Pygochelidon cyanoleuca

Petrochelidon pyrrhonota

Hirundo rustica

Sparrows and Allies

House Sparrow
San Isidro

Passeridae

Passer domesticus

Finches and Allies

Golden-winged Warbler
Common species
Tennessee Warbler
Common species
Flame-throated Warbler
Savegre
Tropical Parula
Naturalista
Yellow Warbler
Tarcol, Carara, Solimar
Mangrove Warbler
Tarcol
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Very common species
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Monteverde
Black-throated Green Warbler
Savegre
Townsend's Warbler
Savegre
Blackburnian Warbler
Tapantí
Black-and-white Warbler
Naturalista, Tapantí, Carara

Fringillidae

Vermivora chrysoptera

Vermivora peregrina

Parula gutturalis

Parula pitiayumi

Dendroica petechia

Dendroica p. erithachorides

Dendroica pensylvanica

Dendroica coronata

Dendroica virens

Dendroica townsendi

Dendroica fusca

Mniotilta varia

American Redstart Tarcol, Solimar	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>
Prothonotary Warbler Tarcol, Solimar	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>
Worm-eating Warbler Naturalista	<i>Helmitheros vermivorus</i>
Ovenbird Naturalista, Solimar, Monteverde	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>
Northern Waterthrush Tarcol, Solimar	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>
Kentucky Warbler Naturalista	<i>Oporornis formosus</i>
Mourning Warbler Naturalista	<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>
Masked Yellowthroat El Brujo	<i>Geothlypis aequinoctialis</i>
Wilson's Warbler Naturalista, Savegre, Monteverde	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>
Canada Warbler Hotel Villa Lapas Canopy Walk	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>
Slate-throated Redstart Tapantí, Monteverde	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>
Collared Redstart Savegre, Monteverde	<i>Myioborus torquatus</i>
Golden-crowned Warbler Naturalista, Monteverde	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>
Rufous-capped Warbler Naturalista, Solimar, Monteverde	<i>Basileuterus rufifrons</i>
Black-cheeked Warbler Savegre	<i>Basileuterus melanogenys</i>
Three-striped Warbler Tapantí, Monteverde	<i>Basileuterus tristriatus</i>
Buff-rumped Warbler Río Blanco	<i>Basileuterus fulvicauda</i>
Wrenthrush (Zeledonia) Tapantí, Savegre	<i>Zeledonia coronata</i>
Bananaquit Naturalista, Tapantí, Esquinas	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>
Common Bush-Tanager Tapantí, Monteverde	<i>Chlorospingus ophthalmicus</i>
Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager Savegre	<i>Chlorospingus pileatus</i>
Olive Tanager Naturalista	<i>Chlorothraupis carmioli</i>

Grey-headed Tanager Carara	<i>Eucometis penicillata</i>
White-shouldered Tanager Carara	<i>Tachyphonus luctuosus</i>
White-lined Tanager Río Blanco, Naturalista, Carara	<i>Tachyphonus rufus</i>
Red-throated Ant-Tanager Naturalista	<i>Habia fuscicauda</i>
Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager Esquinas	<i>Habia atrimaxillaris</i>
Summer Tanager Common species	<i>Piranga rubra</i>
Flame-coloured Tanager Savegre	<i>Piranga bidentata</i>
Crimson-collared Tanager Tapantí	<i>Ramphocelus sanguinolentus</i>
Passerini's Tanager Río Blanco, Naturalista	<i>Ramphocelus passerinii</i>
Cherrie's Tanager Esquinas	<i>Ramphocelus costaricensis</i>
Blue-grey Tanager Very common species	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>
Palm Tanager Naturalista	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>
Scrub Euphonia Solimar	<i>Euphonia affinis</i>
Yellow-crowned Euphonia Quebrada Gonzales	<i>Euphonia luteicapilla</i>
Yellow-throated Euphonia Carara	<i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>
Elegant Euphonia Savegre	<i>Euphonia elegantissima</i>
Spot-crowned Euphonia Esquinas	<i>Euphonia imitans</i>
Olive-backed Euphonia Río Blanco	<i>Euphonia gouldi</i>
White-vented Euphonia Esquinas, Wilson	<i>Euphonia minuta</i>
Tawny-capped Euphonia Naturalista, Tapantí	<i>Euphonia anneae</i>
Golden-browed Chlorophonia Tapantí, Savegre	<i>Chlorophonia callophrys</i>
Silver-throated Tanager Tapantí	<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>

Bay-headed Tanager Tapantí, Esquinas	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>
Golden-hooded Tanager Río Blanco, Naturalista, Carara	<i>Tangara larvata</i>
Spangle-cheeked Tanager Tapantí, Savegre, Monteverde	<i>Tangara dowii</i>
Scarlet-thighed Dacnis Tapantí	<i>Dacnis venusta</i>
Blue Dacnis Esquinas	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>
Green Honeycreeper Naturalista, Esquinas	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>
Blue-black Grassquit Naturalista, Esquinas, Tarcol, Solimar	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>
Variable Seedeater Río Blanco, Naturalista, Esquinas, Tarcol	<i>Sporophila corvina</i>
White-collared Seedeater Esquinas, Solimar	<i>Sporophila torqueola</i>
Thick-billed Seed-Finch Naturalista	<i>Oryzoborus funereus</i>
Yellow-faced Grassquit Naturalista, Savegre	<i>Tiaris olivacea</i>
Peg-billed Finch Savegre	<i>Acanthidops bairdii</i>
Slaty Flowerpiercer Savegre, Monteverde	<i>Diglossa plumbea</i>
Yellow-thighed Finch Savegre	<i>Pselliophorus tibialis</i>
Large-footed Finch Savegre	<i>Pezopetes capitalis</i>
White-naped Brush-Finch Naturalista	<i>Atlapetes albinucha</i>
Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch Naturalista, Tapantí, Savegre, Monteverde	<i>Buarremon brunneinucha</i>
Orange-billed Sparrow Río Blanco, Esquinas, Tarcol	<i>Arremon aurantirostris</i>
Olive Sparrow Solimar	<i>Arremonops rufivirgatus</i>
Black-striped Sparrow Río Blanco, Naturalista	<i>Arremonops conirostris</i>
Stripe-headed Sparrow Tarcol, Solimar	<i>Aimophila ruficauda</i>
Rufous-collared Sparrow Savegre, Monteverde	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>

Volcano Junco Cerro de la Muerte	<i>Junco vulcani</i>
Streaked Saltator Wilson	<i>Saltator striatipectus</i>
Greyish Saltator Finca Cristina outside Cartago	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>
Buff-throated Saltator Río Blanco, Naturalista, Esquinas, Tarcol	<i>Saltator maximus</i>
Black-headed Saltator Naturalista	<i>Saltator atriceps</i>
Slate-coloured Grosbeak Colonia Virgen del Socorro	<i>Saltator grossus</i>
Black-faced Grosbeak Quebrada Gonzales	<i>Caryothraustes poliogaster</i>
Black-thighed Grosbeak Savegre	<i>Pheucticus tibialis</i>
Rose-breasted Grosbeak Naturalista, Tárcoles, Solimar	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>
Blue Grosbeak Solimar	<i>Guiraca caerulea</i>
Red-winged Blackbird Solimar	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>
Eastern Meadowlark* Solimar	<i>Sturnella magna</i>
Melodious Blackbird* Naturalista	<i>Dives dives</i>
Great-tailed Grackle Very common species	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>
Spot-breasted Oriole Solimar	<i>Icterus pectoralis</i>
Streak-backed Oriole Solimar	<i>Icterus pustulatus</i>
Baltimore Oriole Río Blanco, Naturalista, Tarcol, Solimar	<i>Icterus galbula</i>
Black-cowled Oriole Río Blanco, Naturalista	<i>Icterus prothemelas</i>
Yellow-billed Cacique Naturalista	<i>Amblycercus holosericeus</i>
Scarlet-rumped Cacique Naturalista	<i>Cacicus uropygialis</i>
Montezuma Oropendola Naturalista, Solimar	<i>Gymnostinops montezuma</i>

Some other animals

American Crocodile Tarcol, Solimar	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>
Leatherback Sea Turtle Playa Grande	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>
Eyesh Viper Esquinas	<i>Bothriechis schlegelii</i>
Green Iguana Carara	<i>Iguana iguana</i>
Basilisk Río Blanco	<i>Basiliscus basiliscus</i>
Ctenosaur Solimar	<i>Ctenosaura similis</i>
Central American Whiptail Esquinas	<i>Ameiva festiva</i>
White-faced Capuchin Esquinas, Carara	<i>Cebus capucinus</i>
Mantled Howler Monkey Solimar, Monteverde	<i>Alouatta palliata</i>
Central American Spider Monkey Quebrada Gonzales	<i>Ateles geoffroyi</i>
Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth Naturalista, Carara	<i>Bradypus variegatus</i>
Nine-banded Armadillo Savegre	<i>Dasypus novemcinctus</i>
Variegated Squirrel Common species	<i>Sciurus variegatoides</i>
Red-tailed Squirrel Naturalista	<i>Sciurus granatensis</i>
Central American Dwarf Squirrel Monteverde	<i>Microsciuris alfari</i>
Central American Agouti Carara	<i>Dasyprocta punctata</i>
Neotropical Otter Savegre	<i>Lutra longicaudis</i>
White-nosed Coati Carara	<i>Nasua narica</i>
Collared Peccary Carara	<i>Tayassu tajacu</i>